

Share Transfer of Sihanoukville Autonomous Port

Contribution to Trade Promotion with Japanese Port Companies



Photo: ABE Yusuke/JICA

On May 24th, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) transferred all the holding shares of Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS) to Kamigumi Co., Ltd. (Kamigumi).

The only deep-sea port in Cambodia, PAS is a key logistics hub that supports Cambodian national economy. Since 1999, Japan has provided, through ODA loans, grant aid, and technical cooperation, continuous support for improving the infrastructure and enhancing the management capacity of the port.

In June 2017, JICA acquired, through private sector investment finance, equities in the PAS, which manages the Sihanoukville Port, in its initial public offering to strategic investors. JICA has also strengthened its support for the administration of PAS through sending a non-executive director. The annual amount of container cargo handling at the port has increased to more than 540,000 TEUs [1] in 2018, from 290,000 TEUs in 2013.

In December 2018, JICA transferred a portion of its holding shares of PAS to Kobe-Osaka International Port Corporation, which is the port operation company for Hanshin Port, Japan.

Successively, JICA transferred the rest of its holding shares of PAS to Kamigumi, which is Japanese leading company of port logistics.

JICA, together with Japanese companies which have abundant experience in port management, will continue to provide a variety of cooperation, such as a ODA loan project “Sihanoukville Port New Container Terminal Development Project”, for the further development of Sihanoukville Port.

JICA and PAS have also signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in 3rd June on Strategic Partnership to further strengthen and deepen the partnership to promote port development and logistic improvement for socio-economic development in Cambodia. ●

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TOWARD EFFECTIVE, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE UTILIZATION IN CAMBODIA

Project for River Basin Water Resources Utilization



Water Discharge Measurement

Agriculture is the prime industry in Cambodia which agricultural production contributed to approximately 36% of the country's GDP in 2010 and agricultural and rural development is one of the priority development area for poverty reduction and national economic development in Cambodia. But agricultural field faces

shortage of irrigation system and irrigation water. Cambodia has abundant water resource and most of the water resource depends on the rains and floods of Mekong River. The establishment of water resource management and use coordination mechanism are also important for the sector.

For this reason, the Project for River Basin Water Resources Utilization was formulated and implemented based on the request from the Royal Government of Cambodia aiming at developing water resource management and coordinating mechanism toward effective, equitable and sustainable water resource management targeted in 4 provinces in Cambodia.

As a result, management system for meteorological and hydrological data is built, institutional framework for coordinating river basin water resource utilization is set up, river basin run-off and water balance models are developed for water resource development/management plan and put for operation on a trail basis.

The Project started in May 2014 and terminated in May 2019. ●

Improving Quality of Teacher Education in Cambodia

Teacher Education Colleges in Cambodia

Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Construction of Teacher Education College (TEC) in Phnom Penh and in Battambang were organized on 7th and 10th May respectively under the Japanese Grant Aid Project with the total amount of 3,170MJY (approximately 29 million USD).

The construction covers academic blocks, administration blocks, science and art labs, library, assembly halls, dormitory and provision of modern lab equipment. The construction works expected to complete by October 2020.

Both TECs in Phnom Penh and Battambang will play crucial roles in providing pre-service BA degree and other in-service trainings with high quality of teacher education in Cambodia.

We strongly hope that the graduates from TECs will contribute to improving the quality of general education in Cambodia in the future. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

“អគ្គនាយកដ្ឋានពន្ធដារ និង JICA រៀបចំកម្មវិធី «ថ្ងៃពន្ធដារ», មន្ត្រីសំណូមពរឱ្យចូលរួមបង់ពន្ធទាំងអស់គ្នា ដើម្បីកម្ពុជាកាន់តែរីកចម្រើន”

Fresh News
23 May 2019

“ថែទាំនិងកំពង់ផែស្វយ័តក្រុងព្រះសីហនុចុះអនុស្សរណៈដៃគូយុទ្ធសាស្ត្រ លើកកម្ពស់ការអភិវឌ្ឍកំពង់ផែនិងភស្តុភារកម្ម”

Rasmei Kampuchea
4 June 2019

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 2** Inauguration Ceremony of the Water Supply System in Kampot
- 3** Re-Opening of Cambodia - Japan Friendship Bridge (Chroy Changwar Bridge I)
- 26** Final JCC Meeting of Boribo-Bomnak River Basin Management Committee (RBWRU Project)
- 29** Dissemination Workshop on Healthy Cassava Plant

MAY

- 3** Final JCC Meeting of BPAC Project
- 7** Ground Breaking Ceremony for Phnom Penh Teacher Education College
- 10** Ground Breaking Ceremony for Battambang Teacher Education College

JUNE

- 4** Project Management Training Seminar for JPP
- 10** ENJJ Education Sector Meeting
- 26** 1st JCC Meeting of ITC-LBE Project

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Establishment of a Robust Supply Chain of Quality Rice Seeds

Strengthening the supply chain of rice to bear the global competition and rice production dynamics in the Cambodian rice sector.



Rice Field Demonstration

JICA is working together with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) to create a systematic rice seed supply chain in order to ensure sufficient distribution of quality rice seed. The supply chain will lead to improved quality rice production to meet the country's surplus target of 4 million metric tons and milled rice export of at least 1 million metric ton.

The Rice Seed Production and Promotion Project (RSPP) began in October 2017. The Project conducted a comprehensive study on how to establish a robust rice seed market and quality assurance system that actively links key stakeholders in the production segment and market. Quality seed contributes to maximizing the yield and quality potential of Cambodian rice. As such, the activities under the RSPP work to create a functional system for producing and distributing quality rice seed in the target provinces, namely Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Prey Veng, and Takeo.

For decades, the main export market for Cambodian rice is the European Union (EU), taking advantage of the EU's Everything-But-Arms trade scheme that grants duty-and

quota-free access to the world's least developed countries. However, recent trade developments in the EU re-introduced import duties that will be steadily reduced over three years, which affects Cambodian rice exports to this market. Meanwhile, China agreed to increase its import quota for Cambodian rice from 300,000 to 400,000 metric tons this year. This translates to a wider market for Cambodian rice, however, a caveat on meeting the high quality and volume requirements of these major markets. The RSPP precisely works to strengthen the supply chain of rice, which can bear the global competition and rice production dynamics in the Cambodian rice sector.

Results of the comprehensive study of RSPP identified the main challenges that hinder improvements in production and distribution of quality rice seeds, namely, (1) lack of high-quality seeds in the market, (2) unstable price of seeds, and (3) unstable supply of seeds. In its second year, the RSPP tackles these challenges in a bidirectional approach: from one end, addressing the constraints from the production side, and the other, reorientation of the

market environment.

On the supply side, activities focus on the seed production sector. The RSPP provides training to Seed Producers Groups (SPGs), counterparts of General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) and Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF) on seed production to enhance the quality and yield of rice seed. At the same time, RSPP conducts business training to SPGs, and counterparts in the GDA and PDAFF on business management to improve agricultural profits.

With regard to the reorientation of the market environment, the Quality Declared Seed (QDS) System will be introduced this year in cooperation with the concerned development partners such as International Rice Research Institute, AusAid, and Asian Development Bank. The QDS system allows the countries with no existing seed quality system to implement quality control of seeds with limited human resource and budget. Unlike a fully comprehensive quality control system, the QDS inspects only 10 % of the seed production area and 10% of the harvested seed. The trial phase of the QDS system has started in Prey Veng.

Upcoming activities under the RSPP include the promotion of quality seed to end-users, i.e. rice farmers in demonstration farms. The Project also hosts the Rice Seeds Business Forum to create a direct linkage between producers and distributors in Takeo province, in June. The promotion activities will also conduct information drive on the advantages of using certified seeds, in terms of quality assurance, premium price, lesser input costs, etc. Activities will also include training on appropriate seed amount and production management. ●

International News

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Development of Economic Corridors in South Asia-Go beyond just infrastructure-

Primary objectives and outcomes

The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Department for International Development (DFID) and JICA published the report on "The WEB of Transport Corridors in South Asia" in September 2018.

Taking the opportunity of Dr. Rama's visit to Japan, who led the study, the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a seminar "The WEB of Transport Corridors in South Asia".



Keynote Speech by Dr. Rama

Contents of the discussions

Though South Asia is relatively less integrated region compared to others, it has large development potential as a hub of Asia from east to west.

Transportation corridors development in the region could bring Wider Economic Benefits (WEB), while the importance of the equal distribution of development benefits and consideration for the environmental impact of corridor development were discussed.

To enjoy Wider Economic Benefit (WEB) in the region, it is necessary not only to put a priority on the development of transportation corridors but also to exercise both soft and hard measures to boost public and private investment. In addition, social interventions should be put in place for equal distribution of benefits. In this regard, the role of the government is critical and Wider Economic Benefit (WEB) should be well measured and analyzed.

With more than one hundred participants in the Seminar from pri-

mate sectors, academics, embassies as such, the Seminar has given the momentum of partnership for sustainable and inclusive development in South Asia Region.

Presentation Material and the report of co-research among the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Department for International Development (DFID) and JICA on "The WEB of Transport Corridors in South Asia" are available on the URL below. ●



Presentation by Mr. Hara

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/190515_01.html

JICA President attends the Think 20 (T20) Summit

JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka gave a keynote speech on May 27 at Think 20 (T20) Summit 2019, Toranomon Hills Forum in Tokyo. T20, the research and policy advice network for G20, aims to bring together the world's leading think tanks and top policy experts to detail innovative T20 Japan policy solutions for consideration during the G20 to be held in Osaka on June 28-29.

Dr. Kitaoka delivered his speech in the Panel Discussion Session: Achieving and Sustaining Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Role of G20 and International Community. First, he highlighted the relevance and necessity of revisiting human security concept and revitalizing it to fit today's world after 25 years of its introduction by UNDP. Then, he

also addressed that JICA believes our work on UHC as an integral part of human security, and that human security has underlined JICA's development cooperation because the idea itself is deeply rooted in Japanese own history of development. Finally, he touched upon the importance of empowering people and our local partners, and building resilient societies to establish self-sustaining communities.

JICA will continue contributing to achieving UHC, as the foundation for realizing human security globally, by encouraging innovation and enhancing partnerships with think tanks, universities, the private sector, civil societies, multilateral institutions, and other development partners. ●

Contact Us

News from Cambodia is a quarterly newsletter which focus on JICA's international perspectives and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter details the work of JICA in Cambodia.

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JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is the world's largest bilateral aid agency providing various forms of assistance in over 150 countries around the world.