

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY OF CAMBODIA AND FINLAND FUTURES RESEARCH CENTRE (ICI-CAMBODIA) 2009 Finland Futures Research Centre

Location of the action: Cambodia

Total costs of the project: 424 884 €

Funded by: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Length of the project: 1–12/2009

Project partners: Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), Cambodia; Tampere University of Technology (TUT), Finland

Cambodia is a poor rural country, where over 84% of primary energy consumption is provided by fuel wood. Less than 9% of rural households have access to grid-quality electricity services. This has a notable impact in economic stagnation and access to improved living standards for the poor. In general, the way people use energy is inefficient, inconvenient and environmentally unsustainable, and has a wide range of negative impacts.

The ICI-CAMBODIA project aimed to increase the capacity and substance knowledge of local teaching and researcher staff at ITC in the field of renewable energy education and energy efficiency. The university level education in renewable energy in Cambodia is lacking human and equipment resources, yet the capacity of ITC, the leading university providing such education, is inadequate to respond to the national needs. The project objective was to support a new group of local experts to promote social and environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation in national energy planning.



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The goal of institutional partnership stemmed from the need for capacity building in the field of energy and environmental education in the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, and to create a Master's programme on renewable energy. Capacity building activities were directed to the staff in ITC. Networking between the researchers and teachers in Cambodia and Finland enabled the possibility for improved curriculum development and exchange of expertise within the established Sustainable Energy Futures Programme. The programme consists also of lecture series, development of teaching methods and pedagogical skills, networking and joint participatory research training.

The capacity building project has succeeded in providing improved knowledge for future energy experts on sustainable development and renewable energy in poverty alleviation in Cambodia.



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