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The NGO Forum on Cambodia

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការវិវឌ្ឍសេចក្តីផ្តុំ
Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

3rd Quarterly Member Meeting



The third Quarterly Member Meeting (QMM) was held on the 28th July 2022. This QMM aim for sharing the core achievements made by the NGOOF, and three interestingly important topics were discussed: 1) Doing Good Index 2022 for Cambodia (NGOF/CAPS), 2) Land Allocation for Social and Economic Land Concession (LASED III/MLMUPC), and 3) Social Safeguards (ADB). The NGO Forum (NGOF) is the main organization to facilitate the meeting.

The meeting was held in DK Meeting Centre, Phnom Penh, with 68 participants (19 females) participants in hybrid meeting. Ms. Cheav Sivkheng, NGOOF, was the meeting master ceremony. At the beginning of the day, she invited delegates to chair the event. They are:

- Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director, NGOOF
- Mr. Mar Sopha, NGOOF
- Mr. Rithy Ratanak Cheysith, MLMUPC
- Mr. Kim Sambath, ADB
- Ms. Mak Monica, (Zoom).

Ms. Sivkheng briefly provided objectives of the meeting. While all delegates and the participants were settled, Ms. Sivkheng, Master Ceremony, NGOOF, facilitated the meeting in accordance with the proposed Third QMM Agenda. First of all, she invited all the participants to pay respect to the music of the National Anthem.

Mrs. Mak Monika, Member of MC and Executive Director of CDPO



In opening speech, she paid respects to all the participants; and specifically to: Dr. Tek Vannara (NGOF), Mr. Rithy Ratanak Cheysith (MLMUPC), Mr. Sopheak (MRC), and Mr. Kim Sambath (ADB).

In this issue: Leading Stories

- 1) 3rd Quarterly Member Meeting 1
- 2) Validation Workshop on Policy..... 3

Highlight Stories

- 3) The Mid-Year Reflection of NGOOF5
- 4) CSO Inputs on the Amendment..... 5
- 5) Workshop on Access to Inform 7
- 6) Training on Gender Responsive 8
- 7) Workshop on Promoting Youth 9

Upcoming Events/Holidays10

She brought up firefly the main topics to be discussed for the morning. There are eight NGOs are members of the Management Committee. The committee has closely worked with relevant Technical Working Groups on several sectors including Forest and Fisheries.

Mrs. Moika further informed the meeting that the progresses of the 3rd Quarter will be presented by speaker of the meeting shortly after her intervention Key Notes. She thanked all the participants, donors, and representatives speaker for their time and continuous participations in the meetings. She ended her Key Notes with acknowledgement of all the efforts and collaboration and wished all the four Buddhism wishes to the participants, either in-person or online, and declared the meeting opened.



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Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGOF, updates on the achievement of NGOF in the 3rd quarter and next quarterly action plan.

Dr. Vannara provided key points of achievements of the NGOF for the last quarter, since April 2022, as following.

- Held dissemination workshop on the results of the study on “Climate Change and migration” to relevant partners and collected their comments;
- Conducted Awareness-raising on new Financial Law, updated recently. Bunch of CSOs, 20 of them, were consulted for comments in order to improve the new Financial Law, for the budget flow and transparent. Three NGOF officers were playing roles as observers.
- Participated in Forestry and Fisheries Program donor meetings. There were \$4 million for the second phase to be given for the programs.
- MRC meeting on participation of local communities on water governance and management.
- Consulted discussions on law amendment on Forestry Law, Fisheries Law, and PA law. The consultations were facilitated by NCDD/Mol.
- ...etc.

Mr. Mar Sophal, NGOF, introduced the results of surveys of Doing Good Index 2022 for Cambodia
On behalf of the NGOF, Mr. Sophal

coordinated with the study team to get surveys on Doing Good Index 2022 for Cambodia done. The results of the surveys were presented to the 3rd QMM. The results of the surveys were presented by expert (on Zoom). In summary, he introduced the key points as following:

- Works were together with Hong Kong Technical Team (Center for Asian Philanthropy and Society, CAPS) since 2019;
- The results of the surveys were for improvement of trust for donor;
- The surveys, however, were not only for Cambodia alone, but for 17 countries (please look at the provided document “Press Release”);
- The surveys on Social Delivery Aspect were mainly interviewed (online) by NGOF and Coordination Committee for Cambodia (CCC).

Mr. Sophal informed the meeting that Ms. Annelotte, the CAPS, will provide details immediately after his key introduction points.

Ms. Annelotte Walsh, PhD. Deputy Director of Research Center for Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS) (on Zoom), sharing of Results of Doing Good Index 2022 for Cambodia “Assessing the Health and Well-being of Asia Social Sector”

She mentioned that this time was the 3rd meeting for her to participate in and provide presentations. Her key points of the findings are as following:

First of all, she provided general concept of the Doing Good Index (DGI) as: The Doing Good Index is a study of the social investment landscape in Asia. It exposes the underlying structural conditions preventing the region social sectors from



thriving, whilst highlighting enabling factors that can empower government, companies, philanthropists, and social delivery organizations (SDO) to tap resources and work together to meet Asia challenges. The Index can help philanthropists, policymakers, researchers, SDO, and the public understand what levers can best increase philanthropic giving in their economy.

The surveys were conducted in 17 countries: Total of 2,239 Social Delivery Organizations, and 126 experts. The Doing Good Index shows us a way forward, she claimed. She added that working together is the most important to deal with the challenges.

The results were divided into four clusters: Not Doing Enough, Doing Okay, Doing Better, and Doing Well. Cambodia fell into cluster number two “Doing Okay”, she stressed. She further underlined that even though Doing Okay, Cambodia has room to improve: regulations, local support, and collaborations.

Wrap Up and Closing Remarks

While the meeting had gone through 40 minutes over time schedule, Dr. Tek Vannara provided short notes of his speech. He thanked all the speakers and questions making the event very active. He, then, declared the meeting closed with the wishes of healthy and success.



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Validation Workshop on Policy Mapping and Institutional Analysis of Natural Resource Management in Coastal Region in Cambodia.



The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and its partner NGOs, ActionAid, supported and facilitated a study on Policy Mapping and Institutional Analysis of Natural Resource Management (NRM) in the Coastal Region of Cambodia in order to find out existing policies and regulations, challenges, and recommendations on the NRM in the coastal areas of four provinces, Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kampot, and Kep. The study was conducted by a team of consultant experts in the field of the subject.

Findings of the study were prepared for relevant institutions such as representatives of the provincial governors, local communities, provincial department representatives, Civil Society Organizations (CSO), and private sectors, to gather to listen and provide comments. The concrete objectives of the meeting are:

1. Share the preliminary findings to the relevant stakeholders.
2. Validate and collect comments and feedbacks from relevant stakeholders to finalize the study report.

The workshop was held for half-day from 8:30 to 12:00 in Cambodiana. There were 40 (08 females) people participated in the workshop. Ms. Sen Rumduol, NGOF, was at the meeting master ceremony.

At the beginning of the event, she invited delegates to chair the meeting. They were:

1. H.E. Dr. Ouk Pheaktra, Deputy Governor of Koh Kong province
2. H.E. Long Dimang, Deputy Governor of Preah Sihanouk province
3. H.E. Ney Kong, Deputy Governor of Kampot province
4. Mr. Hong Reasmey, Country Director, ActionAid Cambodia
5. Mr. Pheap Sophea, Land and Forestry Program Manager, NGOF

Master Ceremony: Ms. Sen Rumduol briefly took note the agenda and the objectives of the workshop as stated in the draft handouts distributed to the participants. The meeting was officially started with the musical national anthem.

Welcome remarks by Mr. Pheap Sophea, Land and Forestry Program Manager, the NGOF

NGOF consists of key 35 NGOs that are



members of the NGOF working together to assist Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) on development and conservation of natural resources. Among them, eight members of the NGOF have working closely on policy development and implementation. He further underlined that there are three networks on: Water, Land, and Forest (including mangrove) have been actively coordinated for improvement of the sector management and development.



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Mr. Sopheap emphasized that as the worlds have been worried on tackling on Climate Change (CC), mangrove and coastal areas are important to prevent disaster risks from CC. He emphasized that booming developments have had happened in the coastal areas for the last 10 years or so. He, therefore, underlined that we wanted developments with participations of all relevant stakeholders and the development integrity in the areas. He added that many Community Fisheries (CFi) and the networks suggested having a study on policy on coastal development and implementation to ensure sustainable economy in the areas, in particular, and in Cambodia, in general. Mr. Sopheap admitted that the RGC and the provincial line agencies have been closely collaborated on NRM and conservation for the last decades. He announced that the workshop was to present findings of the study in order to further collect inputs and clarification on recommendations of the policy implementation and development of the coastal areas.

Among the four provinces of the coastal areas, representatives of three provinces, Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, and Kampot presented in the event, but Kep was absent, he noted. He stressed that four agencies (CSO, RGC, Private, and Community) have been working together in sustainable development.

Opening remarks by Mr. Hong Reaksmey, Country Director, ActionAid Cambodia

He emphasized that ActionAid is happy to work with the NGOF to support the study and share the study findings for future references. He underlined that the study is the first conservation and policy study in coastal region. At the same time, he hoped to hear and welcome comments from the participants and especially those are from the provincial representatives on the study findings.



Mr. Reaksmey noted that goal of the ActionAid is to strengthen communities, e.g. CFis, in the coastal areas for their daily livelihoods. He raised concerns that CFI members reported that there are unclear boundaries between the CFI and Protected Areas (PA), and Community Protected Areas (CPA). Because representatives of the provincial authorities were in the event, we would like to know that what are the concerns that provincial authorities actively participated in protection of Natural Resources, e.g. CFI or CFI Networks, he claimed. Mr. Reaksmey mentioned that the NGOs really would like to create Regional Coastal Network in the future, if funds available. He hoped, also, that the provincial authorities will closely collaborate with the ideas.



Mrs. Ouk Reaksmey, MSc, Member of Research Consultant Team

Mrs. Reaksmey presented her power point presentation in three parts: 1) Background and objectives, 2) Findings and discussion, and 3) Recommendations.

Background Methodology and Objectives: She underlined the objectives and study questions of the study to the participants. With maps, she showed the study site to the participants. They are: Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kampot, and Kep. The study methodology included collection of secondary data and literature reviews; and primary data collections from the study target sites. The study respondents: those are from CFI members and key interviewers. The objectives of the study are:

- To conduct policy mapping and institutional arrangement analysis to understand gaps concerning the coastal resources management and development and coping mechanisms.
- The study will support NGOs and coastal communities to increase their knowledge, improve capacity to make dialogue, and increase dialogue with relevant government and stakeholders in the area of coastal resources management to improve the coast management.

The conceptual framework of the study was: CFI members reported that the Natural Resources of the areas have been reduced.

Mr. Pheap Sophea, Land and Forestry Program Manager, the NGOF, Wrap up and Closing Remarks

He thanked all Excellency, the participants, and the study team for the hard work and active participation of the workshop day. He stressed that the study findings will be translated into Khmer and brought to each province for further comments. The comments from the workshop of the day will be thoroughly consolidated, he underlined. Mr. Sophea ended the workshop with best wishes to all the participants.



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HIGHLIGHT STORIES

The Mid-Year Reflection of NGOF in 2022



The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organize mid-year reflection in 2022, it is held from 11 till 15 July 2022. The objective of this meeting are:

- To review and finalize the outcome harvesting of the six-month report (Jan-June 2022)
- To reflect on the NGOF's working approach and revise operational plan and budget for July-Dec.2022.
- To refresh on NGOF's policy, procurement procedures, and donors' requirements
- To maintain good working environment and team building through field exposure visit.

On 14 July 2022, Staff of the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) was departure from to NGOF's office to the community Por Kangrey Snadai Kaksekar Agriculture Cooperative. The community Por Kangrey Snadai Kaksekar Agriculture Cooperative is located at Kampong Leng District, Kampong Chhnag Province. There were 16 (5 women) joint this trip. This meeting was facilitated by Mr. Prak Sokha, Program Manager of



Kangrey Organization and representative of commune chief. The objective of this meeting aims to learn more about the communities' achievement, challenges and suggestion.

On 15 July 2022, staff of the NGO Forum on Cambodia organized field visit to Community Forest Tikchub Knar Po which located at Khnar Po Commune, Sort Ni Kum District, Siem Reap Province. This visit aim to learn more on the forest management, challenge and suggestion from community. Mr. Dim Dun, Community Chief of Tikchub Knar Po, said that the community was established in 1998 with funded FAO with supported authority and community committee, there were 8 villages and two communities. In 2020 this community developed eco-tourism with supported by Provincial Tourist Department and Forest Administration, and provincial governor.

The Challenge in this community is the border issues which points GPS along the Trail which disputed the cut land of 150m from trail. There is not clear about the points GPS between land of community and villager.

Mr. Kong Monus, representative of tourist department, he said that this area has good opportunity for eco-tourism especial the good landscape of bamboo, lots of wild pig, giant Spider...etc. we create this eco-tourism for works and incomes of community who living this area.

Mr. Vong Kosal requested the community to submit a letter to the provincial



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governor to convene a meeting of all relevant departments to resolve this issue, but before this the community committee should organize a meet with the community and the commune chief with a joint report acknowledging.

Dr. Tek Vannara encouraged the community to propose a project to FAO to build road in the tourist area to prevent further encroachment. At the same time, prepare to compile information on community plots, clearly border points of GIS in community maps to have proper document in community.

In afternoon around 3PM, we travel to Phnom Penh and we are safety arrived NGOF's Office around 9 PM.



CSO Inputs on the Amendment of the Law on Forestry and Law on Protected Area

On the morning of August 04, 2022, there were 26 civil society organizations participated in the meeting of NGO Leaders Consultative Workshop Validating and Collecting further CSO inputs on the Amendment of the Law on Forestry and Law on Protected Area at the Cambodiana Hotel and online meeting with a total of 40 participants.

The purpose of this meeting:

- Provide updates on the process of amending the law and to review and provide additional inputs and
- Define a strategic plan to improve the draft amendments to the forest law and the law on protected areas.





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Workshop on Access to Information and Community Participation in Decision-Making Process (es) for Development and Investment Projects”

On the morning of July 29, 2022, the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) in collaboration with the Institute for Advocacy and Policy (API), Coalition for Partnership in Democratic Development (CPDD), organized Workshop on Access to Information and Community Participation in Decision-Making Process (es) for Development and Investment Projects at the Himawari Hotel. The purpose of this workshop is: Disseminate reports on community gaps in decision-making processes for large-scale project development, conservation and development of indigenous peoples, and natural resource management. 2. Discuss ways to create sustainable solutions that increase community confidence and knowledge to effectively participate in the decision-making process on large-scale development projects.



Mr. Man Vanphanith, Senior Program of API intervened on the access to information. Why is it important? The right to access to information is the right recognized internationally that the public is entitled to receive information and governments obliges to share the information to the public. In Cambodia few projects are considered to be the best cases for any development projects. For instance, the case of compensation of the white building case. API has been working with IPs in 3 provinces. Most NGOs did not received information when the development phase happens in village. They were aware only when the construction started. It is 130 countries endorsed A2I law. Surprisingly, China and

Vietnam enacted the A2I law to receive more investment into the countries. API encourages the government to enact the A2I law which is currently under the mandate of the Ministry of Information.



Welcome remark by Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF. He raised a provision of public participation that are existed in the policies, law, and regulations of Cambodia. He also raised a practical knowledge that is being conducted by NGOs as well as the sub-national government and TWG on the enforcement of the provision of public participation.



Mrs. Kong Bunna, Deputy Director of Policy Analysis and Development Division of NCDD provided an opening remark. She expressed sincere thank the NGOF for inviting Ministry of Interior to participate in the workshop. She highlighted the reform of the decentralization that have been carrying out by the Mol. In order to achieve the goal of the reform, the law regulates to delegate the roles and responsibilities to sub-national government. The participation of local communities in the



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development in the 3-year rolling plan of the sub-national government. Therefore, it is very significant for the participation of local community in the development. She encouraged the participation of all parties in constructive way with the government.

**Presentation of Mr. Tep Kuntheara,
Freelance consultant**

The level of participation of local communities could be highlighted as a snapshot as good, satisfaction and poor. CSOs are a vibrant force. CSOs play an important role to promote community participation and to bridge the community with the government. Local NGOs has limit capacity in the participation, provide training to local communities to effectively participate in a consultation.

Concerning EIA, there is a clear lack of participation of local community in the consultation at the national level, except only at sub-national level.

The level of participation of NGOs and local communities is still limit in the large-scale development project. Some communities are proactive, they do not wait for any coordination from CSOs. Once they have received invitation from government, they organized themselves with their community by organizing a pre-meeting with their communities in advance. Other alternative, local communities should approach local government to seek addressing their issues.

Most of local communities do not clearly understand the large-scale development project, so they lose confident in participating in the consultation of a project.

Workshop on A2I and Community Participation
in Decision-Makings of Large-Scale Projects

Study on Community Participation in Decision-Making Process of Development Project

By Tep Kuntheara, Senior Researcher

E: kunthearatep@gmail.com, P: (+855)-12 661196

Date: 29 Jul 2022

Closing Remark by Mr. Pheap Sophea
He concluded the workshop and thank everyone for their active participation in the discussion.

Training on Gender Responsive in the Context of Land Tenure and Natural Resources



By collaboration with partner MRLG, the NGO Forum on Cambodia had organized a three-day training course on Integration Gender Responsive in the context of land tenure and natural resources from 29th to 31st August 2022 at Kampong Thom Royal Hotel, Kampong Thom Province. There are 35 participants (18 women) as the representatives of various 14 NGO members and 2 indigenous communities (NGOF, ICSO, CLEC, CEDT, BVC, Star Kampuchea, AFD, EHE, HA, IRAM, FLO, NTFP EP, PKH, MVI and 2 IPCs in Mondulkiri Province).



As a result, they are well understanding:

1. Gender concept that focuses on the differences of sex and gender, gender equality, gender equity. 2. Enabling to identify the issues, root causes and impacts of gender. 3. Gender analysis tools, focusing on women's mindsets, participation and decision-making, norms of culture and relationships, and women's empowerment. Finally, they expressed the commitment to use their knowledge to integrate gender into their organizational action plans for further improvement.





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Workshop on Promoting Youth Participation in Environmental Protection and Climate Change



On the morning of August 19, 2022, the NGO Forum on Cambodia organized a workshop on promoting youth participation in environmental protection and climate change at the Sunway Hotel. This workshop is funded by ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG Southeast Asia - Hanoi office. There were 39 participants (18 women) from student and lecture of University of Phnom Penh, Royal University of Agriculture and youths from community around Tonlesap lake and Mekong river. The purpose of this workshop are:

1. To promote youth participation in environmental protection through the dissemination of the effects of climate change on people's lives
2. To encourage university youth and university students in the Faculty of Natural Resource Management to take action through social media towards environmental protection.

In the opening remark, Dr. TEK Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF, he was encouraging young people who are involved in the early stages to start with volunteers and have a strong commitment participate in any activities of environment protection and sustainable development. The young people are important to take turns for social work.



Keynote speech of Dr. Phin Sopheap, Deputy Director of Prek Leap National Institute

He gave a detailed speech to the participants, mentioning his work experience in environmental protection. In particular, he encouraged young people who are students from universities and communities to participate in volunteer work, which is a source of learning about knowledge related to environmental management, improving the lives of people who depend on the natural resources. More importantly, the social media is a platform to share knowledge among young people as currently the technology grows very fast.

Keynote speech by Mr. Sok Khim, Program Manager of Oxfam Cambodia

His main comments are as follows:

- Climate change along the Tonle Sap and

Mekong areas that have affected local communities which caused by hydropower dams

- The effects of climate change on water flows and floodplains have reduced fisheries resources.
- The Factors of climate change are caused by the increase in the use of materials, plastics and the behavior of consumers to affect the land and water.
- My suggestion of this meeting, all the participants especially young students who should fully participate in the meeting and create more activities to raise the question on the issues of environment protection, climate change and more.

Closing Remarks by Dr. Phin Sopheap, Deputy Director of Prek Leap National Institute of Agriculture

He participated in the summary of the content for this morning's workshop, which highlighted the contribution of young people as an important catalyst for active participation in environmental protection, and he really appreciated the NGOF that decided to take this topic which involved the young learners come to discuss. He expressed regret that the time was so short, we wanted to have a discussion on each section in detail. The workshop was successful ended at 12:30 PM with fruitful result.





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UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2022

09 September

Validation Workshop on the Research Study “Impact of Climate Change to Tonle Sap Tributary Functions, Biodiversity, and Livelihood of People in the Tonle Sap Lake”.

15 September

Regional Workshop CSO’s Forum on Climate Change Linked to People Migration

19-21 September

Civil Society Capacity Building Workshop on “ Collaboration for transparent budgets and accountability

23 September

Consultative Workshop on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) compliance in Banking and Financial sectors

29 September

National and International of Indigenous People

13 October

Conference on Land and Natural Resources Management at Ratnakiri Province

16-20 October

Exchange and Learning workshop with Nepali delegates on Social Protection and Public Financial Management in Siem Reap province



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