

## **Riversides and Floating Villages in Cambodian cities Phnom Penh and Siam Reap**

I was in Cambodia during August 3 to 14 in 2012 for a field work as a part of APIEL (Asian Program Incubating Environmental Leader) program in University of Tokyo. The main objective of this field work program was sustainable development in Cambodia. I visited several ODA (Official Development Assistance) projects, which are mostly located in urban and rural area including Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia, Seam Reap, Battambang province, to learn its achievements and lessons.

Water or river is an element of amenities in urban life. Cambodia is a country with abundant water resource. As I was interested in irrigation and water resources for my field work, I was attracted to spaces near river and reservoirs I visited and felt comfortable and relaxed there.

In the first free day, I had dinner on the boat enjoying the view of the river side in Phnom Penh and visited a night market after that. The Night market was located right beside of river. There are vendors selling food, and clothes, a huge space for eating and drinking on the floor and a stage for small concert. People were chatting together. You can enjoy shopping and eating with Cambodian music in the breeze from the river.

When I moved to the other province and visited reservoirs for the field work, I had chances to have lunch on wooden structures with hammocks on the shore. Because reservoirs are mostly located in rural areas, you will feel relaxed with the more local atmosphere out of the crowded tourist spots.

Floating Village is another interesting place to visit. It is located in Siem Reap city which is well known for the World Heritage Angkor Wat. Housing in the floating village is a little different from the raised-floor-housing you can observe on the other place of Cambodia. Houses are built on the boat. When water level rises, housing floats. The village has not only houses but also a church, school, market all on the boat. Villagers have their own life styles and some do business on tourist jumping from one boat to another.

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world. However, I saw it is fast developing and also has high potential. I hope they take advantage of water resources in the right way and benefit and enjoy from it.



**Night Market, Phnom Penh**



**Restaurant with reservoir,  
Battambang Province**



**Floating Village, Siem Reap**



**Sunset of Angkor Wat,  
Siem Reap**