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Competition Concern in the Fishery Sector in Cambodia

Introduction

Fishery sector plays an important role in supporting rural livelihoods throughout Cambodia, especially those who live around the Tonle Sap Great Lake¹. About more than one million people around the Lake depend on its fish resource for employment, income, and food security. With a large surplus caught during the peak fishing season, fish trade and export is critical to income growth in the sector. Presently, fresh and processed fish are traded widely within Cambodia, exported in significant quantities to neighbouring countries, and in some cases, exported to more distant markets.

With an inland fish catch of more than 400,000 tonnes per year, the Government has identified Cambodia's fishery sector as important for export promotion. The sector encompasses extensive freshwater fishery within floodplains, river and lakes; marine fishery; rice field fishery; and some aquaculture. Freshwater fishery of Cambodia alone probably contributes more to national food security and the economy than such fishery does in any other country in the world. The annual catch ranges between 290,000 to 430,000 tonnes, which is the fourth largest in the world.

The development of the sector, despite its huge potential, is however being held back by some constraints in the competitive process therein, caused mainly due to the inappropriateness of the existing regulatory framework, and the bureaucratic and cumbersome governance structure, aggravated by corruption and other private rent-seeking behaviours.

Fish is a natural resource and may easily be affected and become extinct if not taken care of and/or given high consideration. Thus, it is necessary to have the government as regulator, especially via laws and provisions, which regulate fishery activities in such aspects as to when, where, and how, and as to what fish is allowed to be caught, etc. Some clauses of the laws and regulations are found to have restrained competition in the sector, especially for those who wish to do fishery business. In addition, fishermen and fish traders/exporters are also faced with a number of other challenges that include corruption and the lack of financial support, which adversely affect competition in the industry.

This paper attempts to examine the competition concerns in the fishery sector in Cambodia. It is mainly focused on the competition concerns that affect two major parts of the

industry: fishery catch and fishery trade (domestic and overseas trade).

Competition Concerns

Competition is the foundation of an efficiently working market system. According to Adam Smith, competition is a precondition that promotes freedom of decision and prevents actions of self-centred individuals from leading to anarchy or chaos, and encourages economically optimal, socially fair and desirable market results. In order that the competitive process runs smoothly, there must be free market entry and exit, transparency of market, freedom of trade and contract, consumer's ability and willingness to be informed about transparent markets, and consumer and producer freedom in decision-making, etc.

Very often, these pre-requisites are not well met in developing countries and the least developed countries (LDCs) alike. In most developing and LDCs, including Cambodia, markets are severely distorted due to monopoly by the state in some business sectors and government interference, such as price-control and restrictive laws and regulations as well as difficult and complicated procedures to apply, which in turn limit the free flow of goods into the market. This, in turn, affects consumers' freedom of decision-making in situations where basic needs are not guaranteed and the only goal is to survive. In Cambodia, where many still live below the poverty line, it is clear that the consumers can hardly exercise their 'right to choice'.

While the economic climate in Cambodia has not been favourable for competition to perform its functions, the anticompetitive practices are prevalent. The number of threats from external actors to competition in the market is also increasing.

Competition Issues *vis-à-vis* Fishery

Fishery issues are the most sensitive in Cambodia, probably second to only forestry. This is because the sector provides employment to about two million people, generates income, and ensures food security, but is easily affected if it is overused and not taken care of well. Thus, the Government needs not only to adopt laws and regulations to manage and control fishing activities, but also has to abide by the international rules and procedures in order to sustain this

resource. This also requires the Government to establish effective institutions to prevent anarchic and destructive fishing gears and to use the resource in a sustainable manner.

Factors that hinder competition in the segment of fishery catch include: the ambiguity of the fishery law and that of other regulatory frameworks that classify the fishermen and limit access to the fishing domain; the types of fishing gears; types of fish to be caught; and when/where/and how to fish, etc. In addition, fishermen and traders/exporters lack financial support and technique to preserve the quality of fish and they have to overcome a number of challenges such as corruption and other unnecessary requirements.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

Cambodia is now a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Free Trade Area (AFTA). As a member of these regional and international organisations, Cambodia strives to open and promote its market economy and to improve and vigorously implement governance systems to send a positive signal to trade and investment partners. Article 56 of the current Cambodian Constitution stipulates that the country adopts a market economy system. It also states that the law shall determine the preparation and development of this economic system. All the while, Article 61 adds that the State shall promote economic development in all sectors and remote areas, especially in agriculture, whereas Article 62 points out that the State shall pay attention and help solve production matters, protect the price of products for farmers, craftsmen, and find marketplace for them to sell their products. According to Article 63, the State shall respect market management in order to guarantee a better standard of living for the people.

Concerning the fishery industry, the Government has a policy of centralisation and commercialisation of all fishery resources. Fishery domains are state property. At the central level, the Fishery Department awards concession right regarding fishery resources to various companies/enterprises.

The fishery law of the People's Republic of Kampuchea,² whose most parts are copied from a very old law adopted in 1954, is still in use. Recently, the Council of Ministers of Cambodia has revised this law and it is now waiting for approval of the National Assembly. In an interview on February 15, 2006, Touch Sieng Tana, member of Expert Team on Economic, Social and Cultural Observation (OBSES), Office of Council of Ministers admitted that it is still not a good law. According to Tana, the law was revised by the same people who lacked scientific knowledge about fishery and its problems.

There are three types of fishing activities in Cambodia, according to the new draft law: family-scale/subsistence; medium-scale/artisan; and large-scale/commercial fishing. The draft law makes provision for 'family scale' (subsistence) fishing, which is distinct from medium-scale and commercial-scale fishing activities. The definition of 'family scale' fishing is based on the type and size of fishing gear used. Family-scale fishing is not licensed and family-scale fishing gear can be used all year round throughout the

fishery domains (except in the 15 classified sanctuaries). It is important to emphasise that this includes inside commercial fishing lots – in special areas designated as 'set aside' for people during the open season, but throughout the commercial fishing lots during the closed season. However, privatisation of most of the national inland fishery has brought 'family scale' fishermen into conflict with commercial lot operators, who, in spite of the law, prevent subsistence fishermen from accessing the resource through intimidation, violence, and false imprisonment.

According to the draft fishery law, the family-scale fishermen can operate all time round in any places including commercial fishing lots despite in closed season. However, the commercial fishery enterprises can operate in the fishing reservoirs and industrial fishing can do so, except closed season, not for all fishing gears. Medium-scale and large-scale fishers are limited to eight or nine months of fishing per year usually from October 01 to June 30.

Fishing Gear

As a food staple, fish represents about 70 percent of Cambodia's animal protein intake, with consumption estimated at about 30 kg per person per year (Infofish 2000). Cambodia's fishery laws and other regulations governing the fisheries and low fish population have restricted fishing activities including fishing gears and types of fish and imposed other requirements and conditions, which make fishers hard to catch fish to supply to the market. In turn, it affects fish price in the market when supply is lower than demand.

According to the fishery law, not all fishing gears are allowed as this can destroy the fish population. Allowable fishing gears are classified and permitted for use according to the types of fishermen. The Ministry of Agriculture must declare legal all fishing gears permitted in the fishery domains. The fishery law, the land law, and the forestry law prohibit private property rights in the fishery and forestry reserves. Allowable fishing gears include drop net of less than five metres, scoop net with an opening of less than two metres, spear, harpoon, etc. Medium and large-scale fishers are required to get a permission letter and submit their request, which clearly states the type and size of fishing gears, location and time for fishing. There are a few restrictions on the type or size of fish, both fishers can catch.

Fishery Bidding Process

Fishery business is a bit risky. This concern is related to the bidding process involved. Article 7 of the Sub-Decree on the Lease of Fresh and Sea Fishing Domains for Fishery Business issued by the State of Cambodia in 1989, which is in force now, says that one time of bidding for fishing lot allows for two-simultaneous season fishing operations and the rent fees for the first and second seasons shall be of the same amount. This means that the bidder would pay the first and second season operations the same amount of rent fees to the State. The regulation also prevents more than one bidding. Article 13 of the same Sub-Decree stipulates that anyone who wins the temporary bidding is not allowed to place other bidding for the other fishing lots. The Sub-Decree

also prohibits full possession by the bidder. Article 17 points out that a winner can lease a number of parts of the lot whose fish products are less than 50 percent of the whole lot through contract.

The conditions and restrictions contain in this bidding regulation prevent competition in the free bidding process. However, they prevent sole monopoly in the fishery business by providing rooms and opportunities for more bidders. As a result, this will facilitate free flow of goods into the market with competitive price.

Management of Community Fishery

Another concern may be related to the Royal Sub-Decree on the Management of Fishery Communities. In 2000, the fishery sector was reformed whereby after a long clashes and disputes between the people and fishing lot owners, the Prime Minister decided to allocate some fishing domains for local fishing communities. A fishing lot area of 536,302 ha, which is 56.23 percent of the total fishing lots areas, most of them are in or around the Tonle Sap Great Lake, has been allocated to local fishing communities to do family-scale fishing. However, NGOs working on fishery issues complained that the allocated areas are not productive enough.

There are now some 360 fishery communities established across the country. Community fishery is a new system under the fishery reforms programme and part of the Government's poverty reduction strategy. The Sub-Decree on the Management of Fishery Communities aims to manage sustainable fisheries resources and ensure the equal division of fishery resources to the people.

Many fishery communities were established, most of them by the Provincial Fishery Office, some with the involvement of NGOs and aid agencies, and some by local groups including former fishing lot owners and local elites. These communities represent a wide range of scenarios, and differ from each other. They are developed, supported or facilitated by a large number of organisations in an uncoordinated manner. Different methods and incentives are used to organise the groups with different goals and objectives for management. The fishery communities facilitated and supported by NGOs and aid agencies function significantly better than those organised solely by the fishery authorities. Some communities organised by powerful groups, former fishing lot owners and local elites become completely destructive and only serving the interests of a few at the top of the management structure.

However, there are certain provisions in the Sub-Decree on the Management of Fishery Communities, which are quite restrictive in nature, especially regarding community membership, members' activities and the activities of the community commissions. Article 9 of the Sub-Decree stipulates that an individual can only be a member of a community in which he or she lives. Though the Sub-Decree aims to sustainably manage the fishery resources, the members of a community and the community commission have no role, duties and rights to safeguard their community fishing domains when illegal fishing occurs. They can only co-operate with and ask for the intervention from the relevant

fishery units. Only the fishery department has a role and duty to prevent and suppress the fishery offences in the fishery communities. Inviting fishery officials (to deal with the problem) could mean inviting them to get a bribe and those who give report would be in trouble.

While the community fishing boundaries have not been clearly marked, which makes enforcement difficult as encroachment usually occurs inside the community fishing area, the Sub-Decree on the Management of Fishery Communities makes no distinction between the interest of those who are members of the community and those who are not either. To make matters worse, Article 14 gives the non-community members the rights to use the fishery resources in the community fishing area. This article also provides for non-members to have the rights to leave, enter and use the fishery resources in the community fishing area in accordance with the community's statute, internal regulation, etc.

In the early stage, local communities welcomed the initiative for community-based resource management. But this interest was later exhausted due to the unrealistic nature of ownership, benefits, and poor legal support. In community fishery, people experienced increased fish catch in the early stage, which later decreased due to increased destructive fishing activities in the fishing grounds by commercial fishers particularly through electrocuting and large scale fishing, using long fishing nets with small mesh size.

Competition Concerns in Fishery Sales

Lack of financing support and market information

In Cambodia, 13 out of 21 provinces are considered fishing provinces and more than three million Cambodians, i.e. about 25 percent of the population, live in the six provinces bordering the Tonle Sap Great Lake. The fishery industry seasonally employs an estimated 140,000 persons, not including the tens of thousands of families who subsist on fish and other aquatic resources.

Across Cambodia, most fish are marketed from landing sites located at floating villages or harbour points around the Great Lake and along rivers. Fish are sold live in water-filled metal containers, fresh on ice, and in a variety of processed products. For most domestic trade, retailers purchase fish from traders or go to landing sites to buy directly from fishers. However, distribution centres play an important role in fish trade to urban areas, especially to Battambang and Phnom Penh.

Fresh and processed fish are traded widely within Cambodia, with the majority of trade originating at the Tonle Sap Great Lake. Fish marketing involves a number of steps and challenges including storage, handling, aggregating enough for a shipment, transportation, negotiating sales, and maintaining quality. Fish marketing involves three main transactions: sales from fishers to traders, from traders to retailers via distributors, and from retailers to customers. Small-scale fishers also sell directly to customers.

There is quite a number of competition constraints *vis-à-vis* all phases of fishery sales. Very often, fishermen are forced to sell their fish at lower or discounted prices because they are in debt to fish traders. Fishermen borrow money

from traders to buy fishing gears and other stuff. Fish traders also are in debt to fish distributors who lend them money to support fish purchases and trading activities. This market structure supports a stable fish supply for trade, but the problem of credit dependency places fishers and (to a large extent) traders at a disadvantage.

Fishers are usually placed in a poor position when it comes to price negotiation due to lack of market and price information. They mostly rely on knowledge of the previous day's fish price, 'word-of-mouth' information on prices from other fishers, and some understanding about the day's catch levels in the area. "They usually do not have access to information about how prices at distribution centres and retail markets may have changed since the last time they sold fish", according to a study by the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI, Yim and McKenney 2003). In contrast, traders, who build regular contact with distributors by I-com or telephone about day-to-day changes in prices and fish demand at markets, have gained advantage in price negotiations with fishers. They usually offer a flat price for fish, sometimes regardless of different fish species and sizes.

Constraints in Distribution

From Traders to Retailers via Distributor

Fish distribution centres play an important role in fish trade to urban areas. For trade to Phnom Penh, municipal regulations intended to relieve traffic congestion require fish trucks to stop and sell fish at licensed fish distribution centres a few kilometres outside the capital. This regulation ultimately places fish traders at the mercy of some virtual monopolies in the fish distribution sector. For example, in Phnom Penh, only three licensed distribution centres are legally allowed to deal in fish transported from the Tonle Sap Great Lake. They are:

- (i) Chrang Chamres, which is nine km north of Phnom Penh, deals in fish transported from Great Lake through National Road 5. Here iced fish transported from Great Lake is distributed through 19 distribution shops owned by 18 distributors (Yim and McKenney 2003);
- (ii) The Phnom Penh fish distribution port with 22 shops, located 11.5 km north of Phnom Penh along Tonle Sap River, deals in fish transported by waterway from the Great Lake; and
- (iii) Fish transported along National Road 1 is distributed through 10 shops at Chbar Ampov, which is south of the capital.

No other fish distribution facilities are legally allowed to operate in these areas. Nonetheless, there are several smaller unlicensed distribution facilities, which charge less than the licensed ones and offer better services. While the authorities close their eyes for unlicensed to operate, they punish traders who do not use the licensed facilities.

At the distribution centre, fish are unloaded and sold to retailers. Distributors typically work with about 15-25 traders (Yim and McKenney 2003). Distribution centre owners, who lend money to traders for fish purchases, provide services such as labour to unload trucks and sometimes assist traders in price negotiations with retailers. As financially tied to their business, traders agree to supply fish exclusively to

the distributor with a verbal agreement that traders will pay the distributor a "commission fee" on each sale of fish to retailers. These fees are typically set at Cambodian Riel 100/kg (US\$0.025/kg) for fish priced lower than Cambodian Riel 2,000/kg (US\$0.5/kg), and Cambodian Riel 200/kg (US\$0.05/kg) for fish priced higher than Cambodian Riel 2,000/kg (Yim and McKenney 2003). But some distributors set the price line somewhat lower than Cambodian Riel 2,000/kg and others higher.

In addition, traders have to pay to distribution centre owner a three percent fee on all sales (three percent of sales at Chrang Chamres and Chbar Ampov and five percent of sales at Phnom Penh fish distribution port). In total, traders pay about 10 percent of total sales revenue to distributors and the distribution centre owner (6-8 percent to distributors for their financing and services and three percent to distribution centre owner). For one tonne of fish sold at a price of Cambodian Riel 1,500/kg (US\$0.38), traders would receive US\$380, but need to pay US\$25 to the distributor and US\$11 to the distribution centre owner, which is equal to almost 10 percent of the sales revenue. For one tonne of fish sold at a price of Cambodian Riel 2,500 (US\$0.63), traders would make US\$632, but need to pay US\$51 and US\$19 respectively, fees equal to 11 percent of the sales revenue.

Traders complain that fees paid to distribution centre owner are much higher than those charged by informal distribution facilities operating in the area. For example, traders pay an average fee of about US\$22 per tonne on sales made at Chrang Chamres, but unlicensed facilities nearby only charge a nominal parking fee of Cambodian Riel 3,000-5,000 (about US\$1) per car or pick-up truck of fish.

From Retailers to Customers

Two major markets in Phnom Penh sell 2-5 tonnes of iced fish per day to urban consumers, but this amount can increase significantly during peak catch periods (Yim and McKenney 2003). Small-scale retailers purchase 30-70 kg of fish per day. Some purchase mix species but usually less than five and some retailers target only one specific species. They often sell all their fish by lunchtime if they are lucky, but sometimes they still have more than half unsold by the end of the day. Due to this uncertainty and compensate the cost of keeping fish fresh, retailers normally mark up prices by about 30-100 percent over the price of purchase from distribution centres (Yim McKenney, 2003). These prices are set for early morning buyers, but can decline considerably over the course of the morning depending on sales.

Fish marketing is also affected by a number of costs and constraints, including spoilage and weight loss, distribution controls, transportation and ice costs, financing costs, and fees charged along the road. Spoilage and weight loss represent a substantial cost at 10-15 percent of shipment weight or about US\$55 per tonne. These value losses are compounded by the retail marketing practice of displaying fish for sale without ice. Retailers remove ice because it is the common perception of customers that the presence of ice indicates a lack of fish freshness. The study by the CDRI shows that in total, these constraints result in marketing costs that average about US\$308 per tonne from the Great

Table 1: Marketing Margins of Three Fish Species Traded from Kampong Luong to Orussey and Thmei Markets, Phnom Penh (December 2002)

	Chhlang		Chhkok		Chhdor	
Average Selling Prices	Price (R/kg)	Final Retail Price (in percent)	Price (R/kg)	Final Retail Price (in percent)	Price (R/kg)	Final Retail Price (in percent)
Fisher to trader	1,000	24	1,500	34	1,700	35
Trader to retailer via distributor	2,200	52	2,450	56	3,586	74
Retailer to consumer	4,239	100	4,396	100	4,867	100
Marketing margin	3,239	76	2,896	66	3,167	65

(Source: Yim Chea and Bruce McKenney 2003)

Lake to retail markets in Phnom Penh (Yim and McKenney, 2003). As a result, marketing margins account for roughly 65-75 percent of fish retail prices but fishers receive 25-35 percent, the same study concludes.

Constraints in Fishery Export

High value-added fish processing for export using modern facilities is undertaken at two locations: Phnom Penh and Sihanouk Ville. The Phnom Penh plant exports live, iced and frozen freshwater finfish (mainly snakehead and sand goby) to markets in Australia, France, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore. In Sihanouk Ville, the plant processes shrimp (about 20 tonnes tail-weight per month) for export to France in 0.2- 0.5 kg blocks. The shrimp is purchased from small-scale fishermen.

Cambodia is now short of high-quality fish, which are valuable for export. There are two companies that handle fish export in the country: the Kampuchea Fish Import Export Company (KAMFIMEX) and the Import Export and Civil Development Construction Company (CDCO). KAMFIMEX, which was established by the Government in 1981 to collect fish from fishery solidarity groups and state fishing enterprises, ceased to play an active role in fish marketing and export in late 2001. Before this, all fish for export had to be sold to KAMFIMEX. CDCO, which was founded in October 2001 by a number of former KAMFIMEX managers, plays a more service-oriented role in fish exports, providing more support to its 'agents'. CDCO provides its agents with information about price changes and the status of fish supply. Besides, there are many unlicensed fish exporters who operate year round, none specialising in any particular fish species. Here again, credit plays a critical role in the

market structure for fish exports. Fishers only sell to their trader/creditor and traders only sell to their exporter/creditor.

Overseas fish exporters have to face export constraints and costs, which negatively affect the income earned by small and medium-scale fishermen and others working in the fishery sector. "The costs, fees, uncertainty, and risks associated with fish export make it difficult for exporters to earn a profit". For example, to export about 3 tonnes of fish from the Great Lake to Thai Long Koeu Market, exporter was made to pay 27 different fee payments to 15 institutions in 16 different places (i.e., landing site, 13 checkpoints, and two sides of the border), which costs US\$236. This actual fee was unofficially paid through brokers who helped facilitate and negotiate the fees of fish shipment. It is worth noting that if officially paid, exporter had to pay US\$681, which is higher than the unofficial payment. This argument is confirmed by the CDRI study report that a transport permit issued by Provincial Fisheries Office before exporters can make fish shipment commonly notes only about one-fourth to one-tenth of an actual shipment amount. For instance, a permit will generally indicate 300-500 kg for an actual shipment of two-three tonnes (Yim and McKenney 2003).

For fish exporting from the Great Lake to Thai Long Koeu Market, fish exporters first are required to obtain a transport permit from the provincial fishery department who charges them US\$17-US\$20 per tonne for issuing and checking the permit. A practice, which was launched as a control mechanism for domestic trade across provincial boundaries under a planned economy (Sub-Decree on Transport of Fisheries Products, November 05, 1988), provides the most common basis for informal fee collection. Fish exporters must then pay export tax to the Customs Department with an export rate of 10 percent. In practice, however, they pay a little less than one percent (about US\$7-8 per tonne, Yim and McKenney 2003). To comply with the official tax rate would likely be impossible for both exporters and importers in nearly every business sector in Cambodia. Fish exporters also pay about US\$6-7 to a road investment company that holds responsibility for repair and maintenance of the road linking the landing sites to the National Road Number 4.

In addition, fish exporters have to pay about US\$5 per tonne to obtain an unnecessary "sending goods" letter from KAMFIMEX. As pointed out, KAMFIMEX no longer plays a significant role in fish exports. Lastly, fish exporters are required to pay what we call 'pheasi' (a charge usually paid for doing hygiene in the market areas) of 0.8-4 baht for every

Table 2: Freshwater Fish Production in Cambodia (1980-1996)

Year	Production (in tonnrs)	Source of information
1980	18,400	Department of Fisheries (with the exclusion of small-scale family fishing)
1982	65,700	
1984	55,093	
1986	64,181	
1988	61,200	
1990	65,100	
1992	68,900	
1994	65,000	
1996	63,510	

(Source: Nao Thuok, Inland Fishery Management and Enhancement in Cambodia)

kg of fish exported. In practice, they pay 0.1-0.2 baht per kg (US\$3 per tonne) to a *pheasi* company, which is licensed and approved by Banteay Meanchey province and the Ministry of Finance to collect fees. In return, a company pays 10 million Cambodian Riel (US\$2,500) annually to the provincial treasury. Exporters complained that a *pheasi* company only collects fee but provides no service. Exporters also pay to economic police, fishery officials, and military police who check the transport permit at the landing site.

Table 3: Total fees to transport fish per tonne from the Great Lake to Thai Long Koeu Market through Poipet

Transport permit:	US\$17-20
Customs tax:	US\$7-8
Road investor:	US\$6-7
Sending goods letter (KAMFIMEX):	US\$5
<i>Pheasi</i> :	US\$3
	US\$38-US\$43

(Source: Yim and McKenn 2003)

Conclusion

Fishery sector plays an important role in engendering Cambodia's economic growth, employment and raising welfare of the people. This sector should be paid great attention to both catching and trading fish (domestic and export trades). The current fishery law and other regulations such as sub-decrees need to be re-examined and updated to tackle the challenges and constraints in fishery catch and

fishery trade. Cambodia lacks a number of legal instruments such as corruption law and competition law, which can ensure socially fair and desirable market (for fish), free market entry and exit and transparency of the market as well as freedom of trade.

Cambodia lacks a corruption law and this encourages more illegal activities and bureaucracy. Attention should be paid to reducing or eliminating unnecessary procedures and costs that have no clear legal basis along domestic fish trade routes. Cambodia does have a good investment law in which its provisions provide a one-stop service. However, this law seems to cover other sectors but not fishery. The same attention should be paid to this sector because as pointed out earlier fish traders/exporters are also required to obtain a number of procedural permission letters, which obstruct their smooth business. As discussed fishers need financial support and market and price information so that they can make better decision on sales. A thorough study or technical research on spoilage problems in the marketing of fish from fishing grounds to distribution centres should be conducted so that the problems can be overcome or reduced. Fish distribution services should be enlarged to ensure better practice of competition.

Other priority issues should also be covered such as equitable access to the fisheries by all categories of operators, particularly subsistence fishers; updating restricted and permitted fishing gear; including allowable catch as one of the criteria for setting the base price of lots; earmarking other fees for fisheries activities; and eliminating unnecessary fees etc.

Endnotes

- 1 The Tonle Sap (meaning *Large Fresh Water River*, but more commonly translated as *Great Lake*) is a combined lake and river system of huge importance to Cambodia. It is the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia and is an ecological hotspot that was designated as an UNESCO biosphere in 1997. (According to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonle_Sap>)
- 2 People's Republic of Kampuchea (a calque of People's Republic of China) – was the official name of Cambodia under the rule of the Vietnamese-sponsored government from 1979 to 1989 (According to <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodia>>)

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