

Removing Anti-personnel Landmines

— Contributing to society by providing demining machines —

Using its expertise in construction equipment technology, Komatsu is supporting demining work in areas plagued by anti-personnel landmines. Komatsu also participates in community development projects to revitalize landmine-affected areas.

Removing Anti-personnel Landmines

Vast numbers of anti-personnel landmines have been left behind in the aftermath of regional conflicts across the globe in the latter part of the twentieth century. Many of these landmines remain explosive indefinitely, claiming countless victims, whether they are people carrying on with their daily lives or children playing outdoors.

As a manufacturer of construction equipment, Komatsu has put its expertise and *Monozukuri* resources to work in developing demining machinery and participating in demining activities.

The Komatsu Demining Machine for Anti-personnel mines

Komatsu's demining machine uses a bulldozer weighing approximately 27 tons as its base. Not only is this machine highly reliable and durable, it can move speedy on rocky terrain, wetlands and slopes and can efficiently handle large areas. Spare parts are readily available, and by simply changing the attachment on the front of the vehicle, it can be used as a bulldozer for ground leveling, road construction and other work.

The machine is also equipped with the same remote control technology that is used on construction equipment in disaster recovery areas and similar conditions. Remote control operation greatly improves operator safety in these circumstances.



The Komatsu Demining Machine for Anti-personnel mines

From Demining to Regional Reconstruction

– Working Jointly with a Japanese NPO

Since 2008, Komatsu has been working jointly with the Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS), a non-profit organization registered in Japan, on a project for regional reconstruction in Cambodia and Angola. Komatsu loaned the demining machine to JMAS free-of-charge to ensure smooth cleanup operations, and safe use of construction equipment when developing agricultural land and constructing wells, building schools, and repairing and building roads and bridges. This has helped to reconstruct and revitalize the communities in the regions.

In March 2011, a land transfer ceremony was held to mark the completion of minefield rehabilitation work that extends across two villages in Battambang province in northwestern Cambodia. Once soil safety has been ascertained and infrastructure is in place, 500 families from surrounding villages will settle on this land. The ceremony was a grand affair, attended by nearly 1,300 people, including government officials from both Japan and Cambodia, representatives of JMAS and Komatsu, and settlers and local residents.

Komatsu hopes to continue and further broaden these regional reconstruction activities, which started out as demining projects.



Nearby residents coming to settle in the area
Photographed in front of the KOMATSU Safety Village Primary School

◆ Contributing to society by providing machines for removal anti-personnel mines

March 1999	Ottawa Treaty comes into effect (Total Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines)
August 2002	The Japanese government decides to make the development of a demining machine an exception to the three-point ban on weapons exports.
March 2003	Komatsu applies for a public subsidy program offered by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and NEDO and embarks on the development of a demining machine
2004 to 2006	Demining machine site tests in Afghanistan and Cambodia with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
July 2007	First machine delivered to Afghanistan (Given to an NGO under ODA from the Japanese government)
January 2008	Agreement concluded with Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS), a non-profit organization registered in Japan
March 2008	Second machine delivered to Cambodia (under the Grant Aid for Research and Development of Mine Clearance Related Equipment by the Government of Japanese).
June 2008	Third machine delivered to the Cambodia project (REAK SMEY SANGHA SEN CHEY, Battambang province) *Loaned to JMAS free-of-charge
October 2008	Fourth machine delivered to the Angola project (Mabubas village, Bengo province) *Loaned to JMAS free-of-charge
April 2009	Angola local reconstruction project started
September 2010	Fifth machine delivered to Cambodia (Delivered under the Grant Aid for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building by the Government of Japan.
March 2011	Land transfer ceremony held for the Cambodia local reconstruction project (mentioned in this document)