

# UNIDO-SAMSUNG

## Transforming e-waste into job and business opportunities

### THE CHALLENGE

Electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) is the fastest growing waste stream, driven by a growing electronics market and the rising obsolescence rate of electronic equipment. Cambodia's economy has grown remarkably in recent years, with increasing urbanization creating a rising demand for ownership of electronic products. These units cause negative consequences to the environment and to human health as they reach the end of their life span and eventually become hazardous. Currently most people involved in repairing the electronic equipments in Cambodia lack technical skills and perform the service with inappropriate facilities resulting in not only lower recovery rates, but also in dangerous exposure to environmental and health risks. Likewise, there is limited institutional capacity for e-waste management in the country. On the social dimension, the unemployment rate among youth has become a serious concern. The moderate increase in job opportunities has not been enough to absorb the growing working age population in Cambodia so that today more than 70% of job seekers in the capital are between 15-24 years old.

### THE RESPONSE

UNIDO, together with the Republic of Korea through Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Samsung Electronics joined hands in 2012 to design and implement a programme that aims at ensuring effective e-waste management and creating employment opportunities in the electronics industry in Cambodia.



Mr. Yong Soo Kim, Vice President, Samsung Regional Customer Service, South East Asia, Oceania & Taiwan and Mr. Chin-Pen Chua, UNIDO Representative and Director of Regional Office Thailand

The programme focuses on two interrelated components. On the one hand, the provision of capacity-building measures improves the skills of youth in handling electronic products, upgrading repair services and e-waste management. On the other hand, the programme supports the local economy by promoting e-waste management practices and providing relevant market information on e-products repair services and e-waste management businesses to SMEs. Since an appropriate regulatory framework is crucial for sustaining the programme's efforts in the long-run



#### BUSINESS PARTNER

Samsung

#### WEBSITE

[www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)

#### INDUSTRY

Electronics

#### PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVE

To create employment and ensure effective e-waste management

#### RESULTS & OUTLOOK

- Local and institutional capacity building strategies developed for effective e-waste management
- Enterprise based training strategy conducted for the youth, as special focus of the project
- Over 100 Local experts trained as trainers on installation and repair services
- Over 300 Youth trained for repair services and e-waste management related services
- Upgraded local businesses (waste and non-waste businesses) in pilot project areas
- Curriculum developed with vocational training institutes for state of the art repair services-electronics course

#### GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Cambodia

#### PARTNERSHIP CATEGORY

Core Business and Value Chain Partnerships

#### PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Republic of Korea through Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)  
Royal Government of Cambodia, Ministry of Labor & Vocational Training and Ministry of Environment

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and mainstreaming sound environmental management in the local economy, the programme assists the governmental counterparts in formulating and advocating relevant policies. Samsung is a leader in consumer electronics and ICT products in Cambodia and contributes financial resources and technical

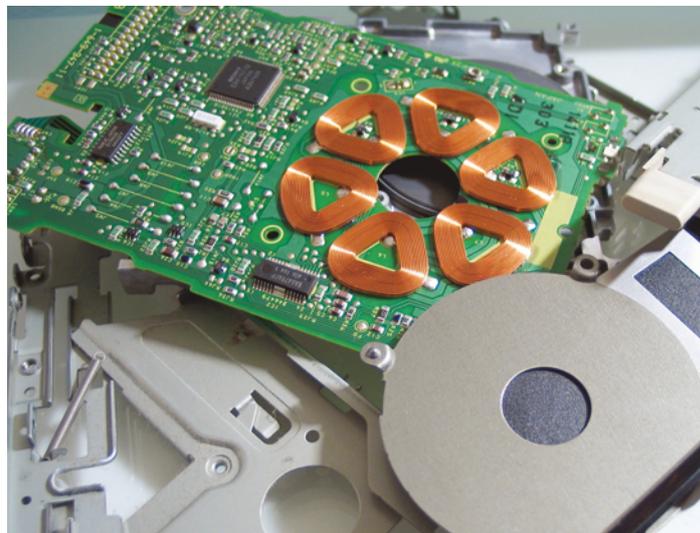
know-how through the provision of experts and equipment to this initiative. The company's interventions focus on vocational trainings in repair services and e-waste treatment in the form of technical workshops, curriculum development exchanges, training of trainers and study tours that address both disadvantaged youth as the main target beneficiaries, as well as local trainers and experts from the private and public sector, so as to build institutional capacity.

Currently at its pilot stage, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, and the capital Phnom Penh were identified as focus areas, based on the status of youth employment, the role of the electronics industry and its impact on the environment. The specific needs of targeted employers, local businesses and existing local institutions in these pilot areas were mapped as a baseline so that tailored training programmes and strategies could be developed. The conduct of comprehensive assessment has also been initiated by the programme partners to support an informed policy dialogue among all local stakeholders and to formulate most appropriate national policies. Taking the results of a joint evaluation of the pilot stage into consideration, the programme seeks to expand to other Cambodian provinces and to new target countries in Southeast Asia.

### THE BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

Through their collaboration, UNIDO and Samsung can leverage their complementary resources to tackle the barriers to a flourishing electronics industry in Cambodia, i.e. the lack in adequate training, technology, and regulatory frameworks.

Promoting employment creation and business opportunities in the electronics industry as well as improving e-waste management skills, policies and practices is an integral part of UNIDO's mandate to advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development. By harnessing Samsung's expertise, Cambodia's young population benefits from state-of-the-art trainings and thus has a greater chance of passing accreditation procedures or getting employed in customer care or service repair centers. Efficient e-waste management also positively contributes to the conservation of natural resources, energy savings, and reduction of emissions. For Samsung, as a major player in the Cambodian electronics industry, the development of strong local supply chains is of strategic importance. Hence, investing in capacity building supports the business' customer services and growth in sales. Furthermore, adopting a closed-loop approach for its supply chain management is an integral part of its CSR strategy, further strengthening Samsung's image as a responsible corporate citizen in the region.



### THE 3Rs – FROM CHALLENGE TO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

The responsible reduction, reuse, and recycling of electronic hardware can trigger a range of environmental, social and economic benefits for developing countries. Extending the life span of electrical and electronic equipment through refurbishment, for example, can not only substantially reduce the carbon footprint of manufacturers but also makes recycled equipment available at an affordable rate, thus offering increased services to poor communities. In addition, e-waste management and the development of green technologies offer a still largely untapped potential for the creation of sustainable jobs and business opportunities for entrepreneurs.

UNIDO's approach to e-waste management takes all relevant stages into account, starting with an inventory of the current status until the sound end-processing. It aims at mainstreaming and disseminating safe and environmentally sound management practices of e-waste in developing countries through the design of sustainable business plans, including an effective take-back system, manual dismantling facilities, and local processing activities. That way a higher recovery rate of valuable metals can be achieved while properly addressing health and environmental risks.



Training of Trainers in 'Installation and repair services in the electronics industry' in Cambodia, December 2012