

## **Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management Launched**

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA (8 December 2003) - Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen and ADB Vice-President (Operations 1) Liqun Jin today jointly inaugurated the Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management, a regional human resource initiative aimed at building capacity of development managers in the [Greater Mekong Subregion \(GMS\)](#).

As earlier announced, a specially designed one-week [advanced executive development program](#) conducted by the Manila-based Asian Institute of Management started yesterday in Phnom Penh.

Inspired in part by the highly successful Colombo Plan, the Phnom Penh Plan (the Plan) will train middle and senior level officials from six participating countries in strategic planning, management, implementation, evaluation, and other skills central to development management and good governance.

To date, about 110 middle and senior level officials from Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Lao People's Democratic Republic have undergone the training program.

The Plan was mooted at the first GMS Summit held in Cambodia in November 2002, where investing in people was one of the key commitments made by the leaders at the summit.

The Plan will grow in scope and depth as resources are mobilized and it was launched with a US\$800,000 grant from ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund. This will act as a catalyst for broad support from international development agencies, foundations, the private sector, and GMS governments themselves. As support grows, so too will the institutional arrangements for the Plan.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Jin said that the Plan aims to develop a core group of development managers with the capacity to operate as motivated and competent change agents, through training programs affiliated to premier educational institutions in the region.

"If subregional cooperation is our common endeavor, then there is no better breeding ground for friendships and camaraderie among civil servants of the six GMS countries than the Phnom Penh Plan. We will also design programs in collaboration with the best talent that we can find, and these will be thoroughly researched for both content and the target groups they aim to reach," said Mr. Jin.

Over time, the Plan will produce alumni of experts who have trained together and establish bonds to integrate the subregion.

The Plan will network with regional research institutes such as the GMS Academic and Research Network, Colombo Plan, Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Integration, and the ADB Institute. It will also twin GMS research with capacity-building so that training is increasingly based on carefully-researched subregional issues.

A learning resource center will be established in Phnom Penh to provide public access to ADB and GMS data bases and to a variety of subregional themes and stories. An endowment fund to attract resources for the Plan will be established soon.