

Paper proposed for International Conference « Education/training: the search for quality »

Title:

The quality of science teachers in Cambodia: from a problem to a solution

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Cambodia, teacher training, science education

Abstract:

Cambodia experienced a significant loss of human resources due to wars. Therefore, the improvement of teacher quality has been a major concern in educational development. Assisted by international donors, many teacher training projects have been conducted since the early 1990s. The purpose of this paper is to introduce one of the projects, the Japanese-assisted teacher training project implemented during 2000-2004.

The paper presents the profiles and performance of Cambodian science teachers. The data were obtained through the questionnaire to about 600 upper-secondary chemistry teachers. Also, it examines factors influencing the teacher quality. That is, it shows that teachers are burdened with all sorts of social, economic and political issues from the past to the present. Then, the paper illustrates the strategies and activities of the project aiming to turn teacher quality from a problem to a solution in science classrooms.