

# CAMBODIA



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## Model City Activities Fact Sheet

# PHNOM PENH • SIEM REAP

### Phnom Penh's Vision



**HE Kep Chuktema**  
Governor of Phnom Penh  
Capital City



To achieve the National Millennium Development Goals for environmental protection and Preservation, Phnom Penh Capital City has launched a vision for making the Capital Green and Clean through the implementation program of Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air in parallel with the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Model Cities Programme.

### Siem Reap's Vision



**HE Sou Phirin**  
Governor of Siem Reap  
Province



On behalf of the Siem Reap Provincial leadership, authorities of all levels and all the people in the province, I am so glad and would like to admire and firmly support this project's implementation. I wish to take this opportunity to humbly appeal to all the people to reduce the use of plastic bags and use banana leaves or lotus leaves instead and try to use woven baskets (Kanhcheu) or baskets (Laey) or traditional packing items which will increase the personal incomes of our people and make the green province and beautiful forever and always.

Phnom Penh and Siem Reap have been selected as the two Model Cities of Cambodia and their efforts will be synergised with the nationwide drive to achieve Clean Water, Clean Land, and Clean Air in line with the ASEAN Working Group on ESC indicators. Furthermore, the Cambodian Ministry of Environment will jointly launch a national Clean and Green City programme involving all 24 City-Provincial Local Governments.

## How is the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme Supporting?

Reducing waste and increasing recycling rates in the city is a priority under Cambodia's national Green and Clean City programme.

The ASEAN ESC Model Cities programme will support targeted training activities, building on existing efforts and future goals for solid waste management. Additionally, funding from the Model Cities programme contributes to initiatives such as the SEEDING project for reducing the use of plastic bags.

#### MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Reduction of plastic bag use in Phnom Penh city
- Reduction and separation of waste for recycling and composting in Siem Reap city

**Key Stakeholders:** Local governments, NGOs, Department of Environment, concerned technical departments and private sector representatives

#### Expected results

- Implement an awareness campaign for plastic bag reduction, and promotion of 'bag-no' and fee for 'bag-need'
- Introduction of a waste segregation mechanism for organic waste and composting
- A 10% reduction in waste that ends up at the disposal site by 2015
- Home composting and central composting to reach 2000 households

The ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme is a regional initiative funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) to promote the development of 'Environmentally Sustainable Cities' (ESC) in the ASEAN region by supporting capacity building and facilitating partnerships for voluntary and innovative bottom-up initiatives.

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For more information, visit <http://modelcities.hls-esc.org>

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# Waste Reduction Initiatives in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap

Scientists estimate that that plastic bags can take over 1000 years to break down. This means **not one plastic bag has ever naturally biodegraded**. In contrast to this, plastic bags are popularly used around Cambodia but are quickly discarded, which leads to another set of problems: piling up in landfills, blocking canals and sewers, and releasing toxic smoke when burned. In response to these challenges, Cambodia has launched the SEEDING initiative to decrease the use of plastic bags.



The first assembly of the City Committee on Plastic Bag Reduction (CCPBR) was held on 15 September 2011. The meeting presented the negative impact of plastic bags; the proposed project organization chart, schedule and division of tasks. A further discussion workshop was held on 25 October.



An evaluation workshop was held on 19 January 2012 to assess the results of a pilot project in supermarkets in Phnom Penh. It was attended by approximately 130 stakeholders from supermarkets, NGOs, district authorities, relevant city departments and the media.



A visit to the handicraft village in Oudong- Kampong Speu in search for an alternative to plastic bags resulted in the initial purchase of 100 panniers. The villagers produce traditional panniers produced from palm tree branches or recycled plastic wire. As an added bonus, the producers of these panniers will benefit from the extra income as a result of this project.

