



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cambodian officials visit Hanoi helmet labs to deliberate building centers in Cambodia

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To support the enforcement of the Cambodian draft traffic law, this week the Asia Injury Prevention (AIP) Foundation will coordinate meetings between Cambodian and Vietnamese senior government officials in Hanoi. Officials will discuss and share experiences on road safety management, quality helmet standards, and helmet use enforcement.

Cambodian officials will visit AIP Foundation's Protec Tropical Helmet Factory and testing laboratory in Hanoi as well as the Vietnamese government helmet testing center. One objective for Cambodian officials is to learn about the establishment and maintenance of helmet testing centers in Vietnam in order to determine the feasibility of building a similar facility in Cambodia. The Cambodian draft traffic law, which would mandate helmet wearing for all motorcycle passengers, is expected to be enacted in 2015. A helmet laboratory in Cambodia would be imperative to help curtail the low-quality helmet use within the country.

Cambodian delegates will consist of officials from the National Road Safety Committee (NRSC), Institute of Standards of Cambodia (ISC) of the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft, and General Commissariat of National Police. This will include NRSC Deputy Chairwoman and Secretary of State of Public Works and Transport Her Excellency Mrs. Min Meanvy; ISC Director General Mr. Chan Borin; Lieutenant General Him Yan, Director of the Central Department of Public Order; Mr. Chreang Phollak from Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC); and four other officials from the NRSC, National Police, and the ISC.

Delegates will meet with officials from Vietnam's National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC); Product Quality Management Department, Ministry of Science and Technology; and the Ministry of Interior to learn from their experiences related to increasing and enforcing standard helmet use in Vietnam as well as education methods on helmet standards.

"The importance of wearing standard helmets cannot be overemphasized. In 2013, 69% of road traffic fatalities were motorcyclists, with 62% of these suffering from head injuries," said Her Excellency Mrs. Min Meanvy, Secretary of State of Public Works and Transport and Deputy Chairwoman of the NRSC, "and among these victims, only 20% of them were wearing helmets."

"Standards are essential for any society, whether for pharmaceutical, food, or engineered products including helmets," added Mr. Greig Craft, President of AIP Foundation. "Without standards and strict adherence, it is impossible to establish an effective regulatory system. This can have disastrous effect on society."

Beyond helmet use, the quality of the motorcycle helmet is also an issue in terms of adequate head protection during a crash. A study conducted by Dynamic Research Inc. in Cambodia in 2008 found that on average, only one out of 12 helmets was able to pass all testing criteria¹. Since then, the helmet market has grown exponentially in Cambodia, and it is unclear if new helmet models are any safer.

¹ National Road Safety Committee: *Final Report: Workshop on Motorcycle Helmet Standard*, November 2008.



“The Royal Government of Cambodia has taken steps towards developing and approving a Cambodian standard for the protective helmet. The Institute of Standards of Cambodia (ISC) has a main role in national standards development for products and services and in March 2010, Cambodian Standard CS 105:2010 on protective helmets for motorcyclists was approved by the National Standards Council as Voluntary Standard. Recently, the National Standards Council reviewed this standard again and approved it as Mandatory Standard, calling for Technical Regulation for its continued implementation in Cambodia,” explained His Excellency Mr. Chan Borin of ISC. “Now we are planning our next steps to ensure safety helmets in Cambodia are of high quality for users and complies with the safety requirements stated in Cambodian Standard CS 105:2010.”

On the 15th of August, 2014, the Cambodian government adopted the draft traffic law that requires motorcycle passengers—including children—to wear helmets. In the draft law, a helmet is defined as one that complies with the national standard as approved by appropriate authority. The draft law is now waiting to be enacted into law by the National Assembly. AIP Foundation and other stakeholders have been making efforts to support the enactment of this law.

“When the draft traffic law is enacted, Cambodia will need to be prepared to enforce not only helmet use, but high-quality helmet use. I believe that this week’s visit to helmet factories and testing laboratories is an important step. As motorized vehicle production continues to grow, our efforts need to also grow in order to prevent fatalities and head injuries on Cambodia’s roads,” said Mr. Pagna Kim, AIP Foundation Country Director in Cambodia.

Currently, more than 5 persons die and 39 are injured daily on the roads of Cambodia. Over the last 9 years, the number of fatalities has doubled and the number of registered vehicles has more than tripled. Motorcycles are the most common form of transport in the country, making users one of the most vulnerable groups on Cambodia’s road.

“Vietnam has both advocacy efforts and campaign activities addressing sub-standard helmets and helmet use. This is why we are here: to discuss new ways to improve the helmet standard within Cambodia, exchange lessons learned on quality helmet enforcement and helmet use among motorcyclists, and to discuss on building Cambodia’s very own helmet laboratory,” said Lieutenant General Him Yan. Exchanging road safety experiences between relevant Cambodian and Vietnamese Governments and institutions are crucial for effective collaboration on road safety.

About the Asia Injury Prevention Foundation

The Asia Injury Prevention (AIP) Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low- and middle-income countries. For more than 15 years AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit www.asiainjury.org or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

About Protec Vietnam

Access to affordable, high quality helmets that meet safety standards is a crucial element of making helmet initiatives successful. AIP Foundation’s non-profit Protec Tropical Helmet Factory produces custom-designed low-cost, lightweight motorcycle helmets that fit the needs of warm climates across



the developing world. Established by AIP Foundation in 2002, Protec is a social enterprise that reinvests 100% of profits into public awareness campaigns and traffic safety education programs. The factory currently employs over 150 workers, 30% of whom have physical disabilities, and produces over 500,000 helmets per year, many of which are donated to at-risk road users through AIP Foundation's programs.

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