



Project title: Training Programme for E-wastes  
and Demonstration at a Recyclable Waste  
Collecting Site of Environmentally Sound  
Management of the E-wastes

**REPORT OF TELEVISED DEBATE OF  
ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL  
WASTES “E-WASTES”**

June, 2010 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Department of Pollution Control  
Ministry of Environment

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## 1- Introduction

The Debate Program of E-wastes was aim to raise public awareness on environmental advocacy through youth environmental contest. It was conducted and broadcasted via National Television of Cambodia (TVK) in collaboration with Directorate of National Television of Cambodia and was funded by Government of Japan through the Basel Convention Technical Trust Fund of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

The Department of Pollution Control with aim to promote public understanding on sound wastes management procedure (especially electronic and electrical wastes, hereinafter called E-wastes), had approached and collaborated with the Department of Environmental Education and Communication (DEEC) of the Ministry of Environment to launch the awareness raising on e-wastes management. The DEEC has an awareness specialist team, which comprises five members and has agreed to organize the debate program. This debate program will be performing by the students from two universities and then broadcasting via National Television of Cambodia.

The main issue for "Debate" is focused on Sound Management of E-wastes. The debate program has been organized in three main phases including debate preparation (orientation and rehearsal), debate performance and debate broadcasting via TVK. Description of each phase will be addressed in subtitle 3, 4 and 5.

## 2- Purpose of the Debate

The main objective of the Debate is focusing on environmental pollution caused by e-wastes, sound wastes management approaches of e-wastes, which is aiming:

- ❖ To distribute information and promote people's understanding about the e-wastes issues
- ❖ To raise public awareness and convey message to decision makers on the connection between impacts of pollution caused by e-wastes and ecological protection and conservation, social development, and economic growth, and their link to poverty reduction approaches and health risk prevention,
- ❖ To stimulate stakeholders and community participation in reduction, and where as possible, the elimination of negative activities contributing to the affects on biological diversity, water pollutions, waste management, natural resources utilization and conservation, etc, that caused by e-wastes.

## 3- Debate Preparation

### 3-1 General arrangement

As contracted with the e-waste project team of the Department of Pollution Control for the organization of debate; members of the debate organizing team had held regular (weekly) meetings to review the progress of assigned works and set forward activities to be carried out. The main activities undertaken during the preparation phase are the following.

#### 3-1-1 General issues

In this section, the members of debate organizing team discuss on the possible topic for the debate, universities to be invited and number of students from each university to be acted as speakers. Two universities were identified and then contacted for seeking their interest in participating in the debate.

There are two universities were selected to participate in the debate namely:

- Buildbright University, and
- Mekong University

#### 3-1-2 Topic selection and research activities

The topic for the Debate were firstly brainstormed by the DEEC debate team then discussed with the e-wastes project team for pre-final selection. Agreed topic for debate between the debate organizing team and e-wastes project team were then submitted to the Minister for the Environment for approval.

There is topic was approved by the Minister for the Environment titled: **Whether Cambodia should stop importing the second hand electronic and electrical equipment or not?**

### 3-1-3 Orientation

The approved topic was then introduced to representatives of each university and their students at orientation stage that was held on 07<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at the conference room of the Ministry of Environment. There were about 40 students and their teachers from the two universities attended in this orientation. At this orientation, each university was requested to select for their position to be stand for: the Proposition or Opposition for particular topic.

Concerning debate arrangement (based on lotto method), it was shown that the Buildbright University stands for proposition side, while the Mekong University stands for opposition. This team will discuss on the topic titled *Whether Cambodia should stop importing the second hand electronic and electrical equipment or not?*

Beside identify the position of each university for proposition and opposition and topic to be discussed; an introduction on the debate rules has also been briefly delivered during the first orientation to the university representatives and their students, for better understanding on the debate objective and rule.

### 3-1-4 Rehearsal

On the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010, all debate's speakers had a chance to do practice during rehearsal period that was held at the conference room of the Ministry of Environment. The main objective of this rehearsal is:

- ❖ Provide chance for speakers (debaters) to practice their discussion and find out any mistakes that may happen,
- ❖ Review the issues raised by speakers which may inadequate or affects to the debate's rules and steer them to the right truck,
- ❖ Make speakers to be self confident during the real debate performance take place,
- ❖ Provide chance to adjudicators for practice themselves,
- ❖ Ensure the speakers are ready for performance and every thing are in control,

### 3-1-5 Comedy writing

Regarding the whole debate consumes time for about 45 minutes each and with aims to provide more environmental information to the general public (last audients/TV audient), there is a comedy and a song were prepared, aim to reduce the tension of the audient, both at in the studio and on TV screen. The comedy and song was performed for about 15 minutes long. The comedy is titled "Second hand millionaires" which is illustrating issues related to the import of second hand materials and equipment, i.e. electronic devices, electrical equipment, washing machines, TV sets, etc. The comedy also stated that some second hand electrical equipment can be imported separately parts by parts, which is regarded as spare parts. The remaining parts from reassembling will be disposed away to dumpsites. The comedy also highlighted that some second hand equipment are wastes already on the arrival, which is disposed right away to dumpsites.

For better controlling the comedy's performance, story of comedy and song were written by the debate organizing team and agreed upon by the Minister for the Environment. Title for the story are "**The second hand millionaires**" and song titled "**Environment destructed, species gone**", respectively. The story and a song will be also performed during debate's contest and then broadcasted via TVK together with debates.

## 3-2 Prize and Certificate for Debaters

There are two way for giving prize to the debaters: one for group and other one for best speakers at each debate session. There are three best speakers will be identified and given prize as an individual award. For group prize, the awards will be given to the first class and win second class. Items contain in each prize (first and second) includes Certificate for individual; books, and a bunch of flowers for a group.

## 4- Debate Performance

### 4-1 General issues

Debate performance was took place on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at TVK studio. The debate performance and film shooting begun at 09:10AM till 17:30PM of that day with one hour break for lunch. All key players

(including master ceremony, debate organizing team, debate's chairpersons, speakers, and adjudicators), honorable guests and participants gathered at the studio on time according to the set agenda (See Appendix 1). There are about 150 persons who participated in the debate performance, in which they are coming from:

No	Organization	Num. of person
1.	Ministry of Environment (including debate organizing team)	10
2.	TVK staff including master ceremony and debate's chair persons	15
3.	Students from Buildbright University includes speakers	50
4.	Students from Mekong University includes speakers	50
5.	Representative of E-wastes Project Team, MOE	2
6.	Representative from MoE, Japan	1
7.	Honorable guests (MOE delegate)	2
8.	Artistes (comedy team, singers and dancers)	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150 person</b>

#### 4-2 Performance of the Debate

Debate performance was started at 09:10AM beginning with the master ceremony introduced the main purposes of this program for TV audiences and then introduced the honorable guests, universities attendees, adjudicator team, and chairperson. The honorable guests attending this debate are:

1. **H.E.Mr. Sou Sovouth**, Advisor to the Ministry of Environment and the Director of the Department of Environmental Education and Communication, Ministry of Environment, and the Team Leader of the Debate Organizing Team,
2. **Dr. Shunichi Honda**, Representative of the Ministry of Environment, Japan

After introducing the key players for this debate program, **H.E.Mr.Sou Sovouth**, Advisor to the Ministry of Environment and the Director of the Department of Environmental Education and Communication, Ministry of Environment delivered his remark to this debate that in response to the efforts of the government in issuing policy and frameworks on environment, economic, promotion of public health, and sustainable development as well as for the purposes of poverty reduction, this today's debate is focusing on the environmental quality, wastes management general environmental understanding. This debate will convey message to the public to understand environmental balance, public health associated with environment, and how to deal with waste management, including e-wastes etc. He also thanks to the Ministry of Environment, Japan for the funding to this debate through the Basel Convention Technical Trust Fund of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

After then Dr.Shunichi Honda, Representative of the Ministry of Environment Japan was also delivered his remark by addressing that on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Japan, I am very pleased to be here with all of you in this event and would like to thank to the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia that invited me to attend this important debate. He added that he believed that this debate will open the public's eyes to understand what e-waste issue is in Cambodia and to provide people to understanding and to tackle environmental issues in Cambodia and understand about sound management of e-waste in Cambodia.

After the remarks delivered, the debate performance began by first playing the comedy, and then the floor was given to debate chairperson to hand over. After comedy played, the chairperson started to introduce the method for debate playing which is divided into three main sections: the general expression, questionnaire, and summary sections. There are 24 minutes limited in total for general expression for 6 speakers from the two teams, which is meant that each speaker can spend up to 4 minutes to talk about for supporting or opposing the theme. For questionnaire section, both teams were given 15 minutes in total for posing questions to each other, but the overall reply and put back question should not exceed 90 seconds per speaker. For last section, each team has to nominate one speaker to summarize their opinion/ideas that had been raised and concluded such idea to support or oppose the theme, with time limited to 3 minutes for each speaker.

After introduction of the playing method, chairperson informed participants about the debate program. An activity for the debate is the following.

There are two teams for the debate, one stands for proposition and other one stands for opposition. The team from the Buildbright University stands for proposition (support the theme), comprised four

persons (one for assistance). Another team from the Mekong University stands for opposition (oppose the theme), which also comprised four speakers (one for assistance). Theme for the debate is **Whether Cambodia should stop importing the second hand used electronic and electrical equipment or not?** in order to protect the environmental quality in the country.

To support the theme, the team from Buildbright University begun with by addressing three main points related to 1) Cause for importing second hand electronic and electrical equipment, 2) Impact of importing second hand electronic and electrical equipment, and 3) Reason for prohibition of second hand electronic and electrical equipments. In supporting these tree main points, the team raised many issues as the following;

- Reason for importing the second hand electronic and electrical equipment (EEE) is resulting from civil war, which educated people were killed, country facing to lacking of human resources who can produce new products,
- Limited education and awareness raising on environmental issues among the public, which is result limited understanding on adverse effects of such second hand equipment to the environment and public health,
- People thought that the used of second hand materials is more convenience and more cost effective than the new one, rather than other options related to socio-economic and environmental consideration,
- The import of second hand materials including EEE will adding more wastes into national wastes streams and there is no appropriate wastes management system in place yet, except burning down that wastes,
- When such EEE waste burnt down, then pollutants will be release, pollute our air, which is resulting to have ozone layers destruction, acid rains, and climate change,
- Pollutants release from dumpsite (leachate) will pollute water including surface and ground water,
- EEE waste will dump together with household wastes, which will be release pollutants and drains into water body, caused to water pollution,
- Such wastes will also pollute soil, which may contaminate agricultural product,
- EEE wastes which contain more than one thousand chemical substances can harm to human health, such as malfunction of organs, impaired nervous system, kidney failure, etc.
- Transportation facility is still inadequate and not good condition which may cause of spill and dropout things along the way,
- Quality control of EEE is inappropriate which Cambodia does not have Capacity to check for quality of such product, resulting in some EEE become wastes upon arrival,
- Cambodia does not have waste treatment facility including EEE, as well as no existing policy and institution responsible for EEE waste management,
- There is a need to implement some measures related to EEE and their wastes disposal including the implementation of rectangular strategy,

Opposite from the proposition, the opposition team from the Mekong University totally rejects the above ideas by also addressing three main points including: 1) The use of second hand equipment is a wisdom option and protect the environment, 2). provide opportunity for social, human, and natural environment developments, 3) Considering on other priority factors rather than prohibition of second hand equipment. To support their ideas, the team raised many issues as the following;

- The use of second hand electronic and electrical equipments show the effective expenditure, which is meant that we purchase 70% lower cost equipment than brand new one,
- It is also illustrate the protection of environmental quality by addressing that if we are use only brand new equipment, thus where is the old equipment that still functioning going to. In this regard, more wastes will be increasing which make more and more pollution,
- In addition, to produce a new equipment we need lots of natural resources, and release emission and pollution,
- So, we shall wisely use our resources to protect our environment,
- The import of EEE will promote social equity, i.e. average income of Cambodia is about USD2 per day, so how can the poor afford for new EE equipment, if we not import second hand EEE? In this regards, the import of second hand EEE will allow the poor access to EEE for their daily use,
- The import of second hand EEE will allow Cambodia to get knowledge and access to information technology such as TV, radio, internet, phone, etc., where the poor also gain benefit from this EEE,
- Pollutants are not only releasing from UEEE but also from other sources such as factories which release more pollutants than UEEE,

- The release of pollutants from industries is account for about 20% of total pollutants release into the air,
- Other factor that release pollutants are coming from inappropriate use of chemicals in agricultural sector, which is lead to soil degradation, water pollution, and people health,
- Other factors that Cambodia should consider for promoting environmental quality rather than prohibition of importing second hand materials including EEE, such as controlling of other sources of pollutants releases including from industries, agriculture, and limit their release,
- Another measure to promote environmental quality is the development of legal instrument, standards, and guideline related to sound management of EEE and their wastes and effectively implementing them,
- Capacity building is also needed for controlling of imported second hand EEE to met national standards and requirement,
- Cambodia shall taking into account of forestry conservation as it play role in environmental quality control, by absorbing green house gases,
- Cambodia shall reduce the release of pollutants from industrial activities.

Both team, after providing ideas to support their theme, each team had rose many questions against each other and also reply back. However, it was observed that the theme's proposition team elaborated less supportive ideas and less reference. Nevertheless, the theme opposition team elaborated more ideas and references than the proposition team. Based on scoring, the proposition team got the overall score of 615 points and the opposition team got overall score of 619 points over the ceiling marks of 675 points, led the proposition team from Buildbright University lost the contest. Nevertheless, one speaker from the Buildbright University (theme proposition team) won the best speaker (Ms. Chea Eng).

There are 3 adjudicators for this debate, from the Ministry of Environment (Mr. Nop Nimol, Ms. Sar Porine, Mr. Chea Kimsean).

#### **4-3 Awards for the debate team**

After the debate performed, the debate organizing teams found the champion team and win second class. Result of the class for the two universities participated in the Debate is the following:

**First Class** was belonged to the Mekong University,  
**Second Class** was belonged to the Buildbright University

Furthermore, best speakers for each debate were also recognized and students regard as the best speakers was for student from Buildbright University,

After the knowing the best debate teams and teams follow, the representative from the Ministry of Environment Cambodia, the representative of the Ministry of Environment, Japan, provided debate's certificate to each speaker.

Finally, the debate performance was run to the end agenda and the debate conclusion was closed at the late afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 17:30 PM.

#### **5- Debate Broadcasting**

The debate performance was played accompany with film shooting. After about seven working days editing, the first debate performance will be broadcasting via TVK (probably on the weekend of the first week of July 2010).

#### **6- Debate Evaluation**

Gone through the Debate held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010, the debate organizing team can conclude that:

- University students were very interested in this program and they suggested to have more in the future as well as suggested to participated in next contest,
- University students expressed their views that they did a lots of research and gain more knowledge on e-wastes issues and its inter linkage between social, cultural, economic and development matters,
- Not only participants were in the studio but also other TV audients express their appreciation with this programs, and suggested to have more and regularly for the further, (feed back from previous debate's shows)

- The debate organizing team gains more experiences by learning from success and mistakes, i.e. marking scheme, selection of best speaker, remarks, etc. through the organization and implementation of this debate execution,
- Many TV audients reported to the debate organizing team (personally reported: face to fact contact and by phone) that this debated was very good and useful. They suggested having such debate more frequently for the future, and
- The Debate contests will not only broadcasting via TVK but also some other private TV channels keen to rebroadcasting this debate as suggested by MOE.

## 7- Conclusion

The Debate that was successfully organized by the Debate Organizing Team, funded by the Ministry of Environment, Japan through the Basel Convention Technical Trust Fund of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. This debate finally, was successfully performed on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at the studio of TVK. After the debate was shooting and editing, the first debate show will be took place at the first week of July 2010 for twice times via TVK for about one hour long broadcasting.

Based on verbal feedback to the debate organizing team, received from participants attending the debate performance, it was noticed that this debate is so important and useful to raise environmental awareness and knowledge of the general people, officers, decision makers, students related to the e-wastes. In addition, this program also encourages the participation of the public in the protection and preservation of Cambodia environment that can be polluted by E-wastes.

Having seen the important and useful of this program, the Ministry of Environment, particularly the Department of Pollution Control, is committed to continue this program for the future run. However, assistance from interested donors is very needed to make such awareness program goes continuously and regularly. Without assistance from development partners and outsider, the MOE, unable to make awareness program goes regularly.

Last but not least, one behalf of the Department of Pollution Control, Ministry of Environment, we, the debate organizing team would like to thank to the Ministry of Environment, Japan and SBC for supporting this program goes smoothly and successfully, which foster the enhancement of awareness of Cambodia people to be better understanding the E-wastes and voluntarily participating in the prevention and protection of natural sources free from negative activities and free from pollution.

## 8- Appendix: Agenda for debate performance

No.	Description	Timing	Present by
1.	➤ Introduce participants attending the debate	5 min	Presenter
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remark of the representative of the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia</li> <li>➤ Remark of the representative of the Ministry of Environment, Japan</li> </ul>	15 min	H.E. SOU Sovouth, DEEC Director and MOE Advisor,  Mr. Mr. Shunichi Honda,
3.	➤ Comedy performance " <b>Second Hand Millionaires</b> "	20 min	Comedies' players
4.	➤ Introduction of debate criteria, for the debate	5 min	Debate's chairmen
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Debate performance, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Buildbright University (proposition) vs Mekong University (Opposition)</li> <li>- Topic: <b>Whether Cambodia should stop importing the electronic and electric equipment</b></li> <li>- Result announcement (the winner and the best speaker)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	55 min	Speakers of proposition and opposition Adjudicator's team leader
6.	➤ Environmental song performance: A song titled " <b>Environment destructed, species gone</b> "	15 min	
7.	➤ Certificate Awards	15 min	All