We would like to talk to about Cambodia. How much do you know about Cambodia? Cambodia is in the southeast part of Indochina and it is famous for Angkor Wat. This is the map of around Cambodia. The east of Cambodia touches Vietnam, the north touches Laos, the northwestern part touches Thailand and the south touches the Thailand bay. The area of Cambodia is about twice Hokkaido. The capital of Cambodia is Phnom Penh. Phnom Penh achieved economic growth by sewing business and tourist business. The population of Cambodia is about 13,000,000.

Our group didn’t know much about the problems of Cambodia before. This time, we investigated about problems of Cambodia and learned that. Cambodia has a lot of problems. First, Cambodia has problems of basic social environments. The GNP level of Cambodia is very low and it is a low income country. A poor- and needy ratio exceeds 30% of population, and the population growth rate is high, so poverty doesn’t decrease. Moreover, social welfare systems such as education, insurance, medical treatment, and public services are also poorly funded. Please look these graphs. Left graph shows high school attendance in Cambodia and Japan. The percentage of Japan is 90, but Cambodia is only 10. Also, right graph shows life insurance in Cambodia and Japan. The percentage of Japan is 93, but there is no one who is insured in Cambodia. The poor social welfare system leads to the fall of life expectancy and the rise of child mortality. Left graph shows the average life expectancy in Cambodia and Japan. The average life expectancy of a Japanese person is 83, but for Cambodians it is only 56. Also, right graph shows child mortality in Cambodia and Japan. The percentage of Japan is 0.2, but Cambodia is 12.

Next, Cambodians’ livelihood. 85% of all Cambodians are farmers. Almost all farmers grow rice, but it is not profitable because the quantity of quality is influenced during the rainy season and the dry season by the monsoon. The monsoon is a storm that changes the direction of the wind for a half a year. The monsoon causes unsettled weather and farmers can’t get the perfect crop every year. There is almost no income from agriculture, so farmers go to the city or neighboring countries to work, but there are no jobs there. So, they go to surrounding city garbage dumps and gather garbage and live. Of course, it is not profitable. That is, they are living a life of poverty. They are troubled by both an inferior social environment and poverty. The life of Cambodians is caught in a vicious circle. Well, our group took notice of the lives of Cambodians. Nao will talk about their problems in more detail.

The first problem is many garbage dumps. There are a lot of garbage dumps in Cambodia. The dump near Phnom Penh is the biggest and many poor people live there. Why do these people live in such dirty place? Because they lived in farming villages before, but they couldn’t get enough money to live by farming. So, they decided to go to the capital, Phnom Penh to get more profitable jobs, only to find there were no jobs they wanted to get. They couldn’t live in Phnom Penh so they moved to the garbage dump near there. Now, they gather
some garbage that may be a little profitable and sell it.

Of course, the life in garbage dumps isn’t easy. For example, a four-year-old girl gathers empty cans for ten hours a day. She must work to live. Moreover, the air in garbage dumps is very dirty and it isn’t good for their health. The life in garbage dumps is really bad. Why are these garbage dumps increasing? Because they have no facilities to incinerate garbage. Cambodians don’t have money or knowledge to build it.

The second problem is the education in Cambodia. There are 3 bad points. First, there are few schools in Cambodia. Can you believe that? Cambodia has only one university. It is in Phnom Penh and the students who want to go to the university must go to Phnom Penh. Moreover, there are few schools especially in the countryside. For example, a boy must walk 3km to reach the nearest elementary school. This situation makes it really difficult to receive an education.

The second problem is the shortage of textbooks and improper contents. When one student finished using the textbook, he must return it so that the next student can use. The textbooks are worn out by use from many students. What’s more, the textbooks’ contents don’t appreciate to Cambodians, because Cambodians use another country’s textbooks which were translated to their mother tongue. Moreover, the translation is a little different from the real meaning. I think such textbooks are bad for education.

The third problem is teacher’s low salary and their education level. A teacher’s salary is extremely low. If we assume the poorest farmers’ income is 4,000 yen, the salary for teacher is only 2,000 yen. This causes teachers’ unwillingness or poverty. So, people don’t want to be a teacher. In fact, teachers do other work to make a living. It is also a problem that teachers’ education level is low. For example, in one village, a man who can only read and write became a teacher because he was the most knowledgeable person in this village. I think those who have enough knowledge to teach should be a teacher. If the teacher isn’t knowledgeable, student cannot receive a proper education.

Those are the problems in Cambodia. However, we think that Cambodians can’t have jobs because they don’t get enough education and it leads to the problem where they can’t earn money. Which in turns, causes the problems of poverty. The problems of garbage dump are caused because they can’t establish facilities and systems for garbage disposal and they don’t have the knowledge, skills or culture. So, we think the root cause of those problems is education.

So, we propose to enrich the education as a solution to social problems in Cambodia. Firstly, I’ll talk about school houses. More school construction in rural areas is needed because there are a few schools in rural areas compared with in the central area of the city. Now, there are many children who can’t get their education, so at first elementary schools have to be constructed.

The necessary facilities for elementary school are from three to five classrooms, water systems such as toilets, wells and so on and equipment such as desks, chairs, black boards and so on. So,
it costs more than five million yen to construct an elementary school. However, considering that children will work in society in the future, the knowledge and culture that children gain in elementary school is not enough for them. So, when enough elementary schools are constructed and the system that all children can go to elementary school is complete, junior high schools, high schools and universities will have to be constructed.

Secondly, I'll talk about textbooks. Textbooks that children use now have a great influence on the quality of education because, unfortunately their content isn’t suitable for Cambodians and their content is wrong. So, it’s necessary to choose textbooks which are suitable for Cambodians and whose content is proper, and use them. Moreover, mass printing and distribution of textbooks are needed for the shortage of textbooks so that every child can have their own textbooks. In addition, we think that the quality of education will be much better by preparing document collections and experiment tools.

Finally, I'll talk about teachers. It is necessary to improve the quality of teachers so that children can receive proper and high quality lessons. The way is a salary increase for teachers, making teachers master more knowledge, culture and know-how of teaching ways. The goal is making the system that children in Cambodia who get their education now become teachers in the future and can educate the children of the next generation in Cambodia without the world's support in the end. As I told you a short while ago, preparing school equipment and increasing textbooks cost a lot of money, so teachers from around the world will be needed until their finishing training new teachers.

Well, I'll introduce about one education support group. It is the group called “CIESF”. They are the international private support group and they support the development of countries by training high quality teachers in order to improve the quality of basic education in mainly Cambodia. They organized “Teachers without borders” and now they send nine Japanese teachers as education advisers to training schools for teachers in Cambodia. They advise the teachers of training schools by making use of their experiences.

The awareness for education of the Cambodian government and Cambodians rises by the enrichment of education from these activities and the number of people who go to school and who get a job increase. The development of the economy by them leads to solutions of social problems such as poverty and garbage damps.

As I said, support activities are done now. However, Japanese teachers who were sent from CIESF are only nine, so support from the world is still needed in Cambodia. Of course, food support for social problems is also needed in order to maintain the present situation, but also support activities which lead to the resolution of the basic problems will be required so that Cambodian can develop their country by themselves.