



HARVESTING THE SKIES

Transforming Rural Schools with Innovative Rainwater Drinking Systems

The power of partnerships and innovation in tackling global water challenges effectively

Due to the rapid growth of population, climate change and environmental pollution, clean water resources have become scarce, seriously affecting people's wellbeing, especially in the rural areas. Leveraging the expertise of the Seoul National University team, the project aims to meet National Drinking Water Quality Standards (NDWQS) and improve living conditions in the Mekong Basin countries.



Site surveying at Phonthong School., Laos



RFD room after completion



Training on operation and maintenance

What is Rain School?

Rain School is an institution of general education (primary, secondary and high schools) located in a rural area where an innovative Rainwater for Drinking (RFD) system is built based on its members' deep understanding of the vital role and value of rainwater.

Between January 2022 and February 2024, five RFD systems were successfully constructed and operated at rural schools in Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Lao RPD, showcasing the efficacy of Community-Based Rainwater for Drinking (CBRD) Systems, and involving young students and teachers in system maintenance. With a capacity of 20m³, providing 500 liters/day of safe drinking water, each system supplies enough purified drinking water to meet the demand at school every day in the year.

Why Rain School?

By taking advantage of rainwater – a free, precious and unlimited water resource that has often been called as “free gift from the sky” – this initiative provides a brand-new approach to “Justice for All.

'Managing All Water, by All, for All'



Endorsed by the **UN Water Action Agenda**, this international network promotes awareness and collaboration in Mekong countries by engaging students in addressing global water challenges through innovative, educational activities. Its vital role in sustainable water management and building resilience in rural communities facing water scarcity and climate change aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets connected to water.



The Rain School Initiative, therefore, serves as a game changer in achieving **UN SDG 6.1**. It certainly will trigger an advanced water management paradigm of "Managing All Water, by All, for All," which helps **promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development (SDG 16)**.

SGD 6.1:
'By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.'



Vientiane, Laos | 6.2023
Phonthong School

Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand | 12.2022
Seranat Withayakhnan School

Phnom Penh, Cambodia | 12.2022
Kambol School

Halong, Vietnam | 6.2022
Nguyen Binh Khiem School

Uong Bi, Vietnam | 6.2023
Hong Duc School

A success story to be continued

So far, the initiative has received considerable positive feedback from stakeholders and the public, along with local and national media coverage in the Mekong region. The success of the project exemplifies the power of partnerships and innovation in ensuring access to clean water. As we move forward, let us build upon its successes to create a future where water security is a reality for all communities.

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Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

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