

Abstract

SESSION 2:

Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

WORKSHOP 2.1:

Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels

Mobilizing Public and Private Sectors to Improve Coastal Tourism and Beach Management in Sihanoukville, Cambodia

Prak Visal

Coordinator

Integrated Coastal Management Program
Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia

Sally Nay

Technical Assistant

Integrated Coastal Management
Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia



Sihanoukville has recorded an average annual increase of 20-25% on the number of foreign and domestic tourist arrivals in the Province. In 2014, there were 1.3 Million visitors, and in 2015, visitors are expected to reach 1.5 million. The growth can be attributed to an improvement on transportation and communication as well as the development of tourism services and facilities in the province. Such improvements, however, is a result of a long process of consultation and implementation among different stakeholders.

Preah Sihanouk is one of PEMSEA's Demonstration Sites for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). As part of its ICM implementation, the beach management for Occheauteal Beach was done in partnership with the government, the families doing small business along the beach and private companies. An over-all plan was developed in consultation with the different stakeholders, the results of which were consolidated into a beach masterplan for the Occheauteal Beach. From thereon, collaboration among the various stakeholders was carried out to implement the management plan. Stall owners have funded tourist facilities and infrastructures such as putting up similarly-designed restaurants, huts, walkway, anchorage area, swimming zone, wastewater etc. The Provincial Government has constructed parking lots, lavatories, souvenir stores, tourism information, playground, drainage and wastewater facilities, among others. Hotel owners, on the other hand are taking part in improving road access, landscaping, and street lighting and cleaning up.

This presentation will share the various roles of the government, family enterprises and private sector in improving the beach management and how ICM implementation facilitated the realization of beach improvement in Sihanoukville. It will also share the challenges through such an arrangement and provide insights on how developing countries can overcome such challenges and scale up successes in implementation.



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About Prak Visal:

Prak Visal has been the technical officer of the Project Management Office for the ICM Program in Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia for ten years. During the project's implementation, he worked as technical staff and coordinator and participated in several national, regional and international capacity-building activities to support the ICM program implementation. He was involved in the implementation of various projects such as the formulation and implementation of the Sihanoukville Coastal Strategy, which covers coastal use zoning, sustainable beach tourism development and management, solid waste management, fishery resources rehabilitation and livelihood management and he also participated in the formulation of provincial five-year work plan and three-year rolling plan of Preah Sihanouk Province.