

**Workshop on Improving Quality of Life
Asia Hotel, Kompong Chhnang Province
February 03, 2010**

On February 3, 2010, CEDAC's president, Dr. Yang Saing Koma, and director of Farmer and Nature Net (FNN), Mr. Pan Sopheap, facilitated a full-day workshop on the topic of "Improving Quality of Life" at Asia Hotel, in Kompong Chhnang province. Attending were 51 participants from 5 districts in the province, including Community-based Facilitators (CBFs) and Community-based Education Promoters (CEP), who are community leaders from CEDAC's project, titled "Happy Mountain Bird/HMB". The emphasis of the project, implemented by CEDAC, is to ensure access to primary education for children of the poorest families.

Government officials who are representatives of the Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport, HMB project coordinator Mr. Kep Ratana, Monitoring and Evaluation officer Mr. Sin Phoan, and Japanese interpreter Mr. Heng Sokheng, also participated in the workshop.

The main purpose of the workshop was to discuss and build up knowledge of the community leaders and local stakeholders on how to improve their quality of life. Some relevant concepts, like "Health, Knowledge, Friendship, and Money" were raised for in-depth discussion. Additionally, the best practices or successful experiences of eradicating poverty were also actively discussed and shared among the participants. The participants also discussed how to prepare for a financially secure life in later life. Dr. Yang Saing Koma raised the idea of *collective saving* for discussion with several examples. Each participant would be able to generate income of 1,430 million riels by saving only 1,000 riels per month for 30 years with monthly interest rate of 3%.

The participants appreciated learning about the concepts of improving quality of life from the facilitators and the other participants. Ultimately, they committed to conduct collective saving in order to improve their financial security when they are older.

