

News FROM Cambodia

JANUARY - MARCH 2020 • NUMBER 4 • PHNOM PENH

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

What is JOCV? Who are they? What have they contributed to Cambodia?



JICA Volunteer Program is a part of Japanese Citizen Participation Scheme, which is for those who are eager to share knowledge and skills to developing countries. It is a program for those who want to leave their comfort zone and willing to provide assistance to developing countries, for example: Cambodia.

There are three main objectives of the program: 1) To contribute to the development and reconstruction of the economies and societies of the developing countries 2) To enhance friendship and mutual understanding and 3) To develop international outlooks and give back the experience to the Japanese Community.

This program started in 1965. Since then, there have been more than 50,000 volunteers dispatched to more than 90 countries around the world with over 200 fields of work. Cambodia is one of the first five -countries which have received Japanese volunteers.

As of January 2020, there are 23 volunteers working in Cambodia ranging from agriculture to education field, including Soils and Fertilizers, Science Education, Primary Education, Physical Education, etc.

JICA has also been dispatching volunteers in nursing field to provincial hospitals where there is low hygiene and sanitation. 5S (Sort, Set in order, Shine, Standardize and Sustain) together with Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) usually are introduced and further improved by JICA Volunteers dispatched to the provincial hospitals.

Furthermore, as Cambodia will be the host of 2023 SEA games, Physical Education and Sport volunteers work vigorously and closely with trainers, athletes, teachers and students in order to enhance their capabilities. Knowledge and experience sharing are the keys for dispatched volunteers. ●

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STRENGTHENING ENGINEERING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Laboratory-Based Education (LBE)



Lab Students of Petroleum laboratory at Geo-resources and Geotechnical Engineering Department

For the last few decades, Cambodia has enjoyed its economic growth of average of 7.0%. However, Cambodia's recent economic growth has relied largely on the expansion of low technology, low wage/skill production in industries. Cambodia must develop human resources in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and conducting research to maintain the competitive economic growth.

JICA with MOEYS and ITC started the Project for Strengthening Engineering Education and Research for Industrial Development in Cambodia by applying Laboratory-Based Education (LBE).

LBE, a Japanese-style engineering education, has been introduced to ITC since 2015, and the project started its activities at ITC in April 2019, which will finish in 2024. This project aims to achieve three main outputs, such as applying LBE to research activities of ITC, enhancing research capacity of ITC and other Universities in Cambodia, and strengthening university-industry linkage of ITC.

Under LBE, research is conducted within team members under supervisions by a team leader, who holds Ph.D. Degree. Currently, ITC has established more than 15 research teams to implement

LBE, focusing mainly on four fields, such as Electrical and Energy, Industrial and Mechanical, Geo-resources and Geotechnical, and Information and Communication. Indispensably, postgraduate students, 5th year and 4th year undergraduate students participate in his/her supervisor's research team and join the research project.

By taking part in LBE, the students can be more independent that they improve analytical abilities and problem solving skills while they obtain practical experiences. Students can make good communications with the team members and lecturers. More importantly, the faculty members are encouraged to update the outputs of their research to attract the students to do research and strengthen close relations with industries.

Through the Project, ITC and partner universities will develop competent engineers to contribute to academic and industrial sectors with high technology.

JICA Generates Publicity and Positive Impression about Its Activities to Local Press

Official Development Assistance (ODA) Press Tour

JICA Cambodia Office has conducted ODA Press Tour program that was two or three days trip to the project sites in selected sectors which are implemented under cooperation with Embassy of Japan, project counterparts and involved ministries.

This program is conducted for increasing awareness of Japanese ODA and JICA's cooperation activities amidst Cambodian journalists from multi-media agencies such as TVs, Radios, Magazines, and Newspapers including Online News by

giving the opportunity to learn and observe the facts in Japan ODA, to strengthening and extending communication with local Medias.

This year, JICA conducted ODA Press Tour program by bringing presses to visit the project sites to learn about project's progress and the nature of Japan ODA along Mekong River region (Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, and Battambang province) focused on three main sectors such as Economic Infrastructure, Agriculture and Irrigation, and Education. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

“ អ្នកគ្រូជំនួយស្នូលគ្រូបង្ហាញជូនកូនខ្មែរដោយសារកុមារខ្មែរចង់រៀនសូត្រ និងរូសរាយ ”

Rasmei News
12 March 2020

“ និស្សិតកសិកម្មខេត្តបាត់ដំបង ចុះកម្មសិក្សាទំនាក់ទំនងគម្រោងកសិកម្មរបស់ JICA ”

BTV Cambodia
18 January 2020

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 17 Second Technique Competition at Institute of Electrical Science (IES)
- 22 Opening Ceremony of Sangke Bridge on NR5 (BTB)
- 28 ENJJ Industrial Development Sector Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 4 Closing Ceremony for the Project on Constructing a School Health System to Improve Health Education in Kandal Steung District
- 20 Kizuna Festival 2020
- 28 JICA-AC's Activities "Road Safety Campaign" @Rolea Phear High School, Kampong Chhnang

MARCH

- 2 Kick-off Meeting of Smart City Basic Survey
- 4 ODA Press Tour FY2019
- 5 Second Road Safety Workshop co-hosted with NRSC at MPWT
- 24 EN/LA Signing Ceremony (NR5)
- 24 EN Signing of the Project for the Expansion of Water Supply System in Ta Khmao

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THE PROJECT FOR IMPROVING TVET QUALITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRIES

Produce and Utilize Human Resources for Industries with Practical Skills at TVET Institutes



The 7th National Skills Competition 2019 at Preah Kossamak Polytechnic Institute

Cambodian Economy has rapidly been growing in the last ten years due to the increase of the Export and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). In order to maintain the sustainable economic growth, it is required to increase the access to technical training for new labor market demand and upgrade the skills competencies of the existing workforce. Thus, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays significant role for socioeconomic development of the nation. Many reforms in the sector are currently being introduced to make TVET the key to socio-economic development in Cambodia.

With the request of the Royal Government of Cambodia, JICA started the Project for Improving TVET Quality to Meet the Needs of Industries in 2015. The project has provided technical cooperation to three pilot institutes under the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT), including National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia (NPIC), National Technical Training

Institute (NTTI), and Preah Kossamak Polytechnic Institute (PPI).

Specifically, it aims to strengthen the quality of training for the higher diploma in electricity field in the TVET institutions under MLVT nationwide in order to produce the skill workers, technicians and engineers for the industrial development.

JICA TVET Project expects to achieve five main outputs, such as (1) Developing Standard Training Package (STP) for Electricity at Higher Diploma Level, (2) Training for Instructors to Teach STP, (3) Disseminating STP to Non-Pilot TVET Institutes, (4) Equipment and Facility Management for Training, and (5) Strengthening Partnership between Pilot TVET Institutes and Industries.

Through the close cooperation between the MLVT and the Project, several activities have been achieved. For instance, on November 04 – 08, 2019, the 7th National

Skills Competition (NSC) 2019 was organized successfully. The NSC 2019 aimed to improve TVET competency, to improve the public private partnership, and to select the outstanding candidates to join the ASEAN Skill Competition scheduled in July 2020 in Singapore.

Moreover, the project has cooperated with pilot institutes to conduct the training to the staffs from private companies. This activity helps to upgrade skills for private sectors and strengthen close relations between TVET institutes and Industries. The project has also sent several instructors to Japan and Malaysia to join the training program.

With the support from JICA Experts, the lecturers, and instructors in the pilot institutes have improved their capacity and skills, and increased the speed of practical work of electricity. Moreover, the instructors and lecturers can create more attractive classrooms after obtaining the skills and experiences from the training programs and project experts.

As the Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to become a high middle-income country by 2030 and high-income country by 2050, Cambodia needs a lot of skill workers, technicians and engineers in order to respond to the industrial needs. JICA TVET Project aims at building a good model of TVET to contribute to the development, growth and prosperity in Cambodia.

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International News

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Enhancing women's participation in society by improving safe transportation

Mar. 8 is International Women's Day to reflect on progress made, and to call for change to promote women's social participation. Remarkable achievements have been made across nations, however, a variety of obstacles still prevent women from participating in society. A report issued by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2017 noted that the most significant factor constraining women's participation in the workforce is "lack of transportation in developing countries."

In order to improve this situation, JICA has implemented initiatives in developing countries such as India to incorporate a gender perspective in infrastructure development.



Women drivers on the Delhi Metro

Safe transportation expands women's economic participation

One of the reasons why the gender perspective is important in the arena of infrastructure, aside from the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, is its impact on economic growth. According to a 2015 estimate by the McKinsey Global Institute in the United States, expanding women's economic participation to the same level as that of men would increase GDP to 26% (\$28 trillion) by 2025.

"Women in developing countries are vulnerable on public transport to harassment and gender-based violence. Lack of safe transportation greatly limits female participation in the workforce and in society more broadly," says Kamei Haruko, Senior Director, JICA's Office for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction. "If women are guaranteed safe transportation, their participation in economic activities will increase, which in turn leads to economic growth."

One JICA project that incorporates a gender perspective is the development of the Delhi Metro in India. Women-only cars were introduced

on each line in 2010, with seats also reserved for women in all other cars. Escalators are equipped with "sari guard" brushes to prevent the hems of women's saris from getting caught. In the Delhi Metro, women-friendly transportation is encouraging women's participation in the workforce.



Men and women workers at the launch of a new train service on the Delhi Metro in India, December 2016

"Japan has made various efforts to change gender stereotypes in urban transportation and elsewhere in the infrastructure sector. We would like to harness this experience when considering assistance in developing countries," says Kamei. "JICA would like to improve the quality of all projects in transport and other infrastructure in order to achieve gender equality." ●

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/20200306_02.html

Tackling the issues of marine plastic waste

The problem of marine plastic waste has come under scrutiny around the world in recent years. JICA invited persons dealing with the issue of marine plastic waste in developing countries to participate in a program on Japanese initiatives to tackle the problem. Efforts are underway to take countermeasures against relevant issues in developing countries by utilizing multiple ODA instruments, such as Technical Cooperation and Private Sector Partnership.

International joint research in reducing marine plastic waste.

"Formation of a Center of Excellence for Marine Plastic Pollution Studies in the Southeast Asian Seas," a new project

of the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), is scheduled to begin in April 2020, as an international joint research initiative to reduce marine plastic waste in the ASEAN region. The project will be jointly implemented by researchers from Japan, one of the leading countries of marine plastic research, and Thailand, a country facing severe urban waste problems that come with economic growth. It aims to establish a research base in Thailand to serve as a model for ASEAN countries, with the goal of formulating an action plan for reducing marine plastic waste for submission to the Thai governmental organization. ●

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/20200317_01.html

Contact Us

News from Cambodia is a quarterly newsletter which focuses on JICA's international perspectives and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter details the work of JICA in Cambodia.

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JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is the world's largest bilateral aid agency providing various forms of assistance in over 150 countries around the world.

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