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Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

8th National Farmer Forum



Phnom Penh, 16-17 October 2019 the 8th National Farmer Forum was organized in conjunction with the Cambodia Food Security and Security Development Network (NDF-C) and partners including ActionAid, BCV, Caritas Cambodia, Caritas Switzerland, CAVAC, CEDAC, CRF, DCA, DFAT, DPA, FAO, FCA, GiZ, FNN, HEIFER, HEKS, IFAD, LWD, NGO Forum on Cambodia, Oxfam, Khmer Rice, SDC, SNV, Star Cambodia, PIN, UNDP - GEF SGP, WEeffect, World Renew, Grow Asia / CPSA and WVC. The forum lasts for two days from October 16-17, 2019 at Tonle Bassac 2 Restaurant in Phnom Penh on the theme: “To give farmers enough access to invest in agriculture.” The objectives of the forum are:

- 1) Enhance the agribusiness environment with multidisciplinary collaboration and collaboration in reviewing and updating support methods to benefit farmers and farming communities.
- 2) Encourage the implementation of relevant policies to support farmers and farming communities, especially women, so that they have greater access to capital and markets.
- 3) Strengthen cooperation and partnerships between farmers, communities, agriculture, the private sector, government institutions, civil society and development partners.



Welcome Speech by Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia on behalf of the Food Security and Security Development Network (NDF-C) in Cambodia of the 8th National NGO Forum, a national and international NGO organization. All 28 organizations, I would like to express my warmest welcome to the presence of the President, who has taken the busy time to honor the 8th National Farmers Forum under the theme “Promoting Multilateral Partnership.” It is important for farmers to have enough money to invest in agriculture”. I would like to welcome Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of the Royal Government, development partners, international organizations, teachers, students, and farmers from provinces across Cambodia. Massive nationalism today and tomorrow. The forum is a mechanism to seek and engage in dialogue with all stakeholders, national and sub-national government representatives, farmers, 25 provinces, cities, civil society and the private sector to share their experiences with each other. Explore effective strategies and solutions and enhance collaboration in responding to problems of capital and markets in agricultural production.

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Once again on behalf of the 8th National Farmer Forum, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the high presence of the President, the Government agencies and relevant institutions who have always cooperated well with the organization and Civil society.



Ms. Yann Srey Yat, Outstanding Female Farmer Representative, spoke at the 8th National Farmers Forum, an important event that provides opportunities for farmers and farming communities, gov-



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ernment, private sector development partners, civil society and higher education institutions to discuss. Discuss and explore common strategies for achieving this goal A multilateral partner to enable farmers to afford the agricultural investment in Cambodia. I would like to express my appreciation for the intervention of the Royal Government, the private sector and development partners who have responded to the challenges of farmers and the farming community after the first National Farmer Forum to the 7. Those achievements include:

Water Achievements:

- Irrigation rehabilitation, irrigation canals, and irrigation maintenance.
- The community is officially registered by the Ministry of Water Resources.
- Assist in water pumping for drought-affected rice in some provinces.
- Strengthen the capacity of FWUCs in community operations.

2. Capital Achievements:

- Strengthen and expand the business in the farming community, improving the lives of its members.
- Facilitate farmers to communicate with stakeholders (NGOs, private sector and government).
- Labor retention in the agricultural community.

3. Marketing Achievements:

- Contract farming (with the support of government and stakeholders)
- Facilitate international and local market linkages.
- Information technology marketing.

At the same time, there are some challenges that our farmers and farming communities are facing and requesting the intervention of the following multilateral partners:

1. Water Challenges:

- Community capacity for irrigation management on water allocation and

maintenance repairs is limited.

- Limited annual income planning, financial management and financial reporting of the FWUC.
- Collaboration and support from a number of authorities in recognition of community registration and limited contribution collection.

2. Capital challenges:

- High-interest rates from microfinance institutions and public and private banks.
- Agricultural community members' investment capital is limited.
- Limited external control and mobility of members.
- The government does not have a comprehensive policy for agricultural product insurance.

3. Marketing Challenges:

- A broker is a price setter.
- Supply does not meet standards (quality and quantity).
- Non-compliance with the contract between seller and buyer.
- The cost of production is high (production is not profitable).



Oknha Song Saran, president of the Cambodian Rice Federation, said that the vision of the Cambodian Rice Federation is to transform the Cambodian rice sector into a sustainable, profitable and market-oriented sector to satisfy consumers and Implementation of modern technology.



The Federation of Cambodian Rice Federation has its mandate to:

- Improve the efficiency of agricultural techniques and milling.
- Reduce production costs and increase exports.
- Enhance the Code of Conduct in the whole rice sector, which values the investment and implementation of the highest ethical standards in our dealings with stakeholders.

Oknha Song Saran said that, with the support and coordination of the Ministry of Commerce, the Cambodian Rice Federation had organized a 25-member general assembly and election, three of which were representatives from the farmer community to fill the vacancy. From the perspective and mission of the rice sector, we have identified two major objectives. Closing Speech by H.E Khoy Sokha, High Representative H.E Chea Vandeth, Chairman of the National Assembly's Agricultural, Rural Development, Water and Environmental and Water Resources Planning Committee and Distribution of Thanks Certificate to Partner Organizations for Contributing to the 8th National Farmer Forum with this valuable activity through the strengthening of partnership between farmers, communities, agriculture cooperative, the private sector, government institutions, civil society, development partners, and the Third Committee of the National Assembly to promote agricultural work in Cambodia.



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Consultative Workshops to Plan A Strategy on Conservation and Development of Indigenous Peoples



On Thursday, October 12, 2019 at the Tonle Bassac 2 Restaurant in Phnom Penh, the NGO Forum on Cambodia in cooperation with the Ministry of Rural Development, UNOHCHR, ICSO, CIPO, My Village, CLEC, HEKS, FLO, CIYA, DPA, IRAM Network, CIPA, NTFP, NTFP-EP and CEDAC in organizing consultative workshops to plan a strategy on conservation and development of indigenous peoples. The workshop was attended by about 350 participants from the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Ministry of Women's Affairs, civil society organizations, national and international organizations, researchers, community development partners, indigenous peoples, commune authorities and media. The following objectives:

- Sharing indigenous peoples' lessons and experiences of IP in Cambodia.
- Discuss and collect inputs to prepare the draft National Strategic Development Plan.
- Provide opportunities for indigenous communities, relevant institutions, civil society development partners, and academic institutions to discuss indigenous development and conservation in Cambodia.

In the opening remarks, Dr. Sot Soeung, Director of the Department of Ethnic Minority Development, National Consultative Workshop on Strategic Planning for Conservation and Development of Indig-

enous Peoples on behalf of leaders of the Ministry of Rural Development On behalf of myself, I wish to convey some of the outstanding results. Since early 2006, the Department of Ethnic Minority Development, which has been working closely with the Ministry of Interior and the International Labor Organization (ILO), has been conducting studies on traditional customs, ways of living, livelihoods, and assessing ethnic identity. Three minority villages are Andoung Kralang village in Mondulkiri province, Laoern Crane and Laen village in Ratanakiri province. As a result, the three villages have the support of relevant institutions, authorities at all levels, national organizations, international organizations, and lessons learned to apply to other target villages in order to promote better livelihoods of indigenous peoples. In addition to the achievements made by indigenous people through the ten areas of national policy on indigenous development, the Ministry of Rural Development has cooperated with national organizations, such as the ILO, OHCHR, ICSO, NGO Forum, DPA, HA, CED, MVI and CIPO etc. recognizes the indigenous people in Ratanakiri province in 74 villages, including seven ethnic minority group such as Jarai, Kreung, Kavet, Tampuon, Prov, Lun and Kachak, in Mondul Kiri province in 28 villages such as Punong. In Kratie province in 12 villages, including 4 ethnic minority such as Punong, Kouy, Kroal, and Mel. In Stung Treng province in 12 villages includ-

ing 5 ethnic minorities such as Kouy, Prov, Kreung, Punong, and Kavet. In Kampong Speu province in 5 villages including Souy ethnic minority. In Battambang province in one village including Por ethnic minority. In Preahvihear province in 9 villages including Kouy ethnic minority. In Kampong Thom province in 5 villages including Kouy ethnic minority. In Koh Kong province in 3 villages including Chorng ethnic minority. A total of 150 ethnic minority villages have been identified by the Ministry of Rural Development, 141 ethnic communities, registered as legal entities by the Ministry of Interior, and 25 ethnic communities that have received collective land titles from the Ministry of Urbanization and Construction.



Speaking at the Consultative Workshop, Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia said: "In order to facilitate the entry, all participants should be aware of the Sustainable Development Goals of 2019-2030. National 2019-2023 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Farmers and People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) Access to Information, Consultation and Consent (FPIC) Land Law 2001, National Development Policy Indigenous Peoples 2009, Natural Resource Protection Law, Forest Law, Fisheries Law and Environment Law, etc. And so on. In addition, for CSOs in Cambodia, we think that



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for the next five to ten years, we should:

- Providing additional funding and resources for Indigenous brothers' education, from the grassroots level to post-secondary education, in particular on researching, compiling, and preserving the language of indigenous peoples in Cambodia.
- Provide more technical and financial resources and human resources for the registration of indigenous communities in Cambodia.
- There should be discussion and support for the establishment of Indigenous Banks or Indigenous Saving Groups or whatever form to provide more opportunities and opportunities for Aboriginal people to access good services. With the lowest interest rates for participating in the conservation and development of indigenous peoples in Cambodia.
- Continuing and pushing for a resolution to the long-standing land dispute between indigenous peoples and some of the remaining developers for the development of Cambodia in accordance with the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals Framework.
- Relevant ministries should have appropriate coordination mechanisms and provide equal recognition for indigenous communities upon the transfer of management from one ministry to another or a change in the management of the same territory. Indigenous Peoples in accordance with the steps taken to develop and preserve the indigenous communities in the past. For example, the transfer from registration of indigenous communities to protected areas.
- Providing technical capacity building, life-skills training and more appropriate employment options for Indigenous Peoples in their development in view of economic development, social development and environmental protection

in the context of Cambodia's development. At present.

- Establish a National Indigenous Cultural Center in Phnom Penh to display cultural products and showcase indigenous history in Cambodia in order to promote indigenous people's culture, culture, life and socio-cultural heritage in Cambodia.



H.E NUON DANIEL, Secretary of State, Ministry of Rural Development, representative of H.E Dr. Ouk Rabun, Minister of Rural Development, said that for the conservation and development of indigenous peoples on behalf of the Ministry of Rural Development and myself, I would like to request your Excellency. Ladies and Gentlemen, you are a member of the entire workshop, please provide your inputs and experience the elements into strategic planning, conservation, and development of indigenous peoples in the country to comply with the legal norms in force, such as:

1. Land Law, dated 30 August 2001.
2. National policy on indigenous development.
3. Indigenous Peoples' Land Registration and Land Use Policy in the Kingdom of Cambodia.
4. Sub-Decree 83 on the Procedure of Registration of Indigenous Communities Land, dated 09 June 2009.
5. Circular No. 0974/09, dated July 22, 2009, of the Ministry of Rural Development.

6. Manual on the process of identification of legal registration and granting of communal land titles to indigenous communities in Cambodia.

However, the Royal Government, as well as the Ministry of Rural Development, other relevant ministries as well as national and international organizations and partners have been working hard in their respective fields and have been very productive and proud. However, there are some challenges that need to be addressed:

1. Indigenous communities' self-identification has been slow.
2. There is no cultural center on indigenous peoples' conservation and development.
3. There is no sample village on indigenous peoples' conservation and development.
4. Bilingual education programs of local ethnic minority groups remain limited.
5. Lack of facilities and funding for indigenous peoples' conservation and development work, etc.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the National Consultative Workshop on Strategic Planning, Conservation, and Development of the Minority was presided over by H.E Hab Touch, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, representative of H.E Phoeun Sakona, Minister of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.





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HIGHLIGHT STORIES

12th National Conference on Land and Natural Resources Governance



On October 25, 2019, there were 61 national and international NGOs co-organized 12th National Conference on Land and Natural Resources Governance at the Tonle Bassac II Restaurant in Phnom Penh. There were 518 participants (160 women) from representatives of parliament, European Union, private sector, development partners, civil society organizations, educators, Researchers, sub-national authorities, indigenous communities, fishing communities, forest communities, and journalists.



After paying great respect to the chairman of the conference, Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia, thanked the representatives of the RGC and the parliaments for attending the morning session. He emphasized that the discussions at the conference should be honest and constructive. He raised the main topics of the conference including Indigenous Peoples and Forest Management, Land Policy and Governance, and

Natural Resource Governance. The Royal Government of Cambodia national policies include the NSDP (2019 - 2023) SDG (2016 - 2030), the Green Growth Policy and the Fourth Revolution of the Digital Age.

Dr. Vannara suggested some following important points for the communities:

1. Strengthen on existing communities, including forestry, fishing communities, indigenous communities, ecotourism communities, and other communities by integrating knowledge and technology.
2. Development partners, civil society organizations, governments, private sector, and relevant stakeholders strive to provide greater funding flow to subnational communities so that communities can participate in the safeguarding and enhancing natural resource governance.
3. The involvement and collective of the community would be more proactively participate in environmental protection and conservation, as well as should be a role model for other communities to learn from.



Mr. Biju Abraham, Representative of Oxfam, noted that Cambodia mainly focuses on economic growth and poverty reduction. Economic growth is very much related to land uses and land governance.

At the same time, we are facing the challenge of climate change and natural resource degradation. In other words, all of these factors (economic growth, climate change, natural resources and national policies) are interrelated. At the same time, Cambodia has seen a rapid growth in population, which demands high food demand year after year. Oxfam also has programs in this regard. The programs implemented by Oxfam include:

- Climate Change
- Immigration
- Technology and Innovation
- Gender and Justice.

Along with the aforementioned programs, the organization has been contributing to law enforcement activities such as the Land Law since 1995 until the new land law was adopted in 2001. Our challenges with law enforcement are the clarity of each article, the scope of the law, and the different perceptions of stakeholders. Mr. Biju Abraham made some of the following recommendations.

- Let's work together, multilaterally, on the governance and governance of land and natural resources.
- We must take a holistic approach to governance and natural resource management.
- Banks should focus on the governance of land and natural resources.
- The private and responsible sectors should co-operate, recognize and collaborate with communities living and using land and natural resources.

Before concluding his welcome speech, Mr. Biju Abraham wished the seminar to receive the fruitful discussion as expected.



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Summary of the Results of the Conference and Closing Speech

At the end of the session of the conference, there were three main programs: Summary of the Results of the Conference, Official Hand-over the Written Results of the Conference to the Royal Government of Cambodia Representative and Closing Speech.

Ms. Chhim Ratana – Senior officer of Ac-



tionAid – summarized the results of the two-day conference as the following. On the 24th of October 2019 we achieved the pre-meeting with the three main statements on Land Management, Resettlement, and Natural Resources. The sector of Natural Resources is divided into three sub-themes including Indigenous People, Community Forestry and Community Fisheries. Each statement consists of four main sessions including achievements made by the Royal Government of Cambodia, Challenges, Suggestions, and Recommendations. The 12th National Conference was participated by 518 participants (160 women) represented from 61 NGOs and communities across the country. Speakers represented the Royal Government of Cambodia agreed to resolve or will bring the raised challenges to as highest possible decision-makers for further intervention.

Dr. Tek Vannara – Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia – and being as representative of all the Conference participants, officially handed-over the written results of the Conference to H.E. Ngan Chamroeun, Secretary of State and highly Representative of H.E. Samdech Kralahom

Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior.



H.E. Ngan Chamroeun – Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior (Mol), and on behalf of H.E. Samdech Kralahom Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior. His Excellency provided his remarks as the following.

The Royal Government has given Land Management as the first priority of its mandates. There is a Sub-Decree on Land Management dated since 2009. There are 137 registered with Communal Land Titles (CLT) by the Minister of Interior. It is noticed that the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is responsible for the registration of Indigenous People (IP) identification. After the recognition of the MRD, the Minister of Interior will register the IPs' CLT.

As challenges happened on the CLT, problems faced with the IP themselves. Some members of the IP communities preferred to have their own land registered individually because they can use their land titling papers for banking. Some other problems include IP communities claimed areas of CLT more (bigger) than theirs, and some others the IP communities have been living dispersal areas. For those communities who are living within the Forest Domain or Protected Areas, they have to solve their problems with the sectoral ministries first prior to asking for CLT. Some other difficulties include the IP communities are living in remote areas where road infrastructures are difficult to access, which would take time and effort to work. The total 71

planned IP communities for CLT registration, there are 21 CLT were registered with the Ministry of Interior.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has been committed to better manage the country natural resources. For instance, the biodiversity of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary of Mondulkiri province has been well protected. All seized illegal off-ended tools and equipment were destroyed. We also recognize the roles of sub-national authorities, communities, and partner agencies in the protection of natural resources. The Royal Government of Cambodia has been taken important tasks on the amendment of three laws, forestry, fisheries, and protected areas. The proposed amended new laws would give more opportunities to wider participate from different agencies rather than just the responsible ministries like agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and ministry of environment. The initiative of the amendment of the laws was started in 2011 by Samdech Akkak Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Parallel with the ideas of decentralized management of the natural resources, his Excellency gave experiences achieved by the authorities of Germany.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Pre-meeting on the 12th National Conference on Land and Natural Resource Governance and the actual 12th National Conference on Land and Natural Resource Governance went smoothly well under friendly, straight forward, and productive occasions. Four Statements of the four agreed on themes - resettlement, Indigenous Peoples, Natural Resource, and Land governance - were produced and read to share among the government representatives.

Read more at <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/12th-national-conference/>



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Public Forum on Public Financial Management and Citizen Participation



The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) co-organized with NGOs on BWG which such as ANSA, STAR Kampuchea, Oxfam, GADC, NEP, Save the Children, Transparency International, CRC World Vision Cambodia and YRDP hosted a Public Forum on Public Financial Management (PFM) and Citizen Participation on September 17, 2019 at Tonle Bassac 2 Restaurant. The forum was attended by 217 participants (53 women) from the representative of Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy and Finance and development partners, EU, GIZ, ADB, NGOs, journalists and students from universities. The forum has the following objectives: 1) Create a platform for engagement between CSOs to understand the progress, challenges and future direction of the Public Financial Management Reform Program. 2) To understand the Public Financial Management Reform and another reform program (Inter-link of the government. And, 3) Identify how CSOs/ Public engage or participate in the reform program.

Opening remark, Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia said that in early 2019 under the framework of the Implementation of Budget Reform Strategy 2018-2025, the



Royal Government of Cambodia has approved three strategies aimed at ensuring the sustainability of State revenue and enhanced financial management efficiency. Such as the revenue mobilization strategy 2019-2023, focus on the modernization of revenue collection technology, improve service delivery and sustain growth. The second strategy is to reform the national public financial system of 2019-2025 with emphasis on improving the efficiency, transparency and accountability of public resources. In addition to the Public Financial System Reform Program, the Royal Government of Cambodia under the support of the National Committee for Sub-National Democracy has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with partners and NGOs such as Oxfam, Star Kampuchea and World Vision Cambodia. To implement the Social Accountability Framework (ISAF) Phase 1 began in the years 2016-2018, and Phase 2 is starting in 2019-2023. It is part of the governance and process of constructive engagement to improve public services, including health, education and public services at the sub-national level.

Ms. Sok Chanchorvy, Program Manager of Oxfam. Respected to venerable monk



and all the stakeholders especially the students. Great thanks to your involvement. I was very proud to be here. The topic taking on the PFM. Some of you especially private sector never heard about the PFM on Cambodia and in the sub-national level. While you have good understanding, it would help to learn about PFM. The national budget is the contribution of all citizens and stakeholders. It is very important for CSO and private sector to involve in PFM. Some time we have discuss about the technical term. To make good understand of the public, eg. we work together to increase the national economy. We have the obligation to pay tax to increase the national budget. We have the obligation to contribute to the national budget. The contribution of us not only in Cambodia but in all the countries in the world which faced by the war. For example, the speaker will share information to all participants. The government increase access to information related to budget to make it easy for public. The opportunity to provide to the women and most vulnerable to understand and develop themselves and the national economy. The good governance is very important to help public understanding about the reform. Express thanks to the participation and the



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Closing Remark, Ms. Chet Charkyar, Executive Director of Star Kampuchea. Total 217, (53 females) representative of the stakeholders at the national and sub-national level. We discussed about PFM and involvement of citizen in budget formulation. We want the people to get quality of services. As the citizen, we will get other services. What should we do to get quality services for women and children. We want policy maker to increase the budget for the citizen to get good service such as health center. Does health center need to get enough budget support for giving services. We learn the information from MEF, Development Partner, school principle, health center, youth and the road map for ISAF phase II. We need the increase of national budget to disburse to the sub-national level. We will prepare our plan together. Express great thanks for the organising committee and donor who support the event.

government who commit in the reform since 1995 till now. We would like to express thank to the reforms but should be involve by all the citizen to make the national economic growth. It is the result of our countries. Thanks to EU, ADB and GIZ to support the government to the reform. Thanks to BWG to overcome the obstacle for citizen involvement. I hope that you would get the expectation. Please involve in the discussion with fruitful result of PFM.

Presentation EU Contribution on PFM in Cambodia, Mr. Javier CASTILLO ALVAREZ Official in charge of grants and support on managing public finances of the

EU Delegation to Cambodia. The reform achievement by the royal government of Cambodia. Strengthened links between policy and budgeting. Since 2018 the reform has significant results. Line ministries committed to the reform. Until 2015 we feel that MEF committed to work very well. call partnership for transparency and accountability. Very few countries has the same reform and involve CSO to involve. We provided technical assistant to MEF. The funds transferred to the government. Benefits of budget support with very good planning and implementation. We focus on the sustain ability and intervention. Eligibility criterial for monitoring the reform.





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CSO REDD+ Network Meeting

On 19 September 2019, the NGO Forum organized CSO REDD+ Network Meeting at Tonlebasac 1 Restaurant. There were 16 participants (2 women) met to review their responsibilities, and review the whole network action plan for the third year, fourth year and fifth year.

This activity is supported by the V4MF-EU / NSA project in the third year plan and

being implemented in the second semester 2019. Moreover, to disseminate the Technical Working Group on Forestry Reform (TWG-FR) meeting report and get more inputs and recommendations for the next meeting. In addition, to present on the terms of reference that have been approved by the members and review network members' composition and plan to collective more network members.



Annual Regional Non-State Actors Forum

The Voices for Mekong Forests (V4MF) project, funded by the European Union, aims to strengthen the voices of nonstate actors in forest governance. The project host event on Engaging people in forest governance in the Greater Mekong Annual Regional Non-State Actors Forum in Bangkok 23-25 September 2019 at Kasetsart University, Ku Home, Bangkok, Thailand which participate partners from Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Myanmar. It is for the first time of the Forum include a learning fair and a communication workshop.



Open, Mr. Robin, V4MF Coordinator, welcome all participants active participate and introduced an update on each organization and introduced two guest honors. He stated that it is the first time to invite communication staff to join the event, but also share information and brainstorm ways to improve and accelerate communication and knowledge management activities.

Dr. CHANDRA Silori, Recoftc in Thailand, the commitment of the EU, to continue the survival of people living dependent on the forest. This event is aimed to improve capacity building for partners which related forestry governance, monitoring and advocacy, but all so will share information and brainstorm ways to improve and accelerate communication and knowledge management activities with a focus on strategy, capacity development, and storytelling.

Mr. Pheap Sophea, Land and Forestry Program Manager, presented on Effective NSA engagement in REDD+ that NGOF Forum is strengthening cooperation and capacity of CSO-REDD+ members for effective engagement in the National REDD+ program and forest governance. In addition, NGOF enhances awareness and participation of NSA for conservation and evidence-based information, and promote the concept of co-management for community participation in natural resources conservation. From his point of view, he observed that NSAs should strengthen capacity for effective engagement with government and stakeholders for good forest governance and the engagement would be worked through evidence-based dialogue.

The European Union-funded Voices for Mekong Forests project amplifies the



voices of local communities within forest governance. In the five Greater Mekong countries, illegal logging, rural poverty, and deforestation threaten communities that depend on forests. V4MF supports regional and local civil society networks to monitor forests, communicate effectively, participate fully in policy processes such as the FLEGT VPA and REDD+, and learn from each other.





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National Consultation of PNCPA on the Proposed Lao's Luang Prabang Hydropower



The first national consultation of PNCPA on the proposed Lao's Luang Prabang Hydropower dam project under the 1995 Mekong agreement was organized by the Cambodia National Mekong Committee on 21st October 2019 at Apsara Angkor Hotel in Siem Reap province. The consultation aimed to 1) Understand of the Mekong Agreement 1995 and the Procedure for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNCPA); 2) Discuss and agree on MRC Approach in Implementation of PNCPA for the Luang Prabang Hydropower project (LPHPP) and 3) Review and collect preliminary comments related to the LPHPP.

In the meeting Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia has made 12 preliminary suggestions to the consultation, there are following: 1) Translate project documents into Khmer that enable participants to understand and provide feedback; 2) Give more sufficient time for relevant stakeholders to provide inputs; 3) Provide opportunities to communities along Mekong river and from other areas as well as think tank, academies to participate in the next consultation; 4) The consultation should be organized in Phnom Penh that enable all relevant stakeholders to participate; 5) Should put in place a mechanism and actions that respond to climate change, drought and flood and in-

tegrate into official project documents and ensure enforceable; 6) Identify clearly an impact on fishery resources and appropriate solutions that ensure fish reproductive and fishery resources sustainability in the Mekong region; 7) Conduct more detail study on a transboundary impact on social, environmental, cultural and economy that would create by the project and conduct a meaningful consultation with up and downstream communities; 8) Shall put in place a mechanism and clear plan to address social, environmental and economic issues and ensure enforceable; 9) Should conduct study on an impact on sediment that would affected on rice production and land quality in the Mekong region; 10) Identify and elaborate clearly the proj-

ect value and standard for compensation for affected people in the project area as well as compensation standard for transboundary impacts; 11) Put in place clearly a social and environmental safeguard and especially a procedure to assess private properties base on national and international standard and 12) Inter-governments should discuss exploring alternative options particularly clean and renewable energy rather than put more concentration on large scale hydropower that would generate major impacts on social, culture and environment.

These were preliminary comments raised by the NGO Forum on Cambodia on the proposed Luang Prabang hydropower project. Due to time shortage and the project documents are in English that made it very difficult to understand most of the contents and technical words. NGO Forum on Cambodia will do a comprehensive review of the project documents and will continue to consult with other relevant CSOs in order to prepare our common standing position on this project. The proposed Luang Prabang project has a capacity of 1,400 MW, located in 1,370 Km from Laos and Cambodia border. The project will take 7 years for development starting from 2020 to 2027 which is the fifth hydropower project in the Mekong mainstream after Xaya-buri, Don Sahong, Pak Beng and Pak Lay.





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Dissemination Workshop on CSDG and NDSP



On 20th September 2019 at COFAF office, Kompong Thom province. Under support from NPA, The NGO Forum on Cambodia has sub-contracted a package to Cooperation For alleviation of the Poverty Organization (KOFAP) hosted a meeting spreading the knowledge about the importance of Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs). The first activity of the project is conducted Disseminate the CSDGs and NDSP with Network members and stakeholder event which will be held in Kampong Thom. There were 18 participants (4 Female) from Provincial NGO network's members, commune authorities and youths.

Mr. Buntheng, Executive Director of COFAF, was introduced on CSDG: From 2000 to 2015 Cambodia's government used Millennium Development Goals to develop the country. From 2015 to 2030 Cambodia's government has been using CSDGs as a tool to develop the country. CSDG was focus on reducing the poverty rate. By 2030 the government commits that Cambodia will change from lower-income average to higher medium-income average. There are 17 SDG goals which were applied in

global except Cambodia are 18 goals. The additional goal is the Land Mine Clearance. The SDGs consist of 88 targets and 108 indicators. There is 18 CSDGs goal. They are: 1.) End poverty there will be no one suffer from poverty anymore. It includes 3 targets and 9 indicators. 2) Zero Hunger there will be no one suffer from hunger. It includes 5 targets and 7 indicators. 3) Good health and Wellbeing. It contains 12 targets and 17 indicators. 4) Quality Education includes 6 targets and 10 indicators. 5) Gender Equality includes 6 targets and 10 indicators. 6) Clean Water and Sanitation include 4 targets and 5 indicators. 7) Affordable and Clean Energy includes 2 targets and 4 indicators. 8) Decent Work and Economic growth include 5 targets and 11 indicators. 9) Industrial Innovation and Infrastructure include 3 targets and 5 indicators. 10) Reduce Inequality includes 4 targets and 3 indicators. 11) Sustainable City and Community include 1 target and 4 indicators. 12) Responsible for Consumption and Production include 2 targets and 4 indicators. 13) Climate Action includes 2 targets and 3 indicators. 14) Life below water include 4 targets and 5 indicators. 16) Peace and Justice include 2 targets and

2 indicators. 17) The partnership includes 8 targets and 10 indicators. 18) Cambodia Land Mine includes 3 targets and 6 indicators.

Mr. Keo Bunly, Acting National Development Program Manager of NGOF asked participants What is Sustainable Development? Participants Answer The state that people get an equal beneficiary. It is the long-term development goal that set up a clear strategy and target. Mr. Bunly continues, sustainably develop mean the state that we borrow the resources from the next generation to complete the need of people in present by responsible for the demand of resources for the next generation. Before, regarding the development term, people considered income, social and environment. Now there is a 5P term to acknowledge. They are 1) People and Social. 2) Planet and Environment. Such as UNDP encourage not to use plastic by using a steel bottle instead to save the environment. 3) Peace. 4) Prosperity and Economic. 5) Partnership. Presently, government and relevant organizations commit to making an achievement of ending poverty in 2030. Mr. Bunly asked participants what does poverty refer to? Whom do we consider living in poverty? The term of poverty refers to the state in which someone cannot earn 1\$ per day. And how many types of poor? There are two types of poor. According to the researcher after retirement people will have at least 12000 USD after their working life. In UAS after retirement, people will have the rest of the money at least 22 million USD. Cambodia will become a higher medium income in 2030. In 2030 Cambodia will end Zero hungry. 3) Good health and Wellbeing. This means people should eat healthy food and try to grow crops by themselves. 4) Quality Education. Cambodia has 35% of youth

Read more at <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/dissemination-workshop-on-csdg-and-ndsp/>



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The NGO Forum Annual General Meeting 2019



On Wednesday, October 30, 2019, the NGO Forum on Cambodia organized Annual General Meeting 2019 at the PPEDC/ICF. Total participant of Annual General Meeting 189 (48 female) including NGO Forum Member, Network reflection LFP network, EAP network, NDP network, Staff, Intern and Speaker. The objective of this meeting aim:

- To update on the NGO Forum's key achievements and expenditures for Jan-Oct, 2019.
- To review and reflect on the key intervention of 3-year action plan (2018-2020) of the NGO Forum on Cambodia.
- To prepare an action plan for implementation in 2020.
- To update and share information on the 4th Rectangular Strategic Plan in the 6th mandate (2019-2023), National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023, CSDG, Vision 2050, PFMRP and Cambodian development context for membership organizations and network members.



Welcoming remarks Mr. Run Saray, Management Committee of the NGO Forum on

Cambodia and Executive Director of Legal Aid of Cambodia. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all participants who is the representative of the Royal Government of Cambodia, NGOs partner and network member. The meeting aims to share the purpose is to share information with member organizations and discuss emerging issues that need the organization to work together for the betterment. Today's meeting will present and discuss key topics on 1). Update National Volunteer Report for the year 2019 2). Sub-National Budget 3). Contribution of States Parties to the implementation of the Convention National Climate Change-NDCs 4). Update Corporate Social Responsibility 5). Update Human Rights and Business 6). Update on NGO Forum's Progress Report for Cambodia in 2019 and 7). Budget and Expenditure from January to September 2019 by the NGO Forum on Cambodia. These six topics, which will be presented by our speakers shortly, are important for discussions as well as current developments in Cambodia, especially the role of civil society organizations in contributing to the development landscape. The country in the fourth era of the Industrial Revolution and sustainable development 2015-2030.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to share with you some of the key achievements that the NGO Forum Membership and Networking has achieved over the past year, from January to October 2019. These achievements include: 1). contributing to the Ministry of Women's Affairs for the Gender Assessment Report 2019-2023; 2). To cooperate with the Ministry of Rural Development and relevant ministries in drafting strategic plans and activities for the conservation and development of indigenous peoples in Cambodia 3). Contributes to the Technical Working Group on Combating Aging Decreasing land quality in providing inputs for real-time action plans in watersheds,

and general agricultural lands in Cambodia; 4). Contributing to the input and input of civil society organizations for the development of the dam on Mekong River 5). Contributing to National Transparency and Public Financial Reform 6). Active contribution Recommendation on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report 7). Contribute to the contribution of the national budget to communes from \$ 7,000 to \$ 100,000 per year for 2020 and subsequent years 8). The membership of the NGO Forum on Cambodia has grown by four: Caritas Chez and Johanitor International Assistant, CCD and the Kouch Mengly Foundation add 92 to 96 organizations currently; 9). Approve new spending standards for NGO forums, and 10). Annual budget increases from 2019 Increase US \$ 150,000 compared to 2018, from the US \$ 1080,000 to US \$ 1,230,000 in 2019. For more detailed annual results, the Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive Director of the NGO Forum will be briefed in a series of presentations.

Along with the achievements we have made over the years, we have also faced some challenges, such as membership and network members facing a shortage of funds as some partners and donors have withdrawn funds from Cambodia. Law enforcement, association, and non-governmental organizations, and the changing situation of Cambodian politics. In spite of the challenges we face, we are confident that working together, honest and united collaboration between Cambodian and Cambodian and all stakeholders will make the situation better. We are sure to improve Cambodia's prosperity forever. On behalf of the management committee, I feel very happy with your active participation and will give presentations today. Wish you all the best and success in your work and open the Annual General Meeting.



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The NGO Forum's key achievements 2019, Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia. Respect all participants who involve in the AGM and ANR. The last 10 months' involvement in the activities implementation and without your active involvement NGO Forum could not achieve these achievements. The following key achievements:

- Organized the 12th National Conference on Land and Natural Resource Governance, focusing on the topic of access to information, land, housing and natural resources management in Cambodia Land, Urbanization, the National Assembly, the Senate, Development Partners, CSOs and the private sector, a total of 487 participants. The Joint Recommendation on Progress, Challenges, and the Joint Action Plan has been formally submitted to Government, National Assembly and Senate bodies for intervention.
- Provided input for Lao PDR's Luang Prabang hydropower development project, official documents submitted to the MRC and MRC for intervention.
- Organized the 8th National Farmers Forum under the theme of promoting multilateral partnerships so that farmers can afford to invest in agriculture, focusing on water, capital, and markets. Comments, recommendations, and action plans were submitted to the Royal Government of Cambodia and institutions, especially the private sector, for intervention.
- Organizing a national consultation workshop on strategic planning, con-

servation, and development of indigenous peoples in Cambodia. The Draft Strategic Planning for Conservation and Development of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia was prepared by the Ministry of Rural Development.

- Hold 3 membership meetings and 1 annual membership meeting, discussing important topics related to Cambodian development, natural resource management and governance on the NGO Forum.
- Organized Public Forum on Public Financial Management and Citizen Participation, focusing on citizen participation in the process of drafting the annual National Budget Law and amendments to the Public Finance Act 2008.
- Co-organized, the 25th and 15th Indigenous Days in Cambodia, focusing on the language of the indigenous people.
- Cooperated with civil society organizations and the Ministry of Interior to organize a partnership forum between the Royal Government and civil society twice, especially requesting the Ministry of Interior to amend the Law on Management of Organizations and Associations. As a result, the Ministry of Interior approved the meeting on November 4 for review and discussion.
- Organized national workshops on budget information for people in response to climate change.
- Produced Video to Celebrate the 25th and 15th Anniversary of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia
- Co-organized a workshop to raise awareness of the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.
- Co-organize the public forum on the Mekong that we aspire to: Strengthen partnerships with people to ensure the sustainability of the Mekong River.
- Attended consultation on the drafting of Gender Assessment in Cambodia

dia: Gender, Environment and Climate Change.

- Provided input to civil society organizations for the management and implementation of national programs to combat land degradation in Cambodia through technical working groups.
- Organized a Mid-Year Reflective Program on Koh Tral, Vietnam for NGO forum staff on Cambodia.
- Provided comments and inputs for NDC Cambodia.
- Co-organized multilateral discussions on responsible foreign direct investment in agriculture in Cambodia.
- Organized Mekong River Basin in Cambodia.
- Conducting a seminar on enhancing civil society's knowledge of REDD+ security information systems, as well as consulting on Cambodia's first briefing on REDD+ security.
- Co-organized the National Environment Day on 5 June on the theme of air pollution.
- Organize a climate change roundtable on national television.
- Attended the meeting of Cooperation between CSOs and Cambodian National Mekong Committee and Tonle Sap Authority.
- Provided input from CSOs for the Cambodian Vision 2050.
- Conducted multilateral engagement seminars and the benefits of participating in climate investment funds in Cambodia.
- Hold a meeting with the Mekong River Commission and donors on the development of the Mekong River.
- Co-organized a dialogue on Chinese investment in Cambodia.
- Collaborates with Facebook to organize training seminars on the use of Facebook for civil society in Cambodia.

Read more at <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/the-ngo-forum-annual-general-meeting-2019/>



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Annual Network Reflection



On 31st October 2019, the NGO Forum on Cambodia organized Annual Reflection 2019 at PPEDC / ICF. The meeting commenced by Ouk Vannara, NGOF Deputy Executive Director of NGOF summarized and recapped the first day of Annual General Meeting and guided on the network reflection. In addition, the Secretariats and all Network members discussed the achievements, challenges and experiences in 2019, and identified strategic directions, capacity development plans for network members and action plans for 2020.

Network reflection to review its 3-year action plan and key achievement for 2019, Chair of the steering committee and NCs. All 8th Networks were divided and discuss the key achievements, constraints, lessons-learned 2019 and way forward and Action Plan for 2020, Secretariat and all members of every network.

Briefly reported from each program on the result of network reflection by all Program Managers:



Mr. Hok Menghoin, EAP Manager presented the results of NECA, NDF-C, and RCC.

NECA has three outcomes. 20% of CSO inputs in NDP. Engage with the private sector such as local company eg. EuroCham. The model of the award to two companies. Increase the budget of CIP/CDP by up to 20%.

NDF-C. Three outcomes. The sub-decree of contract farming will be reviewed by working with the Agro-industry department, meeting with TWG and Research. Monitoring the use of the law on the pesticide. 50% of inputs will be integrated into the pesticide law. Working with the third national assembly committee. Working with CARD and Department of information dissemination. Work on the agriculture co-operative law by building the capacity of the network.

RCC is working on water governance. It is related to trans-boundary impact. Advocate for the EIA process. National compensation policy would not work unless it will not affect the eco-system. We will conduct awareness-raising on renewable energy, cost, and benefit of the hydropower dam. We will promote home solar in the rural area that would not able to get the electricity.

Mr. Keo Bunly, Acting NDP Manager Presented the results of BWG and DPWG. BWG is working on transparency and accountability on the tax incentive. We would like to know the benefit of the tax incentive. There are many key actors. Direct engagement and advocacy work. Meeting with MEF. Conduct research on tax collection, launching and advocate with national assembly committee. BWG training on tax. The second outcome to encourage CSO to involve in budget dissemination. Organize the consultation meeting with the public, radio talk show. We want to see the increase of national budget in health, education and social service. Conduct research on budget allocation on health for

pregnant women. We will use the result in a dialogue with the key institution. Capacity building on membership strengthening on budget. We want to see the budget allocation to the sub-national level, especially for women and children to get social service. Conduct research and information dissemination to key stakeholders. Train the public on budget allocation on social services. We hope that our team at a sub-national level will work on it. Strengthen the capacity of citizens and local authorities to involve in planning and monitoring. Video development, training on TOT/Eco training. Knowledge development, lesson learned documentation.

Mr. Pheap Sophea, LFP Manager presented the results of LAHRIN, IPFN and CSO REED+. LAHRIN is capacity on fair and just compensation. Consultation on land law amendment. Conduct the study tour to exchange the experience. The resettlement project will organize the investigation of the three hot cases of land disputes. We continue to organize the NAC and attend APF. Conduct investigation in other provinces and continue the dialogue.

IPFN. Suggest to build cultural village, push for dealing dispute, a national workshop on Dos Kromom mountain. Monitoring the inputs that we submit to relevant ministries. Continue the CLT registration. Dialogue on IP rights. Exposure visit on CLT of IP. Sub-national consultation workshop on forestry and fisheries law amendment. Conduct VGTT, FPIC training for the network.

CSO REED+ promotes the budget allocation for the forestry community about 30%. I will apply for the budget for natural resource protection. Push the plan for community forestry formulation....

Read more at <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/annual-network-reflection/>



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ON THE MEDIA

Media Coverage related to 8th National Farmer Forum

1. Khmer Times: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50651801/farmers-demand-help-with-challenges/>
2. Thmey Thmey: <https://bit.ly/33Jm1IP>
3. Kampuche Thmey: <https://bit.ly/2VWMO1t>
4. Radio France International: <http://km.rfi.fr/cambodia/daily-guest-17-10-2019>
6. Thmey Thmey: <https://thmeythmey.com/?page=detail&id=84103>
7. Thmey Thmey: <https://thmeythmey.com/?page=detail&id=84080>
8. Phnom Penh post: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/govt-urged-tackle-farmers-water-issues>

Media Coverage related to 12th National Conference on Land and Natural Resources Governance

1. RFA: <https://www.rfa.org/khmer/news/land/civil-society-and-land-conflicted-villagers-urge-relevant-authorities-to-enforce-rule-of-law-as-land-disputes-increases-10252019123847.html>
2. VOD: <https://vodkhmer.news/2019/10/25/villagers-accuse-the-local-authorities-of-not-being-part-of-their-land-and-natural-resources/>
3. Vayo FM: <https://vayofm.com/news/detail/98279-862359138.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2019

04 November

Meeting between Mekong River Commission Secretariat and Save the Mekong Coalition

05-06 November

8th Mekong River Commission Stakeholder Forum

06 November

Clean Energy Talk (Clean Energy Week 2019)

22 November

15th NGO Forum's Donors and Partners Meeting

25-29 November

Annual Program Reflection

03-05 December

Dissemination workshop and consultation on Indigenous collective land registration

09-13 December

Exposure visit to the Philippine on Land and Forest Governance



THANK YOU!

The NGO Forum on Cambodia would like to thank to our local and international donors that always support our good causes missions to support Cambodians in need.

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