

## **LEADING STORIES**

# Launching the Documentary Film on the Impacts and Challenges of Lower Sesan II Dam Construction



Phnom Penh, March 20: A 20-minute film, designed to promote awareness around the effects of the Lower Sesan II (LS2) dam that successfully captured the reality of local communities' livelihoods, recommendations for concerned local communities and various NGOs' and government officials' perceptions about the dam, launched today in a half-day event at the NGOF Forum (NGOF) http://bit.ly/1sPETg2.

The founding event for the documentary film "Cambodian Hydropower Dam and Recent Challenges: Lower Sesan II Dam" was attended by some 50 representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), researchers, local government agencies, community members, video consultants and television producers.

This film was made for the following pur-

#### poses:

- 1. To draw public attention to the human rights aspects of the dam's construction, including the principle of law and good governance via accountable and responsive government services;
- 2. To put forward points of view and testimonials from local people, specialists and government agencies on the dam's construction; and
- 3. Serve as an awareness raising and advocacy tool to convince politicians, diplomats, governments' and regional leadership to pursue concrete actions to respect the importance of the river, cultures and livelihood of those who are dependent on the aquatic resources and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

Mr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director shared during the event "LS2 dam project is the first large dam development (400MW)

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# On the Media Upcoming Events/Holidays

in Cambodia along the Sesan River located in Stung Treng Province. Nevertheless, based on the research, this dam will have serious negative impacts on the ecosystem of the Mekong Tributaries Sesan and Sre Polk River, especially, for communities living along the river. Moreover, the reservoir of the project will destroy up to 39,000 ha of forest areas, including 10,000 ha of private forest concession." He continued, "Hence, we produced this video with the hope that the public, especially, the decision makers...

Continue to page 02 ....







#### Launching the documentary film ....

can more deeply understand the challenging situation that villagers are facing currently, as well as in the future, after the dam's construction is completed. Further, we hope the video will better enable the relevant bodies to provide an appropriate solution, one that could be accepted by the villagers, investors and the government themselves."

The transcripts of the moving picture will be dispersed to several sources, including government, NGOs and the residential Huaneng Group after Electricity of Vietnam be/8xQUcHzy0bE

The LS2 dam project is the first large dam development (400MW) in Cambodia, in which over one thousand households will need to relocate. The investment projects shareholders include the Royal Group Company and Chinese Companies, Hydrolancang International Energy Co. Ltd (Huaneng Lancang River Hydropower Co. Ltd.,) and

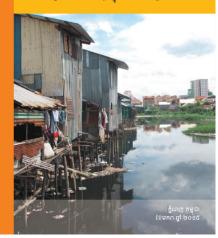
areas. The online edition of the documen- (EVN) phased out. This project will affect tary file is available here: http://youtu. thousands of residents living along the Sesan River. Presently, the dam is in the process of construction, mostly reservoir clearance and relocation. The majority of villagers are not satisfied with the compensation and resettlement guidelines adopted by the government and have not yet determined whether they will relocate from their own villages.

# Launching Research Report on "A Study on the Exclusion of the Urban Poor Communities from the Systematic Land Registration in Phnom Penh"





ការឆ្នៀលសមានមន៍ទ្រីទ្រចេញពីការចុះមញ្ជីឌីធ្លី លត្តសោះបាម្រព័ន្ធ តួចរាបធានីគូពេញ



Phnom Penh, April 07: A Research Report on "Exclusion of the Urban Poor Communities from the Systematic Land Registration in Phnom Penh" was launched today at Tonle Bassac 2. Approximately 150 participants from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Development partners, government, local authorities, community members, esearcher, and students attended.

The report, which was finished in January 2015 interviewed over 300 people from 12 urban poor communities, was a joint project between the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and World Vision Cambodia (WVC). The specific purposes of this report were:

1. To disseminate key research findings to

relevant stakeholders

- 2. To share experience of Systematic land Registration from Communities perspectives and
- 3. To share legal procedure of systematic land registration (SLR) from Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC)

"The report has been produced in two languages - English and Khmer - because we want to ensure the research reaches local and international audiences. The report exists because CSOs/NGOs have observed that in Phnom Penh, the poor have very limted access to information. Additionally, there is no formal complaint mechanism for ...

Read more at http://bit.ly/1FKOURH



## HIGHLIGHT STORIES

# Scale up Community Based REDD+ for Sustainable Forest Management



Phnom Penh, March 16: A one-day training workshop to improve partners' capacity build on sustainable forest management: scale up community based REDD+ was organized at NGO Forum, in which 18 participants (three female) attended.

The specific targets for this workshop were:

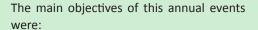
- 1. Raising awareness of the CSO-REDD+ network/members regarding the concepts of community based forest management and REDD+, in particular community based Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) in REDD+
- 2. Building capacity of CSO-REDD+ network/members on the community based REDD+ for their further engagement in REDD+ and assistance to local communities and lastly
- 3. Initiating a group discussions to get the perspectives of CSOs/NGOs on community based REDD+ activities and their inputs for the development of the National REDD+ strategy

Ms. Yos Thy, one of participants from Kratie Province, said that it was very essential to involve the communities, NGOs/CSOs in contributing to the REDD+ process and this was one of an effective method to show the communities on what and how could they do to be a part that bring achieve

Read more at http://bit.ly/1GuP2bW

# Leading the way: Cambodian Women after Women's Global Agreement in 1995

Phnom Penh, March 06: TThe NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) in collaboration with Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) organized an annual event to celebrate the 104th International Women Day (IWD) with the participants of both NGOs. This year themes for the IWD in Cambodia was "Leading the way: Cambodian Women after women's global agreement in 1995".



- 1. To remind employees of both organizations about the progresses and challenges for gender equality in Cambodia after 20 years of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action and identify strategies to move forward
- 2. To encourage NGOF staff to transform the theme of "Leading the way: Cambodian Women after women's global agreement in



1995" into the actual practices and

3. To celebrate the achievement of the NGO Forum and CCC contribution to the gender mainstreaming in promoting equal rights and opportunities and to ensure the development and advocacy for all, not only women or men

"This year NGOF and CCC are celebrating IWD to convey key messages that women...

Read more at http://bit.ly/1GcX4Vm

# Villagers and NGOs Call for Intervention on Land Grabbing and Illegal Logging in Pu Kong, Mondulkiri



Phnom Penh, March 18: A Members of the Pukong's community together with NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and Community Legal Education Center (CLEC) conducted a press conference to call for Intervention from the Cambodian Government on Land Grabbing and Illegal Logging in Pu Kong Village, Sre Preah Commune, Keo Siema District, Mondulkiri.

"The Forest is our life, in particular, resin

trees are a natural resource that generates income to support our community's livelihood, but now the companies have destroyed over 80 percent of all the resin trees that we have," said by Vannak Khverk, member of an indigenous group from Srae Ampil village, Mondolkiri, whose livelihood is also threatened by Economic Land Concessions (ELCs).

Land grabbing and deforestation cases in Pu Kong are dramatically affect the community, especially, indigenous people (IP), as illustrated by the statement above. In Pu Kong, IP are in dispute with Benh Hoeurk Kratie Rubber Co. Ltd., which was granted an ELC in October 2011 over 8,926 ha of

Read more at <a href="http://bit.ly/1e2mLyS">http://bit.ly/1e2mLyS</a>



# NGOs Discuss on Environmental Impact Assessment

Phnom Penh, March 18: More than 94 CSOs/NGOs members, Development Partners, Academics, NGOs/CSOs and Affected Communities participated in Draft EIA Law Pre-Consultation Workshop at the Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Centre (PPEDC) in order to incorporate the latest ideas within last draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) law.

The workshop aimed to review the previous CSOs comments which were incorporated, collect further inputs and recommendations to improve the quality of the draft EIA. This fifth pre-consultation workshop was coordinated by the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) together with The NGO Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA), the Network for Development of Food Security and Safety in Cambodia (NDF-C), River Coalition in Cambodia (RCC), Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), Indigenous People and Forest Network (IPFN), LAHRIN and other CBOs/NGOs.

During the opening, Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director NGOF, mentioned that we should consider six points for discussion in this consultation. Those points are:

1.Inclusion of Free and Prior Inform Conscience (FPIC) principle as it is understood in the international legal sphere, which...



Read more at http://bit.ly/1IEw7Od

# Land Dispute's Investigation Mission in Thmorda, Pursat Province

Pursat, March 18 - 20: A Representatives from The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and another five NGO partners including Adhoc, Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC), Khmer Kampuchea Krom for Human Rights and Development Association (KKKHRDA), and Licadho joined together for a 3-day trip to investigate the land grabbing issue in Thmorda village, Pursat Province. The goals for this trip were to meet with both local authorities and the local villagers in order to get up to date information on the land dispute from both government and community sides. In addition we wanted to hear the possible solutions suggested by the affected communities, empower the villagers to be involved in issue, and lastly to get an update on the authorities actions.

First, the investigation team managed to a



range meetings with various local authorities in the area such as Deputy Provincial Governors, Veal Veng District Governors, Director Department of Ministry of Environment, Director Department of Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction and other relevant officials. As a result, the local authorities agreed to prolong the time for the villagers to fill in the community's information form of until ...

Read more at <a href="http://bit.ly/1QKL7Jp">http://bit.ly/1QKL7Jp</a>

# Community Forestry as a Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change



Kompong Thom, March 18 - 20: A three-day sub-national workshop on Social Forestry in Climate Change (CC) was undertaken, under the theme "Community Forestry as a Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change". This workshop organized by The NGO Forum on Cambodia in partnership with NTFP-EP, RECOFTC and CSO REDD+ Network. The workshop gathered 25 representatives (three women) from Forestry

Administration (FA), local FA and commune, Indigenous People alliance, local NGOs and Community Forestry (CF) network in Kompong Thom, Pursat and Preah Vihear to explore the evidence based of community forestry's roles, lessons learned, best practices, issues and challenges as a key strategy toward green development.

The main objectives of this event were to share and learn from ongoing CF in practices, particularly in field of the CC, to gain better understanding of the CF roles in CC mitigation and adaption toward green growth, and lastly to strengthen and expand the network amongst CFs' key identified stakeholders...

Read more at http://bit.ly/1f4wxkc



## NGOF's In-House Training to improve the Understanding on Policy and Regulation Formulation and Advocacy



Phnom Penh, March 26 - 27: A two-day in house training on "Understanding on Policy and Regulation Formulation and Advocacy" was provided to The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) employees at Le Paranda Hotel.

The main objectives of the workshop were to improve the participants' understanding on policy and regulations and their formulation processes for more effective advocacy in Cambodia. It was expected that the output would increase the effectiveness of NGOF in discussing issues and advocating policy options to policy actors.

"These are very useful lessons, as through this c session, we are manage to understand and more about the policy making process' in different sectors, including the government. This knowledge will help improve our work, which is mainly on the policy monitoring, by saving us time, and being able to connect to the right person at the right time," said Sin Sokhmony, Agriculture Policies Monitoring Project Coordinator of NGO after the workshop.

After the training, the majority of the participants were able to gain knowledge about a range of topics. In addition they learnt about "the complexity of policy processes" and "policy analysis" as well...

Read more at http://bit.ly/1IuIPMz

### 3rd Commission of the National Assembly Pays a Visit to Don Sahong and Lower Sesan II Dam Sites

Steung Treng, March 26 - 29: The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) with River Coalition of Cambodia network members such as MVi, Fact, CEPA and Oxfam hosted an exposure visit for the third commission of the National Assembly (NA) to the Don Sahong and Lower Sesan 2 (LS2) project sites in order to learn about the trans-boundary impact of the Don Sahong and Lower Sesan II dam on villagers. Forty community members (35 females) from Don Sahong Community and 213 villagers (150 females) from the LS2 Communities attended the meeting with NA in each day. Government representatives, organizers, and villagers, a group of local media from Hang Meas HD TV, Radio Free Asia and Phnom Penh Post were also there to understand the consequences of the dam.

portunity to build a relationship between

communities, authorities, CSOs and government, the chance to study the impacts of the LS2 Dam and the trans-boundary impacts of Don Sahong dam in Cambodia and to meet, hear and discuss about the concerns on LS2 and Don Sahong dams between the communities, CSOs, authorities and the third commission of NA.

The objectives of this trip included, the op-

Read more at http://bit.ly/1MnCqU5

## Seeking for Resolution on Land Issue Affecting by the Development Project of Union Development Group In Botum Sakor and Kiri Sakor Districts, Koh Kong



Phnom Penh, March 31: In responsing to 1,144 families, who adversely effected and oppressed by Union Development Group's (UDG) development project, 61 participants (15 females) as representatives from CSOs/NGOs, Inter-Ministerial and Ministry of Environment (MoE), local authorities, European Union (EU), UNOHCHR, UDG company and the affected communities joined together for a one-day national workshop on "Seeking for resolution on land issue affecting by

the development project of Union Development Group (UDG) in Koh Kong province" organized by The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) in cooperation with CHRAC, Adhoc, Community Legal Education Center (CLED) and Licadho.

This event was organized in order to discuss and seek for solutions to stop new eviction and resettlement, improve existing new locations, stop violence in the dispute locations, figure how to implement a leopard skin policy, and to seek for the verification on number of affected communities and commitment for resolution by Cambodian government through MoE and UDG.

Dr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director...

Read more at http://bit.ly/1GroIPT



# IPFN Raises Concerns on Deforestation and Land Grabbing to Mondulkiri Authorities

Mondulkiri, April 01: NGO representatives from the Indigenous People and Forest Network (IPFN) attended the quarterly meeting with H.E Svay Sam Ang, Mondulkiri's Acting Provincial Governor, at the provincial hall to discuss deforestation in Pukong commune, and land grabbing in Bousra. The aim of the meeting was to seek cooperation between NGOs and local authorities to find a solutions for the affected communities.

IPFN suggested the authorities to take action over land grabbing between the new comers, Cham and Bousra community on the Social Land Concession (SLC) in Bousra. One of the suggested solution was to work with the court to issue the ruling of preservative relief (Deyka Reaksa Kapea), which is a tool to stop activities on the conflict site.

The local authorities, in the meeting, acknowledge illegal logging and land grabbing in Pu Kong community. To help reduce the destruction of the forest, the acting provincial governor and the NGOs agreed to form a team called, Sangkat Forestry Administration, in which the district, commune police, and villagers will work together to observe and establish a post at the main entrances that

Read more at http://bit.ly/1G2WhHF



# Capacity Building on Land Dispute Resolution Mechanisms and International Standards Related to Land Rights



Phnom Penh, April 6 - 7: The Land and Livelihood Programme of The NGOs Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) conducted a two-day training course on "Land Dispute Resolution Mechanisms and International Standards Related to Land Rights" at La Paranda Hotel. Thirty one (four women), NGOF network/ members from seven provinces - Battambang, Svay Rieng, Banteay Meanchey, Prey Veng, Siemreap, Kompong Thom, Koh Kong - and Phnom Penh, participated this session.

The training was organized in order to strengthen the participants' capacitiy on land dispute processes and other related mechanisms. Trainers from different sectors including a government official from the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning Construction (MLMUPC), a Legal Officer from UNOHCHR, a Lawyer from the Legal Town Lawyer Group and an Executive Director of CDCAM, were invited to lecture and share experience in the training.

"In the training there were a number of sessions such as Business and Human Rights, Corporate Social Responsibility, Land Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, Alternative Dispute Resolutions, Case Management and Understanding the Asian Development Bank. We believe these sessions were very important for their current work and would

increase their knowledge, specifically advocacy, with the potential to improve their work," Mr. Chhum Chinith, Land Security Project Coordinator of NGOF said.

Mr. Sok Sokhom, Executive Director of Cambodian National Research Organization in Sihanouk Ville, appreciated the usefulness of this training course conducted by NGOF as the participants managed to learn, share and put into practice all the things they have absorbed.

"I appreciated this session because it does help us to learn more how to advocate to stakeholders about our land work. Not only the theory but through sharing experience we can learn and put additional ideas into pratice. Meanwhile, I would like to request NGOF to arrange another session focusing on technology and land measurement, how to use GPS and Map Making, so we can work directly and deeply with communities, government and other related stakhoders, as well as sharing this knowledge to even more people," he added.



#### The NGO Forum Quarterly Meeting to Update Achievements and Way Forward



Phnom Penh, April 24: A hundred and fifty NGOs network/member representatives (35 females) came together for a half day Quarterly Member Meeting (QMM) organized by the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) at Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Centre (PPEDC).

The meeting, chaired by Ms. Prum Bopha, a member of Management Committee of NGOF and Director of Rural Aid Organization (RAO), was regularly conducted in order to exchange the current information



and knowledge among NGO/CO communities, update members about the NGO Forum's progress and challenges, and discuss common solutions in order to improve performance of NGOF as well all member organizations.

Selective of the important agendas such as the update of the NGO Law, the implication of the new law on Organization and Function of the National Election Committee and the Law on Election of the Members of the National Assembly, the status of the final Read more at http://bit.ly/1e38K3y

Draft EIA Law, and the CSO's initiative on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) were raised for sharing and discussion.

Dr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director took the opportunity to update on NGOF significant accomplishments such as the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), draft agriculture law, the sand extracting issue, Lower Sesan 2 and Don Shaong Dams, UDG case, the deforestation and land issues in Cambodia.

"There are such results for the last quarter, for example, the Don Sahong Dam parties were agreed to delay for six months in order to conduct the study on the impacts, and the national workshop on the UDG case between communities, local authorities and NGOs to debate for solutions," he said. "However, us alone wouldn't be able to...

## CSO/NGO Leaders Meeting on Draft Law on Association and NGOs (LANGO)

Phnom Penh, April 24: T: In responding to the concerns on the Draft Law on Associations and NGOs (LANGO), which announced by the Cambodian Prime Minister to be adapted by May 2015, The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) in collaboration with Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) urgently organized the meeting, where 68 participants from 54 CSOs/, attended at Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Centre (PPEDC).

The main objectives of the half day meeting were to update current status and key concerns related to the LANGO and to discuss on key strategies to earn more influential to the Government on the LANGO.

"The draft law on NGO and Association was drafted several years ago, and it became the topic to debate amongst NGOs, and development partners in 2010 and 2011. The

latest draft law, the fourth edition, was delayed after NGO/CSO communities strongly advocated during that period. However, recently the government resumed the draft law and planned to adapt this law in May 2015," Mr. Tek Vannara shared during the opening. "However, we, as the CSOs/NGOs at this moment, do not have access to the latest law either not even sure if the government would open the discussion opportunity for a proper consultation on this latest draft law."

Dr. Tek Vannara also urged for the cooperation and collaboration amongst the CSOs/ NGOs and the citizens to work and advocate together on LANGO and requesting the government to release the final draft with the inclusive and proper consultation.

Read more at http://bit.ly/1Kc6qVN







# Highlight Photos of The NGO Forum on Cambodia and Cooperation Committee for Cambodia Khmer New Year Celebration April 09, 2015



























## ON THE MEDIA



**Topic:** Radio talk show on about "What are the impacts from the construction of

the Don Sahong Dam?"

Location: Radio Free Asia Khmer, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Date: March 06, 2015

**Speakers:** 

Dr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director

Dr. Sok Touch, Independent Political Analyzer



**Topic:** Radio talk show on deforestation issue focus on "Protecting and Managing

Keo Sima Protected Forest, Mondolkiri province"

Location: Women Radio, FM 102.0 MHz, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Date: March 17, 2015

**Speakers:** 

Dr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director



**Topic:** Radio talk show on the Launching Documentary Film on "Cambodian Hydropower Dam and Recent Challenges: Lower Sesan II Dam" and the impacts of this dam

Location: Radio France International, FM 92.0 MHz Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Date: March 20, 2015

**Speakers:** 

Dr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director

Radio Talk Show "Life and Nature" "The update of Environemtnal Imact Accessment Draft Law and its next step"



**Topic:** Radio talk show on "The update of Environemtnal Imact Accessment Draft

Law and its next step" in "Life and Nature" Program

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

Date: Women Radio, FM 102.0 MHz, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Speakers:** 

Mr. Ou Samkeat, Deputy Director of Environmental Impact Accessment Department

Mr. Cheng Kimheng, Representative of Environmental Impact Accessment Working Group



# **UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS**

#### 15 - 17 June

Training on Budget Analysis and Advocacy in Phnom Penh

#### 18 June

King's Mother Birthday, Norodom Monineath Sihanouk in Cambodia

#### 22 - 26 June

Field Investigation on Chak Cha case, in Mondulkiri

#### 23 - 24 June

Awareness Raising on Communal Land Title in Kompong Thom

#### 23 - 26 June

Media Trip to Lower Sesan 2 Dam in Steung Treng

#### 25 - 26 June

CSOs Stratgic Forum on Land Dispute Resolutions in Phnom Penh

#### 26 June

Land and Resettlement Forum in Phnom Penh

#### 4th week of June

Online Campaign on Prey Lang

#### 1st Week of July

Prey Lang Field Visit

#### 14 - 17 July

IPFN Quarterly Meeting in Preah Vihear

#### 29 - 30 July

Training on National Housing Policy in Phnom Penh



Please contact Channy at v.land@ngoforum.org.kh +855 81 430 151

**Khieve Channy is our** new Land and Livelihood Intern. He is currently a fourth year student and Royal University of Law and Economics majored in Law.



Please contact Monyneath at v.ric@ngoforum.org.kh +855 77 929 181

Welcoming **Sron Monyneath**, a new Intern for Research and Information Center. He is now a fourth year student at the Institute of Foreign Language, majored at Internal Relation.





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