



ប្រជុំបណ្តុះបណ្តាលសកម្មភាពកម្រិតមធ្យមកម្ពុជា CAMBODIAN MINE ACTION CENTRE



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CAMBODIAN MINE ACTION CENTRE

SAVING LIVES AND SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT FOR CAMBODIA



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Foreword

Decades of war and prolonged armed conflict have left Cambodia with a legacy of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) that continues to pose a serious and enduring challenge. These remnants of war threaten the safety of civilian lives, hinder socio-economic development, and impede the consolidation of lasting national peace. In response to this humanitarian imperative, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) has remained unwavering in the fulfilments of its mandate, carrying out systematic and sustained clearance of landmines and UXO to protect communities and improve the well-being of the population.

This Journal has been prepared to document and highlight CMAC's key experiences, operational practices, and achievements, drawing upon outcomes from meetings, consultative dialogues, workshops, and international cooperation initiatives. It reflects CMAC's continued efforts in advancing humanitarian mine action in support of peacebuilding, social stability, and public safety.

The publication also underscores CMAC's proactive commitment to institutional strengthening and innovation, including the development of human resources, the adoption of emerging technologies, digital transformation, and the integration of artificial intelligence to enhance operational efficiency, effectiveness, and safety in mine action activities.

At the same time, the progress presented in this Journal would not have been possible without close and meaningful international cooperation. Through strong partnerships with development partners—such as the Government of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), NEC, non-governmental organizations, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), as well as generous donors and key stakeholders—CMAC has received invaluable support in the form of financial resources, technical expertise, and human capital to advance humanitarian objectives and strengthen social security in Cambodia.

This Journal is intended to serve as a valuable reference for outreach, education, and the exchange of experience at both national and international levels. It also aims to raise awareness of the importance of peace, international cooperation, and the continued necessity of mine action efforts, contributing to a safer future and sustainable development for the Kingdom of Cambodia.



CMAC Concludes the Final Workshop on the “Transition to a Digital System of CMAC Operational Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Project”

The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) concluded the final workshop of the project entitled “Transition to a Digital System of CMAC Operational Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI)”, supported by the Government of Japan, at CMAC Headquarters in Phnom Penh on 8 April 2025. His Excellency Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, together with Dr. Flavio Cirillo, Senior Research Scientist and representative of Nippon Electric Company (NEC). The workshop was conducted over two days, from 7 to 8 April 2025, with the participation of three NEC experts from Germany and Japan, as well as 17 technical officers from CMAC. This marked the third workshop jointly organised by CMAC and NEC, following two previous workshops

During the two-day workshop, CMAC and NEC focused on training related to the application of artificial intelligence, procedures for collecting and organising essential minefield data for AI use, validation of information obtained from AI-based analysis and predictive outputs, and discussions on system improvements to enhance the performance of the AI data platform. The workshop also included the provision of necessary hardware and software, including data storage systems, computers, and specialised software.

In his remarks at the closing ceremony, Dr. Flavio Cirillo expressed his satisfaction with the active and constructive discussions aimed at transforming artificial intelligence into a practical tool for integration into mine action operations, with the objective of accelerating operational outcome

He further noted that while this workshop concluded the first-year activities of the project,

it represents only the beginning of future development.

H.E. Heng Ratana commended the fruitful results of the final workshop and highlighted that the first phase of the project, with a duration of one year, focused on the development of server infrastructure and the establishment of an AI-based knowledge system capable of learning from operational data. He expressed confidence that the Japanese side would continue its support for the artificial intelligence initiative over the next two years (2025–2027), in order to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs), provide practical training for technical personnel, and promote the wider application of the AI data system both domestically and internationally.

On this occasion, H.E. Heng Ratana conveyed his sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for their continued commitment and strong support for humanitarian mine action, particularly for their cooperation with CMAC. He also emphasised that the application of artificial intelligence is not intended to replace human expertise, but rather to serve as a tool to support operational activities and enhance efficiency in the mine action sector.

It is noted that the Seventh Legislature of the Royal Government of Cambodia, under the leadership of Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei, has introduced the Pentagonal Strategy, which includes the development of the digital economy and digital society as key priorities. In support of the effective implementation of this national policy, CMAC has mobilised material and technical assistance from the Government of Japan to strengthen its operational data systems through the application of digital and artificial intelligence technology



Closing Ceremony of Demining Skills Training for Ten Platoons of the Royal Cambodian Army

On 11 April 2025, His Excellency Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, presided over the closing ceremony of the Demining Skills Training for ten demining platoons under the Royal Cambodian Army Command. The ceremony was held at the Second Military School, located in Srae Spay Village, Kong Chey Commune, Ou Reang Ov District, Tboung Khmum Province.



Under the coordination of the Mine Action Management Committee of the Royal Cambodian Army, CMAC has previously conducted two rounds of basic demining capacity-building training for army demining platoons, covering a total of 26 platoons. The current programme marked the third training course, involving ten demining platoons and a total of 260 trainees. To date, CMAC has provided demining training to 36 platoons of the Royal Cambodian Army, with an overall total of 949 trainees.

In his remarks at the closing ceremony, His Excellency Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, highly commended the trainees for their discipline, dedication, and commitment to acquiring technical demining skills. He emphasized that their efforts play an important role in reducing the risks posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, ensuring safe land for communities, and supporting the Royal Government’s infrastructure development and national development priorities.



His Excellency Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, also expressed his deepest gratitude to Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for his high-level guidance, strategic direction, and strong support in establishing demining training programmes for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. These initiatives aim to strengthen human resource development and further enhance the technical capacity and professionalism of the Royal Cambodian Army.

Furthermore, His Excellency Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, conveyed his appreciation to H.E. General Mao Sophan, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, for his continued support and authorization that enabled CMAC to deliver technical demining training to the ten Royal Cambodian Army demining platoons participating



Meeting with the US Delegation, Living Witness of the Indochina War and the Bombing of Cambodia

On Saturday, 3 May 2025, at CMAC Headquarters in Phnom Penh, His Excellency Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, met with a US delegation led by Mr. John McAuliff, Executive Director of the Fund for Reconciliation and Development, and Mr. Charles Clements, a Harvard University scholar, renowned author of *Witness to War*, and former Vietnam War pilot who resigned on 30 April 1970 rather than follow orders to bomb Cambodian territory.



His Excellency Heng Ratana explained that this exchange of testimony and additional information will support CMAC survey teams currently conducting field research across various locations. It will help teams to identify targets more accurately and efficiently, save time, and potentially locate eyewitnesses in areas affected by cluster bombs and other ordnance dropped during the war. The nationwide survey, which began last year, is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

His Excellency Heng Ratana added: “Initially, the survey team planned to finish in October. However, due to some challenges, the deadline has been extended to the end of this year. Nevertheless, we remain confident that the work will be completed on schedule.”

The research relies on data systems provided by the United States government, combined with other historical databases on bombings in Cambodia during the 1960s and 1970s. Field investigations include collecting evidence and testimonies from living witnesses in affected areas.

Cambodia is among the countries most heavily affected by landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war. Research from Yale University indicates that between 1965 and 1973, the United States dropped 230,516 aerial bombs on 113,716 sites within Cambodia.



His Excellency Heng Ratana noted that Mr. Clements is a highly important living witness of the Indochina War and the bombing of Cambodia. He is also a key activist in the fight against the use of landmines. During the meeting, the delegation shared first-hand knowledge and historical information on the involvement of the US military in the Indochina War, particularly regarding bombing campaigns that impacted Cambodia in the 1960s and 1970s. This information is expected to assist in identifying previously undocumented bombed areas.

During the meeting, Mr. Clements recounted parts of his personal experiences during the Vietnam War and indicated that he would provide Cambodia with certain information he possesses. This complements Cambodia’s existing data on cluster munitions and aerial bombings.



Cluster Munition Clearance Operations in Ratanakiri Province

NPA, a humanitarian mine action partner, is conducting ongoing clearance operations in Ratanakiri Province. Following a comprehensive inspection and technical assessment, cluster munitions discovered at the site were found to be in a severely deteriorated condition, requiring immediate destruction in situ to eliminate the risk to surrounding communities.

On 12 May 2025, a CMAC Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team from Demining Unit 5 (DU5), led by Mr. Keo Sarath, Head of DU5, was deployed to a cashew plantation located in Kamen Thom Village, Samakki Commune, O'Chum District, Ratanakiri Province. The deployment followed the discovery of cluster munitions at two locations within a hazardous area (reference code: BS/CHA/CMAA/60222) during survey and clearance operations conducted by NPA on 9–10 May 2025.

At the site, more than 120 submunitions were estimated to remain within the dispenser tube, posing a significant risk of accidental detonation at any time. The cluster munition was located at a depth of approximately 80 centimetres. Following controlled demolition, a crater measuring approximately 3.5 metres deep and 5 metres in diameter was created.



Cambodia has been heavily affected by cluster munitions, which are predominantly found east of the Mekong River and along the Cambodia–Vietnam border. To date, nearly 20 cluster bombs of this specific type have been identified.

Cluster munitions are air-dropped weapons designed to disperse multiple submunitions over a wide area, often intended for use in dense forest environments. Between the early 1960s and the mid-1970s, Cambodia was subjected to an estimated 30 million submunitions across more than 10,000 strike locations nationwide. These remnants of war continue to pose a serious threat to civilian safety and underscore the importance of sustained clearance efforts.



After thorough inspection and assessment, the cluster munitions were confirmed to be extremely old and unstable, necessitating controlled destruction at the site. The ordnance identified was an air-dropped CBU-25/A cluster bomb, which contains 132 BLU-24/B submunitions. This type of weapon was widely used during the war and dropped over Cambodia, with some submunitions remaining active and highly dangerous.



H.E. Heng Ratana, Director General of CMAC, Meets with Dr. Shoichi Kobayashi, President of the Japan Development Institute

On 19 May 2025, at the CMAC Headquarters in Phnom Penh, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, received a courtesy call and held a working discussion with Dr. Shoichi Kobayashi, economist and President of the Japan Development Institute Ltd. (JDI), accompanied by his delegation.

During the meeting, Dr. Shoichi Kobayashi outlined his vision to promote investment in agriculture and rural development through the establishment of rural special economic zones (SEZs). This initiative aims to stimulate rural investment and economic growth in line with the long-term development vision of Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet.

Since 1995, Dr. Shoichi Kobayashi has worked closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia

on the development of several special economic zones, including the Phnom Penh Special

Economic Zone. He also brings extensive international experience, having contributed to similar strategic development planning initiatives in more than 30 countries worldwide. In Cambodia, these economic zones have played a significant role in attracting Japanese investment and generating employment for over half a million workers.

Dr. Shoichi Kobayashi further expressed his interest in gaining a deeper understanding of CMAC's strategic approach and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting development initiatives in mine-cleared communities, with assistance from the Government of Japan.

In response, H.E. Heng Ratana expressed strong support for Dr. Shoichi Kobayashi's proposal to advance agricultural and rural development through rural special economic zones. He noted that this approach aligns closely with the policies and leadership direction of Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei and the Royal Government of Cambodia, and holds significant potential for improving livelihoods and promoting sustainable development in rural areas.



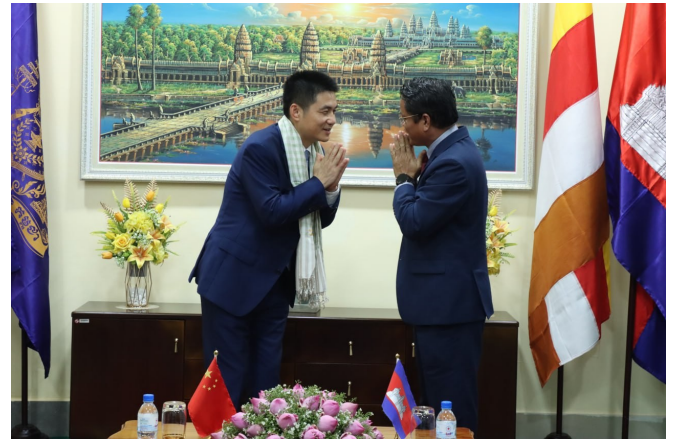
Chinese PEACELAND Foundation Provides Machinery Assistance to CMAC to Support Mine Risk Reduction and Safe Land Release for the Cambodian People

On Thursday, 19 June 2025, at CMAC Headquarters in Phnom Penh, a handover ceremony for one SANY-brand excavator was held through the charitable assistance of the Chinese PEACELAND Foundation. The event was attended by Ms. Song Ximei, Director of Disaster Relief of the SANY Foundation; Mr. Qiu Lili, representative of the PEACELAND Foundation; Mr. Lu Hua, General Director of SANY Cambodia; and other company representatives.



The delegation was accompanied by Senior Colonel Sheng Dazhi, Chinese Military Attaché to Cambodia; the Second Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Cambodia; and Dr. Chea Monyreth, President of the Cambodia-China Development Research Association.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ms. Song Ximei expressed her high appreciation and recognition of CMAC's tireless efforts as a leading institution in mine action in Cambodia. She highlighted CMAC's significant contribution to reducing landmine and explosive ordnance risks, releasing safe land to communities after mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) clearance, and enabling land to be used productively for agriculture, livelihood improvement, and infrastructure development in war-affected areas. These efforts, she noted, have played an important role in supporting local community development and improving the quality of life of the Cambodian people.



Ms. Song further stated that this donation marks the first phase of support from the PEACELAND Foundation to CMAC. She expressed hope that, in the future, the Foundation would be able to mobilize additional support from Chinese philanthropists and investors to further assist Cambodia's mine action and development efforts.

In response, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government and people of China for their continued support for mine action activities in Cambodia, particularly in the country's reconstruction and development following the achievement of full peace. He also conveyed his heartfelt thanks to the Chinese PEACELAND Foundation for its efforts in mobilizing assistance to provide essential machinery to support demining operations and development activities in Cambodia.

H.E. Heng Ratana emphasized that this donation is of great value in strengthening CMAC's operational capacity and will contribute significantly to supporting rural development efforts and improving the livelihoods of communities and citizens living in mine-affected areas after clearance.



CMAC Concludes Workshop on Strengthening the Capacity of Specialist Cooperation Officers at CMAC Headquarters, Phnom Penh

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 9 July 2025, at the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) Headquarters in Phnom Penh, CMAC held the closing ceremony of a three-day capacity-building workshop, which had been conducted from 7–9 July 2025. The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC.



The workshop was attended by heads of CMAC’s six Demining Units operating in provincial areas, along with relevant technical officers, totalling approximately 45 participants. Throughout the workshop, participants actively engaged in knowledge-sharing and learning sessions aimed at strengthening the capacity of specialist cooperation officers involved in field-level mine clearance operations.

Over the three-day period, the workshop addressed 11 key agenda items, discussed in accordance with the high-level guidance and recommendations provided by H.E. the Delegate of the Royal Government on 26 June 2025.

The primary objective of the workshop was to further enhance the effectiveness and safety of



mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance operations, with particular emphasis on improving operational techniques and professional standards among specialized personnel. The workshop also provided a forum for participants to share operational experiences, challenges encountered in the field, as well as strengths and weaknesses identified across individual demining units.

Constructive guidance and recommendations were provided to address operational gaps, with the aim of strengthening accountability, management, discipline, and strict adherence to CMAC’s internal rules, regulations, and operational standards.

In his remarks at the closing ceremony, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, expressed high appreciation and commendation for the Department of Planning and Operations, all relevant departments, and the officers and staff who actively participated in the workshop. He emphasized that their commitment and contributions are essential to CMAC’s mission of clearing landmines and explosive remnants of war, releasing safe land to communities previously affected by conflict, and supporting national development efforts in close cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia.

CMAC Signs Partnership Cooperation Agreement on the “Community-Based Mine Clearance” Project with IMCCD

On Monday, 25 August 2025, at the CMAC Headquarters in Phnom Penh, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, together with Mr. Takayama Ryoji, Head of the International Mine Action and Community Development Organization (IMCCD), signed a Partnership Cooperation Agreement for the project entitled “Community-Based Mine Clearance.”

The project is supported by a Japanese Non-Profit Organization (NPO) with a total budget of USD 44,482. It aims to conduct mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance operations—

In his remarks, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, recalled his long-standing collaboration with Mr. Takayama Ryoji, particularly in supporting post-clearance community development initiatives over the past two decades.



His Excellency highlighted Ta Sen Commune, Kamrieng District, Battambang Province, once among the most heavily mine-contaminated areas in Cambodia. Through sustained development efforts led by Mr. Takayama Ryoji, the commune has been transformed from minefields into a community with improved road networks and irrigation systems. His Excellency expressed deep appreciation to Mr. Takayama Ryoji for dedicating nearly half of his life to contributing to Cambodia’s development.

It is noteworthy that from 2011 to August 2025, IMCCD-supported activities have cleared nearly 7 square kilometers of land, identified and destroyed 2,119 items of explosive remnants of war, including 624 anti-personnel mines, 118 anti-vehicle mines, and 1,377 other explosive remnants, and have responded to five emergency clearance requests.



particularly the clearance of anti-vehicle mines—in areas with urgent development needs. The project seeks to enhance post-clearance socio-economic development in Battambang and Pailin provinces. Implementation will run from 16 August 2025 to 15 August 2026.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. Takayama Ryoji expressed his pleasure and appreciation for having worked in close cooperation with CMAC for more than 20 years in mine and UXO clearance and post-clearance community development. He emphasized that CMAC is not only Cambodia’s leading national mine action institution, but has also evolved into a center of knowledge and expertise in mine action at the international level.



Cambodia and Japan Convene Second Joint Coordination Committee Meeting to Advance CMAC Capacity Strengthening Project, Phase II

On Tuesday, 9 September 2025, at the Headquarters of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in Phnom Penh, the Second Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting of the Project for Strengthening the Organizational Functions of CMAC, Phase II was convened between the working teams of CMAC and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The meeting focused on in-depth discussions and revisions of the project design and operational plans, including the refinement of implementation indicators and timelines for each activity, with the objective of ensuring effective execution and overall project success.

The project has a three-year duration, from March 2025 to March 2028, and aims to support CMAC in achieving its Strategic Plan 2026–2035. During the First Joint Coordination Committee Meeting, held on 30 May 2025, both parties agreed to establish three technical working groups, namely:

1. International Cooperation,
2. Materials and Technology Development, and
3. Public Relations.

These working groups are responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring, and addressing technical issues within their respective areas of expertise, thereby ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of the project.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General

and Mr. Sanui Kazumasa, Chief Representative of JICA in the Kingdom of Cambodia, signed the revised Minutes of Discussion for the Project for Strengthening the Organizational Functions of CMAC, Phase II. This signing is consistent with the strategic objectives of the Cambodia–Japan Mine Action Initiative.

The project is expected to contribute significantly to strengthening CMAC’s institutional capacity and reinforcing its role as a national mine action institution delivering specialized and professional services in line with international standards. It also plays a vital role in promoting CMAC’s engagement in international mine action training, enhancing sustainable and high-quality human resource development, and further strengthening international cooperation, thereby expanding CMAC’s presence and contribution on the global stage.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr. Sanui Kazumasa expressed his agreement with the remarks of the Director General of CMAC regarding the four core focus areas of the project: technical equipment, operational standards, human resources, and international cooperation. He emphasized that the sharing of CMAC’s experience with the international community remains a key priority for the Japanese side.

In his remarks, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Japan, particularly JICA, for their continued support to CMAC’s mine action activities and for the ongoing assistance under Phase II of the capacity strengthening project. His Excellency highlighted that this support contributes to the further transfer of mine action knowledge and expertise to countries in the region and worldwide, building on CMAC’s previous contributions to capacity building in mine-affected countries such as Colombia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Angola, and Ukraine.



Norwegian Ambassador Meets with CMAC Director General to Discuss Mine Action Cooperation and Regional Developments

On the afternoon of 6 October 2025, at the Headquarters of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in Phnom Penh, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, received Her Excellency Astrid Emilie Helle, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Cambodia, who is based in Bangkok, Thailand, for a courtesy call and working discussion.



Her Excellency the Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Hans Risser, Country Director of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in Cambodia, along with members of her delegation.

During the meeting, H.E. Heng Ratana briefed the Ambassador on the overall progress of Cambodia's mine action sector and the key achievements of CMAC, with particular emphasis on the long-standing and close cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), which has been a strategic partner of CMAC for over 33 years, since 1992.



His Excellency highlighted that the valuable support provided by the people and Government of Norway has made a significant contribution to the Royal Government of Cambodia's efforts to eliminate landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). These efforts have played a crucial role in protecting the lives of Cambodian citizens, strengthening peace, and supporting national socio-economic recovery and development in the post-conflict period.

The meeting also included an exchange of views on the Cambodia–Thailand border situation, which remains a matter of serious concern requiring close monitoring, particularly due to the severe impact of explosive remnants of war resulting from Thai shelling, which affected Cambodia's sovereign territory and civilian communities during the five-day armed clashes.

In this context, H.E. Heng Ratana reaffirmed that the Royal Government of Cambodia, under the leadership of Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, has been strictly adhering to the ceasefire agreement and exercising the utmost restraint and patience, with the aim of achieving sustainable peace for both neighbouring countries and their peoples.

In response, Her Excellency Astrid Emilie Helle highly commended and positively assessed the Royal Government of Cambodia's efforts and

achievements in the mine action sector, noting that Cambodia's progress represents a strong example consistent with the spirit and principles of the Ottawa Anti-Personnel Mine Convention.

Before concluding the meeting, the Norwegian Ambassador expressed her deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences for the loss of lives and property suffered by Cambodian civilians as a result of the five-day conflict between Cambodia and Thailand.

Her Excellency further reaffirmed Norway's strong commitment to continued cooperation with Cambodia in the field of mine action, emphasizing Norway's willingness to further contribute to Cambodia's national development. She confirmed that the Government of Norway will continue to support Cambodia through Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), particularly in mine

She confirmed that the Government of Norway will continue to support Cambodia through Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), particularly in mine clearance, mine risk education, and post-clearance community development.

The Ambassador also stressed that Norway strongly supports the strict implementation of the ceasefire and the restoration of peace, which she noted is in the best interest of both countries, the region, and the international community as a whole.

On the same occasion, Mr. Hans Risser reaffirmed that Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) will continue its cooperation with CMAC for an additional five-year period (2026–2030), with funding support from the Governments of Norway and the United States, as well as other international donors.



CMAC Director General Receives Courtesy Call and Holds Working Discussion with JICA President

On the morning of Sunday, 12 October 2025, at the Headquarters of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in Phnom Penh, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, received a courtesy call and held a working discussion with H.E. Dr. Tanaka Akihiko, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), based in Tokyo.

During this important meeting, H.E. Heng Ratana briefed H.E. Dr. Tanaka Akihiko on Cambodia's history of war, the persistent challenges posed by landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), and the achievements of more than 33 years of explosive remnants of war clearance efforts. He also outlined Cambodia's peacebuilding process, post-war national reconstruction, and the strong cooperation between the Governments and peoples of Cambodia and Japan in the field of mine action.



During the discussion, H.E. Dr. Tanaka Akihiko also commended the initiative to establish a Peace Museum, supported by the Government of Japan, as an important platform for educating future generations about the consequences of war and the value of peacebuilding through mine clearance and the removal of explosive remnants of war.

He further praised CMAC's active efforts in researching and applying new technologies in mine action in collaboration with Japanese experts, including the ALIS mine detection system and the application of artificial intelligence. In this regard, he reaffirmed JICA's continued support for cooperation with CMAC to enhance the use of innovative technologies in clearing conflict-affected areas and ensuring safe land for local communities.

It is noteworthy that JICA has cooperated with and supported CMAC since 1998, providing technical assistance, equipment, financial support, and expert advisors. Over more than 27 years, the Government of Japan, through JICA, has made substantial contributions to humanitarian mine action in Cambodia, significantly supporting public safety, human security, and the elimination of landmines and explosive remnants of war across the country.



His Excellency further highlighted CMAC's efforts in sharing Cambodia's mine action experience with other mine-affected countries through South-South Cooperation initiatives, supported by JICA. These efforts demonstrate Cambodia's contribution to the global mine action community by transferring knowledge, expertise, and operational experience to countries affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

In response, H.E. Dr. Tanaka Akihiko expressed his high appreciation and admiration for the efforts of CMAC, recognizing it as a leading national institution in mine action in Cambodia.





Overall, during the visit of H.E. Dr. Tanaka Akihiko to CMAC, H.E. Heng Ratana expressed his strong hope that cooperation between Cambodia and Japan in the field of mine action will continue to deepen. He emphasized the importance of ongoing support from the Government and people of Japan for the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Cambodian people—particularly CMAC—in eliminating landmines and UXO, ensuring public safety, and contributing to Cambodia’s sustainable socio-economic development.

Number of Mine Victims Drops by 26% in First Four Months of 2025. The number of people injured or killed by landmines decreased by approximately 26% during the first four months of 2025, according to a report from the Department of Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance and Post-Clearance Development of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC).

The decline in casualties is attributed to ongoing public awareness campaigns implemented by the Government of Cambodia, the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA), and CMAC. These



campaigns regularly disseminate messages to alert civilians about mine-related dangers, including the risks of handling unexploded ordnance (UXO).

From January to April 2025, a total of 17 people were affected by landmines and UXO, compared to 23 victims during the same period in 2024. Of these 17 cases, seven were caused by landmines and ten by UXO. Among the victims, there were five deaths, eleven injuries, and one case of disability. Demographically, the casualties included nine men, two women, five boys, and one girl under 18.

All incident data were recorded in the CMAA national database to analyze and interpret the situation regarding landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). The information is subsequently shared with relevant mine action institutions and victim assistance organizations to inform planning and operational strategies.



Despite progress, challenges remain. Incidents continue to occur, particularly due to incomplete data on remaining mines. In remote areas, delivery of mine risk education is difficult, and general awareness remains limited, especially among children. CMAC has taken steps to improve awareness in schools, but approximately 50% of incidents occur outside surveyed hazardous areas.

Since 1979, mines and ERW have killed and injured more than 65,000 people in Cambodia. Annual casualties have fallen dramatically, from 4,320 in 1996 to 49 in 2024. Nevertheless, landmines and ERW continue to cause fatalities, injuries, and psychological trauma, while impeding social and economic recovery and sustainable development in affected communities. Across Cambodia, an estimated one million people still live and work in areas contaminated by landmines, cluster munitions, and other ERW.

Number of Mine Victims Drops by 26% in First Four Months of 2025

The number of people injured or killed by landmines decreased by approximately 26% during the first four months of 2025, according to a report from the Department of Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance and Post-Clearance Development of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC).

The decline in casualties is attributed to ongoing public awareness campaigns implemented by the Government of Cambodia, the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA), and CMAC. These campaigns regularly disseminate messages to alert civilians about mine-related dangers, including the risks of handling unexploded ordnance (UXO).



Despite progress, challenges remain. Incidents continue to occur, particularly due to incomplete data on remaining mines. In remote areas, delivery of mine risk education is difficult, and general awareness remains limited, especially among children. CMAC has taken steps to improve awareness in schools, but approximately 50% of incidents occur outside surveyed hazardous areas.

Since 1979, mines and ERW have killed and injured more than 65,000 people in Cambodia. Annual casualties have fallen dramatically, from 4,320 in 1996 to 49 in 2024. Nevertheless, landmines and ERW continue to cause fatalities, injuries, and psychological trauma, while impeding social and economic recovery and sustainable development in affected communities. Across Cambodia, an estimated one million people still live and work in areas contaminated by landmines, cluster munitions, and other ERW.



From January to April 2025, a total of 17 people were affected by landmines and UXO, compared to 23 victims during the same period in 2024. Of these 17 cases, seven were caused by landmines and ten by UXO. Among the victims, there were five deaths, eleven injuries, and one case of disability. Demographically, the casualties included nine men, two women, five boys, and one girl under 18.

All incident data were recorded in the CMAA national database to analyze and interpret the situation regarding landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). The information is subsequently shared with relevant mine action institutions and victim assistance organizations to inform planning and operational strategies.



Japanese Government Grant Training Facility Handed Over to CMAC

On October 15, 2025, at the Technical Institute of Mine Action in Kampong Chhnang Province, a formal handover ceremony was held for a new training facility, provided as grant assistance from the Government of Japan to the Royal Government of Cambodia, to support the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in professional capacity building.

The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director-General of CMAC, alongside Mr. Takuji Urano, Project Manager of SATO KOGYO Co., Ltd., and Mr. Yasutaka Shimojima, Resident Construction Supervisor of Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd.



The construction project comprises seven buildings:

1. One two-story classroom building with 10 rooms
2. Two dormitory buildings with a total of 30 rooms, accommodating over 200 trainees
3. One conference hall building with seating for more than 400 participants
4. One canteen building with a capacity of over 200 people
5. One sanitation facility building
6. One power supply building



The main construction of all buildings has been completed and the facilities have been officially handed over to CMAC for operational management. The installation of furniture, computer sys

tems, and training equipment is expected to be finalized by the end of January 2026.

The Government of Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has generously provided this grant to the Royal Government of Cambodia for the construction of the training facilities, implemented by engineers from SATO KOGYO Co., Ltd., Japan. As of October 2025, construction has progressed smoothly and according to plan.

On this occasion, H.E. Heng Ratana expressed his profound gratitude to Samdech Techo and Samdech Thipadei for their visionary leadership and steadfast support in realizing this project. He also thanked the government and people of Japan for their long-standing friendship and generous grant, which will enhance CMAC's capacity to provide technical training, share mine action expertise, and support mine-affected countries both nationally and internationally.

H.E. Heng Ratana further acknowledged the dedicated efforts of JICA officials, Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd., Japan International Cooperation System (JICS), and SATO KOGYO Co., Ltd., whose coordination and professionalism ensured that all construction works were executed to the highest standards of .



H.E. Heng Ratana, CMAC Director General, Hosts High-Level Ukrainian Delegation

On October 17, 2025, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), welcomed a high-level delegation from the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) to CMAC's headquarters in Phnom Penh for a knowledge-sharing visit supported by the Government of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The Ukrainian delegation was led by Mr. Reva Serhii, Head of SESU's Mine Action Department. The meeting was also attended by Mr. HIJIKAWA Kento, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Cambodia, and representatives of JICA in Cambodia.

During the discussion, H.E. Heng Ratana reaffirmed CMAC's strong commitment to sharing its



mine action expertise with SESU personnel to support humanitarian operations in areas affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), with the primary objective of protecting civilian populations.

He expressed his hope that Ukraine will soon achieve peace, noting that peace is a fundamental prerequisite for national reconstruction after war. H.E. Heng Ratana emphasized that lasting peace cannot be achieved through the use of weapons or force, but rather through mutual understanding, patience, and dialogue at both bilateral and international levels.

Mr. Reva Serhii informed the meeting that approximately 170,000 square kilometers of land in Ukraine are currently affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan and JICA for supporting Ukraine's cooperation with CMAC, a nationally and internationally recog-



nized leader in humanitarian mine action. He noted that Ukrainian trainees will transfer the knowledge and experience gained from CMAC to support humanitarian demining efforts in war-affected areas of Ukraine.

Since 2023, CMAC has provided training to a total of 32 SESU personnel, with training activities continuing through October 2025. In addition to training conducted in Cambodia, CMAC has also deployed technical experts to Poland to deliver hands-on training to additional SESU trainees, in cooperation with the Polish Solidarity Fund.

Prior to the working meeting, the Ukrainian delegation conducted field visits to several CMAC facilities to gain a deeper understanding of CMAC's mine action operations. These included the Ukrainian trainees' training ground in Popel Commune, the Techo Peace Museum in Siem Reap Province, the CMAC Central Workshop and minefield in Battambang Province, as well as the Technical Institute of Mine Action and CMAC Dog Center in Kampong Chhnang Province.

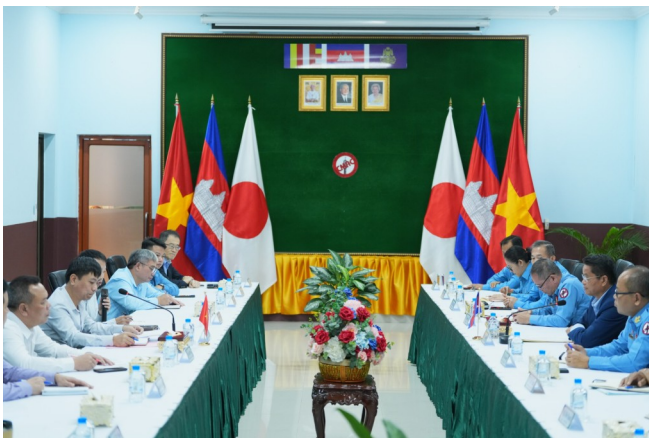
This humanitarian mine action training program for Ukrainian specialists has been made possible through the close cooperation between the governments of Japan and Cambodia, enabling CMAC to implement this initiative in response to the urgent humanitarian need to address landmine and ERW contamination in Ukraine.



Vietnam Mine Action Center Delegation Visits CMAC to Learn from Cambodia's Mine Clearance Experience

On November 17, 2025, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), welcomed and held a working meeting with a delegation from the Vietnam Mine Action Center (VNMAC) at CMAC headquarters in Phnom Penh.

The delegation was led by Colonel Pham The Anh, Head of the Vietnamese delegation, accompanied by senior colleagues. The visit aimed to enhance understanding of Cambodia's mine action sector, with particular focus on CMAC's highly effective and internationally recognized mine clearance operations.



During the meeting, H.E. Heng Ratana briefed the delegation on Cambodia's wartime history, which left millions of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) across the country. He outlined the significant progress achieved in mine clearance over recent decades, as well as the continuous development of CMAC's technical and operational capacity.

H.E. Heng Ratana highlighted CMAC's use of mine clearance equipment incorporating Japanese technology, which has contributed to improved safety, efficiency, and effectiveness in field operations. He also explained the deployment of CMAC operational teams across high-risk provinces, noting that CMAC maintains Demining Units (DUs) in several provinces that can be rapidly mobilized nationwide to respond to urgent requests from communities and local authorities facing threats from explosive remnants of war (ERW).



In response, Colonel Pham The Anh expressed his deep appreciation to CMAC for warmly receiving the VNMAC delegation and for sharing Cambodia's experience and technical expertise in mine action. He commended CMAC's achievements and sustained efforts in clearing landmines and UXO, emphasizing their critical role in saving lives and providing safe land for socio-economic development.

Colonel Pham The Anh further expressed his strong hope that the working meeting, together with upcoming field visits, would enable the delegation to gain practical operational and technical knowledge from CMAC specialists, which could be applied to strengthen mine clearance programs in Vietnam.

Following the meeting, the delegation was scheduled to conduct field visits to a minefield in Svay Rieng Province, the Technical Institute of Mine Action in Kampong Chhnang Province, a minefield in Pursat Province, and the Techo Peace Museum in Siem Reap Province, to further study CMAC's mine action operations and institutional experience.



JICA Director General of the Governance Department from Tokyo Visits CMAC to Strengthen Cooperation

On November 19, 2025, at the headquarters of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in Phnom Penh, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, welcomed Mr. Hideharu Tachibana, Director General of the Governance Department of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Tokyo, along with his delegation, for an official visit and working discussion aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation.



The visit provided an opportunity to gain deeper insight into Cambodia's mine action sector, particularly CMAC's landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) clearance operations, ongoing Japanese grant-aid projects, and the long-standing cooperation between CMAC and Japan.

During the meeting, H.E. Heng Ratana briefed Mr. Hideharu Tachibana on the progress of mine clearance activities in Cambodia, as well as CMAC's continued technical capacity development, accumulated operational experience, and sustained efforts in humanitarian mine action. He highlighted CMAC's more than ten years of fo-



cused work on the survey and clearance of cluster munitions and aerial bombs in Cambodia's eastern provinces along the border with Viet Nam—areas that continue to face significant contamination and risk.

H.E. Heng Ratana also expressed his sincere appreciation to JICA for its invaluable support to Cambodia, particularly in strengthening infrastructure, promoting economic growth, and developing human resources, with special emphasis on the mine action sector. He expressed strong confidence that Japan's contribution will generate long-term and global value, through international mine action training programs, experience-sharing at the Technical Institute of Mine Action, and the promotion of peace awareness through the peace museum supported by Japan, reaching audiences both nationally and internationally.

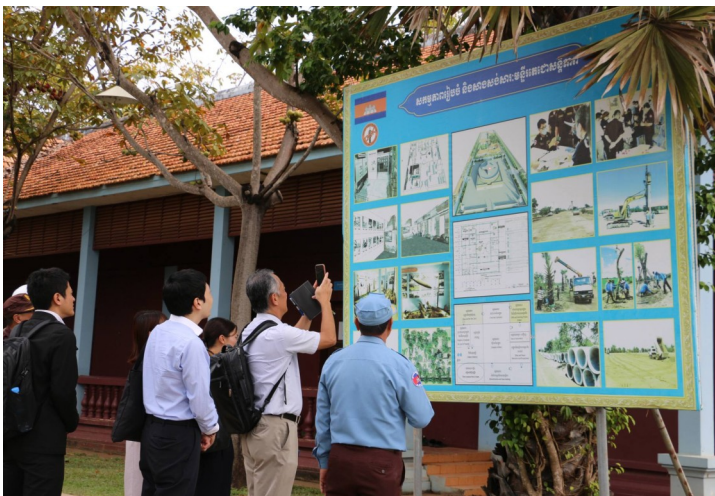


In response, Mr. Hideharu Tachibana highly commended CMAC for its leading role and continued dedication to landmine and ERW clearance in Cambodia, underscoring its vital contribution to saving lives and providing safe land for socio-economic development. He reaffirmed JICA's strong commitment to continued cooperation with CMAC, including support for further advancement of mine action techniques and the introduction of new and innovative technologies.

Mr. Hideharu Tachibana also highlighted JICA's ongoing support for international training programs, particularly for countries affected by armed conflict, noting that several countries in Africa are scheduled to receive mine action training in the coming year.

As part of the visit, Mr. Hideharu Tachibana and his delegation conducted field visits to the Techo Peace Museum in Siem Reap Province, mine clearance operations in Samlot District, Battambang Province, the Techo Heritage Development Centre, the Technical Institute of Mine Action, and the CMAC Dog Center in Kampong Chhnang Province.

During these visits, Mr. Tachibana expressed strong interest in CMAC's integrated approach, particularly its post-clearance agricultural development and training programs, which he identified as a critical foundation for sustainable peace-building, poverty reduction, and the improvement of livelihoods for Cambodian communities.



Closing Ceremony of Technical Mine and Explosive Ordnance Clearance Training Courses

On the morning of Friday, 21 November 2025, at the Technical Institute of Mine Action (TIMA) in Kampong Chhnang Province, a closing ceremony was held for three specialized training programs, under the high presidency of H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC.

The ceremony marked the completion of:

- the 4th Batch of the Technical Mine and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Training Courses, Levels 1 and 2,
- the 24th Batch of the Basic Kennel Handler Training Course, and
- the 5th Batch of the Canine Care and Training Enhancement Course.

Technical Mine and EOD Clearance Training (Levels 1 and 2 – 4th Batch)

The Technical Mine and EOD Clearance Training Courses (Levels 1 and 2) enrolled a total of 22 trainees, who undertook a one-year training program divided into four phases. The curriculum combined both theoretical instruction and practical field application.

In addition, trainees completed a four-week advanced practicum at the Special Unit for Ammunition Neutralization under the EHP Project, further strengthening their professional competence, operational skills, and overall quality in mine and explosive ordnance clearance operations. Basic Kennel Handler Training Course (24th Batch)

The 24th Batch of the Basic Kennel Handler Training Course was conducted from 18 August to 3 October 2025, over a period of 47 days, inclusive of rest days.

A total of 30 trainees participated, including 10 female and 20 male trainees, drawn from various CMAC demining units nationwide, as well as the Special Underwater Operations Unit.

Canine Care and Training Enhancement Course (5th Batch)

The 5th Batch of the Canine Care and Training Enhancement Course was conducted from 28 July to 8 August 2025, over a two-week period. The course involved 14 trainees, comprising 3 female and 11 male participants.

All trainees were officers and staff from the CMAC Dog Center, responsible for canine care, maintenance, and training.

Strengthening Institutional Capacity

It should be noted that these training programs were organized in response to CMAC's essential operational needs to strengthen technical knowledge and professional skills among its personnel across all demining units, particularly those serving as successor and rotational staff in the fields of mine clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, and canine operations.

Following comprehensive instruction combining theory and practice, and upon completion of final evaluations, the results demonstrated that all trainees showed strong commitment to learning, maintained good discipline, and actively participated in training with patience, responsibility, and professionalism throughout the courses.



CMAC and APOPO Sign Memorandum of Understanding on the Integration of Mine Detection Rats and Technical Detection Dogs

On the morning of 4 December 2025, at the CMAC Headquarters in Phnom Penh, H.E. Heng Ratana, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Director General of CMAC, and Mr. Michael Raine, Programme Manager of APOPO Cambodia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the implementation of a project integrating mine detection rats and technical detection dogs, with a total value of USD 281,490.35.



The project has a one-year duration, running from 1 January to 31 December 2026, and targets the clearance of 7,560,000 square meters of land. Operations will be conducted by Demining Unit 4 in Siem Reap Province and Demining Unit 6 in Preah Vihear Province. With this support, CMAC will deploy manual demining teams, mine detection dogs, and mine detection rats to priority areas identified under the 2026 Mine Clearance Plan.

Strengthening Cooperation and Operational Effectiveness Speaking at the signing ceremony, H.E. Heng Ratana highlighted the strong and effective cooperation between CMAC and APOPO. He noted that both institutions will continue to collaborate closely on training, testing, and project implementation related to mine detection rats and technical detection dogs, in full compliance with international quality standards.

Within the context of this renewed commitment, H.E. Heng Ratana emphasized the shared objective of strengthening mine action management, improving operational efficiency, and expanding support to mine-affected communities, particularly in Preah Vihear Province. He expressed confidence that the continued partnership between CMAC and APOPO will further enhance the

speed, accuracy, and effectiveness of mine detection and clearance operations.

APOPO's Continued Commitment

Mr. Michael Raine reaffirmed APOPO's unwavering commitment to Cambodia's mine action sector, stating that the organization remains ready to contribute through scientific research, operational expertise, specialized detection tools, and capacity development, in support of Cambodia's national goal of becoming a mine-free country.

He expressed his deep appreciation to CMAC for its steadfast partnership, to donors for their trust and generosity, and paid tribute to field personnel who continue to risk their lives to remove landmines and ensure safety for affected communities. **Broader International Cooperation**

In addition to mine clearance cooperation within Cambodia, CMAC and APOPO have expanded their partnership internationally by facilitating the deployment of CMAC mine detection dogs to Türkiye and several Central African countries. CMAC specialists have also been dispatched to these countries to provide technical detection dog training, while unexploded ordnance (UXO) personnel from partner countries have received mine clearance training at CMAC through APOPO.

CMAC and APOPO have now collaborated for more than 11 years in animal-assisted mine clearance programs. Over this period, CMAC has cleared nearly 5,800 hectares of land and destroyed approximately 52,957 items of unexploded ordnance of all types, making a significant contribution to humanitarian mine action and community safety.





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