

Sustainable Water Resources Management and Allocation in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH: On July 29, 2011, a national workshop was organized by the Cambodian Development Research Institute (CDRI) in the Phnom Penh hotel. The topic was “Sustainable Water Resource Management and Allocation in Cambodia.” Mr. Khim Sophanna, the Senior Program Advisor and Mr. Seng Sophak, the ISC Institutional Development Specialist, attended the program.

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- to share experiences and knowledge relevant to water policy between CDRI and other relevant organizations
- to openly share experiences/analyses and to agree upon concrete actions among key stakeholders regarding lessons learnt and recommendations
- to frame a policy discussion around key relevant questions on water resources management and allocations
- to prioritize and highlight key innovative findings and recommendations
- to discuss and agree on needs for future research and policy development

Around 150 participants representing Mowram, Pdownram, FWUCs (from Kampong Chhnang, Pursat,), NGOs, Farmer and Water Net (FWN), Service Providers, AusAID, JICA, ADB and AFD; participated actively in the presentations and discussions during the workshop. It is the final workshop of the five years Water Resources Management Research Capacity Development Program, WRMRCDP, 2006-2011, which is supported by AusAID. The project was jointly implemented by CDRI, Royal University of Phnom Penh and University of Sydney.



Workshop activities were:

1. Share and discuss findings and recommendations of the WRMRCDP
2. Photo exhibitions
3. Share experiences of other water related initiatives, namely, MOWRAM and Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Water (TWGAW), AFD, ADB, CAVAC, CEDAC and other agencies
4. Facilitate panel discussion on key findings, lessons learnt and recommendations
5. Identification of future directions in research and policy development

CEDAC was invited by the organizer to share field experiences concerning water governance issues. The presentation focused on a brief background of CEDAC, including its involvements in feasibility studies and evaluation of irrigation schemes (Stung Chinit, Prey Nup, Srey Santhor and Stung Chikreng), and supporting the FWUCs (Stung Chinit, Sdau Kaong, Kok Thnoat, Oh Veng etc), Farmer and Water Net (FWN), activities of CEDAC water working group, and collaboration within M-POWER network. Last but not least, the presentation also focused deeply on the Irrigation Service Center (ISC, a joint project with GRET and financed by AFD and EU food facility project, 2009-2011). Mr. Khim Sophanna and Mr. Seng Sophak made a joint presentation and it was very well received. In addition, three representatives from FWN had a chance to participate in this workshop to present themselves and to network.