

MDG Achievement Fund
PROGRAMME QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE
20 July 2009

Country/Theme:	Cambodia / Culture and Development	Participating UN Organization(s):	UNESCO; ILO; UNDP; FAO
Name of Joint Programme:	Creative Industries Support Programme (CISP)		
OPAS Number	MDGF-1838		
Total Approved Programme Budget:	USD 3,300,000		
Total Amount Transferred to Date:	USD 1,001,851		
Date of first fund transfer:	11 September 2008		
Expected Programme Duration:	Three years		

<p>Narrative (no more than 1 page): Significant events/achievements, and issues that are impeding implementation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From mid April to mid July 2009, the CISP Team focussed on the following: initiate preliminary activities; narrowing down the identification of potential partners; design concept notes in consultation with key stakeholders; further engage the partner Ministries. 2. The UNDP Coordinator joined the JP Team on 20 April and is now based in the Joint Office. The four Field Coordinators recruited by FAO have been provided with working space in the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries where they are now stationed. A series of briefing sessions have been organized to update them about the JP. The coordinators have already provided assistance to the organization of new field trips by the JP Team and have been requested to undertake field survey on specific topics in the target provinces. Besides, they have collected relevant information related to the FAO component activities. 3. The recruitment process of the consultant hired to carry out the Value Chain Analysis has been completed by UNDP. Starting early May, the JP Team has held a series of working sessions with the consultant, during which objectives, methodology and timeline were discussed. Inputs and guidance from the four partner Ministries were also requested through meetings with all four Focal Points. The VCA conclusions and final report should be submitted to the JP Team early

September by the consultant. In the meanwhile, preliminary findings are shared with the JP Team after each field trip undertaken by the consultant.

4. In parallel to the VCA, the JP Team has initiated a number of activities as follows:
 - a- Training on the UNESCO Conventions is being prepared in close consultation with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts while relevant documentation and training tools are being translated. The Ministry of Culture is actively participating to the preparation of two National Workshops to which other national stakeholders will be invited.
 - b- Materials in the field of business skills (especially ILO manuals) are being carefully selected to be adapted and translated in the near future.
 - c- Based on FAO expertise, further field studies have been undertaken to research (cultural/traditional) natural products that could be promoted by the JP, such as pottery, honey and resin. The findings of these field studies are cross checked with the preliminary findings of the VCA and secondary data were collected from different sources.
 - d- The Field Coordinator in Ratanakiri has been requested to assist the VCA Consultant during their study in Ratanakiri.
 - e- Concept notes regarding the establishment of Cultural Hubs in the target provinces as well as the preservation and development of traditional IP pottery in Ratanakiri are being developed and discussed amongst the JP team. These proposals will later on be shared with both potential partners and national stakeholders in order to gather their inputs before submitting to the PMC. To this effect, the JP Team has started to narrow down the identification of potential partners. The objective of this endeavour is to propose activities to the PMC before the end of Year 1 while not being in contradiction with the VCA and its findings (of which preliminary conclusions have already been shared). Given the time spent on administrative process and staff recruitment at the beginning of the JP Year 1, and the necessary time to carry out field and documentary research, there is indeed a sense of urgency to start activities (including with regards to the 70% expenses threshold to be reached).
 - f- Based on the VCA preliminary findings and the concept notes that are being developed, the JP Team has also met with a number of organizations which could play the role of "service providers" in the fields of entrepreneurship, marketing and mentorship.
5. Given the fact that the PMC has met only once in mid-2008, each Agency has requested their partner Ministry to officially appoint their Focal Point as well as their representative within the PMC. The JP Team has developed detailed Terms of Reference for the PMC and NSC in collaboration with the UNRC Office. With regards to their role in the implementation of the JP, some partner Ministries have raised concerns regarding the absence of incentives, even though they were explained that this is not part of UN policy. At the field level, positive working relationships have been established with the Provincial Departments of Culture and Fine Arts and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. A PMC meeting scheduled for May 2009 could not actually take place because more time was necessary to develop concept notes and share it with the Ministries.
6. The JP Team has been working on Monitoring & Evaluation to elaborate internal tools to be used both for planning and progress-monitoring. Ideally, all tools should be ready before the actual start of activities.
7. On 29 June, the JP Team invited the Head of AECID (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development, the only official Spanish Representative in Cambodia to this day) to visit the Joint Office and brief him on the JP implementation.