

Kingdom of Cambodia Nation Religion King

Pursat Province

Report

On the cooperation between Bakan authorities and EU ASAC about Weapon for Development (WfD) from August 7, 2001 till November 12, 2001.

I. Geography

Bakan district is on the western part of Pursat province, along national road number 5, 11 kilometers away from provincial town. It consists of 10 communes and 152 villages. Three of these villages are in Tongle Sap areas. The total population of the province (divided into 21.728 families and 61.961 female) is 117.347. The total of square land is 154.265 hectare.

II. The cooperation for development with EU ASAC

According to the sub-degree number 38 of April 30, 1999 of the royal government of Cambodia and good cooperation with weapon reduction program supported by EU ASAC and also the cooperation from Cambodia Institute for Human Right (CIDH) and to control the disarmament and Weapons for Development in Bakan, we have targeted 5 communes to conduct public awareness.

1. Suvay Don Keo Commune	9 villages
2. Outapong Commune	18 villages
3. Boeng Kna Commune	13 villages
4. Romlech Commune	13 villages
5. Talue Commune	19 villages

Total: 72 villages

III. Public Awareness and Training

To make people understand clearly about the meaning of disarmament and Weapons for Development, we have convinced people to join the public awareness for 10 times (661 people and 20 monks)

After the public awareness, local people have voluntarily turned in 2000 weapons as the commune authorities promised EU ASAC. The followings are the official number of weapons we would like to report:

Step 1: In January 28, 2001, we burned 504 weapons with the participation of Mrs. Pamila Yushiponca, the representative of the United Nation, Interior ministers, local authorities and other organizations.

Step 2: In May 26, 2001, we burned 6 weapons in the presence of the representative of EU ASAC and local authorities.

Step 3: In November 12, 2001, we burned 200 weapons with the participation of General Henny J, van der Graaf, Cambodian Institute for Human Rights (CIHR) and Local authorities.

Step 4: In July 09, 2001, we brought all kinds of weapons (1290 weapons) as commanded by H.E. Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Ministry and H.E. Em Sam Ann, to destroy in Kampong Chnang province. At that time, not only Pursat province but other provinces also brought their weapons to destroy in Kg Chnang in the presence of H.E. Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime ministry, H.E. Yashushi Akashi, the representative of Japanese Government which is the main donor of Pursat province, officials of the Ministry of Interior and any other concerned ministries.

The result of this first implement has been finished successfully. However, the authorities of Bakan and target communes still continue their effort to conduct public awareness to encourage people to voluntarily turn in their weapons and be always ready for any tuned in weapons by civilians.

IV. EU ASAC

EU ASAC has fulfilled what they promised as the following:

- **EU ASAC** has provided four gravel-covered roads. Two roads (6020m) are in Boeng Kna commune and other two roads (2530m) are in Svay Don Keo commune.
- **EU ASAC** has provided five school apartments. One school apartment is in Svay Don Keo commune, two school apartments are in Talue commune, one apartment is in Ortapong commune and another apartment is in Boeng Kna commune.
- **EU ASAC** has provided five wooden bridges with concrete abutment and ten culverts.

EU ASAC also takes its interest in supporting police forces, gendarmerie, district authorities and the five target communes to make the operation go smoothly and effectively and also be able to build good relationship with other villages. In November

12, 2001, EU ASAC cooperated with provincial authorities celebrated a hand over ceremony in order to provide the equipments to armed forces. The detail of the equipments are the following:

1. Printer	02 units
2. Tape recorder	09 units
3. Camera	15 units
4. Radio	51 units
5. Radio (for station)	08 units
6. Type writer	08 units
7. Bicycle	45 units
8. Motor (VIVA)	17 units
9. Cabinet	23 units
10. Copier	01 unit
11. Office supplies	01 time
12. Repaired police posts	05 posts

These equipments are for strengthening public order in the five target communes and also Bakan district. Moreover, in November 12, 2001, EU ASAC financially supported a community called a "Police Family Community" to raise the living standard of police families. This support can help husbands (policemen) perform their task willingly without worrying about poverty in the families. EU ASAC provided those people with oxen, pigs and also sewing machines as mean to raise the living standard of their families. These supports can be considered as long-lasting capital.

In conclusion, husbands (policemen) have motor bikes to operate while their wives have enough capital to increase their product at homes. These things have turned the five target communes to be safe and secure places. The living standard, education and health service have been changed gradually and Clean Water Program has provided water wells to nearly all villages.

V. Evaluation, experiences and plan for coming years

1. At the end of 2001, we are going to evaluate the result of the first performance and then start a seminar in the province or Bakan district. To do so, we can select the good ideas of the seminar to make plan for the future.
2. To reinforce capacity of the chief of communes and communal council so they will be capable for leadership.
3. Because it was a new work, the five target communes had to learn, practice and get more experiences from this works so we had some problem.
4. Request EU ASAC to continue to provide its financial and technical supports as well as equipments to other communes or districts.

5. Request EU ASAC and other NGOs in the provinces to give feedback so that we can learn from those experiences.

VI. District and provincial authorities

Before Gen. Henny J .van Graaf finish his mission in Pursat province as well as in Cambodia, on behalf of the authorities of Bakan and other five target communes, we are willing to collect illegal weapons and convince people to turn in their weapons to the authorities and we are also thinking of celebrating one more destruction ceremony to accompany Gen. Henny J. van der Graaf's departure. The result will be informed later. If we don't select Bakan as a target destruction site, we will select one of the five target communes to celebrate the last destruction ceremony.

Pursat November 21, 2001

Ong Samy

Governor of Pursat