

## PRESS RELEASE

### Wage increase prompts concrete action on productivity

Increased wages in the last 5 years are pushing for concrete actions on productivity improvement in the Cambodia's garment and shoes sectors. As one of the ways to sustain and remain competitive, the government and GMAC are organizing a Productivity Improvement Forum in conjunction with National Career and Productivity Fair 2017 to be held on 27-28 October 2017 at Koh Pich Exhibition Center. The forum as well as the fair looks to increase greater awareness on the subject of productivity within the industry and the public at large, said John Cha, Head of GMAC's organizing committee for event.

Wage will increase over the years, so also should be productivity level in order to ensure continued survival of an enterprise as we move towards achieving higher value added.

At the forum, productivity experts from Japan, Korea, India and Malaysia will be invited to share their experience in productivity development and best practices that would be very beneficial for Cambodia. Experts will also be sharing experiences in specific lean techniques such as line balancing, value stream mapping and quick changeover.

Productivity-related competition has also been organized and participated by a number of GMAC member factories. Awards for Best Employees and 5S practice/Kaizen (the Japanese method for continuous improvement, thus productivity improvement) have also been organized. The Labour Minister will preside over the awarding ceremony. Access to the fair and forum are free of charge and the government and GMAC are expecting to see a huge crowd of participants and visitors.

This productivity forum as the national career and productivity fair 2017 is the first of its kind in Cambodia and is a useful start and a step in the right direction.

