

**Im Sethy**

**Secretary of State of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**



*Born in 1947, Mr Im Sethy holds a diploma of teacher for high school from faculty of pedagogy of Royal Phnom Penh University in 1969. He worked at upper Secondary School and the Ministry of Education before the Khmer Rouge time. He has a slave laborer and survived from the genocide and hardships of Khmer Rouge regime. In early 1979, he was among the first ten people to restore from scratch the Ministry of Education and was appointed as head of External Relations and Chief of Cabinet. He left the Ministry in 1991 to assist the Prime Minister for peace process. Elected to be Member of Parliament in 1993 (election organized by UN) and reelected in 1998 (second election), until now he is Member of Government as*

*Secretary of State of Ministry of Education Youth and Sports.*

## **Education for all: The promotion of dialogue on educational policies and strategies**

It gives me the greatest pleasure to forward this message to the International Conference on Education

This is very timely as here in Cambodia, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports successfully completed a first major step in a thorough reform of the education sector.

Last month my Ministry led the first, Joint Government/ donors/ NGU annual review of our Education Strategic Plan (ESP) and Education Sector Support Program (ESSP) 2001-05. These documents are the outcome of a two-year broad-based participatory process that involved a large number of stakeholders in the formulation of education priority policy strategies and programs. The ESP and ESSP are rolling frameworks that will guide the Government of Cambodia in pursuing well-identified medium term objectives on the way towards the intentional goal of Education for All.

The themes of the Conference are at the heart of our reforms, I see these themes as sharing; one common feature, the need for Education Ministries to enter into, and sustain new partnership modalities with different stakeholders in education, when they formulate education policies and strategies and to monitor their impact.

It is through a rejuvenated partnership with the civil society, taking into account the society's expectation and hopes, that the education system may best achieve a quality EFA that promotes and helps entrenching such important values as social cohesion and respect for cultural diversity.

As well, the future of our countries will be shaped by generations of students who must have increased opportunities of accessing the world of new technologies during their time at school. New technologies can also help us in improving school programs and training courses. In this, I believe that business community, domestic and international ones can partners.

I therefore, welcome the chance of attending this very important Conference. *IS*