

DEMT - DISTRIBUTED ENERGY MANAGEMENT TOOLS IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS



PowerDev



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Project context and its implementation

Rural Electrification is a key element of the development and poverty reduction strategies planned by the Governments of both Cambodia and Laos PDR. These two countries have very different electrification contexts; however one similarity is the crucial role being played by small private entrepreneurs. In both countries the Governments are encouraging these private interests to provide services in areas that will not be reached by government programs for some time, if at all.

Since the first newsletter published in January 2006, the project has been actively implemented following the established time schedule. This second newsletter informs the readers about the latest development of the project achievements and its impacts on rural electrification situation in Cambodia and Laos PDR.

Project Activities

Software testing and training in France-January 2006

Despite some difficulties at the beginning of the project implementation, IED with its know-how on distributed energy management software was able to develop quickly the two software "MiniGrid Manager" and "PV manager", following the adopted specifications (see newsletter No.1).

In order to ensure the validity of the tools, project partners in Cambodia and in Laos sent their staffs to IED office in France to attend the software testing and training session. This training session lasted 2 weeks.

During the training, all attendants provided lots of significant inputs relevant to REE¹'s and PESCOs needs such as types of generation and distribution they have, sample of billing with which usually they practice, etc.

At the end of the training, nearly completed software in English version was made by the programmer.



Figure 1 : Example of "MG manager" software's first screen



Figure 2 : Example of "PV manager" software's first screen

Translation of Software and user manuals – February-March 2006

¹ REE: Rural Electricity Enterprises

Although the software was not definitely completed after the training in France, most of information necessary needed to be incorporated in the software was already included, and the preparation of its user manual and its translation into local languages (Khmer and Lao) was initiated in parallel by the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy (MIME) for Cambodia and the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft (MIH) for Laos, with support from IED's local staff.

However, the final version of software as well as its user manual was made and provided to all stakeholders by the end of March, 2006.

Training of Trainers- April 2006

The training of Trainers was held on 5th to 7th April 2006 at the EDC training centre. People invited to participate the training of Trainers came from different institutions based in Cambodia and in Laos, which are 4 persons from MIME, 4 from EDC, 4 from EAC, 2 from SME Cambodia (an NGO working closely with REEs in North West of Cambodia) and 4 others from MIH. The training was provided by the IED staff and its partner in Cambodia MIME.



The purpose of this Training was to help these people to become Trainers of the software in order to train REEs and PESCOs afterward.

The Training of 20 EDC provincial towns was organised by EDC (Electricité du Cambodge) on 24-26 April 2006. The training was in English and directly given by EDC's Trainers who got trained during Training of Trainers, with support from IED's local staff.



Picture taken during Training of Trainers, EDC Training centre

Training of EDC provincial towns – End of April 2006



Picture taken during Training given by EDC Trainer, Mr Chan Vuth and his colleagues.

Training of REEs by SME– end of May 2006

Training of 30 REEs being situated at the north-west of Cambodia was organised by SME Cambodia on 22-31 May 2006, at Battambang and Kg Cham provinces. This training was made in Khmer.

It was realised that most of REEs attending the training had good understanding of using software. Only few of them had difficulties in using the computers (they had difficulties in typing Khmer alphabets). However, at the end of the training, all participants received Software and certificates of training participation.



Figure 3 : Picture taken during REEs training in BB

Training of REEs by MIME – beginning of June 2006

The training of 36 REEs being selected among 400 REEs in the whole country was organised by MIME at EDC Training Centre, on 5th to 10th June 2006. This training was provided in Khmer by trainers from MIME, with support from IED's local staff.

It was realised that all participants for these sessions could use computers. However, according to them, they have some difficulties in understanding all of its functioning and need more times to practise it.

At the end of Training, a certificates delivery was organised with an honorary presence of Deputy Director of Energy department of MIME.

Packaging of Provincial Power Generation Management Module for EDC in Cambodia – June 2006

During the training of Trainers organised in Cambodia, the programmer, accompanied by EDC billing staff, also visited their billing software presently used by EDC. The purpose of this visit was to analyse few encountered problems and then give their recommendations.

Having analysis after the visit, analytical notes on billing systems used by other utilities and on customer database management have been elaborated and proposed to EDC. These results of analysis as well as recommendations to be used to correct and improve EDC billing and customer management systems now are under considerations by EDC direction to be undertaken and possible actions will be further discussed between partners.

Coming soon....

Pilot Installation and Testing – June 2006

Pilot installation of the software in two computers of REEs will be done. The purpose of this pilot installation is to test the software with completed real data of REEs and understand difficulties they have during its usage.

Final Workshop in Laos – June 2006

The final workshop will be organised in Vientiane on 19-20th June 2006. All partners involved in the project implementation will be attending it. The main purpose is to present and sum up results of the project implemented within its framework.

Lessons learned and recommendations

At the institutional level, the MIH, EAC, MIME have involved actively in all development stages and now they have a set of operational performance indicators for monitoring the performance of private SME in rural areas. These tools and indicators are adapted to the country contexts.

The private sector in energy service have been supported by adapted management tools both to ensure appropriate client management and equipment maintenance, and more broadly their capacities have been strengthened. Their business can run more profitably.

The implementation experiences showed that strong participation of local partners and stakeholders is primordial importance in such complex project.

In order to ensure sustainability in the long term, MIME, MIH and EDC commit to provide back up customer services for at least 6 months after the project completion. In the medium term, paying training package could be offered at a reasonable price to REE and PESCO.

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