



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការងារសង្គមស្តីពីកម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

CSOs and Media - Strengthening a Two-way Communications



Phnom Penh, June 27, 2014: the second Lunch Media Meeting co-organized by The NGO Forum on Cambodia (The NGO Forum) and Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) was organized with the participation of various local, national and international media representatives at the Hotel Sofitel Pokeetra Phnom Penh.

The corporation between media and the CSOs in development work is considered as a powerful tool with the potential to create the change in society. Otherwise, the mis-

communication between each party can be a barrier and slower working progress amid both sides. Hence, the major objective of this occasion was aimed to improve the working relationship from both sides and visibility including roles and key achievements of CSOs in Cambodia.

“This is a very important occasion for the CSOs and media to meet and update about our work, share experience, expectations and the challenges we have.

Continue to page 2..

In this issue:

Leading Stories

- CSOs and Media - Strengthening a Two-way Communications
- Communities and CSOs Concerns on Lower Sesan 2 Dam

Hilight Stories

- Quaterly Land Working Group Meeting with MLMUPC
- Public Consultation Workshop on a Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Reflection and Sharing the Way Forward
- Ministry of Environment and CSO’s Progress Meeting on UDG Land Dispute
- Indigenous Communities from Preah Vihear Call for Cacellation of the ELC and Accelerating the Communal Land Titles

On the Media

Upcoming Events/Holidays

Communities and CSOs Concerns on Lower Sesan 2 Dam



Phnom Penh, July 1, 2014: The representatives of ethnic people from four communities – Kbal Romeas, Sre Kor, Sre Pork and Sre Sronuk, Steung Treng province - together with the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including The NGO Forum on Cambodia, 3SPN and CEPA were assembled to organize a press conference on “Communities and CSOs Concerns on Lower Sesan 2 Dam” in the morning of July 1 at the NGO Forum Office.

The significant objective of the event was to share their worries to the public, especially to the government and call for a solution to a numbers of problems which are expected to happen within a short period of time. During the press conference, the villagers mentioned number of negative impacts that will occur and can be

Continue to page 2..



Media....

We are also very appreciate media for giving us time to meet and learn from one another. I truly appreciate this chance and we are going to keep them posted and communicate to fulfill the in needs to produce fruitful results in our development work," Mr. Tek Vannara stated during the meeting.

After a few hours of a productive discussion, CSOs and the media team were able to point out some challenges and solutions as below:

Challenges/ Solutions

1. Late submission of press release to media.
2. Submission of press release in English and not available in Khmer
3. Insecurity of media agents during the media trip to some dispute areas.
4. Inappropriate/overlap time of making events/workshop (i.e. at the same time other main/hot event happening)
5. Over 1,315 active NGOs, but less hot issues for media.
6. Unclear topic on press release which makes less value for media due to the capacity of communications staff.
7. Not enough information about the events. For example, the name of the speakers in the press conference, supporting docu-

- ments to the discussion or field visit
8. There are corrections, once the media makes mistake with their publication
9. The submission of press release must be made in one or two days before the event and the time of submission
10. Do not send the information too late during the day. Best time is in the morning Press release should be made in Khmer and English.
11. Media trip should be well-organized with good collaboration with local authority. Media agents must take their ID for their own security.
12. Communication staff of NGOs should be smart in advising their team to organize events at the right time to attract more media.
13. Umbrella NGOs should be able to help its members to invite media if they have any good/hot issue for media.

14. Some training courses facilitated by experience journalists/editors for communications staff or relevant staff of NGOs could be organized by umbrella NGOs with abudget.
15. Correction from NGOs should be done as soon as they can if media makes a mistake.
17. To assure the security and flexibility of the media team during the sensitive trip, the media should send professional members who have experience in investigation and flexible enough to attend the trip.

The media representatives involved in the lunch meeting are Women Media’s Center of Cambodia (WMC), Hang Meas HDTV, Voice of Democracy (VOD), Cambodia Daily, Phnom Penh Post, Thmey Thmey website, Radio France International (RFI), Radio Free Asia (RFA), ABC Australian Radio, Voice of America (VOA) and SEA TV.



Lower Sesan Dam 2...

utterly affected their livelihood. “If the dam construction starts, we will not only lose our land, but traditional culture we have along time ago,” said Srey Libe, 56, a community representative from Sre Pok community. “Our ancestors have been living here for hundreds of years and our daily lives are totally dependent on the forest and this beautiful river for income and nutrition every year. However, due to this LS2 dam project that was approved by the government in 2009, we will be displaced to the new location. This situation could lead to the ruin and destruction of our ethnic identity and traditions,” he added. Around 5,000 ethnic minority including Prov, Punong and La- from the affected communities will need to be resettled because of the dam construction. Proper compensation information from the development company nor does the government has yet shared to the villagers, asides of the twelve relocated families from Pluk Villa.

“We do not act against any dam development, yet we also do not support the development projects that could be critically affect numbers of Cambodian lives. In term of CSOs, we appreciat the progress in the country, still we do hope all the development projects designed to minimize their impact on rural livelihoods,” Mr. Tek Vannara, Executvie Director of the NGO forum on Cambodia stated during the event. LS2 dam is the first large dam development in Cambodia on the Sesan River which is located in Stung Treng Province. Its capacity is 400 MW under the investment of the share-holders between Royal Group Company and Chinese Company name Hydrolancang International Energy Co.Ltd and Huaneng Group. It is currently under dam construction mostly on reserivor clearance and resettlment after the Final EIA report was approved in 2009. The dam is targeted to finish by 2017.



វេទិកាផ្តោតលើការងារសង្គមស៊ីវិលកម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Quarterly Land Working Group Meeting with ML-MUPC



Phnom Penh, July 8, 2014: Eight NGO representatives together with two community representatives from Tumnap 2 and Tumnap 3 attended the Quarterly Land Working Group meeting, chaired by H.E Sor Sovan, Secretariat of state of ML-MUPC at Ministry of Land, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC).

Facilitated by Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, the meeting discussed on the supplementary registration of communities in Phnom Penh and indigenous people communal land titling registration, to follow up the progress of national housing policy, and lastly to strengthen the cooperation between CSOs MLMUPC in land conflict solution.

After a half day of meeting, MLMUPC group provided number of positive responses to the concern issues addressed by civil society organizations (CSOs).

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

“Draft Law on the Use and Management of Agricultural Land” was changed



Phnom Penh, July 17, 2014: A half-day meeting was conducted between the NGO Forum on Cambodia and the General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) to update each side on the Draft Law on the Use and Management of Agricultural Land working progress.

The representatives attended the meeting included H.E SO Khan Rithykun, Government delegation and Director General of GDA, Dr. PHEAV Sovuthy, Director of Department of Agricultural Land Resource Management, Mr. TEK Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia, Mr. SIN Sokhomony, Agriculture Policies Monitoring Project Coordinator and Ms. Touch Setha, Land Security Project Coordinator.

The draft law which was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 2011 and originally named Law on the Use and Management of Agricultural Land was revised to Law on Agriculture Land Management after several meetings conducted by the working group assembled by the inter-departments of general of agriculture. The

GDA formed up the working group in order to endeavor on the process of the draft law in corporation with related CSOs and NGOs by collecting comments and feedbacks provided through the NGO Forum since May 20, 2014, to supplement into the law for content quality improvement. During the meeting H.E. Khan Rithykun mentioned that the working group was carefully reviewing the draft and after almost a dozen-time re-meetings the subjects from article 1 to 26 were being examined and cleaned up. For further action takes, GDA agriculture plans to organize a regional workshop in early 2015 to continue updating and reviewing on this law.

Mr. Tek Vannara has suggested to the GDA to review the draft promptly in time for Annual Network Member Meeting organized by NGO Forum, which will be held on August 6-7, 2014. As a result, Dr. Pheav Sovuthy, a core member in developing the draft law, will attend the meeting to provide about any changes presentation to all the participants.



វេទិកាផ្លូវការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Reflection and Sharing the Way Forward



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, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia stated during the opening ceremony. *Read more at <http://bit.ly/1qXQOMQ>*

Ministry of Environment and CSOs's Progress Meeting on UDG Land Dispute



Phnom Penh, July 24 A group of national and international NGOs working on environment issues in Cambodia attended a meeting, facilitated by The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), on the progress of Union Development Group (UDG) development project with the H.E Say Sam Al, Minister of Environment Ministry and his colleagues at the Ministry of Environment (MoE). The other four NGO representatives attended

the meeting were Adhoc, CHRAC, Adhoc and OHCHR.

The main agenda during the occasion was the presentation of the investigation report on the "Impacts on Inhabitants by the Union Development Group (UDG) Co., LTD Development" in Koh Kong province to the MoE. The report outlines the history of the land dispute, updates on the current situation, presents the requests from the affected families and provides recommendations from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The Minister had no objection upon the report results, and strongly requested all the relevant organizations to cooperate together with the government especially, MoE, in solving the problems for the community in Koh Kong. <http://bit.ly/1koyM3m>

Indigenous Communities from Preah Vihear Call for Cancellation of the Economic Land Concession and Accelerating the Communal Land Titles



Phnom Penh, July 23: Group of Kuoy Indigenous People (IP) from Prame Communities joined together for a press conference to call for the cancellation of the Economic Land Concession at the NGO Forum. They also highlighted the letter issued by the Ministry of Interior on February 27, 2014 ordered provincial authorities to take proper and just action on land conflict resolution and accelerating Communal Land Titles for the three communities. Plus, IP also followed up the

promise of H.E. Suos Yara, Preah Vihear's lawmaker, on April 4, 2014 to intervene their land dispute case.

During the conference, the representatives of 367 aboriginal families from three communities in Preah Vihear shared their concerns about the companies' activities in occupying and using their forest and land. When the ELC was declared the two companies Lan Feng (received 9,015HA) and Rui Feng (received 8,841HA) Concessions in November 2011, they started cutting the trees without a proper Environment Impact Assessment. The inhabitants added that they often received the warning letters from the court on their advocacy activities and very often urge them to accept solution from the government. *Read more at <http://bit.ly/1moEOre>*



វេទិកាផែនការវិនិយោគសេដ្ឋកិច្ចសង្គម
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

ON THE MEDIA



Mr. Tek Vannara on Radion Interview at Sarika Radio, FM 106.5 about Cambodian National Budget for 2015



The NGO Forum on radion interview at Women Radio, FM 102 about Lower Sesan Dam 2



Mr. Tek Vannara, ED of the NGO Forum talking about National Strategic Development Plan

Topic: Radio interview on “the discussion on the budget preparation process and the New development in budget revenue and expenditure for 2015”

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

Date: August 4, 2014

Speakers:

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

Ms. Kim Natacha, Executive Director at Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency

Objectives:

This interview was aimed to provide Cambodian citizens detail information on the national budget in Cambodia including the national budget transparency, the source of NB, the involvement of the

Topic: Radio interview to talk about “Youth Opinion on the Lower Sesan 2 Dam Construction”

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

Date: July 24, 2014

Speakers:

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

Ms. Su Kit from Villager from Rattanakiri

Mr. Dam Samnang from Stung Treng

Objectives:

The session was arranged to talk about the concerns of the families affected by the LS2 Dam construction, the compensation process and the future plan of the villagers.

Topic: Radio talk show to talk about “Cambodia National Strategic Development Plan” (NSDP)

Location: Comfrel, Voice of Civil Society

Date: June 23, 2014

Speakers:

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

Objectives:

The talk show was to discussed about the process of NSDP development for the year 2014 - 2018.



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការងារមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS

14 August

National Forum on Hydro-Power Dam in Phnom Penh

14 August

LAHRiN Bi-monthly Meeting in Phnom Penh

18 – 20 August

Training on Agriculture Corporate and Market Focus on Policy Issue for NDF-C in Phnom Penh

21 August

IPFN 3rd Quarterly Meeting in Phnom Penh

21 August

Youth Forum in Phnom Penh

21 August

Radio Talk Show on “World Indigenous Peoples Day” at Women Radio, FM 102 in Phnom Penh

26 August

Provincial Workshop in Sihanouk Vill

26 – 27 August

Network Capacity and Advocacy Assessment in Phnom Penh

28 – 29 August

REDD+ Forum in Phnom Penh

28 – 29 August

Land and Livelihood Program Exchange Visit

16 September

RCC Bi-Monthly meeting in Phnom Penh

19 September

Sub National Forum on Climate Change and Environment

NEW FACES/CONGRATULATIONS



Please contact Pheakdey at
pheakdey@ngoforum.org.kh
016 929 899

Welcoming **Heng Pheakdey**, our new Deputy Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia. Pheakdey has over a decade of working experience and knowledge of development issues including Climate Change, Hydropower and Community Livelihood with local and international NGOs.



Please contact Navy at
navy@ngoforum.org.kh
016 221 149

Join us in welcoming **Nop Navy**, the newest Program Manager for Land and Livelihood Program. Navy has about 10 years of working experience with local and international NGO on natural resource management, gender, and environment impact assessment.



Please contact Mony at
mony@ngoforum.org.kh
012 683 947

Welcome to **Pen Mony** who joins our Development Issues Program (DIP) as DIP Manager. Mony brings with her years of experience working with local and international NGOs on the policy development, women rights and health.



Please contact Rithy at
saorithy@ngoforum.org.kh
012 315 441

Welcoming **Tea Saorithy**, the Aid Effectiveness Project Coordinator of the DIP. Rithy has about 7 years of working experience with the government and NGO on the aid coordination issue.



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ក្រុមការងារមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

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.

Working together for positive Change



The NGO Forum on Social Media!

Like and follow us Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ngoforumoncambodia>

Follow The NGO Forum Tweeter <https://twitter.com/thengoforum>

Give us a plus on G+ <https://plus.google.com/b/110431356984882685030/110431356984882685030/posts>

Visit our website <http://http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/>