



# CSR Activities in Cambodia



Showing "Croaking Frogs" that students from the PHNOM VENG KOMATSU primary school created

## Observing Anti-Personnel Landmine Removal Site in Cambodia

**D**uring the six-day period from December 17 to December 22, 2014, we visited anti-personnel landmine removal and road construction sites as well as a recently built primary school in Battambang province, Cambodia. Additionally, a reconstruction commemorative ceremony was held on December 22 to mark the completion of a safety village construction (SVC) program in this region.

Since the demining project commenced six years ago, landmines have been removed from an area covering approximately 800 ha (1,977 ac). Nevertheless, there are still numerous areas where anti-personnel landmines remain buried. Because of this, new roads cannot be built, and local

residents are forced to travel on narrow and bumpy roads in their daily lives. This also means that children must make a time-consuming detour to commute to school, which prevents many students from attending. Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) and the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) have been involved in community reconstruction in cooperation with local residents. Komatsu is contributing to these communities by providing demining machines and construction equipment for building roads and bridges.

The demining site we observed was in the middle of a bean field. There were private homes where children were helping out in the nearby areas. It was pretty shocking to us because we had



Prior to construction, a so-called "road" existed but it was too narrow and bumpy for cars to pass.



After construction, soil is piled up and compressed to build a reliable road, which is sturdy enough even for large trucks to pass through.

imagined anti-personnel landmines were planted somewhere deep in the woods. Even though the villagers are aware of these landmines, the surrounding land is fertile, which made some farmers reluctant to leave the area. The first phase of reconstruction began by educating villagers about the perils of landmines and working together with them to rebuild safe places to live.

After removing the landmines, the building of roads and bridges got underway. However, since trucks loaded with large quantities of cassava (a type of root vegetable) must occasionally pass through the village, a road built just by piling up soil was insufficient. CMAC personnel operated construction equipment under precise guidance from JMAS, which consists of former personnel of Japan's Self Defense Forces. It was a proud moment to observe the Komatsu construction equipment in action for the good of the villagers.

After the construction of a road that enabled children to attend school, the PHNOM VENG KOMATSU primary school was built in 2014 as the community's fifth school. At this school, a "Croaking Frog" event was held, which is a theme of the Science Workshop convened regularly at the Waku-waku Komatsu Kan (Kids Pavilion). A total of 60 students imitated the singing of frogs and made all 60 frogs cry out in unison, which turned



Children enjoying eurythmics while singing to the guitar

out to be great fun for the children. Following the ceremony, we engaged in eurythmics accompanied by a guitar. Although the children struggled to keep up with the accelerating tempo of the music, they were full of smiles from the enjoyment of moving in rhythm to the music.

Children grow by playing and studying with children of the same age. For this reason, attending school is essential. Going forward, Komatsu will continue to help support the activities of JMAS and CMAC so that there are no longer any children who cannot attend school because of anti-personnel landmines and to increase the number of communities where villagers can live in happiness.



Demining machine in operation in the bean field



Komatsu construction equipment building a road

# KOMATSU

2-3-6, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8414, Japan  
<http://www.komatsu.com>

We welcome any comments from readers via email:  
[views@komatsu.co.jp](mailto:views@komatsu.co.jp)

- Product photos in this newsletter may show optional equipment.
- Product specifications are subject to change without notice.
- Available models may vary by region or country.
- Models shown in this newsletter may be positioned for photographic purposes, with the bucket up. For safety reasons, please leave the equipment in a secure position.
- All rights reserved. No part of this newsletter may be reproduced without the prior written permission of Komatsu Ltd.
- The comments expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors, and are not necessarily endorsed by Komatsu Ltd.