

SENSHU UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

17, December, 2005

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CAMBODIAN VILLAGE : LANDMINES AND HIV

In this lecture, before explanation of this week's topic, he told about condition of Cambodian people's life with some pictures. Then, he described relationship with land mines, international trade, and HIV.

○About the Cambodian village

We had impression of beautiful, natural, or peaceful, to see the picture of Cambodian village. But actually, there are many problems. They have no electricity, no tap water, no ducks or chicken, and no vegetable. And technology is very simple there. But labor is very cheap. People are not smiling. Children wear too big and dirty clothes.

Poverty of this community is caused by land mines. Land mines are very close to people, near the fields, houses, the government office, and schools. People can make money from land mines. But it's very dangerous. Many people are injured because of the bomb. And rice does not grow well, and harvest is almost zero.

It is difficult for the people in Cambodian community to make money.

○Finding a way to reduce the dangers

We have to find two ways. First problem is finding a better way to remove land mines. The second problem is the way to help people to find jobs.

At first, to remove land mines, take the sample and find the patterns. And check every square. But sometimes, there is no pattern. In that case, we have to check 100%.

The second idea is to find jobs in the factories, and trade with foreign countries. The city is safe and has no land mines.

Now, 95% of people are women, who working in the clothing factories in Cambodia. If the trade of Cambodia was reduced, many people would lose jobs. But maybe, they will stay in the city because this is convenient. So many people may work in the entertainment or sex industries. From some surveys, 20 to 30% ladies have HIV. So if many people work in the sex industry, much more people would be infected with HIV.

Like this, land mines, international trade, and HIV are linked.