

## Inauguration of the Trapaing Thnung Agricultural Development Cooperative Building

November 08, 2009

**Sahakum Akpiwat Kaksekam Trapaing Thnung**, which translates to English as “Trapain Thnung Agricultural Development Cooperative,” was registered as an “Agricultural Development Cooperative” on July 30, 2009 with the Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDA). This cooperative is located in Trapaing Thnung Village, Khvav Commune, Samrong district, Takeo Province. The cooperative currently consists of 186 members with savings capital of 546 million Riel. In early 2009, the cooperative purchased land to establish a cooperative building center that would provide the organization with their own workspace. The land cost 2,800 USD. The cooperative building has now been completed with an overall cost of 13,563 USD, which included a contribution from CEDAC (PRS-EU project) of 1,700 USD. This building will play an important role by providing a multi-purpose building where members could share experiences, sell their agricultural products, organize training and learning centers, store documents, establish a library and locate their saving and credit services.

In honor of the completed construction of the new building, the cooperative organized an inauguration ceremony for the cooperative building on November 8, 2009. There were several honorable dignitaries in attendance including H.E Ith Nody, Under Secretary of the State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; H.E It Sokh, Deputy Provincial Governor of Takeo Province; Mr. Mak Soeun, the Director of Agricultural Extension Department; Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC President; Mr. Nhem Srors, Samrong, District Governor; representatives of the provincial and district departments of agriculture; and CEDAC staff members . There were over 200 participants at the even that welcomed cooperative members and other people in neighboring communities to join in the celebration.

During this event, Dr. Yang Saing Koma presented the key achievements of the PRS-EU project in Samrong district which included system of rice intensification (SRI), purifying and seed selection, soil fertility improvement, saving for self-reliance, establishing a community shop, organic rice producer group formation, and others important activities. He reported that there are now 7,000 families from 64 villages in Samrong district benefiting from the PRS-EU project.

This event was successful in meeting several of the objectives shared by CEDAC and the PRS-EU project such as providing a forum for rural people to share their successful experiences in organizing and managing cooperatives and increasing community awareness and mutual cooperation through events like the inauguration of the new building. The building represents the successful efforts of both CEDAC staff members, donor organizations, and the rural people of Cambodia who are the members of the cooperative.

