

Build4People – Project activities on site in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in March 2022

In March 2022, the Build4People team was on site in Phnom Penh for the first time since March 2020. The two-year-long physical absence was due to travel restrictions in the context of the global corona pandemic. It got compensated by means of an intensive exchange via virtual communications such as Zoom. During our stay in March 2022 our Build4People team carried out various activities with local research, implementation, and dissemination partners. This report provides a detailed overview of the individual project activities and events that were the focus during the stay.

Informal kick-off of Build4People Ecocity Transition Lab 2022 at Coconut Park, Phnom Penh

On 13 March 2022, the informal kick-off of Build4People Ecocity Transition Lab took place with a brunch working meeting at a green building, the Coconut Park located at Diamond Island (Koh Pich), together with a group of architecture / urban planning students from Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia, followed by a site visit to Phnom Penh's Chbar Ambov District.



Build4People Ecocity Transition Lab 2022 at Phnom Penh City Hall, Kick-off event, 14 March 2022

In the morning of 14 March 2022, the kick-off event of the Build4People Ecocity Transition Lab 2022 (ECTL) took place at Phnom Penh City Hall.

The event was opened by a welcome speech of Dr. Michael Waibel, the overall Build4People representative who firstly emphasized that in the field of building, Germany has been very successful in achieving carbon emission reductions goals and therefore can set a good example to make Phnom Penh a better place.

Afterwards, Dr. Tep Makathy, the general director of the Cambodian Institute of Urban Studies mentioned that Phnom Penh is in a special situation, as the urban population has rapidly increased in the last decades and this brings some benefits but also some challenges, e.g. air pollution, traffic jams, reduced green spaces or infrastructure deficiencies.

This was followed by the welcome speech of the German Ambassador Christian Berger. He emphasized the importance of the Build4people project, by saying for example that the theme of the project perfectly fits the situation of Phnom Penh.

Afterwards, His Excellency Vice-Governor of Phnom Penh Capital Hall, Mr. Nuon Pharat, stressed the importance of the Build4People project. He announced that the Build4People Project will bring the solution to the challenges and the generated knowledge will be integrated into the Master Plan.

Finally, all Build4People Work Package representatives introduced themselves and elaborated on what they are currently research on and how this research can contribute to fulfil the aims of the Ecocity Transition Lab.

At the end there was a Q&A. For example, the question was answered why the Chbar Ambov district got chosen as case study site of the ECTL: This is because the goal is to apply sustainable development there and the several topics of the WPs can be brought in excellently.



Insightful exchange with local administration of Phnom Penh's Chbar Ambov district

In the afternoon of 14 March 2022, several members of the Build4People team and select representatives of Phnom Penh Capital Administration paid a visit to the local administration of the Chbar Ambov district which has experienced rapid urbanization in recent years, mostly driven by large developer companies. This contributed to an increase of socio-economic fragmentation and many environmental problems.

By means of thematic planning tables our team intensively discussed issues of sustainable urban development with the staff of the Chbar Ambov district administration.

It became clear that the level of local administration is in urgent need of strengthening their capacities and of increasing their human resources to deal with all of these pressing issues. At the end of our exchange, the Build4People team expressed its sincere wish to become part of these capacity building efforts.



Exchange with Vannak Seng, Chief of Staff of Phnom Penh Capital Administration

On 15 March 2022, our team members Dr. Michael Waibel, Build4People consortium leader, Hamburg University, Build4People Work Package team “Sustainable Neighbourhoods” from Eble Messerschmidt & Partner (EMP), Rolf Messerschmidt, Oliver Lambrecht and the communication expert and process designer Andreas von Zadow, from von Zadow International, had a very intense and insightful discussion about more connective and more inclusive urban development with Vannak Seng, Chief of Staff of Phnom Penh Capital Administration.



Dinner to strengthen Build4People's network with local institutions hosted by German Embassy at Raffles hotel, Phnom Penh

On 15 March 2022, the German embassy in the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia, represented by the ambassador Christian Berger, invited leading representatives from local institutions of higher education, from the civil society sector and from the corporate sector to a dinner event at the famous Raffles Hotel in Phnom Penh.

The main aim of this event was to support the strengthening of the local network of the Build4People project in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

The Build4People project would like to express its deep gratitude to the German ambassador, who has made this event possible.



Luncheon to connect Build4People with donor organisations hosted by German Embassy at Raffles hotel, Phnom Penh

On 16 March 2022, the German embassy in the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia invited representatives from international donor organisations to a luncheon at the famous Raffles Hotel in Phnom Penh.

The aim of this event was to connect these donor organisations with the Build4People project, particularly in regard of the upcoming implementation phase.

During the event, members of Build4People introduced about its people-led transdisciplinary solution-based research approach and presented first ideas how donor organisations could start a collaboration with the project.



Kick-off meeting “Designing a MSc and PhD curriculum for regional and urban planning”, hosted by Royal University of Agriculture

On 16 March 2022, the kick-off meeting “Designing MSc and PhD curriculum for regional and urban planning”, hosted by Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), took place at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh.

The main objective of this meeting was to identify opportunities to increase collaboration in terms of curriculum development between Build4People project and the Faculty of Land Management and Land Administration (FLMLA) of RUA.

Among others, H.E. Sar Sovann, Secretary of State, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction, and Prof. Ngo Bunthan, Rector of the Royal University of Agriculture provided presentations.

From side of Build4People, Dr. Michael Waibel, the overall Build4People consortium representative, Hamburg University, Dr. Anke Blöbaum, Build4People Work Package “Behaviour Change”, Prof. Dr. Lutz Katzschner, Build4People Work Package “Urban Climate” physically provided inputs to this event. Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Jan-Peter Mund, Build4People Work Package “Urban Green Infrastructures”, virtually presented in the course of this exciting event.

The Build4People team highly appreciated the invitation to actively join this workshop which had been carefully prepared by Dr. Hor Sanara, Dean of FLMLA-RUA.



WP#1 “Behaviour Change” Science Workshop at Royal University of Phnom Penh

On 17 March 2022, the Build4People team of Work Package #1 “Behavior Change” was hosting a half-day Science Workshop at the Cambodia-Korea Cooperation Center (CKCC) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

The main purpose of this Science Workshop was to facilitate the exchange with local sustainability research projects and related experts. Consequently, researchers and practitioners dealing with sustainability topics like waste management, urban climate, climate change adaptation and (pro-environmental) consumer behaviors in Phnom Penh/Cambodia gathered and discussed manifold aspects of researching and supporting a sustainable future for Phnom Penh. In an interactive so called World Café Session, the participants discussed problems, possible solutions, and relevant change agents and stakeholders for the improvement of environmental aspects like waste management or consumption behavior in Phnom Penh. In course of the scientific exchange on local research projects targeting sustainability and social issues in Phnom Penh/Cambodia insightful research designs and practical implications for sustainable transformations were presented and discussed from the social and environmental science perspective.

Based the fruitful exchange the research activities of the Build4People project are getting enriched by these kind of valuable mutual learning experiences and potentials for future collaborations can be identified. The Build4People team of Work Package #1 “Behavior Change”, Anke Blöbaum and Ms. Annalena Becker from Magdeburg University, Germany would like to thank everyone for participating and engaging in this important collaboration, especially for the organizational support from our colleagues from Royal University of Phnom Penh, Dr. Sok Serey, Dr. Op Vanna and Dr. Nyda Chhinh.



[Link to YouTube video clip documentation of Build4People “Behaviour Change” Science Workshop at Royal University of Phnom Penh](#)



Build4People Ecocity Transition Lab 2022 at Phnom Penh City Hall, Presentation Conference, 18 March 2022

In the morning of 18 March 2022, the results of the Build4People Ecocity Transition Lab 2022 were presented in the presence of HE, the vice-governor of Phnom Penh Capital Administration Nuon Pharat and the German ambassador Christian Berger.

The presentation conference was the concluding event after an intensive week when a variety of activities took place: from expert interviews with representatives from various ministries and from private developer companies to planning workshops with local authorities and urban planning students including several site visits.

The Build4People proposal for a more sustainable development in the north of Phnom Penh's Chbar Ampov district considered not just local climate conditions but also green and blue infrastructure, mixed-use buildings, a percentage of affordable housing, active first floors, a network of public spaces and a mobility plan. During the proposal development all Build4People Work Packages provided disciplinary input.

Documentation of Build4People Ecocity Transition Lab 2022: Final Presentation ([200 slides, pdf-file, 27.1 MB](#))



[Link to YouTube video clip documentation of Build4People Ecocity Transition Lab at Phnom Penh City Hall, 14-18 March 2022](#)



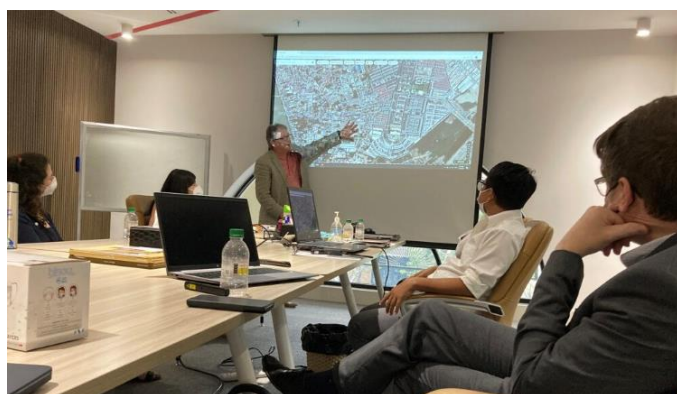
Build4People visit to developer company Peng Huoth, Phnom Penh

In the afternoon of 18 March 2022, the Build4People team paid a visit to one of the most prominent developer companies in Cambodia, Peng Huoth. Its head office is located within the Euro Park of Borey Peng Huoth in the district of Chbar Ambov, the case study site of the Build4People Ecocity Transition Lab.

Our team, accompanied by a representative of Phnom Penh Capital Administration, was welcomed by Mr. Chan Ratha, Deputy Corporate Affair Director & Assistant to the GCEO. At first, he gave us an overview on the projects of Peng Huoth in Chbar Ambov district based on various models. Then we moved to a conference room where he provided us an extensive presentation of the history and the current development projects of Peng Huoth. He made clear that Peng Huoth is aware of manifold sustainability issues but that in most cases the market has not been ready for implementation, yet.

Also, our Build4People team was given the opportunity to introduce about our approaches towards sustainable building and neighbourhood development. This was followed by a friendly discussion about various options how to facilitate a cooperation between Build4People with Peng Huoth.

It was concluded that both sides remain in regular contact to further explore potentials of future cooperation.



On 21 March 2022, the Build4People project implemented the first Build4People Sustainable Building Arena (SBA) at Impact Hub, Phnom Penh. All in all, more than 30 frontrunners in the field of sustainable building took part in this participatory workshop organised by Ravi Jayaweera, Build4People Work Package “Sustainable Urban Transformation” and by Christina Karagianni, Build4People Work Package “Sustainable Building”, with support from Melanie Mossard from Impact Hub Phnom Penh, Susanne Bodach, the local Build4People coordinator, from Jessy Wildfeuer, student assistant at Hamburg University, and from Dr. Michael Waibel, Hamburg University, overall representative of the Build4People collaborative project.

Overall, the first Build4People SBA was a successful participatory workshop that brought together a range of frontrunners and change agents from the sustainable building and urban development field. It established new links between individuals, strengthened networks and initiated fruitful discussions, a participant accordingly shared “*The questions and discussions were great to kickstart conversations around the issues as well as people’s visions related to Sustainable Building in Phnom Penh*”.



[Link to the YouTube video clip documentation of the Build4People SBA](#)



Talks with RUPP representatives to discuss Build4People input to future BA course on “Sustainable Urban Planning and Development”

On 23 March 2022, Dr Michael Waibel, leader of the Build4People collaborative project, met the Dean of the Faculty of Development Studies at Royal University of Phnom Penh, Dr Rath Sethik, and Dr Try Thuon, in charge of the development of a new RUPP BA course with the title “Sustainable Urban Planning and Development”. This comprehensive 4-year course consists of altogether 29 course units and has 130 credits in total, including foundation year and exam writing.

The meeting served to discuss potential input from the different scientific disciplines of Build4People to the curriculum of the BA course and how to proceed this regard. It was agreed that after the course outline will have received approval from the national ministry level, expected to be in early May 2022 an online meeting with all Build4People team members and staff from RUPP will take place to discuss this more in detail.

