



Technical Assistance Consultant's Report

Project Number: 38071 (TA 4376)

Cambodia: Capacity Building for the Tonle Sap Poverty Reduction Initiative

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Asian Development Bank

**THE TONLE SAP INITIATIVE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE
TA 4376-CAM**

FINAL REPORT

1. Introduction

The Tonle Sap Lake with its vast resources has been described as the life-blood of Cambodia and similarly, a well-resourced information center can be seen as the lifeblood of an effective research institution. This report outlines the process of establishing the Tonal Sap Initiative Learning Resource Centre within the CDRI library. Development of the TSI Learning Resource Centre was funded under ADB TA 4376 CAM. The establishment of the TSI Learning Resource Centre was undertaken from 1 January to 30 June 2006.

2. Background

ADB's Tonle Sap Initiative (TSI) began in 2002 as a partnership of organizations and people working to encourage sustainable economic development of the Tonle Sap basin and surrounding areas and to meet the poverty and environmental challenges of this area. This suite of multi-year projects is also aimed at preserving the unique potential of the Tonle Sap and ensuring that Cambodians are made aware of this valuable resource. The TSI forms the basis of setting priorities and planning assistance for the Tonle Sap basin over the next 5 to 10 years. It meets the key elements of ADB's poverty reduction strategy within the unique context of the Tonle Sap basin. It also marks the introduction of basin-level strategic planning by way of favoring projects that promise the biggest return in terms of poverty reduction. Towards this goal, its development objectives are to foster, promote and facilitate pro-poor, sustainable economic growth, access to assets and management of natural resources and the environment.

Over the coming years, the Tonle Sap's natural resources would be best managed through mechanisms of long-term natural resource management plans developed collaboratively by local, provincial and national stakeholders. A basin-wide approach will allow stakeholders to focus on issues that transcend boundaries and greatly increase understanding of the poverty-environment challenge. While primary focus will be on the Tonle Sap basin, it will also catalyse other bilateral and multi-lateral endeavours.

The Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) has become one of ADB's partners in the implementation of the TSI by carrying out an ongoing, multi-faceted study, the Participatory Poverty Assessment of the Tonle Sap (PPA). This study focuses on root causes of poverty, livelihoods, natural resources and governance issues by examining 24 diverse villages within the Tonle Sap basin.

3. Rationale

One important component of the TSI is the Capacity Building for Tonle Sap Poverty Reduction Initiative and it is within this segment that CDRI was requested to formulate a proposal for the establishment of an integrated TSI Learning Resource Centre, based at the CDRI campus. This Centre will complement existing facilities and networks that are already housed at CDRI, or are part of CDRI's activities. These are

- the CDRI Library,
- the ADB Repository Library for Cambodia, based within the CDRI Library,
- the World Bank Repository Library for Cambodia, also based at CDRI,
- the CDRI Publishing and Communications unit,
- CDRI's Information Technology unit,
- CDRI's membership of the Regional Development Analysis Network (DAN),
- CDRI's membership of UNESCAP's ArtNet.

4. Implementation

The Tonle Sap Learning Resource Centre, now an integral part of the CDRI Library, has been established as part of the capacity-building component of the TSI program. The TSI resources now complement existing facilities and networks at CDRI and are part of its ongoing activities. The Centre provides policy makers, researchers, NGOs, research and learning institutions, visiting scholars, government officials, students and the general public access to a wealth of information on the Tonle Sap Initiative and related issues. The expanded CDRI Library collection includes a wide range of printed materials, audiovisual resources and web-based information as well as extensive databases. Provision of a new Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) has enabled improved access to the Library's new and existing resources

Planning for the TSI Learning Resource Centre began in the second half of 2005 and project was implemented between early January and the end of June 2006 and involved the following activities:

- Identifying key areas which needed to be developed (Services, Systems, Resources);
- Literature search: including existing Library reports, CDRI documentation relating to the Library and online searches of professional literature;
- Identification of suitable Library Management System (LMS);
- Redesign the layout of the Library and identify new furniture and equipment required for the Tonle Sap Initiative Learning Resource Centre Collection development reviewing the entire collection and ordering new publications to fill the gaps in the collection;

Collection Development:

During the establishment period library staff worked on expanding and developing the collection to add new resources to the library particularly relating to the Tonle Sap Initiative and the Tonle Sap watershed. Library staff visited other agencies in a systematic manner, collecting additional resources including books, pamphlets CD Roms

and maps. In addition considerable time was spent identifying materials available on the Internet. All these resources have been included in the CDRI Library OPAC.

Items of particular importance include the following;

- DATABASE of ADB articles on the TSI
- Tonle Sap biosphere database
- Database on TSI related project reports
- Books periodicals and documents relating to Tonle Sap basin
- ADB TSI Initiative brochures and publicity
- Maps
- CDROM publications of ADB, MRC and other organizations
- World Fish Center publications
- MRC publications
- Online resources
- Research reports and theses

Refurbishing the Library and upgrading facilities:

In order to provide adequate facilities for the new Centre, Library team together with the Consultant Librarian worked together on the task of re-designing the Library to incorporate the new facilities required. The new layout enables the Library to provide a more streamlined service while at the same time focusing on the Tonle Sap Learning Resource Centre as an integral part of the Library

The Library team consulted with layout firms to obtain quotations and choose appropriate designs for the new furniture. A local carpenter was engaged and the work completed to the satisfaction of all. In addition to the improved layout of the Library, new signage has been added to help direct users to particular subject areas. Four computers are available for use by visitors to the Library wishing to consult the CDRI (Online Public Access Catalogue) and two of these provide access to the Internet. There is a Reader's Adviser available at all times to assist Library users to find resources and to explain Library systems as they relate to TSI materials.

Development of CDRI Library Management systems

High quality access to information in modern Libraries and resource centres is made possible by the use of LMS software. In most cases this software is very expensive and well beyond the reach of libraries in the developing world. CDRI was able to purchase a modern "cutting edge " LMS viz NewGenLib which is central to the redevelopment of the Library and the establishment of the TSI Learning Resource Centre. We chose NewGenLib to manage all our systems: acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, and the OPAC (online public access catalogue). NewGenLib was developed in India using open source technologies to produce an international standard library management software programme for developing countries. The new system has many useful features that will

assist the library staff to provide “quality added” service for all library users. NewGenLib enables easy access to all the resources books on shelves, documents on the Internet or digital documents held in other locations as well as analytical entries of particular works.

A NewGenLib systems engineer visited CDRI for 2 weeks at the end of March 06 to install the software and train CDRI Computer manager and CDRI Library staff to use the new system. Prior to the change over, a digital version of the old WINISIS catalogue was sent to, India to enable conversion of the bibliographic records to the international standard MARC21 structure, in preparation for the installation of NewGenLib at CDRI.

Following the NewGenLib training, Library staff together with volunteers and temporary staff have been hard at work on the task of bar-coding books, and “fine tuning” the cataloguing records preparation for implementation of the circulation module. Collection development continues and staff have a greater awareness of the kinds of materials required to maintain the relevance of the collection. Library staff are continuing to learn new skills at present focussing on developing their abilities in cataloguing and classification with assistance from the Library consultant.

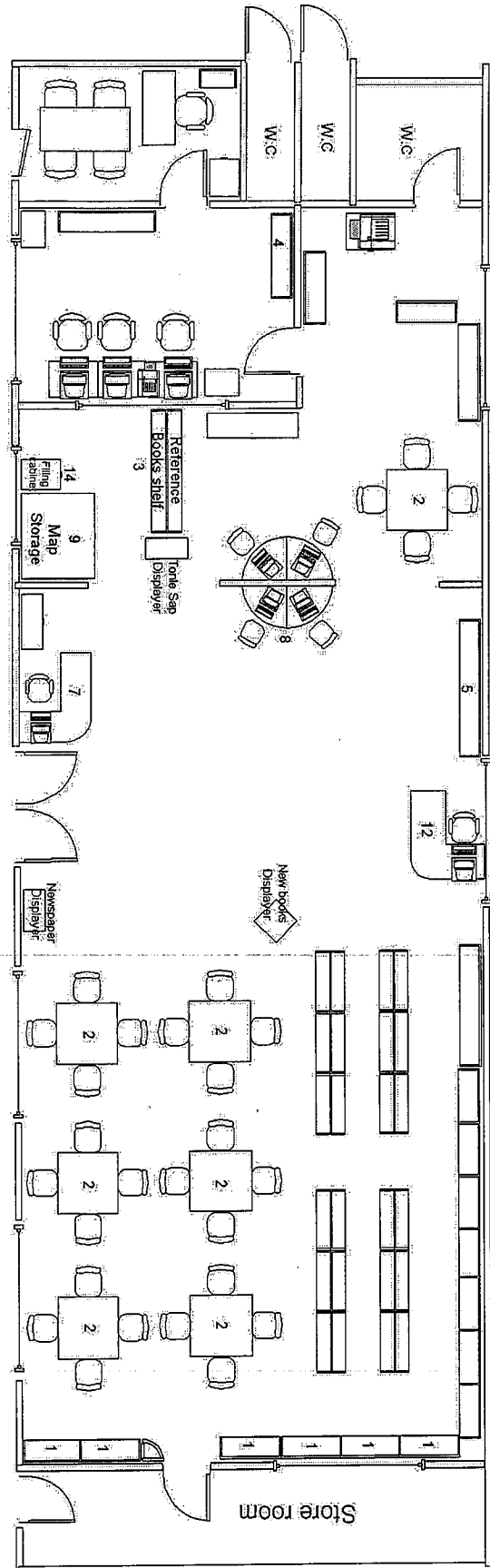
5. Conclusion and Benefits

The Tonle Sap Initiative Learning Resource Centre is an attractive, and user-friendly information center, providing users with access to vital information concerning the development of Cambodia, with particular emphasis on the provinces of the Tonle Sap basin. Improved library services include upgraded signage, the location of a TSI Reader’s adviser in the public area, the new OPAC (online public access catalogue) and reference collection. CDRI Library staff have obtained new skills and everyday welcome new visitors and researchers to the Centre. A special opening and awareness session for all stakeholders is planned to be held in conjunction with the Tonle Sap Environmental Management Project (TSEMP) later in 2006.

6. Future Directions

Under the newly proposed Grant Assistance Cambodia : Capacity Building for the Tonle Sap Poverty Reduction Initiative II, to be financed by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, it is envisaged to establish a “Tonle Sap Centre” that will offer innovative programming and delivery of high quality surveys and enable effective outreach of research findings and recommendations to the development community including policy makers, bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society, non-government organizations, academia, researchers, teachers, specialists and the media. Therefore, The Tonle Sap Centre will be an integral part of CDRI’s core competencies of research, knowledge dissemination and outreach as well as capacity building.

Floor plan of new layout of CDRI Library incorporating Tonle Sap Learning Resource Centre



Section A
 Staff working areas with 3 computers & server
 Visiting researcher's room,
 Photocopying services

Section B
 Reference area,
 Map and poster cabinet
 OPAC (4 terminals)
 Display unit ADB TSI publications

Section C
 Entrance, Circulation desk
 Display unit CDRI publications
 Reader's Advisors desk and terminal

Section D (Left side)
 Reading area
 New publications display unit
 Newspaper rack

Section D (Right side)
 Book stacks

New furniture (numbered on plan)

1. Book shelves x 6 units
2. Reading tables x 7 units
3. Reference book shelves
4. Book shelves staff working area
5. Display unit CDRI publications
6. Map cabinet
7. Circulation desk
8. OPAC s x 4 terminals
9. Map and poster cabinet
10. Reader's Advisors desk