

## **CEDAC Staff Member to Share Presentation on the Impacts of Climate Change in the Lives and Livelihoods of Cambodians at COP15**

December 9-16, 2009

CEDAC staff member, Mrs. Tong Chanthean, received an invitation from LDC Watch to attend a Climate Change Roundtable event on **“Impacts of climate change on the lives and livelihoods of the people in the Least Developed Countries: People testifying themselves”** at Copenhagen, Denmark. During this roundtable, Mrs. Chanthean is going to do a presentation on the impacts of climate change on lives and livelihoods in Cambodia.

Cambodia is among the least developed countries with a GDP per capita of US\$739 in 2008. Agriculture still remains a main source of income contributing approximately 30% of Cambodia’s overall GDP and involving 72% of the population (NIS, 2009). Cambodia is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its limited capacity to invest resources in adaptation. Add this lack of capacity to an economy that is based largely on agriculture, and it becomes evident that Cambodia must move forward quickly to adapt to the changes of global warming rather than simply implementing mitigation plans.

The 49 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are the least responsible for the rising global green house gas emissions, yet they are the most affected by the ensuing climate change catastrophes - in some cases, these can become survival issues for the LDCs. The lives and livelihoods of around 785 million people residing in the LDCs are already at stake, further perpetuating poverty, injustice and social unrest in these countries. LDCs, therefore, require special attention and an agenda of action from the international community at the COP15 and should NOT be sidelined by the dominant interests of the developed and developing countries. LDCs deserve and demand climate justice!

