

National Workshop on Experiences and Solutions in Participatory Irrigation Management and Development

December 17-18, 2009

Beginning in 2007, CEDAC has organized an annual meeting on water/irrigation to promote Participatory Irrigation Management and Development. This year, with funding support from the Mekong Program on Water Environment and Resilience (M-POWER), CEDAC organized the National Workshop on Experiences and Solutions in Participatory Irrigation Management and Development at the Phnom Penh Hotel. Sixty people from 13 provinces attended the event, including the chiefs and vice chiefs of the Farmer Water User Communities, representatives from the Provincial Department of Water Resource, representative of the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, NGOs, Commune Council members and local journalists.

The objectives of this workshop were to allow participants to share their experiences in irrigation and development works and Farmer Water User Communities, as well as making improvements for better development in the future.

During the workshop, many interesting topics and experiences were shared and presented by CEDAC's staff members and government officials. These include a case study on the success and failure of Farmer Water User Communities, the Irrigation Service Center (ISC), and the government policy on irrigation and Farmer Water User Communities development. The experience of irrigation development in north-east Thailand was also presented.

Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC's President, said during the workshop that irrigation work is playing a crucial role from year to year as the small dry season that occurs during the rainy season is getting longer and the capacity of rice production is increasing to fit the people needs. "I agree that Cambodia can earn 1,000 million USD per year from rice alone and that the rice yield during the rainy season can increase from 5 million tons to 10 million tons per year - if these important things are improved including irrigation systems, rice land fertilizer usage, and rice seed selection," Dr. Koma added.

On the second day of the workshop, the participants visited the Farmer Water User Communities and the irrigation management at Kongpisey district in Kampong Speu Province. They visited Autreng Farmer Water User Community and, afterwards, conducted a reflection and experience sharing discourse.

