



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការងារមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

The Fifth National Farmer Forum to Empower Cambodian Smallholder Farmers



Phnom Penh, December, 04 - 05: The Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) in the Council Ministers, in partnership with The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and CSOs/NGO partners, organised the The 5th National Farmers’ Forum, with the theme “Together to Empower Smallholder Farmers towards Market Oriented Interventions and Climate Resilience in Agriculture”. The two-day annual national workshop, which is holding from December 4 to 5 at the Institution of Technology

of Cambodia (ITC Cambodia) was attended by approximately 550 participants, from senate members, parliamentarians, deputy prime minister, senior minister, provincial governors, government officers, diplomats, officials from national and international organizations and farmers’ representatives, donors, development partners, business people, ambassadors, academics, monks and provincial authorities from 25 cities/provinces.
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The Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of No Pesticide Use Day

Phnom Penh, December 11: NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) in collaboration with NDF-C, Kampuchea’s Women Welfare Actions (KWWA), Oxfam and the Kratie Provincial Authority assembled to celebrate the 10th annual anniversary on “No Pesticide Use Day”. Approximately 500 participants attended, counting farmers’ representatives, communities affected by pesticide, pesticide business owners, relevant provincial offices, students, teachers, monks, as well as national and international CSOs/NGOs. This year, the No Pesticide Day was held in the Kratie provincial public park, and mainly focused mainly on the theme “**Together Reducing the Effects of Pesticide to Ensure Well-Being and Food Safety**”.

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The NGO Forum on Cambodia

Farmer Forum

The significant objectives of this event were:

1. To share and reflect on the achievements of the Cambodian government, civil society farmers, and the private sector as been raised in the 4th National Farmers' Forum
2. To enhance farmers' participations through the sharing of local creative ideas, experiences, and challenges
3. To discuss the implementation of the Food Security and Nutrition Strategic Plan (2014-2018) and policies, in particular, those on agricultural product markets to improve and empower small landholders,
4. To strengthen collaboration and good relations between CSOs, farmers, the private sector and the government at both national and sub-national levels through the development of a joint action plans

"The 5th National Farmers' Forum was an effective mechanism for relevant stakeholders to understand and have discussion to find effective solutions. It is also an opportunity to establish co-operation among all relevant stakeholders to respond to the market for agricultural products and the issues in good practice of agriculture techniques resilient to climate change," said Mr. Tek Vanara, NGO's Executive Director. *"The forum also contributes to national policies related to food security, nutrition and policies on the market for agricultural products, so that there will be the improvement in empowerment of smallholder farmers."* he added.

Many problems facing farmers, especially smallholder ones, in agriculture, include marketing market access farmers' knowledge and technology in production, infrastructure, irrigation networks, capital, and access to commercial credit for investment in agriculture, can all make life difficult for farmers. In addition Cambodia's membership of ASEAN in 2015 will put pressure on Cambodian farmers while Climate Change adversely affects food production.



"Nowadays, he challenges that the farmers face include economic land concession, market for agricultural products, instability of price of agricultural products, damage of crop caused by climate change and lack of irrigation systems. These issues have strongly affected the livelihood of the vulnerable people, especially the small holder farmers who are heavily relying on agriculture. I am as the Cambodian farmer representatives would like to call for the support from the government to help us in coping with the issues that we are not able to manage such as continuously taking measure to cope with impacts from climate change, ensuring markets for agricultural products, providing technical support in agriculture, building small-scale irrigation systems, supporting and establishing agriculture community and facilitating loan with low interest rate for farmers to invest in agriculture," Mr. Ourn Phal, farmer representative from Kampot province, stated during the achievement and challenges report presenting.

During the event, there were many group discussions on vitally important topics such as the achievements from the previous forum, the discussion about the good partnership opportunities between all relevant partners over market oriented intervention, and climate resilience in agriculture, sharing experience, and finally the creation of the next years action plan. There is also an exhibition on various products from the CSOs/



NGOs and farmers from 25 cities/provinces. The display was from the publication on vital researching topics about Cambodian issues, the upland, lowland, and coastal organic and chemical free crops such as milled rice, fruits, and vegetables.

The annual forum was officially opened by H. E. Sun Kuntho, the Minister of Prime Minister delegation and closed under the honorable of H.E Yim Chhay Ly, Deputy Prime Minister, the chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development.

During the closing remark, H.E Yim Chhay Ly had pointed out that the government has paid attention on the impacts of climate change and food security among smallholder farmers through: (1) improved capacity building, (2) infrastructure development, and (3) markets for agricultural products. Additionally, the government planned to export 1 million tons of rice to foreign market by 2015.

The 5th National Farmer Forum organized by CARD in partnership with The NGO Forum, Caritas Cambodia, OXFAM in Cambodia, DCA/CA, CAFOD, People in Need, World Vision Cambodia; Action Aid, Life with Dignity, CEDAC, CRS, Finn Church Aid, AVSF, UNDP, and ADG.

[Click to download the joint statement in Khmer](#)



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការចងចៃដន្យសង្គម កម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

pesticide

Two main objectives of the event were an appeal for relevant agencies to take part in the abolishment of the use of extremely dangerous pesticides in Cambodia and encouraging the farmers, especially women, to use integrated crop management measures in their communities.

"In Cambodia, more than 80% of the total population are farmers, and most of them are using dangerous pesticides and chemical fertilizers for their farming without knowledge of their threat to humans' and animals' health and the environment. Often, pesticides and modern technology are imported illegally across Cambodian borders, and they are mostly from Vietnam and Thailand," Dr. Tek Vannara, NGO Forum's Executive Director shared. *"This year's workshop will attract attention of all participants, in particular, local communities and authori-*

ties as well as the Royal Government in strengthening law enforcement, more effective management and monitoring of highly dangerous pesticide. At the same time, the public will be aware of and participate in monitoring, storage, and management of waste and practice."

The march was held to attract public attention to the problem of pesticide use. It was followed by a question and answer session as well as joint statements on the abolishment of the use of highly dangerous pesticides with participants from NGO network members, government institutions, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, local authorities, students, village development committees, farmers, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

"This event is a good opportunity for me and for all people in the community to recall and to learn more about the impacts of

pesticides and the benefits of frugality combined with reduction in environmental pollution and soil degradation through the use of organic fertilizers in farming" said Ms Serb Kimsouen, a farmer from Kratie province. *"I will share the knowledge I gained today with the people in my community who did not participate in today's event."*

Every year in December, various communities and local organizations in the Asia Pacific Region celebrate a "No Pesticide Week" as part of the organization of advocacy for a world without pesticides. During the week the campaign focused on highlighting the danger of hazardous pesticides, promotion of better options, and raising awareness on corporate accountability over health and environmental pollution.

[Click to download the joint statement in Khmer](#)





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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Reflection for New Plans, Opportunities, Challenges and Better Team Coordination



Sihanouk Ville, December 15 - 19: NGO forum is, an umbrella organization that facilitates and consolidates many challenging issues and brings them to the government's attention to ensure that their work plans are going smoothly. The NGOF team conduct an Annual Staff Reflection to reflect on its activities; plan for new challenges, and improve coordination among staff. This year the team went to Sihanouk Ville, 38 people including 17 females attended the reflection workshop. The reflection workshop used different methods including PowerPoint presentations, group discussions, group presentations and team building games. Some ground rules were developed by the participants to facilitate the workshop.

During the five days, all the colleagues reflected on outcomes, challenges and the operation plan. The workshop plays a very important role to improve the staff performance and coordination for the coming years.

"The reflection workshop has indicated key important achievement 2014 and also challenges of each program. During the days, each program team discussed how to manage and monitor action for improving..." shared Mr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's ED.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/StaffRefelction>

The Second Round of National Adaptation Plans in Kompong Thom



Kompong Thom, December 02: T125 participants (45 Females) from relevant institutions came together for the second round of Regional Consultation Workshop on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), under the theme **"Initial idea of civil society and community on NAPs components."** The event, organized by The NGO Forum (NGOF) brought together representatives from CSOs/NGO network members, affected communities, farmers, development partners, the private sector and the government representatives from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and local authorities to discuss this issue.

The event was conducted in order to:

1. Promote the public awareness on climate change, adaptation a national policy framework related to adaptation
2. Understand the concerns of the affected communities, farmers, local authorities, and sub national government on the impact of climate change and
3. Consult with all the relevant parties on their initial ideas as well as future vision for their national adaptation plan in Cambodia

"Since 2013, the flood destructive had cost over US\$253 million dollars with 168 death tolls. In there, 43% of the total communes are noted as the most flooding vulnerable areas, however, if we look at the villagers capacity on the disaster preparation and

resilience, we can clearly see that it is remaining at a lower level, especially the ability to integrate the climate change into the National Development Plan, commune development plans and the commune investment plans, which haven't yet reveal the detail mechanism and getting along with their specific development plans just yet," said Mr. Heng Pheakdey, NGOF's Deputy Executive Director. *"Hence, I hope this regional workshop will be an opportunity with enough space for the participants to share, learn from each other and be able to create the effective strategies from their perspectives to ensure the tactics are moving smoothly with good cooperation among the significant partners."*

Since 2013, UNDP, UNEP and GIZ supported by Cambodia's Ministry of Environment (MoE) has identified entry points for the Government to institutionalize Cambodia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. The main points of a NAP process as suggested by the UNFCCC and LEG Technical Guidelines are:

1. To take a medium- and long-term approach to reducing vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change
2. To facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation (CCA), in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities

"I'm very delighted and warmly welcoming to the organizing NGOs, including NGO Forum, for making this workshop happened..." H.E. Sok Loo, Kompong Thom Deputy Governor said during his opening remark.

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



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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Chak Cha Indigenous People Call for Immediate Intervention from the Government over the Destruction of 150 Farm Houses



Phnom Penh, December 23: Six representatives of the Indigenous People (IP) from the Chak Cha village, Srae Chhok commune, Keo Seima district, Monduliri, came together for the press conference calling for immediate intervention from the Cambodian Government on the deforestation and land grabbing by the Benh Phoeuk 1 Company. This conference was facilitated by The NGO Forum on Cambodia in collaboration with AD-HOC, CLEC, CIPO, DPA and UNOHCHR.

The six speakers during the press conference led the villagers to take action against illegal logging and stop land clearing in Indigenous People's territory by the Benh Pouk 1 Company. They had to escape to Phnom Penh after they were threatened after the leading action. The community also read the joint statement, handed by the community members, to the media during the talk.

On the morning of December 22, 2014, Benh Phoeuk 1 sent 13 trucks along with many military police to burn and ...

Click here to download the joint statement in Khmer
Read more at <http://bit.ly/ChakChaPressCon>

The Existence of an Independent Judiciary Leads to the Respect of Human



Phnom Penh, December 10: A The NGO Forum on Cambodia together with the NGO Working Group for Human Rights Day, worked together to celebrate the 66th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Freedom Park. Approximately 4,000 participants attended, under the theme "The Existence of Independent Judiciary Leads to the Respect of Human Rights" based on the 3 important objectives:

1. Raise awareness to Cambodian people on international Human Rights Day that the world has recognized human rights and international human rights mechanisms and

to encourage people to participate in the promotion of justice through the strengthening of the judiciary.

2. Highlight the current important human rights issues and to draw the attention of governmental officials, politicians and the international community to intervene to resolve these problems

3. Create better cooperation between CSOs and government and other state institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and social justice in Cambodia.

"Rights to preserve and use natural resources in a sustainable way is very important for Cambodia. It would help to promote and ensure the human rights of the Cambodian people and to ensure that these rights are ..." Mr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's ED said during the celebration day."

Click here to download the joint statement in Khmer

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1KXoh1c>

Development Planning, Budgeting and Development Cooperation



Phnom Penh, December 24: The NGO Forum on Cambodia Cambodia (NGOF) in collaboration with Ministry of Planning (MoP), Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), and The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) organized a workshop on "Development Planning, Budgeting and Development Cooperation" at the Cambodia-Korea Cooperation Center (CKCC). Approximately 100 participants from government minis-

tries, a number of development partners, researchers, and students joined this one-day workshop. H.E. Sok Saravuth, Under-Secretary of state of Ministry of Economy and Finance gave the opening remarks to the workshop.

The workshop aimed to improve the students' knowledge about the NSDP and the Planning Process, and the sources of financing for the implementation of NSDP as follows:

1. Increase understanding of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2014-2018 and the development priorities to be achieved within 5-year period
2. Understanding Cambodian Financial...

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



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PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

The 5th Farmer Forum



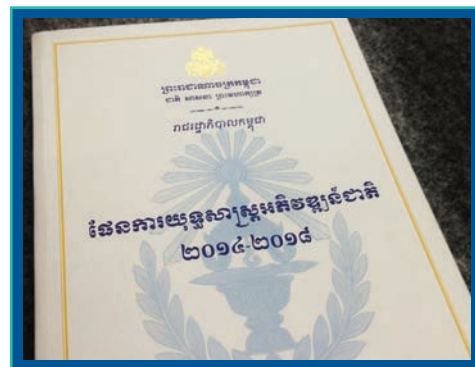
Staff Annual Reflection 2014





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ON THE MEDIA



Topic: Radio talk show on “Draft Law on Finance for Management 2015 (Draft Budget Law 2015)”

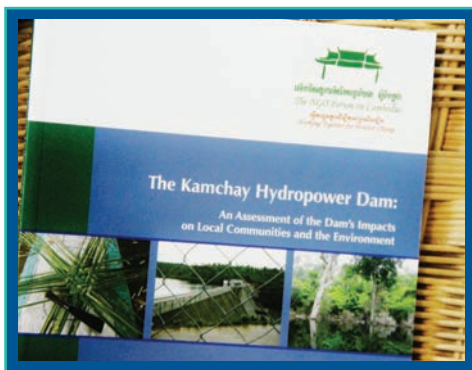
Location: VOD Radio, FM 106.5 MHz, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Date: December 03, 2014

Speakers:

Mr. Heng Pheakdey, Deputy Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia

H.E Khy Vannndeth, Takeo’s Lawmaker and the Parliament’s member



Topic: TV show on “Positive and Negative Impacts of the Hydropower Dam Projects in Cambodia”

Location: NGO Forum, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Date: December 23, 2014

Speakers:

Mr. Tek Vannara, ED of the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF)



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UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS

19 January

Save the Mekong Coalition Meeting in Phnom Penh

22 January

The Indigenous Peoples and Forestry Network (IPFN) first quarterly meeting in Phnom Penh

26 January

Round Table Discussion on Korng Keng airport (CAO) in Sihanouk Ville

26 January

Quarterly meeting with Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) in Phnom Penh

27 January

NGOs on Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA) steering Committee meeting in Phnom Penh

27 January

Meeting with Ministry of Environment to discuss on future collaboration plans between the NGOs and Ministry in Phnom Penh

28 January

NGOs on Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA) bi-monthly meeting in Phnom Penh

03 February

Meak Bochea Day in Cambodia

04 February

Technical Working Group on Land DP meeting in Phnom Penh

10 February

Cambodia People Forum(CCWA/APF) in Phnom Penh

11 February

Launching policy matrix on NSDP 2014-2018, policy priorities and actions strategy in Phnom Penh

26 February

Launching workshop on LS2 Dam research and film documentary by in Phnom Penh



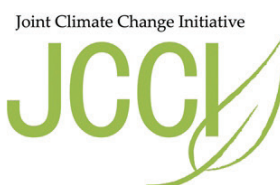


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