



Welcome Remark
H. E. SOK Puthyvuth
Secretary of State of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications
at the Inaugural Cambodia Internet Governance Forum 2025
under the Theme: Building a Safe and Inclusive Digital Society in Cambodia
Cambodia, 6 December 2025

- **H.E. Dr. CHEA Vandeth, Minister of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Cambodia**
 - **Mr. Chengetai Masango, Head of the Office, United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum**
 - **Mrs. Esther McFarlane, Office-in-Charge, UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh**
 - **Mr. Thy Try, Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief, Open Development Cambodia**
 - **Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**
1. On behalf of the entire **Cambodia IGF 2025** (CamIGF) Organizing Committee from the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Cambodia, UNESCO, Open Development Cambodia, and Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology, I am deeply honored and delighted to extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency the Minister, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, all distinguished national and international delegates participating in the first-ever Cambodia Internet Governance Forum 2025. Your presence here is a testament to our shared commitment to building and advancing Cambodia's digital economy and society with confidence, responsibility, and collective vision.
 2. Today marks an important historic moment for our country. The Cambodia Internet Governance Forum 2025 will provide an open, inclusive, and multi-stakeholder platform to discuss critical topics on our journey toward a digital future. This Forum demonstrates Cambodia's commitment to leveraging the full

potential of the Internet for **national development, innovation, and global connectivity**.

3. The Internet is no longer just a tool; it is the backbone of our modern society—an essential infrastructure for **education, commerce, governance, and social connection**. As Cambodia continues to push forward digital transformation, we are also facing both major opportunities and significant challenges that require attention, cooperation, and effective management in strengthening our digital infrastructure.

Your Excellency the Minister,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

4. The Cambodia Internet Governance Forum 2025 is organized under the theme "**Building Cambodia's Inclusive Digital Society**", is deliberately focused on the issues most critical to our country's growth and stability:
 - **Online Safety in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI):** How do we ensure that new and emerging technologies like AI are deployed responsibly, protecting our citizens from harm while unlocking their innovative potential?
 - **Universal and Meaningful Internet Connectivity:** Beyond just access, how can we ensure that connectivity is **affordable, reliable, and truly beneficial**, bridging the digital divide between urban and rural communities?
 - **Youth Empowerment for the Digital Future:** Our young people are the driving force of Cambodia's future and must be equipped with **digital knowledge and skills for the digital economy**.
5. This year, we are pleased to announce the launch of the "**Assessment Report on Internet Development in Cambodia**," prepared by the Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology using **UNESCO's Internet Universality ROAM-X Indicators**. The findings provide valuable evidence and recommendations as we strengthen Internet ecosystems built on principles of openness, rights, accessibility, and trust

through multi-stakeholder cooperation. This reflects Cambodia's commitment to aligning national initiatives with international standards and global best practices.

6. The true nature of the Internet requires governance models that are transparent, open, and multi-stakeholder. No single ministry, company, or civil society organization can manage this complex ecosystem alone. The CamIGF Secretariat has selected **17 ministries, institutions, private companies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and development partners** to represent diverse stakeholders.

Your Excellency the Minister,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

7. Over these two days, 6–7 December, more than **18 discussion sessions** will be held with speakers from Cambodia and abroad, and participation from over **50 institutions**. The Forum adopts a multi-stakeholder and collaborative approach, bringing together actors who previously worked in isolation and using this platform to **listen, learn, and cooperate**. The solutions we seek concern **Internet security, data governance, digital rights, and inclusion**, which must be built together through meaningful dialogue among the distinguished speakers participating today. **The diversity of expertise and perspectives** gained from this Forum will be a valuable resource.
8. Furthermore, the Cambodia Internet Governance Forum 2025 (CamIGF) is committed to ensuring that diverse voices from across the country are included, especially those from provincial communities, youth, and vulnerable groups. The Secretariat, organized by Open Development Cambodia (ODC) and the Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT) with support from UNESCO, has provided travel support for **25 provincial participants** to attend the Forum.
9. The results and recommendations from this important Forum will contribute directly to **national digital strategies and policies**, helping Cambodia become a

mature, responsible digital participant in the regional and global digital economy and society.

10.I encourage all Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished speakers, honored guests, and participants to engage actively in sharing creative ideas and best practices to build a digital future for Cambodia that is **safe, inclusive, and sustainable.**

11.In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to **H.E. Dr. Chea Vandeth, Minister of Post and Telecommunications**, and extend my best wishes to all distinguished national and international guests—representing ministries, institutions, the private sector, civil society, academic and research institutions, development partners, and all delegates. I wish you all good health, happiness, prosperity, and great success in all your endeavors.

Thank you!