

Nationwide Seminars on the Arms Law Start



JSAC support for the nationwide Arms Law seminars conducted by the National Commission for the Reform of Weapons, Explosives and Ammunition Management ("the National Commission") has started as part of its "National Commission Support Project".

The National Commission, with the Minister of Interior as the Chairman and the Minister of National Defence the Vice-Chairman, oversees the management of small arms in Cambodia. For the National Commission to be effective, it is crucial that all relevant officers of both Ministries have a clear understanding of the Arms Law, which is the foundation of the country's small arms management policy. In this regard, JSAC is supporting the National Commission in conducting Arms Law Seminars nationwide from February 2007. Ministry of Interior/Police, Ministry of National Defence/Military and local administration officials will develop their understanding on the Arms Law, which will facilitate its effective implementation. 33 seminars will be held in all Provinces, Municipalities and Military Headquarters until June 2007.

In this way, JSAC also supports strengthening the framework of the Government's small arms management through its support to the National Commission, in addition to its field level activities, such as the weapons collection project.

Arms Law seminar organized by the
Ministry of National Defence

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Weapons collected in Kampong Thom and Battambang Provinces under the cooperation of JSAC, local police and authorities, and Cambodian NGOs, are destroyed at public ceremonies to prevent further use. However, the idea of using these weapons to create peace art has launched the production of peace monuments for the 2 Provinces. By September 2007, monuments made of weapons, collected and destroyed within this Programme, will be installed in public parks as a symbol of peace in Cambodia.

New Safe Storage Facilities for Police Weapons

Police weapons are now installed in the newly constructed weapons warehouses of the Provincial Police in Battambang and Kampong Thom Provinces.

Before the reconstruction of the warehouse, the police weapons were stored in a very poor and unsafe condition. The number and types of weapons were also not accurately recorded, allowing possible theft and leakage to remain unnoticed.

In this context, JSAC supported the construction and procurement of safe storage warehouses and racks, to provide facilities to enable the Provincial Police to safely and strictly manage their own weapons. Furthermore, training was also provided to responsible police officers for strengthening weapons management within the Provincial Police. Ministry of Interior Officials re-educated the police officers on laws and regulations regarding the management and handling of weapons. After the training, all information on the weapons belonging to the Provincial Police were registered in the inventory and will be later transferred to a computer database system.

Such secure and strict weapon management systems and increased training are expected to shift the attitude and awareness of the officers in managing and handling the police weapons.



The newly constructed weapons warehouse. All the weapons are registered, cleaned and checked before being securely locked to the shelves.

About JSAC (Japan Assistance Team for Small Arms Management in Cambodia)

JSAC was established by Japan International Cooperation Systems (JICS) for the implementation of the "Comprehensive Peace Building and Comprehensive Small Arms Management Program in Cambodia", a grant aid provided by the Government of Japan to the Government of Cambodia.

The Programme aims to reduce small arms and peace building comprehensively through 5 projects (1. Weapons Reduction and Development for Peace Project, 2. Safe Storage and Registration Project, 3. Weapons Destruction Project, 4. Public Awareness Project, 5. National Commission Support Project). The Programme has collected a total of 26,241 small arms in 5 Provinces as of mid-Feb 2006.

Please see JSAC's website for details. URL: <http://www.online.com.kh/users/adm.jsac/>