

## **Abstract of Presentation**

### **Arsenic Contamination of Groundwater in Cambodia**

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Cambodia is now experiencing of rapid urban growth. Increasing population, urbanization and consumption patterns are resulting in increased groundwater use. Some water consumers face health problems, especially skin disorders. An arsenic contamination is therefore an issue which needs to be studied. A comparative analysis of existing documents/secondary data was done for this study. Results show that only seven provinces were found to have highly arsenic concentrations. The most highly affected province is Kandal, in which some 47 % of wells tested have arsenic concentrations in excess of the Cambodian Government limits of 50 ug/l. The next highly affected provinces are Prey Veng (16%) and Kampong Cham (14%).

There is an urgent need to practice an integrated alternative approach to managing arsenic contamination in groundwater. This approach should include transparency and accountability of inter-ministries, joint-action of government and NGOs, technical assistance, educational awareness, and information networks. Also mitigation trials are important and can include provision of piped water, rainwater tanks/jars, alternative safe wells, and household filters for treating surface waters and public participation.