USAID Funds Green Computer Lab

Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia
September 11, 2008

The lab in Kampong Cham Province features 11 student work stations and is powered by solar panels.

USAID unveiled a thin-client computer lab on September 11 at a secondary school in rural Kampong Cham Province. Located in Kor Secondary School in Preychhor District, the facility is Cambodia's first school-based lab to feature the energy-efficient thin-client technology.

Under the thin-client setup, a main server is linked to multiple work stations that don't have hard drives or software applications, making it less expensive and more energy efficient to operate than a standard computer lab. The lab requires so little electricity that it can be powered by solar panels, presenting a viable model for other computer labs in power-starved Cambodia, where 88 percent of the population does not have access to electricity. Indeed, USAID plans to build 10 such labs over the next year in Kampong Cham and Kratie provinces.

The lab in Kor Secondary School cost $10,000 to build and has 11 student work stations. It is part of USAID's $1 million effort this year to improve the quality and accessibility of Cambodian schools in rural areas.