



**ADB Regional Capacity Development Technical Assistance  
Strengthening Capacity for Environmental Law in the Asia-Pacific:  
Developing Environmental Law Champions  
Train-the-Trainers Program  
November 27- December 1, 2017  
Siem Reap, Cambodia**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS  
BY DR. SAM-ANG SAM, PUC Chancellor**

**Train-The-Teachers in Environmental Law Program  
Siem Reap, Cambodia  
November 27-December 1, 2017**

- Ms. Sonia Chand Sandhu, Senior Advisor to the President of ADB,
- Prof. Rob Fowler, Head Trainer
- Dr. Kong Phallack, Dean of Law and Public Affairs of PUC,
- Distinguished participants, national and international guests, ladies and gentlemen, Good Morning and a warm welcome to Siem Reap, Angkor, land of the great Khmer culture & civilization.

On behalf of PUC and the Faculty of Law and Public Affairs, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for organizing this important **Train-The-Teachers in Environmental Law Program 2017** under the ADB's regional and technical assistance project. This noble endeavor aims at strengthening environmental law in the Asia-Pacific region by developing environmental law champions in line with our law faculty's 3 pillars of legal education, viz., pioneerism, internationalism, and multi-disciplinarity. By extension, this training will further provide an opportunity for professors from Cambodia and Lao PDR as well as international trainers from Australia, the UK, and South Africa to convene and share knowledge and expertise on ways to strengthen cooperation, and to promote environmental law teaching and research in the respective countries.

You have ahead of you a packed schedule and program of presentations and discussions on a wide range of topics, from Regional capacity development technical assistance and Strengthening capacity for environmental law champions to Understanding the Principle of environmental law, Relationship of environmental law to other disciplines (science, economics, ethics, philosophy, and religion); to Environmental Impact and Environmental Protection; to a close examination of Science of climate change: cause & impact, Protection of Biodiversity/Natural and Cultural Heritage as well as their solutions. These issues & concerns under the theme and topics in question are finally brought into light while looking at the Role of the judiciary in environmental resolution under the local & regional environmental law.

This training will bring awareness out of the darkness of night to the light of day, and to the forefront, the issues and concerns that face us all today. In my opinion, the proactive and preventive measures and approaches are the best. We must invest in education of the body (to move), the mind (to think), and the heart (to feel) for everyone, especially our children, the next generation, teaching them to be responsible and environmentally friendly citizens, not for the mere sake of economic development in the expense of the environment. Once they become such citizens, we will even need less law and regulation. Voltaire once said, "If all the citizen of the world were moral, we do not need law." Laws and policies regulate situations, behaviors, and actions, but they cannot make people love each other or love environment; people's heart and mind do.

According to the Buddhist North Star principle, before we take on a project or business, we must ask three questions: (1) Is the business legally right? (2) Is it morally right? and (3) Is it beneficial to me and my

community/society? If the answers to the three questions are Yes, then we can proceed with the project or business.

Mahatma Gandhi reminds us of the Seven Deadly Social Sins: Education without Character, Science without Humanity, Religion without Sacrifice, Pleasure without Conscience, Politics without Principle, Science without Humanity, and Commerce without Morality.

It is indeed delighted and honored for Paññāsāstra University to host the training here in Cambodia, especially in Siem Reap, our proud city of ancient culture and civilization. I hope you will have productive presentations and discussions, and that the knowledge, skills, value, and wisdom you acquire within the next few days will help shape and strengthen a new chapter of legal initiatives in Cambodia and beyond for the benefits of our students, teachers, and international participants in tackling environmental related issues and concerns, including, but not limited to, policy-making affecting climate change and global warming, among others.

In closing, I would like to thank ADB, IUNC Academy of Environmental Law, the Royal Government of Cambodia, sponsors, resource persons, speakers and presenters, participants, and the organizing committee for making this event possible. I hope you will take the advantage of the opportunity being in Siem Reap to explore and experience our proud world heritage sites and over a thousand ancient stone monuments of Angkor, right here in this dynamic & vibrant city.

I am looking forward to working with you within the next days, and I wish you all success. Please have a fruitful and pleasant training. Thank you.