



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការងារមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា  
*The NGO Forum on Cambodia*

Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

The 9th National Advocacy Conference 2015



*Working together to promote social accountability on Land and Natural Resources Governance in Cambodia*

**Phnom Penh, November 03:** Today, approximately 330 participants are assembled to attend the 9th National Advocacy Conference (NAC) under the theme “**Working together to promote social accountability on Land and Natural Resources Governance in Cambodia**”. The conference is being held at Tonle Bassac 2 Restaurant. The attendees are representatives from the Royal Government of Cambodia, National Assembly, the Senate, relevant ministries, authorities, development partners, local and international NGOs, embassies, network members, communities and students. 352 Land Disputes in 2014 and estimates that 25% of the land disputes were caused by ELCs and land grabbing by power.

The core objective of the event for this year is to strengthen existing mechanisms of land conflict resolution and improve good governance on land and natural resources management to contribute to the goal of respecting human rights and sustainable livelihoods in Cambodia.

*“Due to many issues, such as land disputes, Economic Land Concessions and the environment that have been happening in Cambodia, this event, organized by NGOF together with another 47 local and international organizations operating in Cambodia, is being conducted to provide a space for affected community, civil society, government officials, lawmakers, private sector and development partners to engage in constructive dialogue on key emerging issues for good governance on land and natural resources including the gender equity.”* said Dr. Tek Vannara, NGOF’s ED. *“It is an opportunity*

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*to collect and formulate key policy recommendations and suggestions to the Cambodia government and lawmakers as well as an opportunity for the civil society and the communities to contribute to inclusive development,”* he added.

The conference has four important focus areas: Indigenous People and Advocacy on the impact of economic land concession; land issues (land conflicts and evictions);

*Continue to page 02 ....*





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The NGO Forum on Cambodia

## Advocacy Conference ....

Mining Hydro and Cooperate Social Responsibility; and Access to Information in Natural Resource Management (NRM). These areas will be part of the discussion among the communities, government, authorities and the CSOs during this one day event.

The issues and recommendations collected from the communities and NGOs will be presented by each community representative in accordance with each dialogue session and opened up for panel discussion for solutions and further discussion.

The National Advocacy Conference is an annual event organized by the NGO Forum on Cambodia in collaboration with members of the organizing committee composed of other national and international organizations in order to promote reform of good governance to improve legal frameworks and to strengthen law enforcement in management of land and natural resources for enhancement of social justice.

The reports of the 8th National Advocacy Conference (NAC), under the theme “Working together to promote effective reform on Land and Natural Resources Governance in Cambodia” can be downloaded from the link below:

The 9th National Advocacy Conference is organized and co-organized by 50 local and international NGOs.

Khmer: <http://bit.ly/1LZbERj>  
English: <http://bit.ly/1Rfx4NC>

Below, please find the link to NAC’s event on CTN and Hang Meas TVs for your reference and circulation to our network members:

1. Hang Meas: <https://youtu.be/jvY8ceMC-eyl>
2. CTN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PGKk6K3FQs>







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## HIGHLIGHT STORIES

### Providing Negotiation Skill for Advocacy Effort to NGOs and Communities



**Phnom Penh, November 03:** The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) led by Environment Program in collaboration with Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) and NUS, focused on community rights on hydropower dam development projects, organized a one-day training on “Negotiation Skill” to its network/members and communities at the NGOF’s office. Twenty four participants (19 women) as the NGO workers, farmers and fishermen, attended this event.

The course was conducted in order to introduce the ideas of personal effectiveness in three parts –communication, negotiation and leadership. It focused on how individuals, whether in local communities, NGOs, government or in corporate situations, identify social needs in the community and groups – and how they can bring about institutional by using their skills to make change in the groups.

“We consider the negotiation ability as one amongst other significant elements for the advocacy work, and it’s the reason we initiated this session for our members and beneficiaries. We are going to conduct this course as series, in which we believe it’s going to provide such assistances to the trainees. For those who never...

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1NIGz9E>

### CSO Regional Workshop on Climate Change: A Road to COP21



**Vietnam, November 5 - 6:** In order to contribute the useful CSOs inputs to the upcoming “21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21)”, in which going to take place in Paris from November 30 to December 11, 2015, Vietnam NGO’s Climate Change Working Group in collaboration with NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Vietnam, Cambodia Climate Change Network (CCCN), Christian Aid in Philippines

and Climate Watch from Thailand, organized a two-day Regional Workshop on “Climate Change: A Road to COP 21” at Sunway hotel in Hanoi.

The core objectives of the workshop were to enhance knowledge among, and engaging CSOs in the debates on the international agreements, especially, on climate change; to share and exchange among CSOs on the national preparation and engagement in the UNFCCC process leading to COP 21; to understand the political dynamics, process and mechanisms of the region; and lastly, to strengthen CSO platform and collaboration on climate change towards COP 21 and beyond.

“This is a very important event, which help...

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1naPzZB>

### Global report ranks Cambodia as among the world’s worst on budget transparency — denying its citizens information on and a voice in how public money is used

**Major independent global report reveals how Cambodia could improve transparency quickly, with little cost or effort**

**Phnom Penh, November 17:** Cambodia has placed in the bottom category for transparency of its national budget according to the International Budget Partnership’s Open Budget Survey 2015. The report, the fifth of its kind, is the world’s only independent, comparative survey of budget transparency, citizen participation, and independent oversight institutions in the budgeting process. Combined these components are the main pillars of accountable budget systems.

Assessing 102 countries around the world, the 2015 Survey finds that Cambodia is



among the bottom 32 countries on the Open Budget Index, or OBI, which uses internationally recognized criteria to give each country a transparency score on a 100-point scale. Cambodia’s OBI score of 8 means that citizens have little or no access to the budget information they need to un-

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1UdaB5e>





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## Research Study Report on Land Disputes in Four Provinces of Cambodia: Mapping, Impacts, and Possible Solutions

*There are many factors have caused the disputes including conflict setting, land history and political condition which make it exceptionally hard to solve.*

**Phnom Penh, November 18:** Current situation of land dispute in Cambodia is very critical. There are many factors have caused the disputes including conflict setting, land history and political condition which make it exceptionally hard to solve. Moreover, land disputes are widespread and are seen as a serious issue for stability and wellbeing of the country; however due to the many factors and interests involved they are not being easily solved.

There is different number of land disputes in Cambodia as different institutions/NGOs claimed different figure due to the different methodologies. Numerous disputes never reach the courts, since they are settled by local authorities or the Cadastral Commission, or for the reason that the families concerned in the disputes lack the knowledge and resources to take their complaints to the court (SNEC, 2007)....

For the full reports on Land Disputes in Four Provinces of Cambodia, please visit:

1. In Khmer: <http://bit.ly/1YesWBq>
2. In English: <http://bit.ly/1kBBqVd>

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1OHuyxa>



## The NGO Forum's Donor Meeting 2016



**Phnom Penh, November 19:** The 11th Donor Meeting, organized by NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), began with the opening remark by Mr. Yin Dara, the Management Committee (MC) of NGO Forum and a chairman in this event.

The gathering was engaged by 23 participants, including MC, donors and NGO Forum colleagues itself. During the welcoming, Mr. Yin Dara shared the objectives of the meet-

ing as following:

1. To build donor partner's understanding on the achievements on NGO Forum's Action Plan 2015.
2. To get feedback from donor partners on the implementation of the NGO Forum Action Plan.
3. To facilitate donor coordination and open floor for partners to receive each other views
4. To provide update on the budget expenditure for 2015 and budget plan for the following year

The next agendas followed by the brief update on the country context - economic, politic, environment and social context – by Mr. Kem Ley, an Independent Analyst; overview key achievements of the NGO Forum, provided by Dr. Tek Vannara, NGO Forum's Executive...

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1QnxwM9>

## The Sub National Farmer Forum to Improve Small Landholder Farmers in Cambodia



*"Together Support Small Landholder Farmers, Especially Champion Women, to Gain Access to Water, Capital, and Markets for Agricultural Products"*

**December 2015:** The Sub National Farmer Forum on "Together Support Small Landholder Farmers, Especially Champion Women, to Gain Access to Water, Capital, and Markets for Agricultural Products" was sub-

sequently and consecutively organized by geographical areas of Mekong region, North and South Tonle Sap region, coastal region and upland region. The series of meetings were held by the national organizing committee, specifically, Farmer Nature Net (FNN). The thematic areas, with specific objectives and methodologies were completely finalized based on the guideline, including term of reference for national and sub-national organizing committee. The workshop highlighted key concerns of small landholder farmer especially women on water, capital and market for agricultural products, brought key players to discuss and found the common strategies to find possible solution and urged the government to...

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1JZ74qM>





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## LLP's Annual Program Reflection 2015



**Sihanouk Ville, December 3 - 4:** Forty eight participants (9 females) attended Land and Livelihood Program (LLP) Annual Network Reflection, conducted by the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), specifically, led by LLP team at New Beach Hotel. Joined in this event were the representatives from the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) in Sihanouk Ville and the two LLP's networks - Indigenous People and Forestry Network (IPFN) and Land and Housing Right Network (LAHRIN).

The annual program was organized with three main purposes including review and reflect on LLP 2015 action plan's implementation containing achievements, challenges and lessons learnt; define 2016 strategic directions for IPFN and LAHRIN; and strengthen and build up solidarity among LLP network members.

"We are going to make this two-day meeting to be a productive event that every partaker will have space to share experience and absorb knowledge amongst each other. Additionally, I believe, through our productive discussion, we will be able to produce the effective action plan for 2016," Mr. Ouk Vannara, NGOF's Deputy Executive Director mentioned during the welcoming speech. He added that I expect the NGOF's ...

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1nox9FQ>

## Environmental Program's Network Reflection Meeting 2015



**Phnom Penh, December 7 - 8:** A To be ready for 2016, the Environment Program (EP) gathered its network/members from different cities and provinces to join the two-day Annual Reflection meeting at Tonle Bassac II Restaurant. Fifty partakers (10 women), from NGO Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA), River Coalition in Cambodia (RCC), Network for Development Food security and safety in Cambodia (NDF-C) and CSO-REDD+, were engaged in this occasion.

This main objectives of this meeting were:

1. To improve knowledge and capability of

network/members regarding the current situations on environmental issues in the context of climate change (CC), natural resource management (NRM), agriculture and development in Cambodia

2. To reflect on network/members implementation activities in 2015 and to seek for the improvement for the coming year

3. To discuss for next year's affective strategies and action plans for the advocacy work; and

4. To build networking among network/members, development partners, CSOs and relevant government agencies.

Various NGO and government representatives were invited to share the presentations interconnected to the climate change, hydropower-dam development project, agriculture, illegal logging, community forestry, ASEAN and SWOT of the project actions for the past year along with NGO and government plans for the upcoming period.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1PGrwt7>

## Lower Sesan 2 Dam Survey on The Compensation Policies and Market Property

*The asset surveys have raised concerns over villagers being pressured and intimidated into agreeing with the surveys and the proposed resettlement plans, which will relocate around 5,000 people.*

**Phnom Penh, December 09:** The Survey on The compensation Policies and Market Property Price of Lower Sesan 2 Dam Development Project (LS2), commissioned by The NGO Forum on Cambodia and Heinrich Boell Foundation/Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS), the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia (OHCHR), Oxfam conducted by Independent consultant team, is launched today at Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Centre (PPEDC) to the public.



Approximately 60 participants, the representatives from Royal Government of Cambodia, representatives of Lower Sesan II Dam shareholders company, development...

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1PqgOOg>





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## NGO Working Group Leads Meeting with Mondulkiri Provincial Governor on Chak Char Conflict



**Mondulkiri, December 08:** The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) together with NGOs working group namely Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), ADHOC, Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA) and My Village Organization (MVI) joined the meeting with Mondulkiri (MDK) provincial authorities, chaired by H.E Svay Sam Eng, MDK's Deputy Provincial Governor to present the first draft of investigation report on land dispute case located in Chak Char village, Sre Chhouk commune, Keo Seima district, Mondulkiri province. From the presentation of the draft report, the NGO working group expected to collect comments and inputs from the provincial government and to continue further discussion among both parties in order to define way forward for the land dispute resolution.

The Chak Char case was a long-running dispute between Punong Indigenous people's lands and the Vietnamese company investing on rubber plantation. After hours of dialogue, the deputy provincial governor did reject the NGO investigation report based on the reason that it was the NGO fact findings and no government finding was involved. Hence, the provincial authority suggested that NGOs should revise some information...

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1PqaYoB>

## The 67th Anniversary of Human Rights Day



**Theme "Promotion of Freedom of Expression" – in Cambodia**

**Phnom Penh, December 10:** A one-day event to celebrate the International Human Rights Day (HRD) took place at the Freedom Park, under the collaboration of 67 organizations as the members of Cambodian NGO Working Group for HRD. This year, the theme for Cambodia was "Promotion of Freedom of Expression".

Approximately 2,000 participants from NGOs, government, communities and garment factory workers attended in this occasion, which aimed to:

1. Demand publicly for a full exercise of the freedom of expression
2. Raise public awareness of the need for the full freedom of expression
3. Encourage public to join exercising the freedom of expression and
4. Demand for the review of some of current criminal provisions that lead to the restriction of the freedom of expression.

Dr. Tek Vannara, NGO Forum on Cambodia's Executive Director, who attended the event with other local and international NGO and union Leaders such as Mr. Thun Saray and Ath Thun, mentioned that Cambodia is in need of convention from the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to solve different concerns happening in Cambodia. In his remark, Dr. Vannara was confident that the freedom of expression one of the significant factors to bring justice and democracy in Cambodia. "Some cases were successfully solved this year such as the reduction of the ELC period, the land policy, the existing of the compensation committee for the dam projects, and benefit increasing for the workers," he said. "However, we also observe that many new cases have happened and seemed to be the threat to Cambodian citizens, including the detention of the environment activists and the opposition representatives through the accusation on social media, the warning of being arrested of so..."

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1S3Np8h>





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## New Year, New Plans for Achievements



**Kampot, December 21 - 25:** 2015 numerous of activities were proceeded and produced vital outputs and outcomes. Due to the nature of NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), the advocacy NGO to serve the benefits of the vulnerable and poor people, some challenges were outstretched throughout the project implementation. Hence, to certify further productive plans and results for 2016, the NGOF, as an annual program, organized a five-day Annual Programme Reflection, took place at Diamond Hotel.

The triple important goals for this annual reflection were to develop NGOF 2016 program action plan and risk mitigation strategies; to strengthen capacity of staff related to programs and implementation; to strengthen team building, communications and accountability within and across teams. Throughout the day, every NGOF staff had the space to share and reflect on outcomes, challenges and the operation plans. It was also an occasion to improve the staff performance and coordination for the coming

years.

*"Our ultimate commitment is working together for positive change,"* Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director mentioned. *"It has been a hard working year, as everyone is doing their best to bring results and to ensure that the existing and forthcoming social problems including economic land concession, hydropower dams and development policy issues are circulated to the public and the proper preventions and acceptable solutions are raised for the benefits to our communities."* As expected, NGOF team coped to yield the plans for whole 2016.

Aside of bringing up the working plan, annual program reflection was included the chance to build the team spirit through doing good course for the society. This year, NGOF team joined together to plant the mangrove trees at Trapeang Sanke Community Fisheries, situated in Kampot province...

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1SD5fPJ>

## The NGO Working Group and Ministry of Land Meet for the Fourth Quarterly Meeting of 2015

**Phnom Penh, December 28:** Seventeen NGOs representatives attended the last quarterly meeting of the year with Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), chaired by H.E Sor Sovann, to discuss and update working progress on land situations in Cambodia. The main agendas for the meeting were:

H.E Sor Sovann, to discuss and update working progress on land situations in Cambodia. The main agendas for the meeting were:

1. Updating on guidelines and legal documents to support the Conversion of Private Land Titles (PLT) to Communal Land Titles (CLT)
2. Monitoring on the Land Registration process at Tomnop 2&3 with the Systematic Land Registration Process at Samaky Community, Thnal Chhum Village
3. Discussion on the awareness raising activities on the land policy, and the relocation policy

Dr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Direction, was the facilitator in this occasion. Various results for further implementation plans were developed by both parties. Based on the request from NGO working group to organize a workshop on process of the Systematic land Registration relat...

Read more at <http://bit.ly/211FChs>







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## Highlight Photos at the Annual Programme Reflection in Kampot December 21 - 25, 2015







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## ON THE MEDIA



**Topic:** Radio Talk Show on “Land and Natural Resources Governance focused on Indigenous People Issues”

**Location:** FM 102 MHz, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Date:** November 15, 2015

**Speakers:**

Mr. Hok Menghoin, Indigenous People Land Rights Project Coordinator of NGOF

Mr. Yun Lorang, Secretariate Coordinator of CIPA

Mr. xxx, from Forestry Administration



**Topic:** Radio Talk Show on “Budget Transparency in Cambodia”

**Location:** Voice of Community, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Date:** November 20, 2015

**Speakers:**

Ms. Kim Nay, Develop Issue Policy Manager of NGOF

Dr. Kem Ley, Independent Analysis

Mr. Pen Raksa, Transparency International Cambodia



**Topic:** Interview on “COP 21 and Possibility fund for Climate Change in Cambodia”

**Location:** VOA, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Date:** December 08, 2015

**Speakers:** Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF





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## UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS

### 05 February

NGO Forum's Quarterly Member Meeting in Phnom Penh

### 22 February

Meak Bochea Day in Cambodia

### 25 - 26 February

Multi-stakeholders dialogue on Responsible Investment in Phnom Penh

### February

Training on Budget Analysis and Health Sector in Phnom Penh

### 23 March

Prey Lang Consultative Workshop in Phnom Penh

### 30 - 31 March

Farmer Forum in Phnom Penh

### March

Training on Systematic Land Registration in Phnom Penh

### March

Training on National Housing Policy & Expropriation Law in Phnom Penh

### March

Launching Website on Cambodian National Budget and Budget Analysis in Phnom Penh







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THANK YOU!

The NGO Forum on Cambodia would like to thanks to our local and international donors that always support our good causes missions to support Cambodians in need.

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