

News FROM Cambodia

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GREENER RICE REVOLUTION

RiceGX- SATREPS¹ Reduces Methane, Boosts Cambodia's Climate-Smart Future

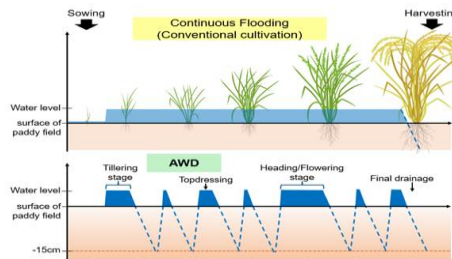


Project Team Members

Rice is Cambodia's most important crop and also plays a key role in the country's climate future. The RiceGX-SATREPS Project, officially titled "Project for Development and Social Implementation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Technologies in Paddy Fields of West Tonle Sap Lake by Establishing a Large Paddy Area Water Management System", supports Cambodia's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from rice fields while maintaining farmers' productivity and livelihoods.

Flooded paddy fields are a major source of methane emission, a gas 25 times stronger than CO₂, contributing significantly to Cambodia's emissions. Jointly implemented by JIRCAS², the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), and the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) since its 2024 launch with JICA and JST³ support, the Project deploys Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), alternating wet-dry cycles to slash methane up to 50% without yield loss or extra water. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platforms are applied to connect farmers, irrigators, and officials for data-driven

water management decisions, backed by monitoring towers, drones, and MRV⁴ tools for carbon credits.



Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)

Research capacity strengthening for Cambodian researchers at RUA and ITC, alongside farmer outreach promoting the Water Management System for Methane Emission Reduction, has succeeded through close collaboration with Pursat Province's local government.

By linking research and practice, RiceGX-SATREPS contributes to Cambodia's climate mitigation and sustainable agriculture strategies. It envisions a future where Cambodian rice is not only a source of pride and prosperity, but also part of the global solution to climate challenge. ●

*Agriculture section
JICA Cambodia Office*

¹ SATREPS: Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development
² JIRCAS: Japan International Research Center for Agriculture Sciences
³ JST: Japan Science and Technology Agency
⁴ MRV: Measurement, Reporting, Verification

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PROJECT NEWS

JICA in Water Supply Sector



Inauguration ceremony

Strengthening Phnom Penh Waste Management



Signing ceremony

Strengthening Cambodia's Irrigation Future through National Standard Design Documents for Irrigation and Drainage in Cambodia



MOWRAM Counterparts as Training Instructors

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JICA IN WATER SUPPLY SECTOR

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JICA's Contribution to 100% Clean Water Access for People in Svay Rieng City



Inauguration ceremony

Project for the Expansion of Water Supply System in Svay Rieng is one of the Grant Aid Projects by Government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Ground-breaking Ceremony of the Project was held in April 2024 and fully completed in December 2025. The objective of the project is to improve the living conditions of the citizen of Svay Rieng city by improving the water supply capacity. This project includes the construction of a raw water pumping station with a capacity of 7,480 m³/day, a 2.9 km raw water pipeline, a water treatment plant with a capacity of 6,800 m³/day, and a water supply network expansion 110 km. In addition, 375 home connections will be established. The cost of the project covered by the grant from Government of Japan through JICA is JPY 3,986 million.

After the operation of the water treatment facilities, the water supply capacity in Svay Rieng Water

Supply Authority will be increased to 22,600 m³/day, serving a distribution network of 236.64 km and 117,530 people of Svay Rieng City and some areas of Svay Chhrum District.

The Project was inaugurated on 26 March 2026 presided over by Samdech Mohabovor Tipadei HUN Maneth, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and H.E. UENO Atsushi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia to mark the official launching the facilities.

As one of key development partners in the water supply sector, the Government of Japan through JICA is strongly committed to work with long-term strategic partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia to achieve safe and clean water for everyone in Cambodia. ●

*Water Supply Section
JICA Cambodia Office*

STRENGTHENING PHNOM PENH WASTE MANAGEMENT

JICA supports Master Plan for sustainable urban waste management

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in cooperation with the Cambodian Ministry of Environment and Phnom Penh Capital Administration (PPCA), has launched a new project to support the “Development of a Master Plan for Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management in the Phnom Penh Metropolitan Area”. The project will be implemented for the period of approximately 24 months, starting from February 2026 to January 2028. Through this initiative, JICA will support surveys on the current waste management situation, including collection and transportation, transfer stations and the new

landfill and help identify urgent actions where needed. The project will also formulate a comprehensive master plan covering waste collection and transport, intermediate treatment, 3R promotion, institutional and legal arrangements, financial planning, and the closure planning of the existing Dangkor disposal site. In the final stage, JICA will assist the Ministry of Environment in finalizing, approving, and disseminating the master plan. The project is expected to contribute to cleaner urban environments and more sustainable solid waste management in the Phnom Penh Metropolitan Area. ●

*Environment section
JICA Cambodia Office*

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Japan backs digital education in Cambodia with ICT support for teacher training

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/japan-backs-digital-education-in-cambodia-with-ict-support-for-teacher-training>

The Phnom Penh Post
27 February 2026

MPWT, JICA explore ways to strengthen logistics resilience

<https://www.khmer-timeskh.com/501862579/mpwt-jica-explore-ways-to-strengthen-logistics-resilience/>

The Khmer Times
16 March 2026

Sihanoukville container throughput jumped one-third in 2025

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/sihanoukville-container-throughput-jumped-one-third-in-2025>

The Phnom Penh Post
24 March 2026

PAS new terminal exceeds 60% completion

<https://www.khmer-timeskh.com/501868404/pas-new-terminal-exceeds-60-completion/>

The Khmer Times
26 March 2026

Japanese support sought for capital water treatment plants

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/japanese-support-sought-for-capital-water-treatment-plants->

The Phnom Penh Post
27 March 2026

JICA funds water treatment plant expansion in Phnom Penh

<https://www.khmer-timeskh.com/501871374/jica-funds-water-treatment-plant-expansion-in-phnom-penh/>

The Khmer Times
31 March 2026

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STRENGTHENING CAMBODIA'S IRRIGATION FUTURE THROUGH NATIONAL STANDARD DESIGN DOCUMENTS FOR IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE IN CAMBODIA

Standardizing design practices for resilient irrigation systems nationwide



MOWRAM Counterparts as Training Instructors

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Cambodia's economy, supporting rural livelihoods and national food security. Sufficient irrigation and drainage systems are essential for sustaining agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. While the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) has made steady progress in rehabilitating irrigation infrastructure nationwide, the absence of unified national design standards has long posed challenges, resulting in inconsistent design quality, inefficient water management, and high maintenance burdens.

To address these challenges, the Project for Development of National Standard Design Documents for Irrigation and Drainage (NaSDeP) was launched in March 2022 through the close collaboration between MOWRAM and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). After four years of intensive technical cooperation, the Project was successfully completed in March 2026, marking a significant milestone in strengthening Cambodia's irrigation development.

The core achievement of NaSDeP is the development of the National Standard Design Documents for Irrigation and Drainage (NSID), which comprise three key components including Design Criteria and Design Manuals for canal works and headworks as well as Standard Design

Drawings for canal works. Developed with reference to Japanese standards and adapted to Cambodia's local conditions, these documents provide a consistent, practical, and standardized framework for more effective design of irrigation and drainage structures. In late 2025, the NSID was provisionally approved by the Examination Committee, paving the way for formal endorsement by Minister of MOWRAM and future nationwide application.



On-site Survey of Existing Irrigation Facilities

Beyond technical outputs, NaSDeP placed strong emphasis on capacity development and institutional strengthening. Throughout the project period, more than 300 engineers from MOWRAM and Provincial Departments of Water Resources and Meteorology (PDWRAMs) participated in a wide range of training programs, including series of instructor trainings, engineer trainings, and overseas trainings in Japan and other third countries. These efforts significantly enhanced

national technical capacity and fostered a shared understanding of standard design practices across institutions.

The Project also prioritized stakeholder engagement through the arrangement of multiple consultative workshops and technical discussions under the Examination Committee, involving government agencies, academic institutions, development partners and relevant stakeholders. These platforms ensured that the NSID reflected national policies, incorporated practical field realities, and promoted harmonization of Khmer technical terminology.

With the completion of NaSDeP, MOWRAM is now well positioned to move forward with the official endorsement and nationwide application of NSID. The expected impacts are far-reaching including improved quality and durability of irrigation infrastructure, more efficient project monitoring, reduced maintenance costs, strengthened institutional coordination, and ultimately enhanced agricultural productivity and more sustainable water resource management across Cambodia.

NaSDeP project stands as a strong example of effective Cambodia–Japan cooperation in transforming technical standards into long-term benefits for farmers and communities across the country. The NSID developed under NaSDeP project are not merely technical specifications; they are expected to embody a shared vision for more resilient and efficient irrigation and drainage systems that will directly benefit Cambodian farmers and communities for years to come. ●

International News

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JICA PRESIDENT TANAKA VISITS THE UNITED STATES



JICA President Tanaka (left) and UN Secretary-General António Guterres (right)

JICA President Tanaka Akihiko visited New York, United States, from January 22 to 24, where he participated in the official commemorative event marking the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and held meetings with senior United Nations officials.

(1) Participation in the Official Commemorative Event for the 80th Anniversary of ECOSOC

On January 23, President Tanaka attended the official commemorative event for the 80th anniversary of ECOSOC, held at United Nations Headquarters. The event featured high-level interactive discussions, focusing on sustainable development and the strengthening of multilateralism. President Tanaka participated as a panelist and emphasized that, amid the growing severity of compound crises such as conflict, climate change, and economic instability, the importance of human security has become ever more pronounced.



JICA President Tanaka speaking at the official commemorative event for the 80th anniversary of ECOSOC

He highlighted JICA's long-standing experience in promoting people-centered, field-based development cooperation, aimed at strengthening individual capacities and safeguarding human dignity. He underscored the importance of development cooperation that translates the philosophy of human security into concrete actions.

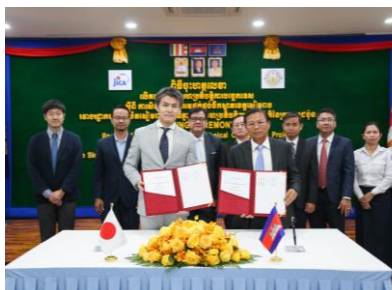
(2) Meeting with UNDP Associate Administrator Hao-liang Xu

In his meeting with Mr. Haoliang Xu, Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), President Tanaka exchanged views on UNDP's future strategies, including responses to compound crises and efforts to strengthen resilience, as well as on the concept of human security. ●

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2025/20260210_11.html

SIGNING OF RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WITH CAMBODIA

Formulation of water supply plan for the tourist city housing the world heritage site of Angkor



Signing Ceremony

On February 6, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Siem Reap, for "the Project for Formulation of Water Supply Master Plan in Siem Reap", a technical cooperation for

development planning. The signatures were exchanged between Director General Chan Sengla of Siem Reap Water Supply Authority of Cambodia and Chief Representative Kazumasa Sanui of JICA Cambodia Office.

The Project involves formulating a basic plan (master plan) for water supply development through 2050 in Siem Reap, a tourist city home to the Angkor Archaeological Park World Heritage Site centered on Angkor Wat, and conducting a feasibility study for priority projects.

Public relations Section

Please check link below for more information

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2025/20260206_14.html

Contact Us

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.

JICA Cambodia Office

16th and 17th floors, Keystone Building,
#146 Norodom Boulevard, Phnom Penh,
Cambodia
Tel: +855-(0) 23 238 050

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