

UEM e-Newsletter

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Training on e-Blog and e-Group at NMT, Bangkok, Thailand

SEA-UEMA Project organized training on December 22, 2009 to operate the e-blog at National Municipality League of Thailand (NMT), Bangkok, Thailand to sustain the UEM Network.



Participants at the e-Blog Training in NMT in Bangkok, Thailand

Thirty three participants attended the training. Participants learned how to upload the project events and activities in the e-blog. Participant also able to operate e-group for sharing the knowledge within UEM network members.



Participants Operate e-Blog and e-Group at the Training

Mr. Worawut Sornmun will take responsibility to operate and manage the e-blog and e-group in Thailand.

For more detail about Thailand e-blog and e-group, please visit;

<http://uemthailand.wordpress.com>

General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite, Philippines Wins Several Provincial Awards in Solid Waste Management

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Last December 4, 2009, General Mariano Alvarez (GMA) in Cavite, Philippines was judged as one of the Best Performing Local Government Unit (LGU) in the recently concluded Provincial Search for “*Gawad Aguinaldo sa Kapaligiran*”. The award is a provincial incentive program for the implementation of Republic Act 9003.

The three awards received by GMA are:

- 3rd Place – Best in Recyclable Wastes Collection and Management (Category A)
- 2nd Place – Best in Biodegradable Waste Collection Management (Category B)
- As a Performing LGU in the category of Best in Ecological Solid Waste Management

Aside from the mentioned major awards, the municipality of GMA also received the following special citations:

- Model Municipal Centralized Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
- Model Municipal Centralized Composting Facility

It should be noted that GMA, Cavite was a recipient of the SEA-UEMA Project grant for the pilot project entitled: *Operationalizing the Local Government Unit (LGU) – Junkshop Partnership in Support to the Cluster Materials Recovery and Composting Facilities Project of GMA, Cavite*. The Solid Waste Management Association of the Philippines (SWAPP) was the implementing organization of the said project. The overall objective of the project was to develop a working partnership between the LGU and junkshops to support the clustered MRF and composting facility.



Mr. Michael S. Templonuevo from GMA (at the center) holding Provincial Award on SWM, Cavite, Philippines

The LGU expressed their gratitude for the assistance provided through SWAPP. They cited that these awards and recognitions were not possible without the technical expertise and the participation of other stakeholders particularly the Junkshop Association.

Improvement of Indoor Air Quality through Improved Kitchen Design

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Indoor air pollution from the burning of solid fuels kills over 1.6 million people in the world, predominantly women and children each year. The number of people who die due to indoor air pollution is greater than the killings by malaria. However, the campaign against malaria is quite high where as the killing against indoor air pollution has not got any attention. Further, poor people from developing countries are exposed to indoor pollutants often greater than the recommended maximums.

According to studies done by differences; relationship of indoor air pollution with the type of emissions from various fuel sources used by people; the type of kitchen design; and behavior pattern of the community. These issues are similar to the situation of cooking energy use, indoor air pollution and its impacts in Cambodia, especially for the poor community in the urban area of Phnom Penh who are living at crowded community, are considered worse than rural poor.

Base on study outcomes in 2007-2008, recommendations from various stakeholders such as government institutions, NGOs and community, DATE and Phnom Penh Municipality identified some priority actions into account and started one year project as the phase1. The overall objective was to reduce negative impact from indoor air pollution in the kitchen, and to come up with the policy on kitchen indoor air quality.



Community Involvement to Minimize Indoor Air Pollution by Using Improved Stoves in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Brief project activities are mentioned herewith.

1. Education and awareness program on kitchen indoor air pollution and its impact on health.

Stakeholder meeting was conducted to deliver a message to community on indoor air pollution and health issues. Group discussions on gender issues, health issues, impact of indoor air pollution to the health, and behavior of

cooking were conducted. In development of promotion materials and banner with meaningful message of “*Good Kitchen Environment, No Pollutions, and Healthy Family*” were developed, and installed at project site. Moreover, the project has promoted indoor air quality through TV channel and leaflet.

2. Demonstration in poor households, ordinary households and households that cook food for commercial purpose.

- *Action on fuel wood saving:* Project has promoted 60 improved stoves to the poor households, ordinary households and the families who cook food for commercial. Moreover, the project also introduced fixed stoves which have the chimney to the families who cook food in big capacity. The users were very happy since they get new stoves. The stove helps in saving cooking time that allows the women to use their time for other household activities as well as income generating activities.



Fixed Stove with Chimney in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Similarly, the new stove helps to reduce their expenditure in wood/charcoal, which means people can save money. From the environmental point of view; it helps to save energy by utilizing less charcoal. Obvious, there is an improvement on health situation due to less smoke (less eye irritation) and less ashes from the stove (less respiratory and headache problem). It has also been found that the new stoves are user friendly, although there are some suggestions for improvement, such as stoves to be covered by zinc bucket or fully burnt stove etc., which could be incorporated while producing new ones, these feedback can help to produce better version of stove.

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- **Kitchen improvement and users behavior:** The project tries to improve the kitchens as well as user's behavior; by improving ventilation, lighting, kitchen and stove design, and cooking position. There are 31 kitchens which have been improved. Moreover, the project also promoted a better ideas in order to change any negatives thinking or habits which have been practiced by the user in the kitchen.



Improved Kitchen with Improved Stove in a Family of the Project Site

3. **Promotion through workshops:** The project conducted two workshops; the first one was at the preparation stage and the second one at the end of the project. The both workshops reviewed the project plan, evaluated project and identified Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) in the project.
4. **Formulation Indoor Air Pollution Policy:** DATE under collaboration with Phnom Penh Municipality, Ministry of Environment, Department of Environment, Department of Health, Department of Women Affair and Department of Bureau of Urban Affair (architecture) has formed a technical working group to formulate indoor air policy. The policy has been formulated and would be promoted.



Beneficiaries Received Improved Stove and their Kitchen

Post Doctoral Research on the Governance of Urban Wetlands in Vientiane Capital, Laos

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Urban wetlands are dominant aspects of the landscape of Vientiane, Lao PDR. They serve several functions such as sink for the city's waste, source of food, recreational uses retention pond and human settlements. However except for That Luang Marsh, nearly all wetlands are in various stages of degradation largely due to backfilling for residential and commercial uses. That Luang Marsh, in fact, is the last remaining large natural wetland in the city. Understanding, therefore, the trajectory of change and political economy of urban wetlands is an important concern in so far as these are important ecosystems that provide goods and services to the city.



Advancing Land Use Changes and New Infrastructure Developments in That Luang Marsh, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

This research is part of a broader effort to understand the tensions and processes that attend to the interaction of urbanisation, land use change, and the use of urban wetlands. To date, a first round of data collection has been undertaken. Various wetland stakeholders in Vientiane were interviewed.



Roadside Fishing in That Luang Marsh, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

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SEA-UEMA Project Partners' Workshop on March 23-24, 2010

The CIDA-AIT Partnership 2003-2010 SEA-UEMA Project will organize a two-day partners' workshop from March 23-24, 2010 at the Tide Resort, Bangsaen Chonburi, Thailand. The workshop will discuss three different issues, enhance and sustain collaboration, strengthen institutions and organizations, and self-evaluation of the SEA-UEMA Project by core areas team and partners.

The overall objective of the workshop is to synthesize the achieved outcome and output results through implementation of SEA-UEMA Project activities (2003 to 2010) with the specific objectives to deliberate on the enhancement and sustenance of collaborations by the SEA-UEMA Project; to assess the strengthening of institutions and organizations by the SEA-UEMA Project and to self-evaluate the implementation of SEA-UEMA Project (by Core Area Team and Partners). *Enhanced collaboration and strengthened institutions and organizations* will be the focus issues of the deliberations in the workshop.

About forty SEA-UEMA Project partners including alumni demonstration project, joint action research, flagship and pilot project implementers as well as policy dialogue, policy advocacy campaign and networking partners are expected to attend the workshop and share their lessons learned and experiences.

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Subsequent field activities will focus on groundtruthing nascent theoretical perspectives through interviews and review of relevant documents and regulations. The goal of this research is to come up with 'think-pieces' on wetland governance in the urban areas of transitional economies, in particular, and the Lower Mekong Region, in general.



CIDA-AIT Partnership

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New Publication

Proceedings: International Conference on Sustainable Urban Environmental Practices (*in English*)

This publication contains 22 papers under 5 themes. The papers cover lessons learned and research results from the project and good practices in the region and beyond. The papers highlight actions related to sustainable urban environmental practices and enabled to exchange views and ideas on urbanization and urban planning for sustainable infrastructure management, revitalization of urban ecosystems and livability of the city through synergistic partnerships of different stakeholders.



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For PDF file please visit: http://www.sea-uema.ait.ac.th/Publications/proceeding/material/conference/confer_oct08.pdf

Farewell

SEA-UEMA Project arranged farewell to **Mr. Prajapati Shapkota**, Senior Project Associate (Policy Advocacy) and **Ms. Pham Thi Khanh Van**, Project Associate (Learning Networks and Training). The project wishes them good luck and success in their future endeavors.

Note from Editorial Team

The SEA-UEMA Project would like to encourage all network members and partner organizations to send in their contributions for the e-newsletter. We would like to hear your stories on lessons learned in project implementation and how SEA-UEMA projects have improved the lives of men and women in Southeast Asia. Please send your contributions via email to pravakar@ait.ac.th



Natural Beauty in AIT Premises

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