

2008 GENERAL POPULATION CENSUS OF CAMBODIA

Summary Minutes of the fifth Census Technical Committee Meeting
Thursday 15 March 2007, 3:00 pm

Attendance:

HE. Ouk Chay	Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning
HE. In Saroeung	Under Secretary of State, Min. Planning
HE. San Sy Than	Director General, NIS, MOP
Ms. Bettina Maas	UNFPA Representative and her colleagues
Mr. Nutt Rama Rao	Census Consultant
Mr. F. Nishi	JICA Expert and his colleagues
Ms. Hang Lina	Deputy Director General of NIS, MOP
Mr. Has Bunton	Deputy Director General of NIS, MOP
Mr. Hor Darith	Director of Census Department
Mr. Mam Marady	Director of General Planning Department,
and all member of Census Technical Committee working group.	
Mr. Andrew Pinney	Consultant Statistics (ad-hoc guest to the committee)

Agenda of the meeting:

- 1- Welcome speech by H.E. Chair person
 - 2- Report of H.E. Director General
 - 3- Discussion on using CSPRO or Scanners for data capture in the 2008 Census.
 - 4- Report of Ms. Hang Lina on:
 - a. Census Mapping
 - b. Pilot Census 26 Feb. to 12 March, 2008
 - c. Plan for training MOP Senior officers, RO/ARO/TOT, and PCOs
 - d. Plan for Printing, and Census Publicity.
 - 5- Other Business
 - 6- Conclusion of the meeting.
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- 1- HE. Chair person welcomed the participants and encouraged members to make useful recommendation.
 - 2- HE. Director General presented a brief report and said that important points for the meeting included a discussion on the use of CSPro or scanners for the 2008 Census. He also announced that the request for counterpart fund 746,758 \$US (for census vehicles and incentive for field workers) to the Ministry of Economics and Finance had been approved.
 - 3- Discussion on Census data capture methodology
Following presentation by Mr Has Bunton on the positive and challenging aspects of the use of CSPro and scanner, committee members further discussed the implications of manual data entry and scanning. It was highlighted that at the time of census plan development and its endorsement by H.E Samdech Hun Sen these discussions had taken place as well. It was reiterated that while scanning provided possibly a faster and cost effective way to capture data for future surveys, the use of manual data entry was preferred in the case of Cambodian Census in light of lack of large scale experience with scanning, the limited capacities in terms of training, the risk of paper and printing

quality and the environmental impact on the functioning of the technology. In addition, at this point in time all preparations for census undertaking using CSPro were far advanced in terms of staff training, questionnaire editing, equipment and software set up. A shift at this time would be costly and lead to high risk for the organization of census and quality of data.

H.E Ouk Chay, chair person, concluded that the committee did not recommend a change from manual data processing to scanning for the 2008 Population and Housing Census, but that in principle for future surveys this option could be considered.

- 4- Ms. Hang Lina provided the following update on the status of census preparations:
- The EAs delineation map which was supported by JICA had been finished for 18 provinces. This was in the remaining 6 provinces was planned to be finished by the end of June 2007.
 - The village boundary digitization was almost complete.
 - Pilot Census has been conducted in 20 EAs from 27 Feb. to 12 March 2007. The major findings were:
 - the average time spent for house listing was 5 minutes for each household, and it could be finished in three days for one EA/120 hhs
 - the average time to enumerate one house hold was 30 minutes. So one day/ 8 hours one can completely enumerate 12 to 14 households. Therefore, 11 days would be reasonable for 120 households. According to this experience, Ms. Hang Lina requested to change the time for mapping and listing to three days, and add one day to the enumeration making is 11 days.
 - One or two households did not cooperate, but the village chiefs were cooperative.
 - Some enumerators found some difficulties in canvassing a few questions.

It was also planned that: in March, Census consultant Mr. Nott Rama Rao would be invited to come from 14 March to 7 April, 2007. During his mission he will conduct: a training for RO/ARO/TOT for 5 days from 19 to 23 March 2007; prepare plan for Census Publicity; training for MOP Senior officers one day 3 April 2007; organize a workshop for Announcement of Provincial Census Committee, presided over by HE. Sar Kheng on the 5 April 2007; and discuss plan to print census questionnaires and all census forms.

HE. San Sy Than, said that a third National Census Committee meeting may be held some time soon. The agenda would include, among other things, a request to the Ministry of Interior to stop creating new villages/communes/districts for example, from the 1st of May 2007 to the 1st of May 2008 in view of the census (In the 1998 Population Census, the NCC meeting on 24 June 1997 decided to stop the changes of the villages, communes and boundaries from July 1997 to May 1998 by the Notes of the Minister of Interior to all Governors).

Mr. F. Nishi reported:

The Government of Japan approved of the utilization of the counterpart fund of the Non-Project Grant Aid of US\$ 885,827 for the purpose of the project for the construction of new building of the NIS in August 2006. The construction is now ongoing and is schedule to be completed until the beginning of December 2007.

Regarding fund contribution to the census, the total cost of the Census is about US\$ 6

million (not included the cost of the new building and equipped facilities). The NIS has already applied for the 2nd counterpart fund of the Japan Non-Project Grant Aid of US\$ 1,968,212 for the purpose of the project for supporting to the implementation of the census to fulfill the shortage of the fund for the Census other than the new building. The application form has already been sent to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. That is the final stage of the application. The technical cooperation project phase II for the Census by JICA, will be implemented from April 2007 to September 2010. The project Phase I was scheduled to be closed on 18 March 2007. Another main point, Mr Nishi requested to print all names and logos of all donors: UNFPA, German Government, Government of Japan, and JICA, but smaller than NIS logo. The meeting had agreed to the request and desired to have clear logo of each.

The meeting concluded with thanks to the chair and participants at 4:45 pm.

Minutes Taker

HANG LINA