

Minutes of Meeting

Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment (TWG-F&E)

**FA's Meeting Room
26th October 2005**

1. Welcome by Chairman

The meeting began with a welcome from the Chairman, H.E. Ty Sokhun, and briefing on the agenda

2. Adoption of the Minutes of Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting held on 29th August 2005 were adopted without comments.

3. Report on the 4th GDCC Meeting

Dr. Mogens Christensen, TWG-F&E Coordinator reported on the 4th GDCC meeting which was held on 15th September 2005 at CDC. There were issues of the donor's point of view concerning on the policy in decentralization and de-concentration. Concerning the decentralization and de-concentration the Ministry of Interior has formulated a time line for communes, districts and provinces with more public administrative responsibilities.

Regarding the concessions, MAFF, MIME and Ministry of National Defence have disclosed information on the economic concession. Forestry is keen to get such information as some of it might involve the Permanent Forest Estate.

To share on the above issues, H.E. Ty Sokhun informed the meeting regarding the results of the 4th GDCC meeting. He reported such matters to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. For land concessions, the Department of Planning, Statistics and International Cooperation of MAFF had released the list of the land concessions in the MAFF's homepage. All interested individuals can visit the homepage for more information.

H.E. Ty Sokhun added that according to TWG-F&E meeting, he submitted two letters to the MAFF Minister to request the Ministers of National Defence and MIME to provide the information on potential location of military development zones and mining concession areas. Subsequently, H.E Ty Sokhun received the letters from MAFF these ministries as copy. However, there has not been received any reply from MIME or Ministry of National Defence yet. As soon as FA/TWG-F&E Secretariat receives the reply from these ministries we will circulate it to all our members and stakeholders.

The World Bank representative, Mr. Steven Schonberger commented as TWG-F&E hasn't got the reply from the concerned ministries and what should we do in the next step.

H.E. Ty Sokhun had clarified that the Ministry of National Defence may not know very well about the military development zones themselves because it is very difficult to identify where the military development zones are located and the zones have been encroached by the people or by the individual group. For example, the place in Kampong Speu province the zones have been encroached by local people and also by other companies. Conclusion was to wait a reasonable time for responses before any further following up.

H.E. Ty Sokhun noted that among 49 land concessions in Cambodia, there are only 12 concessions are operating and other concessions could not operate because of land conflicts. Regarding the information on mining concession, H.E. Ty Sokhun will talk with H.E. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy. Some times there is no mining concession operation and the original locations were only for surveying and preliminary studies.

Mr. Chheng Kim Sun, Deputy Head of Forestry Administration said he heard from CDC there was only preliminary studies on mining concession. He mentioned that a working group has been set up

for surveying which consists of some people from MAFF, FA, MoE, MLMUPC, CDC, and the Chairman is from MIME. When they have a new submission of proposals on mining, this group is required to conduct the survey and produce a report to CDC.

To comment on the above issues, Dr. Mogens Christensen said that TWG-F&E should write a letter to the chairman of GDCC meeting to ask the concerned ministries (i.e. MIME, Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of National Defence) regarding the disclosure of information on any usage claim they may have on land.

In conclusion, TWG-F&E Chairman suggested Secretariat to follow up Dr. Mogens's comments

4 Report on Capacity Needs Assessment of the Natural Resource Sector in Cambodia

Millions of dollars have been poured into sophisticated short term training courses following of short cut policy for other more often programme based objectives. The old saying "*Learning without thought is labour lost*". Having an institutional capacity building mandate the Cambodia Tree Seed Project has undertaken a gap analysis on the NRM sector "Capacity Needs Assessment of the Natural Resource Sector", informed by Mr. Arvid Sloth.. The purpose of the assessment survey was to assess the balance between the needs in the NRM sectors and what was actually available and offered by the NRM institutions (GOV. and NGO). The method of survey was made through interviews and questionnaires with 72 questions and a couple of hundreds interviewees divided into 8 categories of institutions both at the central level and in several different rural areas. Questions were ranging over the spectrum from analytical, policy, institutional and technical fields.

The study revealed many interesting findings and conclusions among others that:

- add on capacity building modules to projects did not achieve the deeper objectives of field application.
- vast amount of resources going into short courses could probably be better spent at basic technical education.
- especially application of knowledge from short courses dealing with multidiscipline and cross sectoral was very low – probably due to that the learning foundation (ability to analyze and simultaneously draw on several disciplines) is available to a much lesser extent than expected.
- along the same lines it was realised that analytical based questions scored very low in the questionnaires.
- finally, findings clearly spelled out that technical and management skills were much needed and at the same time the representatives (students and lectures) from the universities and colleges identified that practical technical and management skills they could not deliver. (the study results can be downloaded from : (<http://www.treeseedfa.org/doc/CapacityNeedsassessment.pdf>).

The crux of the problem is that NRM development is crucially dependent on personnel that, to multifaceted scenarios, are able to form individual attitudes, opinions and possible solutions. Only radical moving emphasis to technical educations institutions such a goal might be obtained.

A discussion on the inter-linkages and dependencies on sustainable NRM management, capacity and governance issues followed.

Dr. Mogens Christensen, supported by the member group urged the secretariat to upload as much information and documents as possible into the TWG-F&E homepage. Everything we do in TWG must available at our homepage. So, all stakeholders can access to our homepage and can download.

5 Presentation on New JICA Projects

Mr. Takeichi Jiro, JICA Project Formulation Advisor of JICA presented the capacity building which is mainly focusing the skills for FA staff. JICA implemented Phase I project for 3 years (2001 – 2004) constructing a new training centre in Phnom Penh Thmey area. A 1 year bridging period completed. After the completion of the project and based on the request of RGC, the government of Japan has decided to formulate the Phase II project on the Capacity Building in Forestry Sector.

The differences between Phase I and Phase II project are that more emphasis was put on the community forestry to stabilize people livelihood in rural areas. One more factor of Phase II project is to introduce the field project that provides opportunity to FA local staff and rural people to learn how to operate the community forestry in practical manners. The field project sites are now conducting in Kampong Thom and Kampong Chhnang. Now JICA is finalizing the project documents discussed between JICA and FA. The duration of the new project phase would be 5 years.

On behalf of FA, H.E. Ty Sokhun took an opportunity to express his appreciation to JICA and DANIDA supporting the capacity building. As he called for more supports from donors in the 4th GDCC meeting, there has been received next to none support from the donors and there has been no new project of a substantial size been proposed, which leaves the sector and the government in difficult situation for development. He noted that JICA capacity building project was formulated in logical sequences as the first stage building of the capacity for government officials. Not only FA, but also other relevant organizations including civil society, NGOs and military are invited to participate in technical trainings, seminars or workshops conducted by the project. Now JICA approaches to local offices will be more a preferences of that project. With this priority, local FA can improve their knowledge and skills and transfer it to the local community for the betterment of NRM and rural livelihoods. From the FA's and government's point of view, we realized that the Capacity Building is very good project for Cambodian millennium development goals. It's not only for Cambodia, but it's also for global efforts set by UN. Finally, some members complicated JICA's long term commitment to a sector that is lacking support but indeed also long term donor commitments.

6. Presentation on Biodiversity Corridor Initiative Programmes

H.E. Ty Sokhun introduced this subject which was requested to be presented by a representative from ADB. It is an initiative that has bypassed the proper coordination channels and left Government and TWG out. Therefore TWG has in this first round raised some questions to the ADB office, Phnom Penh and requested ADB to present what the proposal is about. However, the ADB Phnom Penh has referred to ADB Manila from where no reply has been received.

To begin the presentation, Mr. Joe Walston introduced about the activities related to Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (BCCI) that support the broad-based objectives (Poverty Reduction, and Governance Regimes, Restoring Ecosystem, Capacity Building, Sustainable Financing) of development identified by the GMS countries and incorporated in ADB's Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program (RCSP 2004-2008).

There are two pilot projects on BCCI, one located in the Cardamom Mountains implemented by Wild Aid and CI, and one more project in Eastern Plains implemented by WCS and WWF.

The design of the overall project was done the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), World Conservation Union (IUCN), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Refer to the above presentation and ADB meeting, concern was raised how projects can be formulated in Manila without any consultations with Cambodian departments and ministries. This matter is not solved yet, the TWG need to know how this appeared and how the funds are flowing and who is responsible for which budget and activities.

7. Action Plan on Harmonization, Alignment and Management for Results and NSDP

For National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), Mr. Kimura JICA advisor, made a notice that the Ministry of Planning and TWG-PPR supported NSDP with the comments of the results matrix. Based on that results matrix, all TWG Secretariats are invited to comment on NSDP 2006 – 2010 to develop the discussion draft. In response to the above invitation, the FA has prepared the comments to share with the inter-ministries meeting and national workshop which will be organized by TWG-PPR before 24 November 2005. However, TWG-F&E Secretariat will welcome to any comments or suggestions for this issue.

These inputs of the forest sector to the NSDP were presented to the group and provided in handouts.

H.E. Ty Sokhun concluded that the above action plan and NSDP are very important. He also noted that the Harmonization and Alignment was heavily emphasized in TWG Fishery report but not in others. Actually, there are some miscommunications among CDC and MAFF that assigned the representatives to work on the action plan of the harmonization and alignment. MAFF assigned H.E. Chan Tong Yves, Mr. Kum Saron and Mr. Chay Sakun. The problem was that people involved in the NSDP are different from the people involved in the TWG-F&E and TWG Fishery.

To share the above concerns, it was commented to put such matters (Action Plans, Work Plans...) into the agenda of next TWG-F&E meeting.

8 Discussion on the Forestry and Environment Action Plan 2006

No Funding

Mr. Eang Savet briefly introduced that since the forestry and environment action plan 2005 had been adopted, TWG-F&E has already held 4 meetings and this meeting is the 5th one. Regarding to action plan, some activities are on the schedule but most are behind as hardly any funds has been received. He called for suggestion on how to make a plan for 2006 if there is no significant fund available to do the job.

Before the discussion continued, H.E. Ty Sokhun summarized the action plan 2005 which was adopted with many activities which still prevails and no support for implementation. So, how can we move forward and how can new activities improve? We need to continue and implement the next activities such as capacity building funded by JICA but there are many important issues and tasks in the forest sector. If we could not move forward with the work plan 2005 we can not make a plan for 2006 and we can neither achieve the national goals related to the forest sector nor the objectives of our technical working group.

H.E. Ty Sokhun further commented that it is of most importance to address the domestic demands. Regarding the option to cover the domestic demands, any suitable management system including the forest concession system is welcome if the private sectors or concessionaires can complete their planning, obligation and contract negotiation. For the public annual bidding coup, we have the management plan that is in process. For instance, we will have a special operation in next dry season to harvest the forest for the construction of National Assembly. But other coups would also have started the planning stage and that planning stage including the commercial forest management plan in the areas at cantonment and division level. In order to step toward these activities, we need a budget support.

H.E. Ty Sokhun heard that the Ministry of Economy and Finance has already allocated the budget and this budget allocation is just only in the figure amount, not in actual cash. Hence, we could not convert it into the action.

Monitoring

In response to a question about forest monitoring, H.E. Ty Sokhun clarified that SGS or external monitor is just a requirement from the donor side. Actually, we have a monitoring in our decentralised FA Reform structure and MoE also has monitoring systems. FA will present its structure at the next TWG meeting. We will need your comments on this. We don't expect that SGS can replace the FA or MoE rangers. But it doesn't mean that we don't want SGS or other independent monitors. The FA or MoE need to cooperate with relevant authorities, agencies, district and provincial level. He raised an example on forest dearing and land encroachment at the provincial level. So, how can a few external auditors replace our systems on which we rely?

He expressed his expectation that Dr. Mogens will give advice regarding this matter, and FA and MoE have to present their structures in the next meeting on how to operate, control and manage their protected areas.

Mr. Arvid raised the point that forest monitoring should be discussed at the next meeting taking all aspects of government monitoring structure, needs, costs and TORs for a potential external monitor into consideration. Furthermore, some initiative are now including forest monitoring as for example the community forestry project document via the CFI/FA on 2 mill \$ from the World Bank/JSDF funds, has about a half million for what was called participatory monitoring and a 4 year full time int. advisers. Such initiatives needs to be thought into, and perhaps strengthened, the broader perspectives of forest monitoring. And finally in view of that SGS funding expires this becomes something we need to address soon. Basically, we need to work towards how a government system, probably yielded by various other initiatives, can produce effective and viable results.

Community Forestry

Mr. Sokh Heng, Chief of Community Forestry Office was introduced by the chairman to present community forestry. He expressed concern on the FA's role in the new community forestry project introduced by CFI. However, he supported the ideas of the legal framework upgrading through this project.

Dr. Mogens Christensen commented that TWG-F&E needs to have a donor meeting with a half day or with the lunch over there to discuss next year's work plan, action plan and so on. The last year's work plan was in structure and set up very good. He suggested rolling over some of the activities which we could not implement this year. At the end of recommendation, he asked the secretariat to prepare meetings where the output can contribute to work plan for 2006.

In conclusion, H.E. Ty Sokhun expressed his appreciation and strongly supported to Dr. Mogens Christensen's comments.

9. Roundtable Discussion on a National Forest Program (NFP)

Briefly, Mr. Arvid Sloth gave presentation on NFP which was abstracted from a FAO model which again originated from the IPF and IFF international fora. The expression "National Forest Program" designates the wide range of approaches to processes of planning, programming and implementation of forest activities to be applied at national and sub-national levels, based on a common set of guiding principles and multi stakeholder involvement. The purpose of the national forest programs is to establish a workable social and political framework for conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of forests, which in turn will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public and private and funding commitments. National forest programs require a broad inter-sectoral approach at all stages, including the formulation of policies, strategies and courses of action, as well as their implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The main elements of NFP are consisted of National Forest Statement, Sector Review, Policy, Legislative and Institutional Reform, Strategy Development Plan (Long-term Plan), Action Plan (One-year Plan), Investment Program, Capacity Building Program, Monitoring and Evaluation System, Co-ordination and Participatory Mechanisms, including Conflict-Resolution.

For the basic principles of NFP, Mr. Arvid briefed item by item such as Sustainability of Forest Development, National Sovereignty and Country Leadership, Partnership, Participation, Holistic and Inter-sectoral Approach, A Long-Term Iterative Process, Capacity Building, Policy and Institutional Reforms, Consistency with the National Policy Framework and Global Initiatives, Raising Awareness, National Policy Commitment and International Commitment.

Subsequently, Mr. Arvid briefed the flow chart on the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDG) which links to Rectangle Strategy, National Policy Strategy Programmes (many!) and from there links to Forestry Sector with various programs and altogether ending long-term Forest Management Plans (5 – 25 years) and Action Plans (1 year).

H.E. Ty Sokhun pointed out that are even more plans, for example the master plan for national research such as Master Plan for National Agricultural Research Programs. He informed the meeting that he would like to commit on the development and implementation of NFP.

However, we will abstract the concepts also from the RIO conference and then follow up by the International Arrangement on Forest, the United Nations Forum on Forest and collaborative partnership on forest (CPF) that FAO is the chairman. NFP is not just a document, but it is also the process and flexible approach. In conclusion, we have implemented some elements of the NFP.

Again, Dr. Mogens urged TWG-F&E to hold a meeting for discussion on how to formulate the long term NFP. The work plan for 2006 is an urgent matter and into which there can be put formulation development of the NFP. Based on this he suggested having this meeting to discuss about next year work plan benchmarks 2006 after the water festival. With a quick response, H.E. Ty Sokhun suggested to have a meeting on Monday, 28 November 2005.

The representative from WB requested TWG-F&E secretariat to send handouts at least one week before the meeting. Again the importance of the TWG home page was highlighted.

10. OAB

- In response to the question about what DANIDA will do, especially in regard to NRM education, next year, Dr. Mogens Christensen recommend all interested individuals to visit DANIDA homepage (www.danida-cambodia.org) and they will see all information that DANIDA is planning to do, including the finance. DANIDA has a transparent process of engaging every stakeholder in Cambodia. To formulate the new program, DANIDA has a stakeholder meeting, individual meeting and so on.

At the end of explanation, Dr. Mogens suggested H.E. Chairman and group members to formulate 5-years work plan for TWG-F&E to cover overall financial needs in the forestry sector.

- Concerning the assignment of MoE representative to join TWG-F&E Secretariat, Ms. Chan Somaly, vice chief of DNCP/MoE requested H.E. Chairman to make another letter to the Minister of Environment for assigning MoE staff members. In response to this request, H.E. Ty Sokhun reminded that he has asked MoE representatives for several times to report this matter to the Minister of Environment for nominating to work with TWG-F&E and the TWG-F&E Secretariat. But until now MoE has not yet assigned any person to join us. Ms. Somaly should attach the minutes of meeting to the nomination request mentioning that MoE needs to assign a person to join TWG-F&E. If this is impossible, the Chairman will ask the Secretariat to draft a letter with the reference to the minutes of meeting and the letter to the Minister of Environment. Another option, H.E Chairman will talk directly to the Minister of Environment if he meets him again.

11. Closing of the Meeting

On behalf of TWG-F&E, H.E. Ty Sokhun expressed his thanks to all members for their participation and contributions to the technical working group meeting that we have learnt a lot and also we do expect to meet again in next meeting on November 28, 2005 which will be concentrated on our future work plan for year 2006

Finally, H.E. Chairman announced reading the draft of National Community Forestry Program (NCFP) Strategic Paper and he requested feedback and comment on the draft when we meet again in the next meeting.

Participants

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|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. H.E. Ty Sokhun | TWG-F&E Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Mogens L. Christensen | TWG-F&E Coordinator |
| 3. Mr. Chea Sam Ang | Deputy Director, FA |
| 4. Mr. Chheng Kim Sun | Deputy Director, FA |
| 5. Mr. Seng Sun Narun | Deputy Chief, AIO/FA |
| 6. Mr. Sokh Heng | Acting Chief, CFO/FA |
| 7. Ms. Chan Somaly | Vice Chief, DNCP, MoE |

Secretariat

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
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| 2. MoE Representative. Yet to be nominated | |

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------|
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| 9. Mr. Net Mony | Dir, State Property, MEF | Tel: 012-700 115 | Advisor |
| 10. Mr. Bin Da | Official, Mol | Email: kimura@online.com.kh | |
| 11. Mr. Joe Waltson | Director, WCS | 4. Mr. Arvid Sloth | FA/Danida |
| 12. Mr. Costa Daniel | Official, EC | Tel: 012-969 301 | Advisor |
| 13. Mr. Steven Schonberger | Rural Sector Coord., WB | Email: arvid@online.com.kh | |
| 14. Ms. Anna Beloff | NRM Officer, FAO | 5. Mr. Men Marina | Secretary, |
| 15. Mr. Paul Mason | Eco & Env. Officer, USAID | Tel: 012-991 999 | TWG-F&E |
| 16. Mr. Reed Aeschliman | Dev. Off Director, USAID | E-mail: twg.fe@citylink.com.kh | Secretariat |
| 17. Mr. Takeichi Jiro | JICA Project F. Advisor | | |
| 18. Mr. Goseki Kazuhiro | JICA Expert, CBFS | | |
| 19. Mr. Lu Chu Chang | Chairman, CTIA | | |
| 20. Mr. Thai Hang Meng | Secretary, CTIA | | |

The minutes of meeting was adopted by the TWG-F&E Meeting on 28th November 2005.

Recorded by

Men Marina
Secretary
TWG-F&E Secretariat

Seen and Approved by

Mogens L. Christensen
TWG-F&E Coordinator

Ty Sokhun
TWG-F&E Chairman