

**MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**THE THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT COORDINATION COMMITTEE**  
**ON**  
**THE PROJECT ON IMPROVING OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN CAMBODIA (Phase II)**

The Third Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting of the Project on Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia (Phase II) (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 Mid-term Review Team (hereinafter referred to as “the Team”) of Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JICA”) Headquarters, Resident Representative of JICA Cambodia Office, and JICA Experts had a discussion.

All the participants of the Meeting agreed to make this Minutes of Meetings, in order to confirm the mutual understandings reached through the discussion as attached hereto.

Phnom Penh, February 24, 2009

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Mr. Fumihiko NISHI  
Chief Advisor  
Project on Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia  
(Phase II)  
Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Japan

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H. E. Mr. San Sy Than  
Director General  
National Institute of Statistics  
Ministry of Planning  
Kingdom of Cambodia

ATTACHED DOCUMENT

The Meeting was held as follows:

**Date and Time:** 24 February, 2009 9:00~11:20

**Venue:** NIS Conference Room at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor in the new building

**Participants:**

(Cambodia Side)

San Sy Than (Director General, National Institute of Statistics (NIS))  
Hang Lina (Deputy Director General, NIS)  
Seng Sourn (Deputy Director General, NIS)  
Khieu Sary (Deputy Director General, NIS)  
Vy Heang (Advisor to Ministry of Planning and Director of Social Statistics Department)  
Has Bunton (Deputy Director General, NIS)  
Saint Lundy (Deputy Director of General Statistics Department, NIS)  
They Kheam, (Director of Survey and Population Census Department, NIS)  
Khin Sovorlak, (Deputy Director of Economic Statistics Department, NIS)  
Kim Net (Bureau Chief, Department of Social Statistics, NIS)

(Japanese Side)

Kazuto Tsuji (Team Leader of the JICA Mid-term Review Team)  
Akihito Yamauchi (Member, the JICA Mid-term Review Team)  
Mitsutaka Hoshi (Member, the JICA Mid-term Review Team)  
Tatsuya Nishida (Consultant, the JICA Mid-term Review Team)  
Minori Terada (Project Formulation Advisor, JICA Cambodia Office)  
Fumihiko Nishi (Chief Advisor, JICA Expert)  
Shunichi Inoue (Leader, JICA Expert)  
Atsushi Otomo (JICA Expert)  
Akihiko Ito (JICA Expert)  
Hiroyuki Kozu (JICA Expert)  
Kunio Nishimura (JICA Expert)  
Kaori Nishiyama (JICA Expert)  
Youk Seng An (Project Assistant)

**Agenda:**

1. Opening Address of H.E. San Sy Than
2. Remark of Mr. Kazuto Tsuji
3. Progress Report of 2008 Population Census of Cambodia by Ms. Hang Lina
4. Progress Report of 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing of Cambodia by Mr. Khin Sovorlak
5. Brief Report of the Project Phase 2 in 2008 FY by Mr. Fumihiko Nishi
6. Progress Report of the Phase 2 in 2008 FY by Dr. Shunichi Inoue
7. Discussion
8. Closing Address of H. E. San Sy Than

**Opening Address:**

1. H.E. San Sy Than, Director General, NIS

Today NIS has the 3<sup>rd</sup> JCC meeting and the same time a meeting for mid-term review. This meeting is held to present the achievement of the project, since this project supports to conduct the 2008 General Population Census and 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing. As informed by Senior Minister yesterday that in the last CTC meeting, the progress of the 2008 General Population Census has been completed 97.5% with support from JICA project. Furthermore, the project contributes to capacity building of NIS personnel such as providing short course of training and the training overseas. At the moment the project is supporting the 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing which is going on in good progress.

2. Mr. Kazuto Tsuji, Team Leader of the JICA Mid-term Review Team

He thanked for JICA experts and Cambodian government for the efforts and good cooperation for the implementation of the project. This mid-term review is to review the project implementation and to improve the quality of the project. He was very impressed with this ministry's care for the project and he recognized that statistics and census were quite important for the country development.

**Progress Report of the Project:**

3. H.E. Ms. Hang Lina, Deputy Director General, NIS

Ms. Hang Lina made her presentation on the 2008 General Population Census. She reported the current status of work, lessons learned, constraints, and so on. Currently, NIS ended editing and coding and is working on data processing, tabulation of priority tables.

4. Mr. Khin Sovorlak, Deputy Director of Economic Statistics Department

Mr. Khin Sovorlak made a presentation on the 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing of Cambodia. He explained what NIS has done to make the enumeration currently doing happen so far. He also mentioned that as a future plan, NIS will recruit supervisors, editors, coders and data entry operators on April, 2009. NIS will start analysis of statistical tables on September, 2009. NIS will start to construct establishment sampling frame and write final report. NIS will disseminate results to the public on December, 2009.

5. Mr. Fumihiko Nishi, Chief Advisor of the Project

Mr. Fumihiko Nishi summarized activities and events in the first and second year of the project.

6. Dr. Shunichi Inoue, Leader of the Project

Dr. Shunichi Inoue submitted the Progress Report No. 4 to the meeting. He explained the second year activities of the project.

7. Discussions

(1) Limited Capacity Building, in particular IT skills and census analysis

Mr. Tsuji mentioned Ms. Hang Lina's presentation concerning NIS limited capacity building on census analysis and computer programming in terms of the 2008 General Population Census. He asked her whether there was a way to improve such capacity. Mr. Ito pointed out that because UNFPA, which is responsible for data processing, do their jobs rather than letting NIS do the job, NIS's capacity in IT may not be improved. In the future NIS should do by themselves both census analysis and IT work even with the support of UN consultants. Ms. Hang Lina and Mr. Has Bunton talked about their wish that they improve their capacity in IT, in particular programming in the future since the IT technology is rapidly developed, and it's difficult for NIS to catch up with the technology. H.E. San Sy Than mentioned that NIS would newly set up an ICT department, Statistical Standard & Analysis Department and National Account Department in the future since the sub-degree is going to be submitted to Council of Minister. And, new IT staff were recruited these days. He assured that NIS's capacity in IT and other field will soon be developed.

(2) Difficulty or Challenges in the future for Economic Statistics Department

Mr. Nishida asked about NIS's difficulty and challenges in the future for economic statistic department. Mr. Khin Sovorlak answered that there are two kinds of future challenges for his department. One is the questionnaire design and the other is a specific program in IT field which are important for future survey. H.E. San Sy Than said that NIS staff, in particular those in the Economic Statistics Department have heavy workloads. Successfully getting budget for the project and keeping NIS staff busy at work is other difficulty. Providing additional incentive fund to the staff is another challenge.

(3) Concern about Brain Drain who leaves to move to private sector

Mr. Nishida asked about the degree of brain drain in NIS. H.E. San Sy Than answered NIS have such experiences, because when the staff developed their capacity, they left to move to private sector due to the low salary of the government. Compared to other ministries, NIS staff who quitted NIS to move to private sector is fewer.

(4) Prospects of obtaining budget and allocating personnel

Mr. Nishida questioned NIS about the prospects of obtaining budget and allocating necessary staff after the project ended. H.E. San Sy Than answered the prospects of obtaining budget would be good in long and medium term, because the amount of funds to be allocated would be increased. And, there is a master plan that specifies the allocation of the governmental budget to be 50 percent or 60 percent of each statistical activity in 2010. Moreover, the Prime Minister is keen on obtaining census results, which assure us of promising budgeting. Regarding the shortage of personnel, sometime we recruit staff for temporary work only such as data processing staff for census activities even at the provincial level. NIS also encourages recruiting the qualified staff from the private sector, when workload increases. But they are not permanent staff.

(5) Support corresponding to village boundary change

Mr. Yamauchi asked what NIS would do to tackle with village boundary change. Mr. Has Bunton said that there were two kinds of responses. First, for publication, NIS will show the statistics by old frame to compare them with ones in previous census and new frame to compare them with ones in next census. Second, for database, NIS will set up a code for old boundary and another code for new boundary. For the changing of village boundary, it has negative effect to the other activities such as budget, publication and database. He added that in 11<sup>th</sup> Census Technical Committee meeting (CTC), NIS would agree to create the technical working group for this work composing of NIS, Ministry of Interior and Department of Geography.

**Closing Address:**

8. Closing by H.E. San Sy Than

H.E. mentioned the success of the data entry of the 2008 General Population Census since we revised the payment system based on the volume of work done by keypunchers and the 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing is in the right track with good cooperation with local authority. Moreover we are making more efforts to develop the IT field such as the establishment of IT Department.