

*Continued from page 24 Update ...*

*State: Is It Developmental?*, we plan to go to the field in mid-October, carrying with us some ideas from the literature, to compare and contrast them with the reality. We are now at the stage of the critical literature review. The *One Window Service Project* from the World Bank was agreed and started in early September as a five-month project.

### **Natural Resources and the Environment**

*Water Resources Management Research Capacity Development Programme*: the data have been cleaned and analysed for the core economic component module. The team also conducted a training course entitled “Geographical Information Systems” and met with the Royal University of Phnom Penh team to discuss improvement and development of the water resources management curriculum. The programme prepared a work plan for 2009–11. The unit met with AusAID to follow up the third annual progress report, and revised the report. *Tropical Forests for Poverty Alleviation—from Household Data to Global Analysis*: The team is continuing to clean the data in collaboration with CIFOR’s data management person. *Building Community Capacity for Poverty Reduction Initiatives in the Tonle Sap Basin*: Mr Yem Dararath revised the work plan and budget and submitted it to the Asian Development Fund. The team also conducted a meeting with the Asian Development Bank and other partners to discuss the work plan and budget. *The Sustainable Pathways for Attaining the Millennium Development Goals Initiative* has cleaned and analysed the data and is finalising the report. The team met with Stockholm Environment Institute to discuss further coordination and collaboration on additional research activities.

### **Social Development**

The survey team in September concluded the field survey of the Key Manager Baseline Study for Health Sector Support Programme in 30 hospitals and 30 operational districts in 21 provinces and towns. CDRI and Oxford Policy Institute (OPI) under support from Department for International Development (UK-DFID) will host a conference on health: *Institutions, Motivation and Incentives*. The conference dates will be 26–28 April 2010 in Phnom Penh. It involves speakers from both Cambodia

and abroad. A call for papers was concluded and the selection committee of regional conference has finalised its decision on abstracts. From 14 abstracts submitted from different regions, five were selected as commissioned papers and four were selected as invited papers. Invitations for five session leaders have been sent out, and so far two have accepted. A draft programme was developed. *Safety of Phnom Penh Urban Poor: A Study on Crime and Violence in Five Urban Poor Communities* has started. A desk review was completed and sent to UN-Habitat for comment. Survey questionnaires were developed and tested on 1 October and adjusted accordingly. Now the enumerator team is in the field collecting data.

During this period, the training team completed four modules on “*Working for Peace*”, with one exposure visit to Kompong Speu. A graduation ceremony was organised on 11 September to present certificates to the working for peace graduates and training of trainers graduates. Ms Huy Romduol has returned from training in Malaysia on peace and conflict resolution sponsored by Church World Service.

### **Economy, Trade and Regional Cooperation**

The report *Maximising the Opportunities of Chinese Investment in Cambodia in Natural Resources* is awaiting comment from the donor. A separate study on Chinese investment is being revised to include six case studies, and the team sent the second draft to the donor (Chieng Mai University) at the end of September. The draft report on the second round of *A Rapid Assessment of the Impacts of The Economic Crisis on Cambodian Households*, a joint research project with the Poverty, Agriculture and Rural Development unit, has been submitted to the World Bank. “*Assessing the Socioeconomic Effects of the Greater Mekong Sub-region*”, a joint research project with the PARD and Social Development units, has submitted the inception report, and fieldwork will take place late this year. A policy brief, “*The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on Garment Workers and Remittances: the Case of Cambodia*”, funded by UNESCAP, has been submitted. A policy brief on the social impact of the global recession on Cambodia and how the crisis impacts on poverty in the country is being revised to reflect comments received from participants

from around 200 countries at a conference in Hanoi. The second round of *“The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis”*, funded by the Overseas Development Institute, is making good progress.

The Development Analysis Network (DAN), coordinated by CDRI, conducted a regional dissemination conference of two DAN studies on “Economic Costs and Benefits of Cross-Border Labour Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region” and “Agricultural Trade in the Greater Mekong Sub-region” on 7–8 October 2009 at the Phnom Penh Hotel. These studies are collaborative work by leading research institutes in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan province of China, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation. The two-day conference attracted 235 participants, including policy makers, donors and civil society, and provided critical feedback and discussion.

The 2009 Cambodia Development Research Forum on “The Contribution of Research to National Development Strategies and Policies” was held on 9–10 September 2009 at the Hotel Cambodiana with financial support from IDRC. The symposium included high quality presentations on four themes: (1) Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Livelihood in Transition; (2) The Importance of Broad-Based Economic Development; (3) Promoting Equitable Social Development; and (4) Improving

Good Governance. The symposium was very successful, achieving a high level of participation and satisfaction from a wide range of participants including government, donors, research institutions, NGOs and academia. From the evaluation survey, a majority of participants were happy with the symposium and almost all of them want to attend it again next year because it is a useful platform for sharing information, generating new knowledge on development research and networking.

### ***Poverty, Agriculture and Rural Development***

**Building Resilience of Community Fisheries in the Tonle Sap Lake project:** A memorandum of agreement has been signed between CDRI and the WorldFish Center for a project to build the resilience of community fisheries in the Tonle Sap Lake. The first fieldwork occurred 5–15 October. “Assessing the Socioeconomic Effects of the Greater Mekong Sub-region” for the ADB is making progress; the draft inception report has been sent to the ADB for feedback.

Since 2007, CDRI has been holding bimonthly research workshops on development issues. The purpose is to share research findings and strengthen research quality by discussing findings, improving methodology and conceptualising and analysing research themes. The presenters are from CDRI as well as researchers and practitioners from different

institutions and NGOs in Phnom Penh. During this period the presenters from CDRI included Mr Hing Vutha and Mr Doung Viroth. Outside presenters included Professor Sorpong Peou of Sophia University, Japan, and Mr Mith Samonn, research analyst at the WorldFish Center. The topics included macro-economic development, poverty, governance, trade and natural resources and agriculture.

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## CDRI UPDATE

**Management**

CDRI continues to contribute to high level regional and international meetings and conferences on the impact of the global and regional economic downturn and the future of regional integration in east Asia. In October CDRI's executive director participated in the Korean Institute for International Economic Policy's annual East Asian Institutes Forum on the theme "Towards East Asia Free Trade Agreement: Options and Future Tasks" in Seoul.

The executive director also participated in the Institute of Economic Research of China's National Development and Reform Commission's international conference of ASEAN + 3 on "East Asian Economy: Crisis, Recovery and Policy Response" in Beijing. He presented a Cambodia country report that brought together recent CDRI and associated research and policy recommendations on the impact of the crisis and strategies for Cambodia's return to a growth economy and sustainable development. The Beijing conference also established an East Asia Official Forecaster and Policy Research Network, of which CDRI will be a member.

In November CDRI, in partnership with the Cambodia Economic Association, will co-host the 34<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Federation of ASEAN Economic Associations on "The Impact of the Global Economic Downturn on ASEAN Countries and How to Mitigate the Impact on Poor People".

In early December CDRI will hold a two-day management-staff retreat in Koh Kong to reflect

on the lessons of 2009's achievements, priorities for 2010 and major research and policy issues that should be included in the CDRI Cambodia Country Research Strategy that will form the framework for CDRI's 2011–15 Strategic Plan.

**Research**

The following research and research-related activities took place at CDRI over the period October–December 2009.

***Democratic Governance and Public Sector Reform***

Ms Thon Vimealea is finalising the study on *Leadership in Local Politics* and has just prepared a policy brief based on the draft. *Research Capacity of Cambodia's Universities* has been completed as planned. The first draft of *Local Governance of Common Pool Resources: The Case of Irrigation Water in Cambodia* was completed in late July. Ms Chea Chou is now editing the draft—making changes, cutting and adding. For the consultancy project at the National Committee for Decentralisation and Deconcentration (Ministry of the Interior), supported by the Urban Institute, the fifth draft is largely completed, and another consultative workshop will be held in October. *Understanding Civil Society-Parliamentarian Engagement in Cambodia* was submitted on time to the British Overseas Development Institute and is awaiting comments. For *Analysing the Cambodian*

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