

FOREWORD

The forestry sector has a huge potential to contribute to the national development objectives of poverty alleviation, socio-economic development and environmental protection. However, due to a number of forces, recent decades have witnessed heavy degradation and loss of large areas of forest.

The Royal Government of Cambodia, the private sector and its development partners including NGOs have been engaged in tree planting for commercial, socio-economic and environmental benefit for some time. However, not all plantings have successfully met their objectives and highlight a need for improved stakeholder participation in site selection.

The *Guidelines for Site Selection and Tree Planting in Cambodia* are released at a most opportune time as the forestry sector is embarking on overall forest management planning, which includes the identification of areas in need of rehabilitation. They are also most relevant for tree planting outside forest areas.

The *Guidelines* contain a number of useful experiences from other countries on which to draw in making the most appropriate decisions for success, and a fully referenced step by step guide to site selection. Additionally, it provides thorough details of tree planting techniques, emphasising the importance of the use of quality seed in optimising site adaptation, attributes and growth rates. In short, this means improving the potential to meet commercial, social or environmental objectives, using native tree species.

On behalf of the Forestry Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the Cambodia Tree Seed Project and to the Royal Danish Embassy in Phnom Penh for initiating this significant contribution to sustainable forest management, and commend the consultative approach adopted through the development of the *Guidelines*. Special thanks are due to all constructive participations; the authors Mr. So Thea, Project Manager and Ms. Sarah Burgess, Consultant; and to Mr. Arvid Sloth, Danida Advisor to the Cambodia Tree Seed Project, for their dedication in leading the process of producing this comprehensive and cohesive document.

As the Head of the Forestry Administration, I strongly support the *Guidelines for Site Selection and Tree Planting in Cambodia* and will assure their integration into forestry planning.

Ty Sokhun

Head of Forestry Administration