



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការចូលរួមរបស់សង្គមស៊ីវិល  
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការវិវឌ្ឍសង្គមវិជ្ជមាន  
Working Together for Positive Change



## LEADING STORIES

### CSO Leaders and the Government's technical working Group Meeting on Inputs of NSDP 2019-2023



Raffle Hotel Le Royal, 4 November 2018: The NGO Forum on Cambodia coordinated the consultative meeting between CSO leaders and the representative of the Government's technical working Group. There were 17 NGO representatives, one private sector and 10 representatives from government's institution . The meeting aimed to present the results of the inputs from NGOs/CSOs consultation for contribution in the National Strategic Development Plan ( NSDP) 2019-2023. With this sense, the NGOF commissioned to consultant to collect the inputs from various stakeholders including, sub-national NGOs, youths, private sectors and academia, researchers and CSO leader at national level. The summary results of inputs from NGOs/CSOs

consultations are consolidated as the sectoral contents and strategic priorities for the next step of NSDP 2019-2023, totally 24 sectors were compiled.

The meeting started by Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of The NGOF warmly welcomed to all the participants in that event, he also raised about the mandate of the NGOF in working to collect the comments and inputs for the policy development, in particular on NSDP and SDGs. Then Mr. Sun Youra, National Development Program Manager presented about the approaches that we collected the inputs into NSDP 2019-2023, at the same time he was also shared the roadmap of the civil society which aligned with the Ministry of planning's roadmap. After that, all the 24 sector comments and inputs from the study have been presented by CSO lead sectors one by one into the wider groups. In that occasion, there many questions and feedback on the finding have been asked by the government representatives, especially on the roles of civil society in Food Security and Nu-



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trition. In addition to the questions, Dr. Vannara raised about the perspective of the civil society in working with the government, as he mentioned that we are independent, and we reported the real information from the grassroot level with the professional manner.

The meeting finished as planned with the fruitful results in which the TWG's representatives in that events clearly understood about the joint effort of the NGO Forum and other civil society.





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## Advocating the Ministry of Environment for the Adoption of EIA Report Template for Hydropower Dam Projects in Cambodia



*Quarterly RCC Meeting on 26 April 2018*

In Cambodia, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been required for every proposed private and public projects by the sub-decree on EIA process since 1999. Accordingly, project developers are required to conduct environmental impact assessments and submit reports of their assessment for approval from Ministry of Environment before projects can start. However, there is not a clear guideline on how EIA process should be conducted. In addition, there is no template on what an EIA report should be. As a result, the EIA process and how EIA is reported were dependent on those developed by consulting firms hired by project developers to conduct the EIA. Since June 2016, the Rivers Coalition in Cambodia (RCC) under the coordination of NGOs Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized dialogues with the EIA Department of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to improve in the way EIA is conducted especially in the hydropower sector.

As a first step, in late 2016 the EIA Department agrees to develop a template for EIA reports for hydropower projects. The aims of the outline were to guide project developers to prepare EIA reports as Mr.

Chea Leng, Deputy Director of the EIA Department of the Ministry of Environment shared in a meeting with the RCC. It took two years for the EIA Department released in May 2018 the final version of the outline. It is significant to note that all suggestions and recommendations from CSOs were incorporated into the final draft of the outline. One of the most significant recommendations that was advocated for many years by RCC members was the request for inclusive and meaningful public participation in the EIA process. Chapter VIII of the EIA template requires a clear process for public consultation including the dissemination of project information and scale of impact in target areas to inform affected people; requirements for number interviews, discussions, meetings and consultations with all relevant stakeholders. The department plans in 2018 to include the final outline in the Term of Reference (ToR) for several sectors including hydropower.

To achieve these outstanding results (i.e getting the outline and get it integrated in the national requirements for EIA), the RCC has played an important role. It provides a platform for NGO members and the de-

partment to work together. For example, NGO staff members facilitated discussion among NGOs, and between NGOs and the department to come up with a list of recommendations for different chapters of the outlines to be submitted to the EIA Department. For this end, the RCC plays a central role to facilitate the discussion among member organizations to identify gaps in the national policy; propose specific assignments to members within their project frameworks in order to build strong evidence base; and find appropriate ways including mobilization of existing mechanisms to forward the concerns and suggestions to the national government. Moreover, the achievement is resulted from the commitment of all member organizations to work together to document and analyse cases of EIA report development on the sector and build as a strong evidence base to convince the EIA Department to improve the EIA reporting, said Ms. Luy Rasmey, Chairperson of the RCC and Executive Director of Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA - one of RCC members). The achievements also highlight the growth and maturity of the RCC/NGOF as a unified voice of Cambodian NGOs.

This significant progress has been made with the financial support from the Inclusion Project since 2014. The funding allows the RCC to mobilize NGOs members active in the field of water governance and natural resources management to work together at the national level, which enables RCC to influence on hydropower policies for sustainable management of river ecosystems and full participation of dam affected communities. It is also used to build capacity of the members on effective communications; conducting research on national policy issues; and building strong networks with other NGOs in the region to address transboundary issues of the hydropower development in the region.





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## Vulnerable Reduction Assessment (VRA) and Climate Change mainstreaming into Commune Development Planning (CIP/CDP)



There are another 38 CSO members and partners from NGOs Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA) of The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and Cambodia Climate Change Network (CCCN) together in aiming 1) build capacity of NGOs/CBOs which are NECA and CCCN members to be able to conduct VRA training to other NGOs/CBOs and key stakeholders who are need it. 2) build strong network and to share experiences on how to designed good CBA project concept/ proposal and mainstreaming climate change adaptation priorities into CDP/CIP and 3) get more understanding on CDP/CIP formulation process. In order to deep understanding, we at last day of workshop had an outdoor field practice the VRA tools for climate change mainstreaming into CIP/CDP. This activity has conducted with different group such as Women Group, Men Group and Local Authorities Group of Seang Khveang Commune, Kamchay Mear District, Prey Veng province. This ToT conducted from 19-21 September 2018.

In opening session, Dr. Tek Vannara; NGOF Executive Director that “this three days has been facilitated by NECA of The NGO

Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) with supported from SGP GEF UNDP, NCDD, DCA, Caritas Switzerland, and Southern Voice, and refer to what we have been agreed in late 2016 in CSO advocacy strategies aim to more engaging to The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) commits to integrating CCA with appropriate financial support in the CDP/CIP by ensuring the community participation in the CCA planning process. With expected that 60% of NECA's target areas integrate CCA into the CDP/CIP with community participation and appropriate financial support.

He also highlighted that Climate Change is real. Cambodia's vulnerability to climate change is widely regarded to be due to its poor adaptive capacity and coping knowledge's at national and sub-national. Around 80% of the population lives in rural areas with poor adaptive capacity and infrastructure. The agricultural sector contributes around 30% of GDP and by 80% of the population. The Second National Communication to the UNFCCC reveals that nearly 50% of the total communes in Cambodia is categorized between vulnerable to extremely vulnerable to cli-

mate viability. To address the issue, the mainstreaming for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management into sub-national planning and budgeting has become recognized as increasingly important in building the country's absorptive capacity and enhancing community resilience to climate impact”.



As a key part of this TOT, Ms. Navirak a National Coordinator GEF Small Grants Programme United Nations Development Programme said that the Vulnerability Reduction Assessment (VRA) approach is an important element of UNDP's monitoring and evaluation framework for climate change adaptation projects at the community, subnational, and national levels. It has been implemented in a growing number of local initiatives under UNDP's Community Based Adaptation (CBA) Programme, with funding from the Global Environment Facility. It is designed to measure the changing climate vulnerabilities of communities, and to be comparable across vastly different projects, regions, and contexts, making it possible to determine if a given project is successful or unsuccessful in reducing climate change







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risks. The VRA can be compared to a guided participatory rural appraisal (PRA), focusing on community perceptions of vulnerability to climate change and capacity to adapt. The VRA is based on a composite of 4 indicator questions, tailored to capture locally-relevant issues that are at the heart of understanding vulnerability to climate change.

As respectively National Gender and Social, National Planning Advisor, from SRL Project of NCDDs and resource person in this training, Mr Vorn Savuth and Ms. Khiev Bunroeub are very welcome and highly appreciate to NECA/NGOF for this great collaboration and contribution to NCDD policy objectives. Both added that “CSOs role in community development especially in grass root is very vital through raise awareness, capacity building, technical and financial support in order to empower vulnerable community to build resilience to climate change impacts...In last March 2017; NCDD just launched the climate change mainstreaming guideline as well as Gender and Social Inclusion. These papers have been developed and consulted with key stakeholders at national and sub-national levels on the tools to ensure the climate change will be integrated into their investment plan and development plan. This guideline will be a roadmap for concerning stakeholders both duty-bearer and right-holders for mainstreaming CCA/DRR into commune development planning effectively”.

At the end of session; Mr. Som Sovann and Mrs. Ngin Navirak have a strongly optimistic that the participants will be increased the knowledge, skills and ability to mainstream climate change and disaster into commune investment and development plans and they can transfer the gained knowledge by provide train to another stakeholders such as CBOs, municipal, district, commune and community levels, in order to effectively mainstream the climate change and disaster into commune investment and development planning.

With the oversight of the National Committee for Sustainable Development a former National Climate Change Committee, the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment coordinated to develop the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2014-2023 and introduce the guideline and VRA tool to the local authority and provincial department at sub-national level for learning on the climate change, relevant policies and analysts the vulnerable are in their real situation area and sectors.

National Program for Sub-National Democratic Development 2010-2019 (NP-SNDD) is another plan of RGC in the sub-national level for the further expansion of the single window mechanism to cover all municipalities, districts and khans, and further promoting broader delegation of powers – which means to give public services to the citizens directly without complicated administration system. As stated in NP-SNDD, RGC’s goals for sub-national democratic development are:

- Create a culture of local participatory democracy, accountable to the citizens
- Improve public services and infrastructures
- Bring about social and economic development
- Contribute to poverty reduction







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## HIGHLIGHT STORIES

### Bali International Convention Meeting



Mr Tek Vannara, executive director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia participated in annual meeting of World Bank(WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) held on 7-13 October 2018 at Bali International Convention, Bali, Indonesia. During that meeting, Mr Tek Vannara participated in many meetings such as gender budgeting, gender and technology, role of gender in financial stability, gender in public investment, gender in financial inclusion, gender diversity and diversification, IMF's work on gender-inequality-inclusive growth and policy, fiscal policy and social protection, CSO leader meeting with world bank's East Asia and Pacific

Vice President and other country director/manager were focused on human capital, technology and sustainability, CSO round-table meeting with World Bank Group Executive Directors which are focused on responsible investment and world bank policy recommendations, climate change and energy, human capital development, inclusion and partnering with local communities and civil society, CSO meeting with CEO of International Finance Cooperation (IFC) about Green Bonds Market-Climate Bonds Initiative, CSO townhall meeting with the president of the world bank group and managing director of the international monetary fund (IMF) on eco-



nomie development, human capital and financial sustainability, CSO meeting with IMF on capacity development program, CSO discussion with the world bank on the new world bank environmental and social framework, CSO discussion with banks and relevant stakeholders on tax justice, energy in emerging economies and global lessons from Nam Theun2-the world bank's model hydropower project in Laos. Civil Society Representatives who come from different countries in the world were raised many important suggestions and recommendations to banks such as re-settlement and compensation, issues of environment, social and culture right, human right, gender, farmer and agriculture, infrastructure, energy and hydropower dam development, climate change, youth, women, livelihood and right base of people for banks consideration and address on those issues. Banks had received those suggestions and recommendations from CSO through panel discussion for rethinking on their current policy and project implementation.

### Road to Katowice COP24 - Bangkok Climate Change Conference

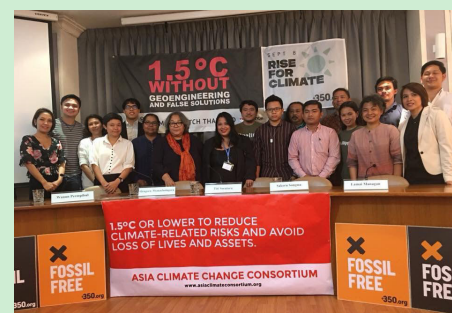


The NGOs Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA) of NGO Forum on Cambodia recognizes the urgency and value of the UNFCCC Bangkok intersessional negotiations because of Asia's increasing risk to climate change-enhanced events that has taken so many lives and destroyed countless livelihoods. The fre-



quency, severity, and impact of these hazards are a glimpse into a more extreme, unpredictable future in the absence of a strong set of implementing guidelines for the Paris Agreement.

A NECA secretariat as well as Asia Climate Change Consortium (ACCC) coordinator



engaged in the Bangkok Climate Change Conference from 4-9 September 2018 at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. This conference is convening in resumed sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the Subsidiary Body for Imple-





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mentation (SBI), and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA), the meeting's main objective is to progress on the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP): the details required to operationalize the 2015 Paris Agreement.

With the deadline for completing this work drawing near — the PAWP is slated for adoption by the Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December 2018 (COP 24) — parties at the Bonn Climate Change Conference from 30 April - 10 May 2018 agreed to an additional negotiating session in Bangkok to ensure the PAWP's "timely completion" at COP 24.

Some of the key issues that require further negotiation in Bangkok pertain to the Paris Agreement's iterative and cyclical nature, including operationalization of requirements for parties to:

- update their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) at five-year intervals
- regularly report on progress under a common transparency and accountability framework
- convene a global stocktake every five years to assess collective progress towards the Paris Agreement's goals.

Other important PAWP themes under negotiation relate to:

- climate change adaptation
- delivering sufficient support for devel-

oping countries, including on finance, technology, and capacity building

- mechanisms to ensure implementation of, and compliance with, the Paris Agreement.

Based on UNFCCC website; over 1600 participants, including more than 1200 government officials, almost 400 representatives from UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, and the media attended the meeting.

As result in UNFCCC conclusion, negotiations on nearly 20 substantive agenda items took place throughout the week, including on issues related to:

- mitigation;
- adaptation;
- finance;
- transparency;
- the global stocktake;
- response measures;
- market and non-market approaches;
- compliance with, and implementation of, the Paris Agreement; and
- possible additional PAWP items, including matters related to the Adaptation Fund and to loss and damage.

The meeting's "Bangkok outcome" captures progress made across these issues in a 307-page compilation, and mandates

the Presiding Officers to undertake inter-session work to help advance parties' deliberations towards the PAWP. At the close of the meeting, many characterized progress as "uneven." Numerous delegates underlined that the pace of work had been too slow, and stressed as fundamental the need to provide assurances on finance. Differentiation between developed and developing countries also emerged as a contentious issue under various agenda items, including under guidance for nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The Bangkok Climate Change Conference closed on Sunday, 9 September, with negotiators concluding this session's work to advance the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) — the details required to operationalize the 2015 Paris Agreement. The PAWP is scheduled for adoption at the Katowice Climate Change Conference (COP 24) in December 2018. This is widely considered a challenging task.

"Exhausted yet we are not giving up to facilitate the planning, implementation and review of ambitious mitigation, targets necessary to reduce temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius or lower, as well as facilitate adaptation measures to avert loss and damage...The Paris Agreement Work Program should be informed by the principles of climate justice, human rights, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR), equity and fair-shares in order to genuinely meet the goals of the Paris Agreement," said Sey Peou of NGOs Environment and Climate Change Alliance of NGOF, co-coordinator of ACCC and head of ACCC delegation to the Inter-sessional.

"These guidelines must also assure that sufficient financial and technical assistance will be given to developing countries from developed nations and non-government bodies," Peou added. "The transfer of these resources must be characterized with transparency and accountability."





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## Joint Statement Call for the delay on the Pak Lay Dam Prior Consultation Process Phnom Penh, 10th September 2018

We refer to the recent announcement<sup>1</sup> by Mekong River Commission (MRC) to invite all stakeholders to voice concerns during MRC Prior Consultation process over the proposed Pak Lay hydropower dam project on Mekong River, to be organized from 20-21 September 2018 in Vientiane, CSOs working on water governance and natural resources management in Cambodia call on the MRC to delay the Prior Consultation on the proposed project.

We make this call for the following reasons:

- Requests from national and regional CSOs for lower Mekong governments to address outstanding concerns over previous hydropower dam projects that have undergone Prior Consultation (Xayaburi, Don Sahong and Pak Beng) have not been acted upon by the MRC. CSOs in Cambodia and in the region have participated in Prior Consultation meetings since the first project in 2011 and the following projects in 2014 and 2017 respectively to share our concerns on the proposed projects. We have recently reiterated our request<sup>2</sup> to the MRC for clarification of our existing concerns, but we have yet to receive any official response which we wish to receive before any other consultations on new project is taken place.
- The collapse of the Xe Pian Xe Nam Noy hydropower dam project's saddle dam in Laos, resulted in extensive loss and harm for thousands of local people in Laos as well as across the border in Cambodia. This tragedy has led to further major concerns over the standards and safeguard mechanism of hydropower projects in Laos and the accountability of developers and investors that need to be comprehensively reviewed before any further hydropower construction continues in the lower Mekong basin.
- In light of the dam collapse, the government of Laos has announced for an inspection<sup>3</sup> on exiting hydropower dams across the country and temporary suspension of any new projects while at the same time is reviewing its future hydropower development strategy. Even though the Lao National Mekong Committee (LNMC) clarified that they do not regard the Pak Lay project as a new development proposal, progress on the project should nonetheless be suspended until the results of the inspection and review of future hydropower development strategy is completed, in order to ensure an improved process for planning and development of any hydropower dam projects in the future.
- CSOs in Cambodia welcome the efforts of MRC to increase space and involvement of CSOs in Prior Consultation in order to collect feedback on proposed projects from civil society organizations that work closely with local communities. However, our participation cannot be construed as a sign of acceptance of destructive projects. Any concern that is raised during Prior Consultation should be responded to and addressed in advance before commencing development of the project. We believe that our engagement in the Prior Consultation is very

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mrcmekong.org/news-and-events/news/stakeholders-invited-to-voice-concerns-during-mrc-prior-consultation-process-for-mekong-hydropower-development/>

<sup>2</sup> Letter to MRC (July 2018) request for responding and addressing existing outstanding concerns over the previous hydro dams before proceeding with any new hydropower dam project on the Lower Mekong mainstream.

<sup>3</sup> <https://laotiantimes.com/2018/08/08/lao-government-suspend-new-hydropower-dam-projects/>





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legitimize the dam construction decision.

- CSOs in Cambodia recognize the efforts of MRC in addressing some of our requests; for instance, by integrating into the agenda of its Regional Stakeholder Forum (to be organized on 21-22 September), however, that agenda should not be discussed in parallel with the Prior Consultation of the proposed Pak Lay project. It should be organized as a separate event to avoid any misinterpretation of our participation as agreeing to the Prior Consultation process.

For the above reasons, we CSOs working on water governance and natural resources management in Cambodia that are listed below call for delay of the Prior Consultation for the proposed Pak Lay Dam project and reiterate our request to first address existing outstanding concerns in order to build confidence that the MRC and lower Mekong governments will meaningfully respond to our input.

#### List of NGOs endorse the statement

- 1) Action for Development (AFD)
- 2) Cambodian Community Development (CCD Kratie)
- 3) Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA)
- 4) Cambodian Volunteers for Society (CVS)
- 5) Cambodian Youth Network (CYN)
- 6) Community Development Center (CDC)
- 7) Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA)
- 8) Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)
- 9) Mlup Promviheathor Center (MPC)
- 10) My Village (MVi)
- 11) Nak Aphiwat Sahokom (NAS)
- 12) Non-Timber Forest Product-Exchange Program (NTFP-EP)
- 13) Northeastern Rural Development (NRD)
- 14) Save the Vulnerable Cambodia (SVC)
- 15) Strengthen and Extend Community Economic Association (SECEA)
- 16) The Coalition of Cambodia Fishers (CCF)
- 17) The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF)
- 18) Tonle Sap Lake Waterkeeper (TSW)
- 19) Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC)
- 20) 3S Rivers Protection Network (3SPN)





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## 40 Civil Society Organizations in Cambodia host the event on Cambodia People Forum (CPF) 2018



Cambodia has become a member state of ASEAN since 1999. Every year, there are many meetings among ASEAN countries both officials and ASEAN leaders to establish development projects, mechanisms and policies to develop ASEAN with participation of ASEAN member states. In addition, ASEAN is driven by a people-centered ASEAN. However, we see that there is small platform for CSOs participation in ASEAN to engage with their governments in establishment of development projects, ASEAN mechanisms and policies. At Cambodia national level, we see a little communication and engagement between Cambodian government and CSOs to connect Cambodia to ASEAN.

With this regard, Cambodian CSOs created a working group called “Cambodian Civil Society Working Group on ASEAN” to engage with Cambodian and ASEAN governments. At ASEAN regional level, CCWA facilitates the engagement of Cambodian CSOs in the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People’s Forum (ACSC/APF). In order to build a strong Cambodian people’s voices to influence Cambodian and ASEAN government for the benefit of the people, CCWA initiated a Cambodian national platform called “Cambodian People Forum (CPF)”. CPF is a Cambodian national CSOs platform to address their pressing is-

ssues and concerns over development in Cambodia related to ASEAN regional development agenda and formulate a CSO’s recommendations to be addressed by Cambodian and ASEAN Governments.

With CSO participants from diverse sectors, we have agreed and made the plan among Cambodian civil society for the organizing of CPF 2018 before the ACSC/APF 2018 in Singapore. CPF 2018 will be the national annual gathering of civil society in the Cambodia that will be functioning as the platform to raise and discuss cross-cutting issues as land, natural resources, women, youth, investment, etc., in Cambodia and to formulate a CPF position paper and also incorporated into the ACSC/APF statement to submit to Cambodian Government and ASEAN Leaders. CCWA has organized the CPF’s working committees as Steering Committee, Program Committee, Drafting Committee, Logistic Committee, Media Committee, Security Committee and Secretariat. CPF is the CSOs mechanism to advocate to Cambodian and ASEAN governments to take actions on and create appropriate policies for addressing emerging issues in Cambodia and ASEAN.

As a preparation step toward the organizing of CPF, CCWA organized meetings and

presented the CPF plan to CCWA’s members, NGO, communities, women, union, youth, informal groups INGOs and other groups and invited their participation as the organizers of the convergence space workshops and participants.

After Cambodian People Forum, the civil society group will prepare the CPF paper document of recommendations of concerning issues to submit to line ministries of Cambodian government and then bring for further discussion at the ASEAN regional forum, ASEAN People Forum in Singapore in November 2018 prior to ASEAN Summit in Singapore and incorporate into the APF statement which will be submitted to ASEAN Leaders prior to ASEAN Summit in Singapore.

There are 40 Civil Society Organizations in Cambodia host the event on Cambodia People Forum (CPF) 2018 under the theme: Enhancing Engagement of Cambodian Civil Societies Toward Sustainable Development and Peace” on September 28, 2018 at Tonle Bassac II Restaurant. The objectives of CPF 2018 are following:

1. Increase awareness on national and regional trends of development policies and engagement platforms.
2. Enhance engagement among Cambodian civil societies and relevant stakeholders toward sustainable development and peace.
3. Formulate key recommendation on prioritized Cambodian development issues to influence national and regional policy







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## Forum on Public Participation in Budgetary Process at National and Sub-National level



The Budget Working Group (BWG) of NGO Forum is consist of 13 members including API, DPA, GADC, HACC, Star Kampuchea, NEP, Save the Children, TI Cambodia, Ox-fam, YRDP, NGOF, VSO and World Vision Cambodia. The forum was, organized on “Public Participation in Budgetary Process at National and Sub-National level” on Thursday which was held on 25 October 2018 at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. There were over 200 participants which were the representatives of Ministry of Economic and Finance, Ministry of Interior, SIDA, EU, Civil Society Organizations, Youths, University students and local community people. The objective of this forum aimed at 1.) Understanding on fiscal budget transparency including budget formulation and budget implementation process and budget transparency at National and sub national level 2.) Learning/sharing on budget understanding and budget information.

Firstly, **Mr. Pech Pisey**, Senior Program Director of TI Cambodia gave an opening remark Public Participation in Budgetary Process at national and sub-national level in the following:

- The national budget is the public budget because the big percentage of national

budget came from tax collection of business and general people.

- To ensure the government budget expense in a transparent and accountable manner, the general people should provide comment and monitor the expense to response to the need of the people.

- Public participation in the national budget to make the government accountable and great effort in promoting the good government of budget expenses at national and sub-national for responding to the need of local community and public participation to get their trust.

- Through the government public financial management reform to get remarkable economic growth.

- The government provide opportunity to development partners, CSOs and people to participate in national budget preparation and budget transparency.

- The budget working group involved in dissemination and educate people and youth about national budget process, promote the effectiveness and other services to response to the people need through promoting transparent, honest and effectiveness of budget management.

- The participation of CSO, people and youth in budget preparation still limited.

- The participant will gain the knowledge

of the process of budget preparation at national and sub-national level to be able to better monitoring the budget expense. After the opening, the organizer showed video spot about public financial management with the following content:

- The Royal Government is the head of the big family and the people is the member of the big family. All the concern and need of the people is the concern of the country which demanding to collect the income (tax from donor and other income) the resource management and budget expense based on the priority need of the people. This process called Public Financial Management
- The limitation of government financial resource, resource division based on the priority of the sector ministries and priority of the government.
- The people should be involved in national budget preparation of the government because the big budget income of the government came from tax collection from the people. Thus, each people should get high benefit and involve in the process of budget preparation.
- The government budget monitoring would help the people to understand and provide feedback about their need to the government. The people should monitor the policy implementation, public services provision, involvement in bidding to ensure budget transparency and benefit from the public financial management.

**Mr. Ouk Vannara**, Deputy Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia presented about the experience of NGO Forum on the national budget preparation process in the following: The content of the Five Years Strategic Plan and Program Priorities of the NGO Forum (2018-2023) focus on three programmes (Natural Resource Management, Development Policy and





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land safety) There were five steps of NGO Forum worked with relevant ministries and government including identify problem, policy debate, policy preparation, policy monitoring and policy reflection.

- Cooperated with relevant institution, private sector, ministry, government institution, university, academia, independence researcher for inputs and policy implementation.

- The NGO Forum approach through eight networks, five sector working groups, 450 membership organization including national and international which cooperate and coordinate the three programmes of NGO Forum.

- The NGO Forum consisted of 9 NGO core members and NGO Forum played as secretariat to advocate on national budget process, transparent, accountable, monitoring national budget to ensure the national budget implementation response to the need of the people and vulnerable people. Besides that, national budget analysis and experience sharing on regular national budget.

- The experience of the implementation including knowledge sharing information related to national budget, budget expense, capacity building for youth and Civil society organization about national budget preparation planning, monitoring national budget expense, facebook connection, publication of guideline of national budget preparation, video spot on budget preparation and gender responsive.

- Contribute in promoting the national budget transparency and accountability in cooperation with IBP to study and disseminate information related to budget call Open Budget Survey. As result, Cambodia gain better score because of Cambodia release important document to the public through MoEF website.



#### Key Challenges

- **Budget Transparency:** Some document not yet publicly share such as draft budget of inter-ministries which submitted to the national assemble not publicly share and lack of public participation.

- **Public participation:** Limited public opportunity to participate in the budget preparation planning.

- **Monitoring:** Limited monitoring of the budget.

#### Recommendations:

- **Budget Transparency:** The government of Cambodia, especially MoEF should publish the draft national budget on website for public to provide input to relevant institution.

- **Public participation:** Request MoEF to publicly disseminate the national report on their website so that the public having access to give input in the next year national budget. MoEF should establish official mechanism for public to involve in national budget process. At the commune having good mechanism such as providing public opportunity to define priority and budget for commune/sangkat as well

as having at the national level. During defending the national budget, should having the involvement of CSO or public as an observer for listening the defending of the inter-ministries as witness.

- **Monitoring:** To ensure the legislation body to involve in evaluation and publishing monthly report to public. The auditing should be implemented by independence institution to ensue transparency and accountability.

#### Closing of the workshop

**Ms. Chea Cheysovanna**, program coordinator of Star Kampuchea summarized the result of the workshop: Because of short time, she summarized the key important point of the workshop which related to public understanding of national budget process including the presentation of 14 Speakers and 17 Questions. Three video spot education related to public financial management, inventory and gender showed during the workshop. There were some technical questions raised related to bidding at district were responded by the representative of MoEF to report to their leader and respond later.





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## The Third Quarterly Meeting of LAHRiN

The NGO Forum on Cambodia organized the third quarterly meeting of LAHRiN on 26 October 2018 at Tonle Bassac I restaurant with 40 participants who were invited from ADHOC, SAMAKY, WVI-C, VCO, HOM, VMI, DPA, SVC, CWDCC, CLEC, SK/ILC, CNRO, NGOF, CTO, CWDCC, Rachna Satrei, AAC and DCAM.

Welcome and an opening remark by Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia. The objectives of the meeting in the following:

- 1). Capacity building skill on the effectiveness of advocacy on law and legal procedure of national and international related to the land issue and natural resources.
- 2). Develop an evidence-based report for doing advocacy through research report and investigation report of a land dispute.
- 3). Involve with the Royal Government of Cambodia for develop policy and law and better law implementation as well as addressing the negative impact of a development program to achieve sustainable development goals.
- 4). Presentation of affordable housing as well as the policy to encourage and presentation of voluntary guideline on land governance, fishery, and forestry in the context of national food security (VGGT).

Mr. Bun Vanna from WVC working on housing policy, affordable housing policy with an appropriate price to those who have less income and not yet have appropriate housing through a low-interest loan which provides by some companies. This implementation guideline focuses on the community living in affordable housing and willing to help the community to respect the rights and hygiene.







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## ON THE MEDIA

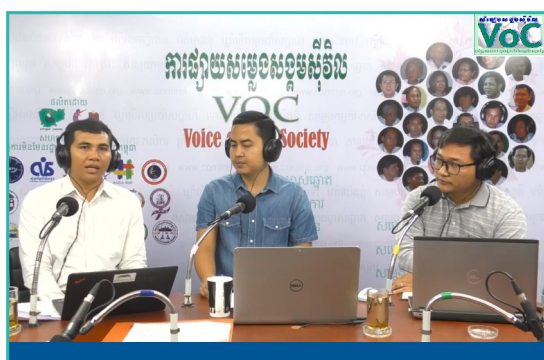


**Topic:** Promoting dissemination of expenditure reports on each sectors

**Date:** 19 September 2018

**Source:** Blue Media

**Read more at:** <https://www.facebook.com/BlueTvCambodia/>



**Topic:** The composition of the Cabinet of the sixth legislature and the composition of civil society inputs in the National Strategic Development Plan

**Date:** 11 September 2018

**Source:** Voice of Civil Society

**Read more at:** <https://bit.ly/2BwSXIC>

## UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2018

### 07 November

Consultation Workshop on Policy Review on the Alignment of Domestic Legal Framework and Responsible Governance of Tenure on Land, Fishery and Forestry at Tonle Bassac

### 14-15 November

Annual General Meeting and Network Reflection

### 27 November

Forum on Natural Resource Management: Strengthening CSO / CBO Collaboration and Advocacy

### 29 November

14th Donor and Partner Meeting

### 06 December

National Workshop on the Understanding of 2019 Budget Preparation

### 13 December

Consultative workshop on "Fair and Just Compensation Guideline Report in Cambodia"

### 12-14 December

Workshop on promoting quality and safety of Agricultural products and foods

### 18 December

Consultation Workshop on the draft 2018 Statistical Analysis on Land Dispute Report

### 24-30 December

Annual Program Reflection





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