



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការចូលរួមរបស់សង្គមស៊ីវិល  
*The NGO Forum on Cambodia*

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការវិវឌ្ឍសេចក្តីល្អ  
*Working Together for Positive Change*



## LEADING STORIES

### Forth National CSO Consultation Workshop and Seventh National Consultation Workshop on Draft 10 of The Environment And Natural Resource Code



21-22 March 2018: Up to date, the Draft on Environmental and Natural Resources Code of Cambodia has been reached draft 10 now and expected to be a final one at Draft 11. The Draft Environment and Natural Resources Code covers a range of environmental and natural resources areas including: General Principles of the Environment and Natural Resources Code, Public Participation and Access to Information, Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Pollution and Waste Management, Biodiversity and Endangered Species Protection, Cultural Heritage Protection, and significant provisions for dispute resolution procedures – including mediation, civil and criminal enforcement. The Draft Code also established a new conservation regime for Cambodia, setting up Biodiversity Conservation Corridors and a collaborative management process. The Biodiversity Conservation Corridors expand Cambodia's existing protected areas to provide linkages and protection for high-conservation areas. The Draft Code also has specific provisions covering Climate Change, Sustainable Production and Consumption, Fisheries, Water, Forests, Extractive Industries, Energy, Coastal Zone Protection, Environmental Educa-

tion, and Sustainable Cities.

As the membership organization, the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) takes a lead and plays important role in coordination among NGOs/CSOs and communities for providing and gathering inputs/recommendation on the development of the Code since the beginning of Code development.

During this sensitive stage, the NGOF and development partners as well as CSO members have organized the 4th CSO national consultation workshop for reviewing the draft 9 with the title "The CSOs National Consultation Workshop on Environmental and Natural Resource Code" on 21 March, 2018 at Tonlebasac II restaurant which aims at collecting wider inputs from all key relevant stakeholders and consolidate comments for incorporate in the draft 10 of the ENR code which issued by the Ministry of Environment (MoE). All participants who joined the CSO national consultation workshop were invited by Ministry of Environment to attend the 7th National Consultation Workshop which co-hosted by Vishnu Law Group and the Ministry of



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Environment (MoE) for mobilising the CSO and communities inputs for the draft 10 conducted on 22 March, 2018 at Sofitel Phuketra hotel.

In the welcomed remark by Mr. Keo Tai, Executive Director of the NTFP-EP and representative of the organizing committee. "He thanked to all participants and the organizing committee for co-organizing and attending this workshop. It should be noted that this code might put in place for implementation next year after adoption due to commitment of Royal Government of Cambodia. Therefore, Since Code developing; we have organized such CSO national workshop for 4 times and 21 technical meetings excluding other informal meet-

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ings and workshops for collecting inputs on this code. Regarding decisions from last CSO leaders meeting we have identified 7 main topics for today discussion including: 1) Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) 2) Public Participation 3) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 4) Climate Change (CC) 5) Protected Area 6) Access to information and 7) Collaborative management of Natural Resources. NGOs has developed the Technical Working Group (TWG) including academic, lawyers, and NGO representatives to provide inputs since the first draft of the code development. There were many formal and informal meetings with MoE to discuss on this code. Today, it is very important to identify the common inputs from all participants as it might be the final opportunity for CSOs and communities to provide comments.

I hope that this workshop will give a great chance to collect inputs for improving the draft 10 of the ENR code in Cambodia since sounds a final consultation".  
On March 21, 2018: The NGO Forum on

Cambodia together with interested CSOs in Cambodia organised CSO National Consultation Workshop on the Draft 10 of the Environment and Natural Resources Code was conducted at Tonle Bassac 2 Restaurant, Phnom Penh. There were 65 participants who came from representative of Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organization, Community Fishery, Community Forestry, Provincial NGOs Network and Youth. The main topics for discussion in this consultation were: 1. FPIC, 2. Public Participation 3. Environment Assessment Plan for Strategy, 4. Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction 5. Protected Area, 6. Access to Information, 7. Co-management



on Natural Resources. Following this CSO workshop, Ministry of Environment and Vishnu Law Group co-organized the 7th National Consultation workshop on the Draft 10 of the Environment and Natural Resources Code of the Kingdom of Cambodia which is held at Sofitel Phuketra Hotel on 22 March 2018. There were around 400 participants to join this national consultation including Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organization, Community Fishery, Community Forestry, Provincial NGOs Network and Youth which coordinated by NGOF secretariat.

During these important events; the concerns had been raised by CSO and communities. They had good opportunity to directly dialogue with technical team of Vishnu Law Group and ENR Code development team. As results, the CSOs recommendation on Draft 10 of ENR Code o had been documented and officially submitted to H.E. Khut Chandara, Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment and Chair of ENR Code TWG and Lawyer Mrs. Sao Kagna from Vishnu Law Group.

## Workshop on Development Effectiveness



On Friday, March 23, 2018 The NGO Forum on Cambodia and Asian Pacific Research Network (APRN) organize workshop on Development Effectiveness at Tonle Bassac 1 Restaurant, Phnom Penh. There were 50 participants from representative of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Mines and Energy, European Union, NGO mem-



bers, CSOs, Network members, Development partners, provincial NGOs. The overall objective of this workshop to contribute to enhancing CSO effectiveness, legitimacy and transparency through the implement of CSO accountability processes, especially through the development of a CSO Effective Compacts (Country Compacts). The specific objectives were:

- Increased knowledge and skills on CSO Development Effectiveness, and accountability mechanisms for CSOs in (Country).
- Established inclusive mechanisms for country-level collaborative work, through a country-level Country Compacts Team.
- Facilitated process for development of a (Country) CSO Effectiveness Compact.







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## Quarterly Member Meeting



The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) invited its members, donors, and partners who were supporting NGOF's mission to attend Quarterly Members Meeting (QMM). The meeting discussed on key achievements, challenges, lesson learnt, good practice and feedback from members for further implement next quarter work plan. The meeting was held on April 27, 2018 from 8:00am-12:00 at Ecumenical Diakonia Centre (PPEDC) Phnom Penh with 110 participants (37female).

The key guest speakers from ministry of Economy and Finance and two speakers from private companies were participated in the presentation on the 1) updating significant progress report of NGOF; 2) Social and Environmental Safeguard focus on the presentation on the standard of compensation and resettlement policy, presentation of Environment Management Plan and compensation policy in EIA Report, presentation on the first draft report of Fair Compensation Policy.



Mr. Ek Chamroeun, chair of meeting, management committee member of the NGOF on Cambodia, Mekong Project Coordinator of FACT gave a warm welcome and thanked to all NGO members, government, and

development partners for their participation in the important meeting. He briefed the key agendas of meeting as following: 1) updating significant progress report of NGOF; 2) Update on the preparation of a joint CSO agreement in Cambodia on effective development cooperation; 3) Social and Environmental Safeguard. NGO Forum has good cooperation with key relevant ministries such as MOE, MAFF, MRD, MOEF, Ministry of Land and coordinated with network members to accomplish many major achievement within the last quarter.

### Update on the preparation of a joint CSO agreement in Cambodia on effective development cooperation



Mr. Ek Chanbora, an official, General Department of Policy, Ministry of Economy and Finance, presented on the Macroeconomic Policy Framework and Public Financial Policy Framework for the drafting of the Financial Law for the Management of 2019. The Global Economy is better. The Cambodia Economic growth is expected that still strong in 2018-2019 in four sectors such as construction, garment factory, whole sale and retail, and tourist. The World Bank considered Cambodia as middle income country. Asian Development Bank (ADB) called Cambodia as a new ASEAN tiger. Cambodia is changing the structure from dependent on the agriculture to dependent on industry sector. The currency exchange rate is stable. The bank sector continue to grow. Foreign Direct Investment increased. Reserve capital continue to increase. The drafting of the Financial Law for the Management of 2019. Now it time for drafting of the Financial Law for the Management of 2019, the first stage is to call for budget strategic plan from all

ministries, the second stage is to prepare budget package and the third stage the government will approve the national budget. The tax policy is the key for ensuring the success of government reform program, stabilization of macro economy and sustainability of economic growth in the medium and long term.

### Update on Social and Environmental Safeguard

Mr. Ham Kim Kong, General Director of E&A Consultant, Presented on Environment Management Plan and Compensation Policy in EIA Report. Because of the time constrain, Mr. Ham Kim Kong suggested to give the presentation in advance. The Compensation Policy and resettlement. The request of the three type of projects implementation including the project implement by company and state, state and state and the company project. It stated all the key points. We need to look at the environment management plan, who will involve in the implementation and monitoring the development project .eg. After study, who will involve in the monitoring of the EIA project.



Mr. Kim Chanvibol, Deputy Director of Department of Resettlement, 2, General Department of Resettlement, Ministry of Economy and Finance, presented on the standard of compensation and resettlement policy. The Cambodian Economic growth about 7%. Before 1979 there is no any compensation to the community. In 1999 the government set up the compensation committee (IRC). The IRC chaired by Economic and Finance unit of ministry of Economic and Finance. It is under the cooperation and debt management. In 2005 set

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up the compensation unit. In 2008, changed to resettlement department as secretariat of IRC. In 2016, changed to general directorate of resettlement. IRC provide compensation for the national infrastructure project. No force eviction for compensation.

Public consultation taken place many time in all stages with the participation of development partner. The compensation implementation based on the compensation policy which agreed by IRC and DPs. Even though DP has no policy, the government has clear principle for implementation. The legal framework and compensation policy. The compensation policy softly made and facilitation between the law and legal framework, humanitarian principle, social equity principle and policy of development partner. The purpose to ensure sustainable development and equity between the affect community and beneficiary of the project especially for poverty reduction. The legal framework and regulation including constitution in 1993, land law in 2001, appropriation law in 2010, sub decree number 197 on the management of ride of way and railway road, and sub decree number 118 on state land management. The feasibility study to mitigate the impact at the minimum level. The community knows the status of the development project. Development Partner also involve in the feasibility study. The resettlement Plan should be done by the consultant to prepare the plan for ADB or WB which agree by IRC and DP. ADB have social safeguard policy. The safeguard policy has fours principles, land law, constitution, and appropriation law. People have equal right to access the information and get appropriate compensation to their property. The department of resettlement has authority to deal with Standard of Operation. The company should respect the right of the community. The company should have technical

plan to mitigate the impact on the community and apply it fairly. eg. Development project affect their property, the community will get the fair compensation. The community should access to social land concession when the company comply with it. If it affect pagoda or hospital, then the government will construct new hospital or pagoda. If the community lives below poverty line then the government will fully pay for their property. eg. payment for the compensation to the community and resettlement them to the new place. Recommendation to NGO to educate the community to understand about the government policy.



Mr. Kay Leak, Independent Consultant, Presented on the First Draft Report of Fair Compensation Policy. Should have a common framework/policy. Document collect from many sectors. In Cambodia there are many complicate and difficult issue related to land. There is land law. No one should deprive their right from their land. It should pay compensation before taking their land. In 2005 the compensation policy has developed. The company should start the livelihood and income generation program for the community. The company should study the social and environment as well as livelihood situation of the community. The government should pay for their property. In 2003 the company should pay for the community. In Vietnam, if the community owed the government then the compensation to the community should be deducted. The government relocate the project land for

payment to the community. In Thailand the compensation would pay to the community. The company study the market price so that the compensation should properly made. The community has the right to have access to the project and request for compensation. In China, in 1998, 2004 the law stated that the compensation should be 100%. The compensation standard should be the same. The relocation should be done properly. In India, all compensation should be double pay in market price, in the rural area, four times compensation was made. The community gets payment every month for their livelihood improvement. The safeguard policy for involuntary, should avoid all issue which affect the community. The payment should be in cash. All community has access to all information especially the compensation and resettlement plan. The vulnerable people should have special support. The World Bank has policy to compensation because the safeguard policy should be applied and address properly issue. The community should have plan and choice for choosing eg. Live in the place where they able to live and the company fully compensate to them. The resettlement should be done properly even though the community have plan or not. The recommendation to the national government may consider for a single policy to address the resettlement and compensation. The single policy may be called as 'Guidelines for Fair and Just Compensation and Transparency in Resettlement -2018. The government should have common standard to address the compensation issue. The minimum standard should be developed for address the compensation and resettlement issue.

At the closing of the meeting, Mr. Ek Chamroeun, thanked the honorable guest speakers and participants for sharing the knowledge and experience related to the topics proposed at the meeting responding to objectives and expected results.





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## HIGHLIGHT STORIES

### Campaign on “Food Safety”



Battambang Province on Thursday, March 29, 2018: The “Food Safety” campaign was organized by the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NDF-C) in collaboration with the Krom Aphiwat Phum (KAWP) the network member of development of food security and safety in Cambodia with funding support from Oxfam right to food project. There were 501 participants (283 female) from the Battambang Major, representative of Provincial Agriculture Department of Battambang, Agro- Industry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Provincial Health Department of Battambang, Provincial Department of Commerce, University of Battambang, students, farmers, agriculture cooperative, agro-industry companies and local authorities.



The campaign was paraded with the banner and convey various messages be reminded the producers, consumers and the public to understand on the importance of food safety. The Marching was started from the

University of Battambang to the Nat market then return back to Battambang University where we were celebrated and discussed on food safety. At the same time, there were greetings from the President of the University of Battambang Rector and the presented by the Agro- Industry Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, provincial agriculture department of Battambang, Battambang Department of Health, Department of Commerce, farmers, agro- industry company and NGO representatives. Additionally, representatives of Vegetable Suppliers were shared their experience on organic vegetables.

After introduced the program agenda, there were experience shared and plenary discussed on organic production processes to ensure food safety, encouraged agro-industry companies to produce non-chemical production that ensure standard quality, market value and market access for farmers’ agricultural product.



The food safety campaign was initiated by network member of development of food security and safety in Cambodia while they faced with the impact of pesticide usage which were happened and worse affected by the Cambodian people, which led to initiate an organizing campaign on “food safety”. It contributed to raise awareness about food safety and promoting agriculture production to improve health and reduce the

excessive chemicals use. The campaign was contribute to the Ministry of Agriculture’s Five Years Agricultural Strategic Plan for 2014-2018 and Good Agricultural Practice Policy, to ensure sustainable agriculture production, to implement effective policies to address those challenges, to improve agricultural productivity, and poverty reduction in Cambodia.



Mr. TEK Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum, urgently requested to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in particular the General Directorate of agriculture and Agro-industry Department to empower and provide opportunities for smallholder farmers in making the right decision in applying the good agricultural practice and organic vegetable production as well as continue to push for wider and stronger community to promote safe production of agricultural products. The safety and ensuring stable market access of agricultural products in order to meet the domestic market demand and to promote agricultural production. In addition, help to promote the market information on safety agricultural products and good agricultural practice for farmers, especially smallholders. Lastly, he requested ministries, private sector companies and NGOs to share the best practices related to food safety and promote organic production to improve health and poverty reduction.





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## Press Conference on "Suggestions of People from the Mekong River Basin to the 3rd MRC Summit"



On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Press Conference on "Suggestions of People from the Mekong River Basin to the 3rd MRC Summit" co-organized by NGO, CEPA, FACT, 3SPN and My Village held at Tonle bassac 1, Phnom Penh. The objective of this press conference to share concerns over hydropower dam development on Mekong mainstream and its tributaries. The affected communities from Tonle Sap, Mekong and Sesan Rivers were shared their concerns along with local NGOs who are actively working on the issue.

The concerns were highlighted in a joint statement that is developed by River Coalition in Cambodia which will be submitted to RGC, CNMC and MRC during MRC's International Conference to be taken place on 02-03 April 2018 in Siem Reap province and members of River Coalition of Cambodia will attend this event too.



## Presentation on Livelihood Depend on Mekong Resource



On April 03, 2018, Mr Tek Vannara, executive director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia (NGOF) presented on Livelihood Depend on Mekong Resource: Living Style of the Community in RAMSAR area of Stung Treng Province, Cambodia and Regional Development Trend to MRC International Conference/3rd MRC summit which organized in Siem Reap, Cambodia with 400 participants from the Mekong Region and International. Mr Vannara focuses on value to RAMSAR area as a strong social safety net and food security which support the community development and their daily livelihood. Sustainable and effective natural resources management of

RAMSAR area is the main factor to ensure and contributing to sustainable development of Stung Treng province of Cambodia and Mekong Region. The current development context of water infrastructure (hydropower, irrigation system...etc) and turn the natural forest to big agroforestry industry in the Mekong region which contribute to the risk of natural resources, biodiversity and environmental system in RAMSAR. In every development program should clearly and deeply study and provide appropriate feasible strategy for mitigate risk and environmental protection and biodiversity measure especially wider public participation before making the decision to start the program as well as in the monitoring and evaluating stage. We believe that the balance of conservation and development plan of Mekong Region with the agreement in advance by considering of the sustainable of biodiversity and equal benefit sharing among relevant countries is the key factor for long term use of Mekong resource and response to the need of the people.

## Round Table Discussion Between China Ecological Civilization Research And Promotion Association And Cambodia Environmental NGOs



On March 16, 2018, The NGO Forum on Cambodia and Diinsider co-organize a round table discussion between China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association (CECRPA) and Cambodia environmental NGOs which held at Himawari Hotel.

The objective of this event, to share and learn from Cambodia NGOs that are working on environment and find ways to establish connection and for future collaboration in terms of environmental cooperation through the establishing platform to work together in the promoting Chinese investment in abroad in the context of respecting to human rights and environmental protection.







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## Meeting with Oxfam, China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals Importers & Exporters



March 27, 2018 at Beijing, China, Mr Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia (NGOF) met Oxfam, China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters (CCCMC) for discussion on 1) Natural Rubber Plantation Guideline, 2) Cooperation Social Responsibility Guideline, 3) Extractive Industry Guideline and 4) Shanghai Cooperation.

Moreover, the meetings were discussed on public participation and multi-stakeholder dialogues in the whole project development. The results from those meetings, all parties are encourage to company for implementation those guidelines for long term their business, mutual understanding, reduce of conflict and contribute to sustainable development.



## Launching Workshop on Open Budget Survey 2017



The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) with International Budget Partnership (IBP) organized Dissemination Workshop on Open Budget Survey 2017 which held on March 27th, 2018 at Orchidee Restaurant, Phnom Penh. There were 18 participants (6 women) who came from Oxfam, Transparency International Cambodia, Save the Children, HACC, NGOF, IMF, UNICEF, YRDP, ANSA and Swedish Embassy.

Mr. Ouk Vannara, Deputy Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia outlined the overall objective to all participants, this dissemination workshop to create the dialogue platform for budget transparency and accountability and find the better solution to improve the transparency and accountability in Cambodia.

Ms. Sally Torbert, Program Officer for Asia, Open Budget Initiative, and International

Budget Partnership, presented the result of the Open Budget Survey (OBS) for Cambodia in 2017: what is OBS, methodology, finding and recommendations. Mr. Joel Friedman from International Budget Partnership (IBP) presented on process budget document, methodology, OBS 2017 global findings and recommendation.



Connecting to dissemination workshop on open budget survey 2017, in the afternoon, March 27, 2018, the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized the 5th Media Dialogue Meeting on Open Budget Survey (OBS) 2017 which was hold at Orchidee Restaurant. There were 20 participants from SEA-TV, PNN TV, Hang Meas TV, VOD, Blue Media, WMC, representatives from IPB and NGOF. This media dialogue aimed for increased knowledge to media journalist related to the budget transparency and accountability, as well as understanding about the role civil society can play to help improve budget transparency in Cambodia.







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## NGO Forum on ADB Annual Meeting



On 30 April 2018, Mr. Keo Bunly Development Policy Coordinator of NGOF attended the meeting with NGO Forum on ADB. There were 13 participants from Asia and the Pacific. The objective of this meeting was to discuss and provide more comments on the ADB strategy 2030, especially focused on the loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

The NGO Forum on ADB ("Forum") since its official registration has engaged the Asian Development Bank (ADB) since 2001 (unofficially since 1992). The Forum as the network is registered and titled has also decided to critically engage and monitor the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) alongside the ADB since the Forum Annual Meeting (FAM) decision in 2015. Monitoring both ADB and AIIB with the existing membership, Secretariat and Board structure has proved exciting as well as challenging. Recognizing the NGO Forum on ADB's meaningful inroads in campaigning on ADB's 50th year with "Asian Peoples Call on Challenging ADB's Immunity" and AIIB in 2017, we can confidently say a lot of progress has been made in terms of our campaigning and understanding.

## New Era-International Think Tank Forum



Mr Tek Vannara, executive director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia (NGOF) participated in the New Development of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the New Era-International Think Tank Forum. Main topics were discussed are 1) Economic development and opening up to the win-win outcomes; 2) Regional stability and comprehensive security; 3) The model of multilateral cooperation and path innovation and 4) The Shanghai Spirit and community of shared destiny.

As a guest speaker in the forum, Mr Vannara mentioned on the model of multi-stakeholder dialogue between Chinese Chamber of Commerce, ministry of environment of China and the INGO/CSO on the guidelines of Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR), Natural Rubber Plantation and Chinese Oversea Environmental Impact Assessment which relevant stakeholders recognized as a good tool to make all stakeholder understand on the whole pictures of project development, reduces of conflicts and ensure long term benefits of development, especially it can contributes to ensure good quality of development project, good cooperation and happiness among stakeholders. There are 100 participants who come from 18 countries which represented state, academy, research institute, private sector and INGO/NGO. This forum organized by Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on 26 March 2018 at the Grand Hotel Beijing, China.

## International Women Day (IWD)



Staff of NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) celebrated 107<sup>th</sup> International Women Day (IWD) 08 March 2018, This year our message aim at "We Promote Women Participation in National Policy Implementation".

On March 06, 2018, we visited Koh Chek Agriculture Cooperative (AC) which located in Koh Chek Village and commune, Peam Chor District, Prey Veng Province. The objectives of this year were:

- learned about the significant changes to community's livelihoods and wom-



en empowerment of Koh Chek AC;

- celebrated and raised awareness of women rights and human rights among community and NGOF's staff;
- maintained good working environment of NGOF including team building and women empowerment;

Connecting to the celebration of IWD 2018, in order giving thanks and appreciated, all the NGOF's male staff to provide gift to NGOF's male staff.





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## Asia consultation meeting on the people-centered for ecosystem governance



Mr Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia participated in Asia consultation meeting on the people-centered for ecosystem governance which was organized in Bangkok, Thailand on 15-16 March 2018 at Ibis Bangkok Hotel. The consultation meeting focuses on global strategic on ecosystem management, water resource management, forestry governance, traditional system of Indigenous People in managing natural resources and fisheries management in Asia.

The resulted of the meeting, all participants from Asia has agreed on the common proposal and funding for next three year operation which will focus on people-centered for ecosystem governance.



## Official summit Joint Statement Suggestions of People from the Mekong River Basin to the 3rd MRC Summit



The NGO Forum on Cambodia and the members of River Coalition of Cambodia (RCC) officially presented the joint statement of the people Mekong Basin to Dr. Pham Tuan Phan, CEO of Mekong River Commission Secretariat during the MRC International Conference of 3rd MRC Summit which held on April 02, 2018 in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia. The CSO joint statement was issued and submitted to the Mekong River Commission to encourage the leaders of Mekong countries to consider to include additional of 5 key topics were: 1) fisheries and the Mekong River Dolphins 2) effects and solutions of the development of large-scale dams on the main character of the river 3) to enforce the rule of law Principles and rules set forth in the Agreement, the Commission Mekong 1995. 4) Set up procedures and mechanisms for addressing the impacts resulting from development projects on water resources and natural resources in the region, and 5) the maintenance of rain forests, steep area of the Mekong River, the main source of water that can guarantee sustainable water use for the local population. Nuke the entire Mekong into the agenda of this such important summit.

The position of the Civil Society Organizations, we are together with dam affected communities working on water governance across the country, requested the Mekong country's governments and the

Mekong River Commission (MRC) to address the following concerns and demands:

- The development of national power development plan should necessarily engage public, both females and males of all ages especially affected communities, in a meaningful consultation process to ensure the plan will not make any negative impacts on the environment, natural resources and the well-being of local people. We have acknowledged the need for electricity to economic development in our country and the region, however, the plans should prioritize meeting local people's energy needs, not generating electricity surplus for export. The plans should be designed to phase in renewable energy (solar and wind) and manage energy efficiency measures.
- The Mekong country's governments should disclose relevant information and supporting documents related to the proposed Mekong Mainstream Hydropower Dam and should ensure that affected community members and other relevant stakeholders can effectively and fully participate in consultations and the decision-making process.
- Hydropower dam project information, including in national languages, should be available in the public domain or in MRC website to ensure the public can access to the information.
- The space for affected communities and CSOs in the consultation should be expanded particularly for those who are working directly with dam affected communities and provide adequate time for them to work and comment on proposed project.
- Decision making on hydropower project should not be made on a project by project basis ignoring cumulative and basin wide impacts. It should be ensured that the finding of Council Study and other

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basin-wide studies, which provide assessment of the losses and trade-offs inherent in these projects, meaningfully inform decisions on individual hydropower dam projects.

- The Mekong country's governments should find other energy options which are not destructive to social and the environment. The renewable energy such as solar and wind energy should be highly considered and integrated into Energy Development Plan because those energy alternatives are perfectly suitable solutions for our country and the region. We urge regional governments to prioritize introduction of renewable and decentralized electricity technologies that are increasingly available and cost-competitive, without the harmful social and environmental impacts of large-scale hydropower dams.
  - The Mekong country's governments should provide the legislation and commitment to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) for maintaining sustainable fisheries and protecting key habitats and spawning areas.
  - The governments should also consider demand-side management and energy efficiency measures in their energy development plans.
  - The Mekong country's governments should consider and increase budget for preserving Mekong Forestry Watershed Areas which are the main water sources to ensure of sustainable water using in the Mekong Region.
- End-



## Merging Local Development With Local Adaptation



Cambodia is extremely vulnerable to climate change. Unforgiving droughts and intense monsoons have hit its agricultural communities hard. District government employees are also aware that crop yields are plummeting.

Nevertheless, over the previous year Southern Voices and DanChurchAid partner, the NGO Forum of Cambodia (NGOF), has been changing that - one commune development plan at a time. Now, plans throughout Cambodia show the promising signs of climate adaptation, protecting local communities from the excesses of climate shocks and sensitizing government employees on the relationship between adaptation and development.

### Communication and Capacity-building

NGOF found their solution using a workshop approach, supported by international actors Plan International and the UNDP as well as NCDD-S.

It focused on 'training of the trainer' and capacity-building workshops with government employees and local members.

This allowed NGOF to implement workshops focused on the Joint Principles for Adaptation (JPA), climate change and vulnerability assessments. In addition to targeting local government, NGOF also increased engagement with local communi-

ties. NGOF translated the JPA in Khmer, to increase the understanding and engagement of locals in the development process.

This shift built the communication between government employees and local communities, representing an important development in the local adaptation process. "The JPA really strengthened cooperation between local governments and communities".

A shining example of this shift has been the empowerment of Kampuchea Women's Welfare Action (KWWA) - a local member of NGOF. Prior to NGOF's support, KWWA struggled with a lack of resources and low technical support to mainstream climate change in their community's local development plan.

After introducing members to the JPA and vulnerability assessments, KWWA were able to develop a relationship with the commune government and provide technical expertise for their new development plan.

This is indicative of how district governments have been armed with approaches to reduce climate impacts, allowing NGOF and NECA members to advise on development initiatives.

"We have been able to widen the scope of what development planners consider, before they were just focused on typical elements like infrastructure but not how climate threats like floods or droughts are related", he detailed.

NGOF chose specific districts throughout Cambodia for their advocacy Using over 30 local partners, NGOF were able to support adaptation projects throughout Cambodia – and are already seeing results.

*Read more: <https://bit.ly/2KZ7vHP>*





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## ON THE MEDIA



**Topic:** Campaign on “Food Safety”

**Date:** 29 March 2018

**Speaker:** Mr. TEK Vannara

**Read more at:**

1-Khmer Times: <https://bit.ly/2L5rkiW>

2- Rasmei News: <https://bit.ly/2Jdw4PC>

3-Hang Meas Daily: <https://hangmeasdaily.com/?p=33551>

4-Battam Bang Provincial Department of Information:  
<https://bit.ly/2sqqQq>

5-DAP News: <https://bit.ly/2IYm6OS>

6-CNC : <https://youtu.be/OsO7Zsd5c00>



**Topic:** Results on Open Budget Survey 2017

**Source:** VOD

**Date:** 28 March 2018

**Read more at:**

<http://vodhotnews.com/28/03/2018/ecoa2i-cambodia-publishes-a-limited-amount-of-budget-information-for-2017/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VODkhmer/videos/1821527234565757/>



**Topic:** Understanding the spawning place of the upper Mekong fish

**Source:** Wat Phnom Radio FM105.75

**Date:** March 9, 2018

**Speakers:** Mr. TEK Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF



**Topic:** Land rights and co-management on the Community Protected Areas Policy

**Source:** VOD

**Date:** 20 March 2018

**Speakers:** Mr. Bunnarin

**Read more at:** <https://www.facebook.com/VODkhmer/videos/1812604862124661/>





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## UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2018

**01 May**

International Labor Day

**03 May**

Royal Plowing Ceremony

**13-14-15 May**

King's Birthday, Norodom Sihamoni

**30 May - 03 June**

Mid-Year Reflection

**01 June**

International Children Day

**13 June**

2nd Indigenous People and Forests Network (IPFN)  
Quarterly Meeting

**20 June**

Discussion on NSDP-Partnership between CSO  
and Government

**25-26 June**

Workshop on Provincial NGO Network's Influencing Strategy

## THANK YOU!

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

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