

PRESS RELEASE
Cambodia Approved the First CDM Project

20 January 2006

Cambodia approved its first CDM project in early January 2006, an important step to show that even a small and least developed country like Cambodia can participate and benefit from the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The 1.5 MWe Angkor Bio Cogen Rice Husk Power Project is the first rice husk-powered cogeneration project in Cambodia designed to use locally available agricultural residue (rice husk) to replace imported fossil oil (diesel) for power generation and heat. It is expected that the project will reduce GHG emissions of 280,000 tons of CO₂-equivalent over 7 year period.

The Clean Development Mechanism, or CDM, is a process where developed countries (or their companies) invest in greenhouse gas reduction projects in developing countries and in return receive a "certified emission reduction" or CER, which can be used for meeting their legally binding greenhouse gas reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Project developers in countries like Cambodia can benefit by selling these CERs (often known as carbon credits) which can help finance the project.

Sum Thy, the Chief of the Cambodian Climate Change Office at the Ministry of Environment said "this shows that environmental protection can go along with economic development". He explained that his Office has worked hard with other Ministries to promote CDM and to ensure the institutional arrangements are in place to allow project developers to access the CDM. "We are proud to assure investors and developers that Cambodia's DNA is up and running smoothly".

Cambodia has identified around ten other projects at different stages, including capturing and destroying waste gases from Phnom Penh's landfills, piggeries, and agricultural processing plants or renewable energy such as minihydro. The Royal Government of Cambodia recognizes that projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions will not only help the country's economy and local environment, but will also help the global efforts to combat climate change - a serious issue that will impact an agriculturally based country like Cambodia.

Since 2003, Cambodia has received technical and financial support from UNEP/the Netherlands, Japan and the EU to establish and strengthen its technical and institutional capacity to host CDM projects.

The CDM Focal Point for Cambodia is located within the Climate Change Office at the Ministry of Environment at #48, Samdech Preah Sihanouk Blvd, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

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