



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការងារមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា  
*The NGO Forum on Cambodia*

Working Together for Positive Change



## LEADING STORIES

### Bridging the Gap: Implementing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



**Kratie, August 9, 2014:** One thousand one hundred participants joined together to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People in Kratie Province under the theme "Bridging the Gap: Implementing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". The representatives in this worldwide occasion were H.E Try Meng, Secretary of States of Rural Development Ministry, H.E Sor Chomrong, Kratie's Provincial Governor, Ms. Wan-Hea Lee, Representative of the High Commis-

sioner for Human Rights in Cambodia, the representatives of Indigenous communities, Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum and other NGOS, development partners and villagers representatives.

The main objective of this event was to enhance indigenous people's (IP) rights through public recognition and to raise people's general awareness of IP's culture and issues in Cambodia:

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## The NGOF's Annual General Meeting

**Phnom Penh, August 7:** Approximately 170 participants attended the 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) organized the NGO Forum on Cambodia at the Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Center (PPEDC). This annual event was conducted in order to bring together all the member/network representatives of the NGOF to meet, share experience and ideas to learn from each other and plan for future activities.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Mot Sana, the Chair of the meeting, thanked the Management Committee and working groups of NGOF for actively working to solve many social issues related to land, forestry, climate change, and the impact of hydropower dams.

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### Indigenous....

1. To strengthen and enhance the value of indigenous peoples (IPs) self-identity, with a focus on the traditional practices and customs, art and history of the IPs
2. To enhance recognition and respect for the rights of IPs in Cambodia, and to accept ethnic groups as managers of land and natural resources in accordance with national and international laws related to rights of IPs
3. To seek for both, national and international support to raise awareness about the general livelihoods of IPs and focus on indigenous peoples management of natural resources as well as communal land registration.
4. To foster indigenous peoples chances to enhance their living while maintaining their

identity and culture in a sustainable manner in accordance with national and international laws related to IPs

*"Regardless of who they are, IP deserve the rights to live as we do. They have their own cultures and traditions which have existed for a longtime. However, their rights and properties are being abused by development projects for the last two decades and so far there have been no proper solutions to their issues yet. I do hope that this international celebration will attract more attention from the government and development partners to look even closer into their problems and help resolve long standing disputes,"* said Tek Vannara, Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia. "I am optimistic that this event will enable all the IP to learn

more about their rights and be able to stand strong for them," he added.

In addition to the national event in Kratie, International Day of the World's IP was also celebrated in four different locations; Monduliri, Rattanakiri, Koh Kong and Preah Vihear.

The first celebration of International Day of the World's IP in Cambodia was organized in 2005 which was initiated by Department of Ethnic Minorities Development of Ministry of Rural Development (MRD). Subsequently, MRD cooperated with civil society organizations and partners and has celebrated this occasion every year since 2005 in different provinces.



### AGM ...

All of these issues have effect on the livelihood of the poor in Cambodia. Mr. Mot Sana also updated some of the key successes of NGOF in the past year. Some key achievements included:

1. Success in giving recommendations on the Draft Law of Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA);
2. Success in giving recommendations on the draft NSDP 2014-2018 and on monitoring indicators of several sectors;
3. Success in solving UDG land conflict in Koh Kong province, Pro Me indigenous people land conflict in Preah Vihear province, Pu Kong in Monduliri province, and constructions of LS2 and Don Sahong hydropower dams;

Mr. Mot Sana added that during the transitional period of management of NGOF, the management committee had worked closely with its members to ensure normal operation and to achieve all planned activities. In the same period, NGOF had received more funding than previous year and increased number of members from 89 to 91 with many more being under review. *"This event is a very important opportunity for everyone to meet. It is not only an opportunity to meet and update each other on our working activities, but I consider it's a chance to strengthen relationships amongst organizations, to come and meet each other to discuss, share concerns and provide feedback to improve our working,"* said Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia.

A number of activities issues were raised in the meeting such as the update and discussion on the current implementation of social land concession in Cambodia, the presentation on NGOF's key achievements, , the presentation on the draft Agriculture Land Management and National Strategy Development Plan 2014-2018, and the group discussion on effectiveness advocacy strategy and land rights.





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## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### IPFN Disclosed Investigation Report on Deforestation in Pukong Village to FA



**Phnom Penh, August 15:** Eight people from the Indigenous People and Forestry Network (IPFN), attended a meeting with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) to present the results of their investigation into deforestation in Pukong village, Mondulkiri Province. The report included findings and recommendations on how to resolve illegal logging in the area. The meeting was chaired by H.E Chea Sam Ang, Deputy of Forestry Administration, and was facilitated by NGO Forum; representatives from three other three organization including Youth Association (CIYA), Community Legal Education Center (CLEC) and Development and partnership in Action (DPA) were also present.

During the meeting, IPFN provided a brief report to the Forestry Administration (FA). They shared the concerns of the affected communities, raised the issues that NGOs and villagers face while working at the site, and made recommendations for future collaboration between FA and IPFN members. As result IPFN members will propose a meeting with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to discuss the deforestation in Pukong village and the possibility of working together in the future.

Follow the link to download the report  
<http://bit.ly/1wqi32R>

### Capacity Building on Agricultural Cooperative to Network for Development of Food Security and Safety in Cambodia



**Phnom Penh, August 18 - 20:** Thirty trainees from various NGO networks (9 women), came together for a three-day training course called "Agricultural Cooperatives: Policies Issue, Business Plan and Market" organized by NGO Forum and the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries.

The course was formed in order to provide more knowledge to NGO partners, so they will be able to improve their work and the cooperative become more productive. The specific objectives of this session aimed to improve the trainees' awareness on:

1. The basic rules of an agricultural cooperative and its benefits
2. The seven steps to create an agricultural cooperative
3. Planning in the areas of marketing production, management organizations finance
4. The foundations of business, business evaluation and self-assessment
5. How agricultural cooperatives choose their type of businesses
6. The important elements in business for agricultural cooperatives

*"There were some challenges in this training course because most of the participants have limited knowledge about the particular skills. In addition, there new technical words they had never heard before, it was*



*a bit difficult for them. However, they tried really hard in class and they saw how important the lessons were to their work and communities,"* said Mr. Ouk Saroeun, the Leading Trainer in the session.

Even though there were challenges in this training, the learners were very interested and paid attention to every lesson provided, as Ms. Ang Cham Roeun from NAPA and member of NDF-C said, *"I have to admit there were a lot of new words in the lessons that made it hard for us hard but the training lessons were very beneficial to us. In two days, I have learned so many new concepts and ideas which I will apply to improve my agriculture cooperative. . There were difficulties but we learnt a lot."*

*"This is part of our working mission to improve the working capacities for our partners by building strong foundations, we believe they will be able to strengthen existing agriculture cooperatives and share this knowledge to the various stakeholders they are working with,"* Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum stated during the training session.

Different training methods were used and the participants enjoyed the learning theory, group discussions, and questions and answers together with actual examples.





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## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### NGOs and MLMUPC Collaborate Plan to Improve National Housing Policy



**Phnom Penh, July 21:** Approximately 200 participants from national and international NGOs and youth pulled together for the National Reflection and Sharing Workshop on ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC)/ASEAN Peoples' Forum (APF) 2014 organized by the Cambodian Civil Society Working Group on ASEAN (CCWA) at the Imperial Garden Villa and Hotel.

This workshop was formed with the specific intentions counting the reflection of ACSC/APF and AYF 2014 result, discussing on the key challenges and way forward for CSOs engagement in ASEAN and lastly the consultation on ACSC/APF and Asian Youth Forum (AYF) process as well as CCWA action plans.

*"It is very important we can make this event happened. This is a very important meeting that everyone who is involved in this work are able to meet, discuss and learning from each other about the ACSC/APF which we have been working together for so many years. I do hope, it is going to be a very constructive workshop for today and all the participants will be actively involved for the productive outcomes,"* Mr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/1unUF1p>

### NGOs and Media Call for Detail National Budget Information



**Phnom Penh, September 10:** A one-day workshop on "National Budget Transparency and active citizenship experience" was held at the Himawari Hotel, and about 100 representatives from Development Partners, NGOs/CSOs, media and Budget Working Group members attended.

This event, organized by The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) in collaboration with the Budget Working Group (BWG) provided opportunities for NGOs and media in Cambodia to learn about a range of budget issues. Keynote speakers from other countries and

Cambodia shared their experience and discussed the importance of budget information across a variety of sectors. Among the issues to be highlighted was how changes in transparency and accountability can lead to improved development outcomes. The workshop also allowed participants to share ideas about how to improve budget transparency in Cambodia.

*"There was only one time in 2011, that the government shared to the draft national budget to the civil society for the review, since then they were very quiet, and according to them the time constrain is the main reason to block our participants. However, the publication of the national budget is very important not only to the civil society but to the citizens themselves to understand what is the government's plan on the expense of the national budget after they pay their tax every year,"* said Mr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director at the workshop. Read more at <http://bit.ly/1t25ieZ>

### Community Field Visit in REDD+ Voluntary Carbon Project

**Phnom Penh, September 27 - 28:** The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) together with CSOs REDD+ Network in Cambodia (CSO-REDD+) organized a two-day study trip to the Voluntary Carbon Project in Oddor Mean Chey in North Western Cambodia. The trip aimed to order to build capacity, share ideas about challenges and solutions within the communities among 16 local community members, including three women. The participants were from from Seima REDD+ voluntary market project, REDD+ Consultation Group (CG), Indigenous communities, Prey Long community, Kampong Thom and Ratanakiri. During the trip they explored and share their experiences on the participatory process and the implementation of community based forest carbon conservation, especially on forest monitoring, and the partici-



pation and grievance mechanism.

*"The exposure visit was a success as the community member got a chance to learn, discuss and share amongst the team about the previous working experience in the communities, specifically on managing the forest, especially on participating in REDD+ process, patrolling and grievance...."*

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



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## ON THE MEDIA



**Topic:** Radio talk show to talk about "Tax on Salary in Cambodia"

**Location:** Sarika Radio, FM 106.5 MHz, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Date:** August 14, 2014

**Speakers:**

Mr. Tek Vannara, ED of NGOF

Mr. Preap Kol, ED of Transparency International

Ter Zerdy, Deputy Director of Dept of Enterprise Audit



**Topic:** Radio talk show to talk about "International Day of the world Indigenous People Celebration"

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

**Date:** August 21, 2014

**Speakers:**

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

Mr. Kha Sros, Indigenous Representative from Stung Treng



**Topic:** Radio talk show to talk about "Controversial over the delay of Don Sahong Dam Construction" Various issues were brought up for the discussion including the benefits of Lower Mekong Mainstream to the families living along the Mekong River, the history, negative impacts and recommendation to the Don Sahong Dam

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

**Date:** August 27, 2014

**Speakers:**

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



**Topic:** Radio interview to talk about "The assessment of environment impacts and the involvement of indigenous community to protect the environment"

**Location:** Wat Phnom Radio, FM 105.75MH , Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Date:** September 18, 2014

**Speakers:**

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

Ms. Ung Vuthy from Ministry of Environment

Mr. Kem Deng, Kouy Ethnic Representative from Stung Treng





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## UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS

### 22 October

Press Conference Invitation on CSOs and Communities Concern on Illegal Logging and Natural Resource Destruction in Cambodia in Phnom Penh

### 23 October

Paris Peace Agreements Day In Cambodia

### 23 - 26 October

SP-EP: Field Visit Development in Preah Vihear

### 27 October

Youth Forum in Phnom Penh

### 29 October

King's Coronation Day, Norodom Sihamoni in Cambodia

### 31 October

APM: NDF-C Bi-Monthly Meeting in Phnom Penh

### 03 November

Press Conference Invitation Calling for Urgent Land Dispute Resolution in Cambodia and Launching Publication on Statistical Analysis on Land Disputes in Cambodia, 2013 in Phnom Penh

### 12 November

PM, IP & Forestry: Inter-Ministerial Proclamation workshop in Ratana-kiri

### 20 November

Donor Meeting in Phnom Penh

### 25 November

National Advocacy Conference in Phnom Penh

### 04 - 05 December

Farmer Forum in Phnom Penh

### 10 December

Human Rights Day in Cambodia

## NEW FACES/CONGRATULATIONS



Please contact Peou at  
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+855 89 59 99 22

Welcoming **Sey Peou**, our new Climate Change Policy Monitoring Project Coordinator of the NGO Forum on Cambodia. Peou has several years of experience working with local and international NGOs on climate change and researching.





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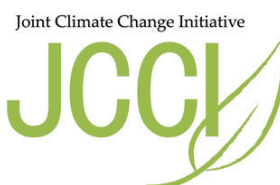
THANK YOU!

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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PEOPLE CHANGING THE WORLD



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