

## **CEDAC Conducts Field Visit for Tokyo University of Japan Students to Preah Vihear Province**

From August 22-25, 2009, CEDAC, the Tokyo University of Japan and the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) organized a field visit to Preah Vihear province. The Preah Vihear province is in northern Cambodia about 294 kilometers from Phnom Penh. There are 33,032 families or about 157,132 people living in this province. Of the total population, about 79,594, or 51%, are women.

Ten people including CEDAC staff members Mr. Sim Sameuon and Mr Suk Vannara, RUPP professors/lectures Dr. Neth Baromey, Mr. Seak Sophat and Mr. Hoy Sereivathanak Reasey, and a student from UOT Mr. Chariya Ear attended the visit. The objectives of the field visit were:

- To gain understanding about the current situation and agricultural practices in the province as well as identify possibilities for new agricultural practices.
- To study the issues and constraints of farmers in agricultural production and to identify new potentials for improving the livelihoods of those farmers and their families.

During the visit, CEDAC staff met and interviewed the village chief, the Director of Preah Vihear Authority, farmer representatives, six directors of Preah Vihear departments and twelve farmers to collect both qualitative and quantitative information on the agricultural practices and living situations of farmers in the new village of Kantuot commune, Chorm Khsan district, Preah Vihear province.

As a result of the visit, the researchers were able to indentify several potential agricultural development ideas such as using existing natural bodies of water for renovated water storage to be sued for integrated farming. It was also observed that there is good potential for providing support on agricultural practices because many of the farmers are not currently using appropriate techniques and methods. One area of potential is the design and implementation of ecological farming and diversification. In addition, there are also opportunities to mobilize the producer group and community shop to produce vegetables and flowers for tourist using ecological methods.