

Overview

Cambodia became a constitutional monarchy after the successful conduct of the last National Assembly election in 1998 (five year term) which led to the installation of a coalition government, comprising the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) who won the majority of the seats followed by the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Co-operative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC). The Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) is the opposition party in the National Assembly.

The Second Five Year Socioeconomic Development Plan – SEDP II (2001-2005) and the National Poverty Reduction Strategy – NPRS (2003-2005), recently launched in March 2003 within the IMF and WB framework for their assistance programme, identify poverty reduction as the primary development goal and aim at reducing poverty from the current 36 percent to 31 percent in 2005 and 19 percent in 2015.

In 1999, the country became a full member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and has participated actively within the ASEAN framework. The Royal Government of Cambodia hosted the latest annual ASEAN Summit Meeting in Phnom Penh in November 2002. Talks between the Government and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva on Cambodia's application to join the organization appear to have gone well and the Government has hoped to join the WTO at the organization's fifth ministerial meeting scheduled to be held in Mexico in September this year.

ILO Constitutents

Government - The Ministry has significant responsibilities relevant to social and economic development in Cambodia. In addition to MOSALVY, the ILO also works with other ministries, i.e. Ministry of Planning (MOP), Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MOEYS), Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), Ministry of Women and Veteran Affairs (MOWVA).

Employers - The Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Associations (CAMFEBA) was formed in late 2000. CAMFEBA, the national employers' organization, is comprised of representatives from various employers' associations that are organized by business sector.

Workers - There are at present thirteen workers' organizations. None of the organizations are affiliated to any international trade union organizations although most of them have close relation with ICFTU. Legal registration of the Cambodian Labor Code provides that the workers can organize freely.

Technical Cooperation

The following project activities are on-going in Cambodia ;

- Freedom of Association and the Right to Bargain Collectively
- Labour Dispute Resolution Project
- Working Conditions in the Garment Sector
- Child Labour
- The ILO's Role in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- Labour-based Rural Infrastructure Works Programme
- Employment for Women
- Disabled People
- HIV/AIDS
- Tripartite Training Workshop on Labour Market Information

International Labour Standards and Tripartism

Twelve (12) Conventions ratified and in force. Seven of them are fundamental Conventions. Cambodia has expressed its firm intention to ratify the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) before the end of 2003. With a view to its ratification, the Convention was presented in detail to key Ministry officials and a few parliamentarians in March 2003. In April 2002, assistance was provided to draft an executive decree prohibiting hazardous child labour and regulating light work for children.