Address by Mr Daniel Haas, Development Counsellor,
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

at the National Workshop on

The Identification of Poor Households Programme
— A Key Tool for Equitable Development, 8 January 2009

Deputy Prime Ministers, Senior Ministers, Ministers, Secretaries of State, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to have the opportunity to speak today about the Identification of Poor Households Programme.

Since 2005, the German Government, through German Technical Cooperation, has been providing technical and financial support to the Ministry of Planning for the process of developing, piloting and refining standardised procedures for identification of poor households in Cambodia. Before this, the German Government funded technical cooperation projects in Kompong Thom and Kompot provinces had built up some years of practical experience in implementing procedures for identifying vulnerable families. This experience was very valuable to the national Working Group on Identification of Poor Households when it considered options for developing the national procedures and criteria for identification of poor households.

The Identification of Poor Households Programme (IDPoor), managed by the Ministry of Planning, has come a long way and is reaching a very important stage of its development. The German Government is very pleased to see that the Ministry of Planning has been able to implement the Procedures for Identification of Poor Households on a quite large scale already, making full use of decentralised structures at the sub-national level. Awareness-raising and dissemination of results at the district, provincial and national level have been increasing in intensity, and it is clear that the Programme is now well and truly on the national agenda. At the recent Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum in December, the important role of identification of poor households for supporting the development of an integrated and coordinated social safety net system was clearly recognised by the Royal Government of Cambodia as well as development partners. The value of IDPoor data in the health sector is already well recognised, and is increasingly being understood and used in other sectors as well.

This is excellent progress. The remaining challenges for the IDPoor Programme are to achieve better integration of the task of identification of poor households into the routine functions of sub-national government and to carefully integrate it within the framework of the decentralisation and deconcentration reforms. I would like to congratulate, on behalf of the German Government, the Identification of Poor Households Programme for the progress achieved so far, and wish the programme every success in achieving its goals. Thank you.