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<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/cambodia/023/index.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/JICACambodia/>

Pilot activities in provinces have resumed

Since March 2020, the spread of COVID-19 had caused limitations on having meetings and travel between provinces in Cambodia, and restrictions on working in the office of MoWA. Under this situation, PGM-WEE could not implement most project activities, particularly the pilot activities at the provincial level. We continued regular meetings with MoWA counterpart and project staff, discussed training contents and prepared training materials through online meetings. In mid-June, when the influence of COVID-19 calmed down, project activities gradually resumed following the guidance from the Ministry of Health in Cambodia. However, as Japanese experts are not yet allowed to travel to Cambodia, we are continuing to work with our counterpart through online meetings, technical support, exchanging ideas, preparing and reviewing the activities, etc. We will also take necessary measures to prevent the infection of COVID-19 by wearing masks, disinfecting hands and tables before and after the training, opening windows and doors for air circulation, and ensuring social distancing.



Participants in the planning workshop (Kampong Thom Province)



Taking temperature before training (Siem Reap Province)

Kampong Thom Province

The third WEE-WG meeting and the planning workshop were conducted in Kampong Thom Province from 29 to 31 July. At these meetings, H. E. WCCC chairperson, WEE-WG members and MoWA counterpart agreed on the target village for the pilot activity in the province, objective of the activity and the main activities. The candidate sites were scored based on the results of the rapid feasibility survey with reference to the selection criteria. And, after consultation with WEE-WG, two sites were selected for the pilot activities: Sam Bo commune (rattan and bamboo products) and Prey Kuy commune (small-scale vegetable cultivation and poultry farming). In the planning workshop, participants conducted problem and objective analysis based on the gender issues identified in each village. The workshop was mainly facilitated by MoWA counterpart, and finally, they confirmed the contents of the major pilot activities. Although no Japanese experts attended the workshop, MoWA counterpart carried out the workshop in confidence, following input from the expert in the online preparatory meeting and detailed discussions. At the next WEE-WG, Project Design Matrix (PDM) and Plan of Operation (PO) for the pilot activities will be discussed. Our counterpart is expected to continue such active initiatives in the next meeting.



Problem and objective analysis in the planning workshop (Kampong Thom Province 29th-31st July)

Tboung Khmum Province

On June 23-25, rapid feasibility survey was carried out in the four candidate sites to select target villages for the pilot activities. Although it had been postponed due to COVID-19, it could finally be implemented. WEE-WG chairperson (Deputy Governor), WEE-WG members (12 persons) and MoWA counterpart (7 persons) were divided into three teams and worked in pairs to conduct the survey. The survey consists of (1) interviews with local authorities, (2) Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with farmers separated into men's and women's groups, and (3) market surveys with retailers and wholesalers. FGD was led by MoWA and PDWA counterpart. Market survey was conducted by the Ministry of Commerce and Provincial Department of Commerce so as to involve the concerned ministries and departments in the project activities. As the survey completed satisfactorily, we will further discuss the target sites and possible activities based on the findings of (1), (2) and (3).



FGD in the rapid feasibility survey (Tboung Khmum Province 23th-25th June)

Siem Reap Province

MoWA counterpart and Japanese experts continued online meetings and preparatory work for the Siem Reap activities during April and May. After resuming the pilot activities, MoWA counterpart,



Sessions of Business Training (Siem Reap Province 13th-16th July)

PDWA, partner ministries and departments collaborate and carried out business training, session 5, 6 and 7, in Kompong Phluk on 22-26 June and 13-16 July. Japanese expert also supported the sessions remotely, during the breaks between sessions, to check the progress of the training and participants' understanding. Although it was the first time for Japanese expert to join in the activities online, the sessions completed successfully and it was relieved. Session 5 was focused on "Customer Analysis", and session 6 was about "Production Planning". Also, session 7 was on "Business Environment" which included training on "Hospitality" and "5S". Around 20-25 women

from the target group participated in each session, and they actively engaged in the training. The Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, which were related to the contents of the training, were also involved in the training. By encouraging active participation from the partner line ministries, it could be promoted gender mainstreaming across the partner line ministries and their understanding of the project activities.

Gender Statistics Booklet Dissemination

The project has been supporting preparation of gender statistics booklet in the four pilot provinces. PDWA and PDOP lead the work, collecting necessary data and information from each Provincial Department (PD).



Gender Statistics Booklet Dissemination (Tboung Khmum Province 10th June)

As the booklet was completed in Tboung Khmum Province, it was distributed to PDs, District Offices and other concerned institutions at the meeting on 10th June. It is expected that the data will continue to be regularly updated and will be utilized to promote gender mainstreaming at the provincial level.

Support for responding to the effects of COVID-19 in tourism sector

PGM-WEE will try to support addressing the impacts on women who are working in the tourism sector. Firstly, the project will conduct a field survey together with MoWA counterpart to grasp how COVID-19 has been affecting women in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom Provinces in the tourism sector. Based on the result of the survey, we will identify the women's needs and consider what kind of support is necessary. Then, it will also examine what action could be taken within the project activity. Besides, in collaboration with MoWA and the Ministry of Tourism, PGM-WEE has been coordinating the training for hygiene control, which targets women working on CBT (Community Based Tourism) and retailing. In addition, the project is also considering producing tourism promotion videos focusing on women in the tourism sector that could contribute to bringing back tourists both locally and internationally. Although COVID-19 has severely affected the tourism sector in the two provinces, we would like to try to improve the situation of women in the tourism, even a little better.