



PHNOM PENH
WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

PPWSA BREAKS GROUND ON THE BAKHENG WATER PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND OFFICIALLY INAUGURATES THE CHAMCAR MON WATER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia highly presided over the groundbreaking ceremony of the Bakheng Water Production Facilities and officially launching ceremony of the Chamcar Mon Water Production Facilities. The facilities will increase water production capacity in Phnom Penh and Ta Khmau by 70%, from 600 000 m³/day currently to around 1 000 000 m³/day in 2024.

The Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority (PPWSA) has been facing a rapidly increasing water demand since the early 2010s, spurred by intense construction activities and population growth. PPWSA doubled its water production capacity between 2012 and 2017, in the frame of the second Master Plan for the period 2005-2020.

In order to maintain its coverage of water demand and expand its service area to 100% of the city, PPWSA prepared its third Master Plan for the period 2016-2030. That Master Plan defined an ambitious investment program of half a billion US Dollars aimed at almost doubling again the production capacity.

The first project defined by the Master Plan, which consisted in the rehabilitation and expansion of the Chamcar Mon Water Production Facilities, was completed in October 2019. The production capacity reaches 52 000 m³/day instead of 12 000 m³/day with the old system. The project also helped extend the water network by around 580 km, which will benefit to 280 000 people – especially those living in poor communities in the southern suburbs of Phnom Penh.

The Bakheng Water Supply Project is the second project defined in the Master Plan. During the feasibility study carried out in 2017, the project location was chosen in Bakheng, around 10 km north of the Japanese bridge, because of the availability of land, because of the wide boulevards allowing the construction of large diameter transmission pipelines on both sides of the Tonle Sap and to the central part of the city, and especially because of the water quality of the Mekong River which is better at upstream of Phnom Penh than downstream.

With a total production capacity of around 400 000 m³/day, the Bakheng facilities will be the largest ever built in Cambodia. Construction will take place in two stages: water production will begin in the first quarter of 2023 at half capacity, and the full capacity will be reached one year later after completion of the works.

The facilities will consist of an intake pumping station on the Mekong River, a water treatment plant, and a transmission pipeline of two meters diameter laid along the Win-Win Boulevard. At the end of the boulevard, the pipeline will cross the Tonle Sap under the riverbed over a length of 800 meters using a micro tunneling machine; that tunnel will be the largest project of this kind to be undertaken in Cambodia.

Just as the other existing plants, the Bakheng WPF will feature a high level of technology including a fully automated control, and will help PPWSA to maintain its edge as a true regional « role model » for production and distribution of drinking water. Indeed, water quality conforms with all international standards and the loss rate of the network is at a low record of below 10% (comparatively lower than in many developed countries).

In 2019, following an international competitive bidding, Vinci Construction Grands Projets was awarded the project which will be its third undertaking for the account of PPWSA, following the Niroth 2 (2014-2017) and Chamcar Mon (2017-2019) facilities. The total amount of the construction is 210 M\$.

In addition, PPWSA will expand the transmission and distribution network throughout the city with the construction of 100 km of large diameter and 1000 km of small diameter pipelines until 2025. The corresponding investment is 170 M\$. These networks will benefit one million forty thousand people who will access a safely managed, high quality water supply service.

The investment is financed by two loans of 85 and 100 M\$ from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), a loan of 100 M\$ from the European Investment Bank (EIB), a grant of 15 M\$ from the European Union, and a counterpart of 80 M\$ from PPWSA. The EU grant targets specifically the poor communities living in the suburban areas of Phnom Penh.

The French cooperation, especially through the AFD, has been supporting PPWSA since 2003 towards the renovation, development and extension of its infrastructures. The preparation of the master plan and the project feasibility study were partly financed by a grant from the French Government. Before the Bakheng Water Supply Project, AFD had already financed the construction of three treatment plants in Phnom Penh (Chhroy Changva, Niroth and Chamcar Mon) which represent 60% of the current water production in the capital, for a total financing of 91 M€.

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