

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS
ON
THE PROJECT FORMULATION STUDY
ON
COOPERATION PROGRAM FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS
IN THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

Phnom Penh, October 22, 2004

1. Contents of the Expected TCP in Official Statistics

In regard to the expected TCP, NIS and the Team discussed the following topics:

(1) Counterpart Organization

NIS and the Team agreed that the principal counterpart organization should be NIS and that the staff in charge of statistics in other line ministries should also be included in the expected TCP activities such as seminars and training courses so that the statistical capacity of the whole government might be enhanced.

(2) Objective and Scope of the TCP

NIS and the Team discussed the objective and the scope of the expected TCP in official statistics, and agreed on the following points:

- i) the objective of the expected TCP should be to improve the official statistics of Cambodia;
- ii) to achieve this objective, the expected TCP should focus on capacity development of NIS with the activities of the Population Census planned for 2008;
- iii) the expected TCP would also cover improvement of economic statistics;

(3) Capacity Development through the Cooperation in the 2008 Population Census

NIS and the Team agreed that capacity development of statistical staff of the Cambodian government in the expected TCP will be carried out mainly through the cooperation in the 2008 Population Census. Both parties also agreed on the following matters regarding the 2008 Population Census:

- i) to achieve the successful implementation of the 2008 Population Census, it would be necessary to secure the resources from the Cambodian Government and donor communities;
- ii) the Cambodian Government should make utmost efforts to increase its own input to the Census so that it would eventually become self-standing in its own statistical operations;
- iii) good coordination with other donors, particularly with UNFPA, would be essential, and each donor should clearly state its own responsibilities in the field of technical cooperation through the process of donor coordination;

- iv) the responsibilities of JICA through the expected TCP for the cooperation in the 2008 Population Census will be the technical assistance to the work of mapping, data processing, analysis and dissemination. The other work such as survey planning and enumeration will be supported by other donors;
- v) part of the work of analysis and dissemination may be shared with UNFPA as needed, while the expected TCP could also give advice to NIS on the planning process of the Census.

(4) Capacity Development through the Cooperation in Economic Statistics

Through the discussions with NIS, the Team found the current status of economic statistics in Cambodia as follows:

- the Establishment Census planned for 2005 would be indefinitely postponed due to the lack of resources;
- the results of the Survey of Industrial Establishments (hereinafter referred to as "SIEC") 2000 contains the gaps with those of the sample household survey in 2001.

It was not possible to identify the causes of the gaps during the meeting, and it was agreed that further evaluation would be needed.

In order to improve Cambodian economic statistics, the Team suggested NIS to take the following measures:

- to focus on evaluation of the quality of the results of the existing statistical surveys to prepare for a large scale data collection of economic statistics that would be conducted in the future;
- to regard the 2008 Population Census as an important source of information for economic statistics;
- to investigate in the planning process of the Population Census the feasibility to extend the coverage of the household listing of the Population Census to include buildings and establishments.

Both parties also agreed to investigate further the approaches to be taken in the expected TCP in respect of improvement of economic statistics.

(5) Detailed Contents of expected TCP activities

The details of the expected TCP activities will be further investigated in the process of finalizing the Record of Discussion (hereinafter refer to as "R/D") between NIS and JICA as mentioned in the following Section 3 (7).

2. Pre-conditions for the Commencement of Project

NIS and the Team agreed that the following pre-conditions should be fulfilled to commence the TCP:

- (1) The Japanese government approves the request of the TCP;
- (2) The commitment of UNFPA to provide necessary funds for the 2008 Population Census is confirmed;
- (3) Cambodian side makes significant efforts to secure budgets and resources to implement the 2008 Population Census;
- (4) NIS assigns the necessary counterpart personnel for the expected TCP;
- (5) Cambodian side establishes the coordination body for the expected TCP consisting of NIS and other relevant ministries through such means as the "Statistics Advisory Council" and the "Statistics Coordination Committee" which are provided in the draft of the "Statistics Law".

3. Tentative Schedule until the Commencement of the expected TCP

NIS and the Team agreed upon the following tentative schedule for the commencement of the TCP, if the pre-conditions as listed in Section 2 are fulfilled:

- (1) October 2004: Project formulation study on cooperation program for official statistics (at present)
- (2) November 2004: Report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA HQ of the result of the Study
- (3) Until the end of year 2004: Consultation among MOFA, the Statistics Bureau of Japan (hereinafter referred to as "SBJ"), and JICA

(In case that Japanese government agrees to approve the request)

- (4) In the beginning of year 2005: Notification to Cambodian side of the approval to the request
- (5) After the approval of the request: Consultation among NIS, SBJ, and JICA
- (6) In the first quarter (April to June) of the Japanese fiscal year of 2005: Dispatch of the preliminary evaluation mission to Cambodia

(In case that Cambodian side fulfills the above-mentioned preconditions)

- (7) Within two months after the preliminary evaluation mission: Signing on the R/D between NIS and JICA
- (8) October 2005 (expected) : Commencement of the expected TCP