

CEDAC Exporting Organic Rice to the US

November 30, 2009

CEDAC and Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED) organized a press conference on the first export of Cambodian organic rice to the United States at CEDAC's office in Phnom Penh. Representatives from the media - including TV, radio, newspapers and magazines - attended this press conference. Dr. Yang Siang Koma, President of CEDAC, Mr. Wolfgang Möllers, DED Country Director, and DED Expert, Winfried Scheewe, answered the questions of the reporters.

Dr. Yang Saing Koma said that this organic rice export is the fruit of hard labor as it was not easy to export organic rice to the US or European markets. He acknowledged that more hard work will be needed to continue to meet with their strict requirements that include organic seed growing, organic standard production, organic milling and packaging, etc. Dr. Koma thanked DED for their support, which was influential in allowing the export of this rice.

Mr. Wolfgang Möllers of DED voiced his hopes that this is only a start and many more containers will follow to boost the local economy in rural regions. He said that DED would continue its efforts to support the rural economy, and to produce healthy, organic food for Cambodian markets. At the same time, they will focus on the production and marketing of organically grown vegetables, he added.

This week, CEDAC will export the first container with 17 tons of organic rice to Lotus Food in the US. Although the export of Cambodian milled rice is a common occurrence, this shipment of certified organic rice is the first to the United States.

