

# Voices from the Farms

Thank you for reading the fifth issue of our newsletter giving updated news of Collective Vegetable Shipment, the project by International Volunteers of Yamagata (IVY) sponsored by JICA. To date, our project has spread to around 20 villages and involves about 400 farmers in Svay Churum District, Svay Rieng Province.

July 2009

Volume 5

## New zone leaders chosen

The final steps of the Collective Vegetable Shipment to the casino in Bavet occurred as IVY conducted a workshop to introduce shipments to our 3rd year target area: Thom and Kandal villages in Thlok commune, Prey Damlong and Trapeang Thlork villages in Pouhti Reach Commune, and Ken Tasive and Domnakan Tout villages in Svay Yea commune.

On June 26th, at Tom Pagoda, 37 VWA producer group members (managers, sellers and selected producers) attended the workshop and had the system and structure of the

shipments explained to them by IVY marketing staff and the VWA Farmers Association leader. At lunchtime, chefs from Las Vegas Sun, which we make shipments to, prepared some food before us. We had a chance to taste many of the various dishes they make for their customers.

In the afternoon, the members selected by vote three new leaders from three zones. They will be responsible for the collection of vegetables from each zone. The VWA Farmers Association now has seven zones and seven zone leaders.

The biggest news in July is the Minister's visit to the shipment. Mr. Chan Saron of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is interested in this newly-started enterprise in Svay Rieng. He inspected the quality of vegetables carefully and was very satisfied with their freshness.



The Minister of MAFF visited the PDA shop to see the shipment to Bavet. Right, Excellency Chan Saron. Left, Las Vegas Sun Purchasing Manger Mr. Lim.



Three new zone leaders were selected. From right, Ngen Sophann, Zhhouk Sari and Sav Sakhein.

### Shipment Calendar

22-July: (zone 1) ) Ta Rak, Prey Roka, Chhouk Sar, Chhou Teal

29-July: (zone 2)

Sang Ke, Chek, Sam Rong, Pon Kok

5th-Aug: (zone 3) Nearea Tean, Rum Denh, Prey Chambok, Torak

12th-Aug: (zone 4,5,6) Don Sa Commune, Thlok Commune, Pouhti Reach Commune

19th-Aug: (zone 7): Svay Yea Commune

IVY is a Japanese NGO whose mission is to strength the social capacity of people by assisting local people to practice community development and sustainable agriculture. Since 1999, we have been working in Svay Rieng and have established 20 Village Women's Associations (VWA) in Svay Chrum District. The Collective Vegetable Shipment project started in 2007 to empower these women by training the skill of selling vegetable. We have organized producers' groups among VWA members and have been supporting them to grow chemical-free vegetables and to establish a marketing system for their products. This project is supported by JICA.