

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON  
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RESETTLEMENT RISK  
MANAGEMENT, 8-9 Dec. 2005, MANILA**

**Wrap-up Speech**

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*Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen*

It is my great pleasure to be here and honorable guest in the Regional Workshop on Capacity Building for Resettlement Risk Management.

First of all, allow me to express my deepest gratitude to Asian Development Bank (ADB) for organizing this workshop. Also allow me to extend my sincere thanks to your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen who have participated in this occasion.

As you already knew that this workshop is a result of ADB Technical Assistance for Regional Capacity Building for Resettlement Risk Management, or called RETA, that has been conducted in three countries namely, Cambodia, China and India. Cambodia RETA has been started since December 2004. Today,

you all have heard the results of the study presented to you by Mr. CHEA Sarin and you have shared your very good experiences and essential lessons learnt specially from China and India during the course of this one-day workshop.

Regarding the case study of National Road No 1 from Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh Highway Improvement Project and Kab Srove Dike Sub-Project (ADB loan No 1824) are good examples or invaluable lessons for Resettlement Risk Management.

Concerning the Income Restoration Program (IRP) This program is also helpful for the APs to restore and improve their livelihood in post project. It should be made with specific number of APs.

- a- Identify specific needs of APs
- b- Identify how to restore their livelihood
- c- Identify current skill level of APs
- d- Identify area of useful training for APs

In the case of Stung Chinit Irrigation and Rural Infrastructure Project, an NGO has been selected for implementing the IRP. In the purpose of identifying an accurate TOR for IRP, the results of Socio-Economic Survey are fundamental bases.

Apart from these you also provide critical critiques and suggestions on how to (a) enhance current laws and policies

relevant to involuntary resettlement, (b) identify impoverishment risks associated with displacement, dispossession and denial of access to income sources, and (c) plan out and implement appropriate development strategies to counter said impoverishment risks.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We accept that planning and implementation of resettlement activities in the past has yet up to the international acceptable standard and, as results, some issues and impoverishment risks left behind. There are many contributing factors to this result. The major factors are lack of qualified staff, limited budget allocation and insufficient legal instruments.

You may also aware that resettlement practice is a very new concept in Cambodia and has only been implemented for about five years. The first project required resettlement plan is Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh Highway Improvement Project funded by ADB in 1999. Up to present, Cambodia still has no national policy in favor of involuntary resettlement. Therefore, so far, there has been no requirement for the RGC to have resettlement plan for development projects that involved resettlement unless it is

required by the funding agencies, particularly ADB, World Bank and JICA. In such cases, the funding agencies apply its guideline and policy in support for resettlement activities or called policy on involuntary resettlement. Although some donor-funded projects have resettlement plan, actual implementation is varied greatly from project to project. One factor contribute to this variation is because different donors have different policies and guidelines for resettlement planning and implementation. Thus, Cambodia needs its own and common policy and procedure that can be applied for all development projects involving resettlement.

As you have already discussed during the day and past experiences indicate that some development projects, particularly infrastructure development caused hardship and impoverishment to people livelihood as result of land acquisition and relocation activities. Hardship and impoverishment of people can be described as loss of entire land and nowhere to resettle; loss of temporary and permanent business operation; loss of income due to long delay in assistance and rehabilitation; health effect due to long stay in temporary settlement before relocation; loss of access to common property resource; food insecurity etc.

Existing laws and legal framework in Cambodia is not sufficient to protect people right of ownership and prevent them from the hardship and impoverishment due to the lack of supporting instruments and procedures at ground. We expect that Cambodia will soon have its own National Resettlement Policy and other supporting guideline and procedure for resettlement planning and implementation so that any hardship and impoverishment of the people affected by future development projects can be avoided, minimized and alleviated. In order to have an international acceptable policy the RGC will take into account the following resettlement principles while developing its own policy framework for involuntary resettlement.

- (i) Involuntary resettlement should be avoided where feasible. Where people displacement is unavoidable, it should be minimized by exploring all viable project options;
- (ii) People unavoidably displaced should be compensated and assisted so that their economic and social future would be better or at least same as pre-project level. The affected people, therefore, should be fully informed and consulted on resettlement and compensation options;

- (iii) Existing social and cultural structure and institutions of re-settlers and their hosts should be supported, and re-settlers should be integrated economically and socially into the host communities;
- (iv) The absence of a legal title to land by some affected groups should not be a bar to compensation; particularly attention should be paid to households headed women and other vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, disable and elderly headed household and household where their income less than RGC poverty threshold and appropriate assistance should be provided to help them improve their status;
- (v) As far as possible, involuntary resettlement should be conceived and executed as part of the project. The full costs of resettlement and compensation should be included in the project costs and benefits;

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Royal Government of Cambodia, we are welcomed the support from multi-lateral and bilateral donor agencies, both technically and financially, for the development of Cambodia

National Resettlement Policy and its supporting guideline and procedure for planning and implementation.

Finally and one again, May I extend my deep sincere thanks to ADB for continuing support to the RGC both financially and technically.

Thank you for your attention,