

# 1. The Royal Government of Cambodia's Rural Electrification Policies and Strategies

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, which is the expertise ministry, has established a policy to promote and encourage development of rural electrification to meet the need of its population and society to use electricity. The goal of RGC is (i) by the year 2020, all the villages of the Kingdom of Cambodia will have electricity of some type; and (ii) by the year 2030, at least 70 % of households will have access to grid-quality electricity.

In order to achieve these targets, RGC issued the Royal Decree NS/RKT/1204/048 dated 4 December 2004 for establishment of the Rural Electrification Fund to accelerate the development of rural electrification by utilizing the World Bank fund under the Rural Electrification and Transmission Project and RGC's counterpart fund. Then, on 22 August 2012, RGC issued a new Royal Decree NS/RKT/0812/734 on the amendment of some articles of the old Royal Decree to integrate Rural Electrification Fund with Electricité du Cambodge (EDC).

The objectives of REF are (1)- to promote equitable rural electrification coverage by facilitating the population's access to electricity at affordable price for economic, social and household uses, thus contributing to poverty reduction, and (2)- to promote and encourage private sector to participate in providing sustainable rural electrification services; in particular the exploitation of and economic application of technically and commercially well proven new and renewable energy technologies.