

**MINUTES
OF
THE THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON
THE PROJECT ON IMPROVING OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN CAMBODIA**

The Third Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting of the Project on Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia (hereinafter referred to as “the Meeting”) under the chairmanship of H.E. San Sy Than, Director General of National Institute of Statistics (hereinafter referred to as “NIS”) and in the presence of the Cambodian authorities concerned and the Team of Experts from Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as “the Team”) had a discussion.

Both the Cambodian authorities concerned and the Team agreed to make this Minutes of Meetings regarding the Project, in order to confirm the mutual understandings reached through the discussion as attached hereto.

Phnom Penh, 9 March, 2007

ATTACHED DOCUMENT

The Meeting, which was held on March 9, 2007 at the Meeting Room of NIS, Ministry of Planning of the Royal Government of Cambodia, under the presidency of H.E. San Sy Than, Director General of NIS. There were seventeen participants from NIS and Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JICA”) as well as other line ministries such as Council for the Development of Cambodia and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (see Appendix I).

The Meeting consists of four parts: Opening Address of the Project Director, Remark of Resident Representative of JICA Cambodia Office, Final Report of the Project, and discussion followed by the report and proposal.

I. Opening Address of the Project Director:

1. First of all, H.E. San Sy Than gave an opening address of the Meeting and presented acknowledgement and gratitude on the assistance for the training program and on-the-job training for the preparation of the Population Census and Establishment Listing implemented by JICA and the Team.
2. He also stated that, thanks to the contribution to the Population Census from JICA, the implementation of the Census became credible among senior officials in the Royal Government of Cambodia. That made the Royal Government approve the disbursement of USD746,758 for the Population Census activities from its own budget.
3. He quoted his own speech in the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2007, the national statistical system of Cambodia had been strengthened dramatically and the Project heavily contributed to this development.

II. Remark of Resident Representative of JICA Cambodia Office:

4. Mr. Kazuhiro YONEDA, Resident Representative of JICA Cambodia Office, expressed his appreciation for the support and contribution of NIS to the Project. He acclaimed that activities in the Project brought many fruitful output, including step-by-step approach of the training program and several on-the-job training to improve the capacity of statistical staff.
5. He celebrated that the commencement of the Phase Two of the Project from April 2007 to provide technical assistance towards the Population Census 2008. He hoped that NIS would maximize the effect of the Phase 1 of the Project so that it could conduct the Population Census smoothly.

III. Report of the Project Activities of Chief Advisor of the Project:

6. Mr. Fumihiko NISHI, Expert of the Project, made his presentation on the review of activities in the Project and the plan of the next phase of the Project. He concluded that the Project, from August 2005 to March 2007, was successfully implemented with a lot of activities. These activities included the dispatch of 16 experts from Japan, comprehensive training program, training in Japan and Indonesia program as well as technical assistance to the Population Census 2008 and Establishment Listing.
7. He also mentioned the contribution to the new building from the Government of Japan and the proposal for Census funding through its Counterpart Fund of the Non-Project Grant Aid, which made the implementation of the Census possible.
8. Mr. Akira SHIBANUMA, Expert and Coordinator of the Project, introduced Project Completion Report that summarized all the output and outcome generated through the activities of the Project. This included 644 participants to the training program of official statistics and their 52.5% of improvement in terms of statistical knowledge and skills made under the program, as well as the output of enumeration area maps in 19 provinces, digital commune maps with village boundaries and a comprehensive establishment list made through on-the-job trainings.

IV. Discussion

9. H.E. San Sy Than appreciated the outstanding and long-awaited output of Establishment Listing done in Phnom Penh. He added that an advanced approach the Project applied for digitizing maps was attracted by his counterparts in national statistics offices of neighbor countries and international organizations such as the United Nations Statistical Division.
10. As replied to the question from H.E. San Sy Than about the strength of digital mapping in Census, Mr. Nishi replied that digital maps were reusable for other statistical surveys and the next census with update of the change of administrative boundaries and for disseminating small area statistics.
11. In response to the question raised by Mr. Kazuhiro YONEDA on lesson learned of the Project and implication to the next phase, Mr. SHIBANUMA raised three points; the good planning was necessary for this kind of large-scale training effort; capacity of sound staff would help keeping the quality of a class; donor coordination was important to avoid duplication of technical assistance. H.E. San Sy Than introduced how NIS intended to enhance donor coordination, for example, by creating statistical coordination committee under a new sub-decree. He also pointed out that it was very good to invite experts with

academic career and with job experiences in national statistical offices.

12. Mr. Has Bunton emphasized how IT infrastructure was important to encourage the participants of the training program to use his/her knowledge and skills in actual tasks they would do in statistical offices. He thanked to JICA contribution to improving IT equipment and requested further assistance, especially in statistical offices in provinces. H.E. San Sy Than introduced a recent effort of the Royal Government to improve facilities in the local government. Mr. YONEDA replied that he understood the request and called for NIS's initiative toward developing a master plan for the capacity building of local offices.
13. Mr. Kim Net, Bureau Chief of NIS and the counterpart of the Project, introduced an example of short-term training course designed for officials in Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Ms. Kuy Phala, Director of Department of Planning, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports expressed her gratitude to the effort NIS and JICA made to realize the course.

V. Closing Address:

14. At the end of the meeting, H.E. San Sy Than concluded that the Joint Coordinating Committee approved the Project Completion Report, Progress Report No.2 and Progress Report No.3.

APPENDIX I The Agenda of the JCC

**The Third Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting
for the Project on Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia**

At the Meeting Room (1st Floor), National Institute of Statistics

Friday, March 9, 2007

Agenda

- 09:00h : Opening Address of H.E. San Sy Than,
Director General of National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning
- : Remark of Mr. Kazuhiro YONEDA,
Resident Representative of JICA Cambodia Office
- : Final Report of the Project Phase I of Mr. Fumihiko Nishi,
Chief Advisor of the Project
- (1) Final report of the closing Project Phase I
- (2) Introduction of the forthcoming Project Phase II
- : Discussion
- 10:00h : Closing Address of H.E. San Sy Than,
Director General of National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning

**List of Participant for the Meeting of Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC)
At National Institute of Statistics, Meeting Room, First Floor
9 March 2007**

1. Chairman

H.E. Mr. San Sy Than, Director General of NIS / Project Director

2. Member

Mr. Has Bunton, Deputy Director General of NIS / Project Manager

Mr. Seng Soeurn, Deputy Director General of NIS

Mr. Khieu Sary, Deputy Director General of NIS (*absent*)

Ms. Hang Lina, Deputy Director General of NIS

Mr. Vy Heang, Director of General Statistics Department, NIS

Mr. Hor Darith, Director of Demographic Statistics, Censuses and Surveys
Department, NIS (*absent*)

Mr. Tith Vong, Director of Social Statistics Department, NIS

Mr. Mich Kanthul, Director of Economics Statistics Department, NIS

Ms. Heng Sokun, Director of Bilateral Aid Coordination Department, Japan-Asia
Pacific-America, CRDB, Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) (*her
staff attended*)

Ms. Heang Seakly, Deputy Director of General of Planning, Ministry of Planning
(*absent*)

Ms. Kuy Phala, Deputy Director of Department of Planning, MOEYS

Mr. Kazuhiro Yoneda, Resident Representative of JICA Cambodia Office

Mr. Fumihiko NISHI, Chief Advisor of the Project

Ms. Takako Kanamuro, JICA Expert of the Project

Mr. Akira Shibamura, JICA Expert / Coordinator of the Project

3. Observer

Mr. Ouk Eam, Deputy Director of Social Statistics Department

Mr. Kim Net, Bureau Chief of NIS

Ms. Nami Kasahara, Project Formulation Advisor of JICA Cambodia Office