

**The National Road Safety Committee and Road Safety Partners
Press Release on 2nd UN Global Road Safety Week:
'The Long Short Walk for Pedestrian Safety'
11th May 2013**



Phnom Penh, 11th May 2013 – The National Road Safety Committee in collaboration with road safety partners namely World Health Organization, Global Road Safety Partnership, Cambodian Red Cross, Cambodia Movement for Health, Asia Injury Prevention Foundation, Handicap International, and Coalition for Road Safety will today organize the Second UN Global Road Safety Week at Anuvath Reachtheani primary school. The theme 'Long Short Walk for Pedestrian Safety' aims to increase the attention of the government and relevant institutions to improve sidewalks and crosswalks. Around 400 participants namely school children, Cambodian Red Cross youth, staff from concerned ministries and partners are walking for about one kilometre starting from the CRC office to Anuvath Reachtheani primary school holding a banner with the words: 'We Are Walking For Safe Roads For Pedestrians'.

Over 5000 people killed on the world's roads each week are not travelling in a car, on a motorcycle or riding a bicycle – they are pedestrians. In Cambodia, road traffic injuries are one of the leading causes of death and claims at least 5 people lives a day on the Cambodian roads, according to the Road Crash Victim Information System (RCVIS) report in 2011. Thirteen per cent of deaths are pedestrians, including children and older people. This means five pedestrians are killed each week. The main risk factors for pedestrian fatalities include over speeding, drunk driving, lack of pedestrian facilities, inadequate visibility of pedestrians and inadequate enforcement of traffic laws.

Walking is a basic and common mode of transport and contributes to health and environmental benefits. Increased physical activity leads to a reduction of cardiovascular, obesity-related diseases and diabetes. This in turn makes pedestrians fitter and leaner. However, there seems to be a disincentive for walking due to the lack of pedestrian facilities especially sidewalks which have been used for other purposes such as food stalls, car parking etc, forcing pedestrians to walk on the street making them more susceptible to death, injury and disability due to road crashes.

The ambitious goal of this event is to have zero pedestrian deaths starting from this week through a number of effective and achievable measures. These include developing or improving sidewalks and crosswalks, lighting and signage around pedestrian facilities, visibility of pedestrians, safe school zones, street calming (bump, rumble strips) to reduce speed, enforcing road traffic law on speeding, cracking down on drink-driving, reducing distractions to drivers, letting pedestrians have the right-of way, and road safety awareness campaigns aimed at all road users. In addition, this event also calls for continued and increased investment on road safety from the Royal Government of Cambodia, development partners and stakeholders.

For further information on the 2nd UN Global Road Safety Week please contact:

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