

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

The Fourth 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 Cambodian authorities concerned, the Team of Experts from Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as “the Team”) and Resident Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency Cambodia Office had a discussion.

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

Phnom Penh, March 11, 2009

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

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: 11 March, 2009 14:30~17:00

Venue: NIS Conference Room at 1st 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)

Hor Darith (Deputy Director General, NIS)

Vy Heang (Advisor to Ministry of Planning and Director of Social Statistics Department)

(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)

Fumihiko Nishi (Chief Advisor, JICA Expert)

Satoshi Imai (JICA Expert)

Ryouta Kashiwazaki (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. Schedule and Budget Plan of 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia by Mr. Mich Kanthul
3. Progress Report and Action Plan of 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia by Mr. Hor Darith
4. Progress Report and Action Plan of 2009 Nation-wide Establishment Listing of Cambodia by Mr. Khin Sovorlak
5. Discussion
6. Brief Report of Action Plan of the Project Phase 2 in 2009 FY by Mr. Fumihiko Nishi
7. Report of Action Plan of the Project Phase 2 in 2009 FY by Dr. Atsushi Otomo
8. Discussion
9. Closing Address of H. E. San Sy Than

Opening Address:

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

He welcomed JICA experts, NIS staff, other ministry staff to participate in the Fourth JCC.

Progress Report of the Project by NIS:

2. Mich Kanthul, Director of Economic Statistics Department, NIS

Mr. Mich Kanthul made his presentation on the 2011 Economic Census. He showed his plan on the schedule of the preparation of economic census. Starting from April 2009, he planned to enforce sub-decree, which is still in the process of finalization. Then, he planned to hold the first National Census Committee on August 2009 and the first Census Technical Committee on November, 2009, and to conduct pilot census on March, 2010.

3. Hor Darith, Deputy Director General, NIS

Mr. Hor Darith made a speech on the progress of preparation toward conducting the 2011 Economic Census. He reviewed how NIS applied for Japanese funds. As activities of the FY 2009, he pointed out that NIS will finalize sub-decree and request budget from Cambodian Government.

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 that enumeration has ended smoothly without big mishaps for most provinces. In Phnom Penh, we underestimated the number of establishments, so newly hired 15 enumerators and extended 7 activity days. And, DG approved the same measures for several other provinces. A few establishment owners in Phnom Penh and Shihanoukville refused cooperation for the listings. Overall, enumerators got cooperation.

5. Discussion

Mr. Nishi pointed out that if enforcement of sub-decree is delayed, Japanese government's approval on counterpart fund will be delayed. Naturally, National Census Committee will be delayed. And, counterpart fund is just a part of the necessary funds for conducting the Economy Census. Around 700 thousand USD will be needed from the budget of Cambodian Government. He expected to make efforts to get other funds besides counterpart fund. And, as for the Establishment Listing, he concerns that the staff members who work are fewer than those who work for the Population Census. He asked NIS that staff from other department should assist the data processing activities of the Economic Statistic Department. Moreover, he asked if 300 thousand USD for the Establishment Listing is in DG's hands.

H.E. San Sy Than told Mr. Nishi that NIS is finalizing the sub-decree. He estimated that the beginning of the coming May, NIS would be able to enforce the sub-decree. He answered no to the question of availability of 300 thousand USD for the Establishment Listing. And, he said that Mr. Panhara's IT division can help division of the Establishment Listing, because his division is used to the procedure of Social Economic Survey now.

H. E. San Sy Than asked audience whether there were any ways to capture the informal sector's activity by national governmental survey. For example, in Mondul Kiri, there are people who are informally engaged in gold mining. They should be captured by the Establishment Listing. Mr. Nishi suggested that the Population Census supposedly captured the number of those people. Mr. Ito told audience that usually a special survey is taken to capture such numbers. Dr. Otomo suggested that the combination of data by the Population Census and Social Economic Survey can help you estimate the numbers.

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

Mr. Nishi briefly explained action plans of the first half of the third year of the project.

7. Dr. Atsushi Otomo, Acting Leader of the Project

Dr. Atsushi Otomo asked attendants any feedback about a new plan of the Japanese FY 2009 project activities. During the last JCC on February, 2009 Dr. Inoue

submitted the Progress Report No. 4, which includes plans of the Japanese FY 2009 to the meeting. Since then, there are several changes in the plans. Now he explained the changed plans and asked for approval.

8. Discussions

H.E. San Sy Than brought up the topic of improvement of website of NIS. According to him, the existing website has not yet been updated since 2007. The website should have shown the information on various statistics from various surveys. He wondered how to coordinate to achieve good website of NIS. Mr. Kozu said that NIS has already enough equipment such as servers. Mr. Nishi suggested that opening up a new website led to the expensive payment to internet providers and several staff members should take in charge of maintaining the website full-time in view of hardware and software. H.E. San Sy Than said that now SIDA proposed a project to assist in creating a website by providing incentives to staff. So the next step is a coordination of donors. Mr. Imai said that the most important things were security and confidentiality when it comes to creating a new website.

H.E. San Sy Than and Mr. Nishi agreed that dissemination Strategy of the Population Census have to be decided.

Closing Address:

9. Closing by H.E. San Sy Than

H.E. summarized the discussions in this meeting. First, the sub-decree for the economic census will be passed at latest at the beginning of the coming May. Second, budget for the Establishment Listing will be in our hands soon. Third, the Establishment Listing has been successfully done for most provinces. Lastly, the dissemination strategy will be decided soon.