

Title: Technological Innovation on Khmer Ceramics Industries: Case Study on Ceramics Production in Kampong Chhnang Province
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Abstract: Technological Innovation by definition is a first application of a new process or product based on technological changes in the production process of existing products that play an important role in improving production competitiveness and efficiency. Khmer ceramics industries had an important technological innovation during Angkorian period, their manufacture processes and product types had surpassed well beyond the previous stages. What factors cause such technological innovation? In December, 2007, I had undertaken a short visit on ceramics production in Kampong Chhnang Province with helpful research assistance of Tep Sohka, Sakhoeun Sakada and Keo Chansophany from Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh. We investigated the ceramics production processes on both traditional and new methods in the villages, and interviewed some potters and salesmen in the local markets in order to find out (1) reasons of potters making their decisions on using either traditional or new methods on ceramics production in the same village(2) how this new ceramics technology (like glazing, wheel-throwing methods) spread through the village (3) how the local markets stimulate the potters to receive new ceramics technology by improving production competitiveness and efficiency. We hope that this preliminary study on contemporary Khmer ceramics production may enlighten us on ceramics tradition debate of Khmer ceramics studies during Angkorian period.