

MEDIA ALERT

Wed 7 August 2013

NGO Forum launches new video on land issues faced by Cambodia's Indigenous communities for International Indigenous Peoples' Day



On Friday 9 August at 7 pm at Meta House, NGO Forum on Cambodia will present a riveting new video on the issues faced by Indigenous communities over land rights. The date is the 19th International Indigenous Peoples' Day, and the video titled ***"Indigenous People's Land and Rights"***.

Indigenous communities are very vulnerable to commercial and state interests which are increasingly attracted to exploiting the economic potential of the forests and upland areas of their homelands. Their livelihoods have become very precarious as hydropower, mining developments and Economic Land Concessions strip the forests and destroy their capacity to extract a living from the land resources.

There are 24 groups of Indigenous Peoples scattered over 15 provinces of Cambodia. They are concentrated in the four northeastern provinces of Cambodia and the video focusses on Ratanakiri, Stung Treng and Preah Vihear provinces. It shows in detail how their livelihoods are being destroyed by unchecked development.

The lack of enforcement of existing laws, especially the Land Law of 2001 and subsequent policies and sub-decrees has severely undermined the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples. NGO Forum works continually with these communities and the Government to try and improve their situation. This video has been made to raise public awareness of their plight, and the need to enforce existing laws and improve Government directives, to increase the awarding of community land titles and protect their forest livelihoods from complete destruction.

WHAT: Launch of new video, ***"Indigenous People's Land and Rights"*** to highlight major land issues on International Indigenous Peoples' Day

WHEN: Friday 9 August 7 pm

WHERE: META HOUSE, 37 Sothearos Boulevard Phnom Penh

WHO: - Mr. Chhith Sam Ath, Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia
- Two community representatives from Preah Vihear and Steung Treng provinces.

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