

# **Securing the Human Rights and Livelihoods Cambodian Indigenous Communities by Land Registration**

**Suon Sopha and Kan Vibol (Cambodia)**

**Key words:** Cadastre; Land management; Legislation; Spatial planning; Indigenous Communities; Land Registration; Land Administration; Land Issues; Cadastre; Developing Countries; Post-Conflict Countries; Technical Assistance; Cambodia; Finland; Germany; Canada;

## **SUMMARY**

Securing the livelihoods of the ethnic minorities is an important human rights issue in Cambodia. The Land Administration Sub Sector Programme (LASSP) has supported to develop the legal framework and technical solutions and recently started an effective practical implementation of the indigenous community land registration. This will lead to the permanent security of ownership of their traditional lands. The developed process also leads to the protection of land from outside encroachment, and maintains the culture and identity of the people, especially in the case of spiritual land and burial grounds. This paper highlights the development, achievements and results of the Cambodian indigenous community land registration so far and presents the lessons learnt for improving the land registration system in order to support social stability, economic development and ultimately poverty reduction of ethnic minorities. The development and implementation of the land administration system of post-conflict Cambodia has been supported by Finland, Germany and Canada and is currently largely financed by Cambodia herself according to the principles of the Paris Declaration on Enhancing Aid Effectiveness. However, multiple challenges still remain and further technical assistance is needed to bring the whole Cambodian land administration system to be technically and financially fully sustainable.