

USAID Marks Successful Conclusion of Education Program

Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh
June 17, 2008



USAID's Acting Mission Director Scot Covert (in the middle) delivers his remarks during the ESCUP Lessons Learned Seminar at the Sunway Hotel.

USAID celebrated the successful conclusion of a three-year education program at a lessons learned seminar at The Sunway Hotel on Wednesday, June 18. The \$4.5 million program, called the Educational Support to Children in Underserved Populations (ESCUP), improved the quality and accessibility of primary and secondary education in remote areas.

USAID, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, provided direct assistance to approximately 60,000 children in isolated areas of Mondulkiri, Kratie and Kampong Cham provinces through the program. Many of the beneficiaries come from minority groups such as the Cham community and hill tribes in the mountainous areas of the northeast.

Two out of three targeted schools reported reduced dropout rates as a result of working with the program, and 71% reported a reduction in students repeating grades. World Education, an American NGO with over 50 years of experience improving the quality of education in developing countries, implemented the program.