

# NewsFROMCambodia

NOVEMBER 2024 – JANUARY 2025 VOL2 • PHNOM PENH

## KOBE CITY'S COOPERATION IN CAMBODIAN EDUCATION

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*Changing the teaching method of Cambodian elementary school classes*



*Class activities, Students' observation by Japanese experts*

JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is planned by Japanese NGOs, universities, Japanese local governments, etc., and jointly implemented by JICA to support cooperation activities in developing countries, using the experience and technology they have developed over the years. In Cambodia, JICA has supported 78 JPP projects so far since 2002. One of these projects is the "Project to Support the Improvement of Abilities to Instruct Students at Kampong Thom Provincial Teacher Training College (PTTC)", which is being implemented by the Japanese City of Kobe and the NGO KICC. In Cambodian primary schools, it is common for teachers to teach lessons in which students are required to copy the blackboard into notebooks and memorize those things. As we face global challenges like climate change and rapid societal shifts driven by globalization, 'Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL)' has emerged as a global trend. This educational method encourages students not only to memorize knowledge but also to question "why" and discover answers for themselves.

This project has promoted IBL in the teacher training college and its affiliated school in Kampong Thom Province for almost three years, in cooperation with teachers of Khmer language, math, social studies, science and other subjects.

At the start of this project, Cambodian teachers said it is difficult to implement IBL due to a lack of facilities and too many students. However, through working with Japanese teachers, they realized that the first step of IBL is creating a student-centered class environment where students could express their opinions freely without being criticized even if they make a mistake.



*Project closing ceremony*

Moreover, during class observations, they began to evaluate lessons by focusing on the students' behavior rather than the teacher's. JICA will continue to expand the achievements of this project nationwide in Cambodia through cooperation in the education sector. ●

NGO Japan Desk Section  
JICA Cambodia Office

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Development of Transportation  
and Logistic Sector



*Celebration ceremony of achievement of container*

JICA's Cooperation for Promoting  
Private Companies' Activities



*Staff selling products at the market*

SIEM REAP SMRAT



*Smart Waste Collection and Transportation*

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## DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS SECTOR

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### *Sihanoukville Autonomous Port Achieves Milestone with 1 million TEUs in 2024*



*Celebration ceremony of achievement of container throughput in the volume of 1,000,00 TEUs at PAS on 21 Dec. 2024, Credits: PAS*

The Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS) has reached a milestone, achieving a container throughput of 1 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in 2024, a 29% increase from the previous year. This highlights the port's vital role in the transportation and logistics sector of Cambodia.

Established in 1960, Sihanoukville Port is Cambodia's sole deep-water seaport and serves as a gateway that connects the nation to regional and global markets. Following its initial cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in March 1996, PAS has undergone significant development, leading to this achievement.

The port's strategic geographical location has played a crucial role in its success. Supported by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of Japan, PAS has made significant

advancements in physical infrastructure and capacity building. Currently, PAS is constructing the new Container Terminal Phase 1, a 350-meter terminal with a depth of 14.5 meters. The groundbreaking ceremony for this project was held in December 2023. Meanwhile, the design work is in progress for Phases 2 and 3.

PAS, in collaboration with JICA, will develop a master plan aimed at transforming the port into a regional logistics hub. Additionally, PAS is actively engaging with various stakeholders to provide staff training to keep up with the technological evolution. PAS remains committed to delivering high-quality services and reinforcing its leadership in Cambodia's logistics landscape. JICA would like to congratulate PAS for this achievement and look forward to its journey of growth and success. ●

*Infrastructure & Industrial Section  
JICA Cambodia Office*

## JICA'S COOPERATION FOR PROMOTING PRIVATE COMPANIES' ACTIVITIES

### *Zion of Social Impact with Japanese Companies' Technologies (AMEKAZE(Cambodia))*

The SDGs Business Supporting Survey, which is one of JICA's cooperation schemes, contributes to solving socio-economic issues by leveraging the skills and techniques of private companies. From 2021 to 2022, JICA and a Japanese company, AMEKAZE (Cambodia), conducted a survey on the production of Rice Koji using both complete rice and broken rice in Cambodia. AMEKAZE (Cambodia)'s production technology focuses on manual work, utilizing the accumulated Rice Koji manufacturing knowledge developed since 1689. AMEKAZE (Cambodia) manufactures and sells products using ingredients

From Cambodia that contain living enzymes, such as Rice Koji, Japan's Japanese sake, miso and soy sauce, which are highly effective in promoting health. Through this survey, we identified the need for developing suitable products for Cambodia and providing technical guidance on those products. After the survey, AMEKAZE(Cambodia) is now operating its own lab and restaurant in Battambang. AMEKAZE (Cambodia) states, "we believe that our activities will build a win-win relationship between small and medium-sized enterprises in Japan and Cambodia though our technology." ●

*PPP Section, JICA Cambodia office*

## JICA IN THE MEDIA

**"Containers at Sihanoukville Port reach record 1 million TEUs"**

<https://www.khmer-timeskh.com/501612559/containers-at-sihanoukville-port-reach-record-1-million-teus/>

The Khmer Times  
23 December 2024

**"PAS celebrates one million TEU milestone"**

<https://www.khmer-timeskh.com/501612397/pas-celebrates-one-million-teu-milestone/>

The Khmer Times  
23 December 2024

**"Sihanoukville Port surpasses 1M TEUs: on track 2.6M by 2030"**

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/sihanoukville-port-surpasses-1m-teus-on-track-2-6m-by-2030>

The Phnom Penh Post  
23 December 2024

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## SIEM REAP SMART: IMPROVING LIVES WITH SMART SOLUTIONS

### *Project for Implementation of Smart City Approach to Solve Urban Issues in Siem Reap*



*Siem Reap province: Smart Waste Collection and Transportation*

Since becoming a member of the ASEAN Smart City Network (ASCN) in 2018, Siem Reap City has made steady progress toward urban innovation. Governance structures to support this transformation were established early on. In 2019, the Smart City Committee was formed in the Siem Reap Province with approval by the provincial governor, followed by the creation of the national-level Smart City Coordination Committee in 2021, with approval from the Prime Minister. While roles and responsibilities were clearly defined, limited action and collaboration with private and academic sectors highlighted the need for targeted efforts and stronger partnerships. Recognizing these challenges, Siem Reap Provincial Administration (SRPA) sought technical cooperation with JICA to address urban issues under a smart city framework.

JICA responded with the “Data Collection Survey on Urban Improvement in Siem Reap City,” conducted from 2020 to 2022. This research laid the foundation for the JICA Technical Cooperation “Project for Implementation of Smart City Approach to Solve Urban Issues in Siem Reap” (2022–2025). Building on the findings in the survey, the project ultimately led to the completion of the “Siem Reap Smart City Roadmap,” announced in October

2023. This technical cooperation project combines technological solutions with capacity-building efforts, aiming to enhance administrative systems and strengthen the collaborative ecosystem.



*H.E YUN Linne Dep. Gov. of SRPA is explaining about Illegal Parking Monitoring Pilot Project (ODA Press Tour)*

As part of the initiative, several pilot projects have been implemented to address key urban issues. Six pilot projects were launched initially: illegal parking monitoring, waste collection improvement survey, tourism statistics digitalization, government internal document tracking management, urban environment monitoring through sensors, and public-private tourism collaboration. Based on the results of these pilot projects, two additional pilot projects were formed: smart waste collection and transportation, and the development of a data platform system. Most of these pilot projects have

already been completed or are now being implemented by the SRPA, providing valuable insights and practical results that inform the city's future direction.

In addition to these achievements under this cooperation project, Siem Reap has fostered collaboration through the establishment of the Siem Reap Smart City Secretariat, as an internal coordination body until the launch of Smart City Division in SRPA, and Smart City Consortium, which bring together communities, private companies, academic institutions, and government agencies. These partnerships play a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability of the smart city approach.

International collaboration has also been a significant component of Siem Reap's journey. In February 2024, the city signed a MoU with Takamatsu City in Japan to strengthen ties and share expertise. Furthermore, JICA has conducted annual Knowledge Co-Creation Programs from 2022 to 2024, allowing several local officials in Siem Reap and relevant ministries to learn advanced methodologies for smart city development in Japan.

To further encourage innovation, JICA launched a Proof of Concept (PoC) competition, inviting university students and private companies in Cambodia, to propose smart solutions for urban issues in Siem Reap. Selected projects receive up to \$6,000 for each team in funding, with new implementations set to begin in December 2024.

Though these collaborative efforts, Siem Reap is steadily transforming into a smarter, more attractive, and sustainable city, effectively addressing its urban issues while fostering collaboration, innovation, and growth for the future, improving the lives of citizens through the smart use of technology. ●

*Infrastructure & Industrial Section  
JICA Cambodia Office*

# International News

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## FROM A SUPPORTED COUNTRY TO A GLOBAL LEADER IN MINE ACTION: CAMBODIA'S GOAL OF THE WORLD FREE OF LANDMINES

*Overcoming conflict: building Cambodia's national capacity of Solve the landmine problem*

Over the 20 years of the Vietnam War and the subsequent conflict, approximately 2.75 million tons of bombs were dropped on Cambodia, and an estimated 4 to 6 million landmines were buried. Following the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) was established by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to address the landmine issue. In 1993, CMAC became a Cambodian government organization, but despite the signing of a peace agreement, conflict continued, slowing down landmine clearance operations.

Komukai Eri is a JICA Senior Advisor on peacebuilding. She served twice as a program officer at JICA Cambodia office, in 2000 and 2001. One of her tasks is to

work with CMAC. "After data collection on landmine casualties started in Cambodia in 1992, the year with the highest number of landmine victims was 1996," she says. "Following the peace agreement, many refugees returning to Cambodia from abroad, including Thailand. They stepped on landmines in the process of repatriation and setting up their lives. There were also cases of people being injured while fetching water."

"People in Cambodia say that peace truly arrived not in 1991 with the peace agreement, but after the collapse of the Khmer Rouge in 1998," Komukai says. "Before the collapse, mine actions were limited to emergency responses for call of the accidents at the field, and there were no long-term plans for mine action."

The reconstruction of roads and farmland began active in earnest after peace was restored in 1998. Landmine clearance was essential for advancing infrastructure development and agricultural promotion. ●



CMAC (Cambodian Mine Action Center) staff are providing training to SESU (State Emergency Service of Ukraine) personnel.

Public Relations Section

Please check link below for more information:  
[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/topics/2024/p20241001\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/topics/2024/p20241001_01.html)

## INAUGURATION OF VIETNAM'S FIRST UNDERGROUND URBAN METRO LINE IN HO CHI MINH CITY

Ho Chi Minh City's Urban Metro Line No. 1 (Ben Thanh - Suoi Tien section), funded by Japan's ODA loans through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), officially commenced operation.



The trains, manufactured and assembled in Japan, are equipped with advanced safety equipment and signaling systems adhering to Japanese railway standards. Station platforms are installed with automatic platform screen doors to prevent falls onto the tracks, and the facilities are designed to be user-friendly and accessible for people with

disabilities (e.g., braille signage, information boards, speaker systems, and priority areas onboard for wheelchairs). Notably, the underground stations were uniquely designed to harmonize with the surrounding urban landscapes. Construction was carried out through a collaborative effort between Japanese contractors, known for their advanced technical and managerial expertise, and Vietnamese companies.

Through this project, JICA hopes to provide residents with a safe and convenient mode of transportation, while contributing to reducing traffic congestion and air pollution in the City, which ultimately supports the socio-economic development of the region.

JICA remains committed to continuously supporting the development of Vietnam's urban railway network. ●

Public relations Section

Please check link below for more information  
[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2024/20241225\\_21.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2024/20241225_21.html)

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**News from Cambodia** is a newsletter that focuses 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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