

topics

Contribution of Mine-clearing Machines to Land Restoration

OVERVIEW: Minefields are still found in many different parts of the world, and mine-clearing machines developed by Yamanashi Hitachi Construction Machinery Co., Ltd. are being used to restore this land to a safe and peaceful condition. In the Kingdom of Cambodia, former minefields have been transformed into farms or even used for building elementary schools.

ACHIEVING GENUINE SELF-RELIANCE

IN addition to developing and providing maintenance training for mine-clearing machines, Hitachi Construction Machinery Group also provides comprehensive support for Good Earth Japan, a non-profit organization. In the Kingdom of Cambodia, Good Earth Japan provides a variety of assistance aimed at helping the local people achieve a self-reliant way of life, including building roads, providing agricultural training, and establishing farms on former minefields.

In the Banon District of Battambang Province, the organization built a village road for Russei Ro village that has become an essential part of the infrastructure for daily life and agricultural activity. At the request of the village inhabitants, they also established an elementary school in 2009. It was built with financial assistance from Hitachi Construction Machinery Co., Ltd. and Kiesel GmbH, a German sales agent for Hitachi Construction Machinery.

Measures such as the provision of farms and roads and the construction of wells to improve drinking water are of immediate benefit to local living standards. The construction of educational facilities,



Anti-personnel Mine-clearing Machine



Russei Ro Kiesel Primary School

on the other hand, can be seen as an important form of long-term assistance that helps nurture the people on whom the progress and future of Cambodia depends. Nherk Sinoun, a teacher who supervises the children at the Russei Ro Kiesel Primary School, has passed on a message about this initiative.

Photograph courtesy of Good Earth Japan

The civil war left Russei Ro village with impoverished returnees and a large number of landmines. Nevertheless, poverty eradication and the utilization of human resources in what once were minefields is now underway in the Kingdom of Cambodia, and these plans have been advanced by Hitachi Construction Machinery's mine-clearing machines. The children at this primary school now study under the public education program and live happily with the other people of the village. I hope that the children at this school will grow up to make a major contribution to the progress of our country. I also hope that the children will never forget what Hitachi Construction Machinery and Kiesel have done for us.



Nherk Sinoun