

Integrated Water Resources Management, Australian Experiences

MELBOURNE: From August 08 - September 09, 2011, Mr. Khim Sophanna, CEDAC's senior program advisor, was awarded with the opportunity to participate in the short course, *Integrated Water Resource Management* in Australia. The course was organized by the Chisholm Institute in association with Earth Systems and Entura/Hydro Tasmania and was funded by AusAID.

The objectives of the course were to:

- Strengthen Cambodian capacity to manage water resources in a river basin in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner;
- Promote synergies between the different parts of the Australian water resources-related portfolio of assistance to Cambodia;
- Create a blueprint for improving Cambodian IWRM capacity that could be implemented by the Cambodian Water Resources Management Sector Development Program (CWRMSDP);

Twenty Participants (of which one was woman) attended the course, and represented the following: the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, the Provincial Departments of Water Resources and Meteorology of Kampong Thom, Kampot and Takeo provinces; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery; Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy; the Supreme National Economic Council, the Cambodian National Mekong Committee, the Tonle Sap Authority, the Technical Service Centre for Irrigation and Meteorology, CAVAC, CEDAC, CDRI, CENTDOR, Royal University of Phnom Penh and the Institute of Technology of Cambodia.

The course was comprised of 6 modules, including: (1) Integrated Water Resources Management (2) Mitigating Water Pollution (3) Estimation of Water Use and Water Balance (4) Basic Principles of River Basin Modeling (5) Flood/drought Policy and Planning (6) Operation and Maintenance of Water Infrastructure.

Through the course, selected participants were given an opportunity to further enhance their knowledge and experiences in IWRM and build people-to-people linkages at individual, institutional and country levels so that they can continue to contribute to effective water resource management in Cambodia. Quite a range of water governance issues were presented discussed and assessed in plenary, small groups. In addition to the presentations by concerned authorities of the host country, numerous field visits were organized to illustrate the course contents and provided space for intensive interactions.

As a result, participants and Mr. Khim Sophanna, especially gained a lot of knowledge and experiences from Australia and committed to train and share such knowledge and experiences with interested staff members of CEDAC and with the Irrigation Service Center (ISC), the Steering Committee members of the Farmer and Water Net (FWN), the Farmer and Water User Communities (FWUC) of Stung Chinit Irrigation Schemes and other stakeholders.

