

## Description

### Location (accessibility, multiplier effects on neighboring regions), population, size, reputation in the country

Choam Chao is one of 76 Sangkat of the Capital Phnom Penh. It is located about 15 kilometers in the west of Phnom Penh commercial downtown, right after the Phnom Penh International Airport, located between National Road #3 and 4.

Chaom Chao is one of the rapidly urbanized places in Cambodia. According to the 2009 commune profile, the registered households are 7,465 while total population is about 69,000 living on a land size of about 2,000 hectares. Its population during the day has also risen quickly due to the increase numbers of garment factories in the territory, who commute to the city in the morning and return to their residence outside the city in the evening.

### Political/legal position in the respective state structure (name of mayor and term in office, next election period, decision-making structures)

Sangkat is the fourth tier of government in Cambodia, but has experienced the decentralization program before any other tiers above, especially the province and district levels. Mr. Soth Sath has been the Council Chief and Sangkat Chief since 2002 through direct political party representative system elections in February 2002 and April 2007.

The eleven council members consist of one woman and ten men coming from two main political parties, the Cambodian People Party and Sam Rainsy.

The council is the highest decision-making body while the Sangkat chief (who is also the Sangkat Council Chief), his two deputies and the Ministry of Interior's appointed Clerk are the executive body and charged with day-to day activities. Below the Sangkat level, there are 27 villages and eight organized communities whose leaders are decided by the Sangkat Council.

### Human and financial resources (no of civil servants working in the public administration, overall annual financial budget, etc)



This project is co-funded by the European Union.

A Project implemented by the consortium: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V., Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), Local Government Development Foundation Inc. (LOGODEF), United Cities and Local Governments for Asia and Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC), Association of Indonesian Regency Governments (APKASI), Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN), and National League of Communes/Sangkats of the Kingdom of Cambodia (NLC/S).

In addition to the 11 councilors, there are ten contractual staff, of whom three are women.

All contracted staff are recruited by the council and their salary paid by the council budget. For 2010, the Sangkat has received about USD20,000 from the national government, but collected about USD 5,500 more from the people.

### **Specific political, social, cultural and economic character/framework**

As a newly and rapidly urbanized area, Choam Chao has faced vast challenges in terms of infrastructure improvement, social and public orders and informal economic activities.

To meet these huge demands with only small budget from the national government, the Sangkat Council and staff have been focusing much more on governance matters such as mobilization of the people, coordination with other public offices including the police and military police, public relation with private firms and rich individuals to promote the quality of life for the Sangkat residents as well as for the people commuting on the National Roads #3 and 4.



This project is co-funded by the European Union.

A Project implemented by the consortium: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V., Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), Local Government Development Foundation Inc. (LOGODEF), United Cities and Local Governments for Asia and Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC), Association of Indonesian Regency Governments (APKASI), Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN), and National League of Communes/Sangkats of the Kingdom of Cambodia (NLC/S).