

News

Science Workshop “Urban Quality of Life and the Build4People Citizen Science App” at Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)

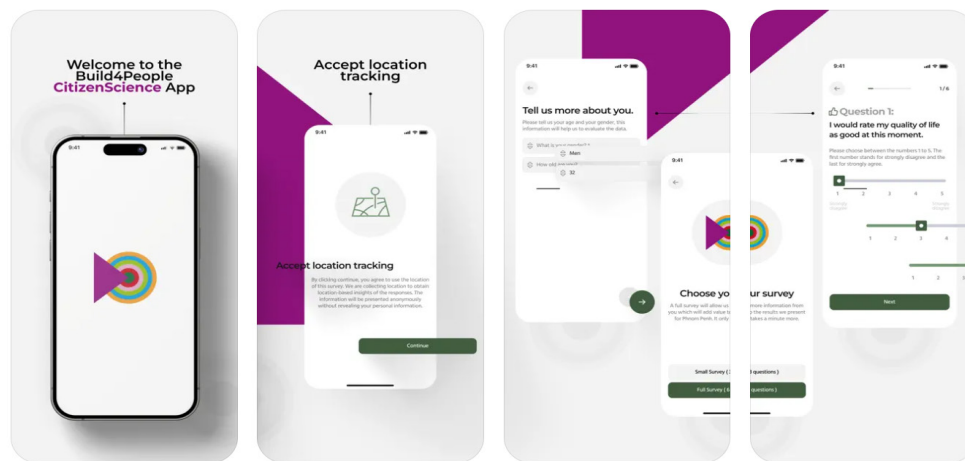


Fig. 1: Mobile phone screenshots

The Science Workshop “Urban Quality of Life and the Build4People Citizen Science APP” jointly prepared and implemented by the Build4People Work Packages “Behaviour Change,” “Urban Green Infrastructures,” and “Sustainable Urban Transformation” took place at the CKCC (Cambodia-Korea Cooperation Center) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh on 4 December 2024. The workshop’s main objective was to link the Build4People project’s overarching theme, research, and enhancement of urban quality of Life in Phnom Penh with the B4P Citizen Science App. The App and its details are available at <https://apps.apple.com/hr/app/build4people-citizenscience/id6478510837> and at the Google Playstore, as well.

Within the Build4People project, the Urban Quality of Life concept is a guiding component of sustainable urban transformation. Following this, it makes sense to approach Urban Quality of Life in two ways: an analytic research approach that asks for the relative impact of different objective and subjective factors on Urban Quality of Life and a more normative approach that understands sustainable transformation as an essential prerequisite for Urban Quality of Life, especially about the (comprehensive) Sustainable Development Goals. The right to a certain quality of life has to be qualified for solidarity to prevent the restriction of others - this is especially the case for high-density urban areas. The realization of a desired individual quality of life may happen at the expense of others (e.g., gentrification or living in gated communities). At that point, Urban Quality of Life is not only an individual project. Moreover, UQoL has to be considered as a social project. The mobile B4P Citizen Science App links the evaluation of environmental features with objective data. This makes it not only a purely analytical tool but also a valuable instrument for collaboration, enabling the citizens of Phnom Penh to participate in the design and transformation of their city.



Fig. 2: Group photo of the workshop participants

During the workshop, the challenges and opportunities of the Citizen Science app were discussed, and the app was tested and evaluated for further optimization with research colleagues from the Royal University of Phnom Penh and motivated students. The workshop started with a brief opening speech by Dr. Michael Waibel, coordinator of the B4P Project Consortium. Then, Dr. Anke Blöbaum, leader of the B4P WP “Behaviour Change,” delivered a keynote on the Build4People Urban Quality of Life concept and the B4P Citizen Science APP, which has been developed in cooperation with the B4P WP “Urban Green.” Dr. Chhinh Nyda introduced experiences from local Apps, and Mr. Se Bunleng (Bunleng Se) presented ideas on adapting the B4P Citizen Science App to thermal comfort measurement.

After a lively discussion, the Build4People CS App was systematically tested by students from the Royal University of Phnom Penh, the Royal University of Fine Arts, Norton University, and the Kirirrom Institute of

Technology on the RUPP campus. The experiences were discussed in working groups that addressed the following questions:

- What are important target groups and topics for further testing of the CS App?
- What do you like? What needs to be improved? Were there any technical problems?
- How can we make the app attractive to the people of Phnom Penh so they will use it?

After lunch, the researchers of the Build4People team discussed the next steps for further optimizing and customizing the B4P CS App and possible applications for the app as a collaborative planning and communication tool and a research instrument. The Build4People team would like to sincerely thank the whole RUPP team, particularly Ms. Soviphea Chenda, Dr. Sok Serey for their dedicated support in organizing the workshop and all participants for their commitment and valuable contributions.