



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការងារមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

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Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

Quarterly Member Meeting in May



NGO Forum on Cambodia's quarterly member meeting was held on May 03, 2017 at Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Centre (PPEDC/ICF) from 08:00AM – 12:00PM, chaired by Mr. Ngin Saorath a member of NGO Forum Management Committees, executive director of CDPO with 122 (36 female) participants.

Dr. TEK Vannara, NGOF executive director updated the progress coordinated by NGOF such as (i) concern of NGOs on hydro power dam was heard by inter-government of Mekong River Committees, (ii) 65% of NGOs' comments were addressed by government ministries, (iii) concerns of CSOs on force evictions, human rights, and land dispute were discussed and gradually addressed in the high level meeting of the first committee of National Assembly, (iv) MEF engaged NGO working group represented by NGOF in the quarterly technical working group meeting, (v) CSOs working group was coordinated to discuss on the development of guideline for EIA process, (vi) all stakeholders agreed to continuous solving remain issues of Lower Sesan II, (vii) bi-monthly meeting with 08 network members were conducted to discuss on sensitive issues and roadmap of advocacy strategy, (viii) submission of statement to the ASEAN integration meeting to demand for enforcement support to small farmers' livelihood, (ix) NGOF represented

its members in the weekly meeting with key embassies, (x) coordinated NGOs for quarterly meeting with MLMUPC, and (xi) MRD would take issues of IPs for addressing with concern ministries.

Mr. Ngin Saorath moderated two key honorable guest speakers (i) H.E Som Sorida, Deputy Secretary General, National Election Committees (NEC) and (ii) Mr. Kul Panha, Executive Director, Comfrel on progress to commune/sangkat council election in the 4th mandate in 2017. There were 81.38% of citizen had registered in the voter list. There were 1,646 communes/sangkat with 11,646 seats for commune councilors. Total commune/sangkat council candidates (including reserve) were 94,595 candidates (25,788 women). Till May 01, 2017, total observers for commune/sangkat election were about 83,418 people (17,811 women). The total national observers were 24,041 people (8,659 women) and international observers were only 31 people (16 women). NEC had already ordered the black ink from India for finger print during election. COMFREL was recruiting the additional observers for election. One trained observer could control or manage two stations/offices and would use smart phone for sharing and transferring information to situation room.

Parallel discussion on inputs and standing position of CSO/NGO for requesting to all political parties which will address when they win commune/sangkat council election in the 4th mandate in 2017 had divided into four groups such as group 1: natural resource management, group 2: public financial management and budget transparency, group 3: commune/sangkat develop-

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National Consultation Workshop on the Amendments of Laws on Forestry and Protected Areas



On 3rd - 4th May 2017, the NGO Forum on Cambodia with cooperation of the Ministry of Interior and other NGOs facilitated the National Consultation Workshop on the amendments of Law on Forestry and Law on

Protected Areas (the Laws) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. For the workshop, various local NGOs (32), representatives from affected communities (rural and indigenous peoples) and officials from the Forestry Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Ministry of Environment were invited. The number of participants on the 1st day was 86 (19 women), the second day attended 81 (18 women) participants from Phnom Penh and other 16 provinces. The Workshop was based on consultations between the participants. On the basis of results of consultations, the recommendations of possible amendments to the Laws were made. To come up with the sugges-

tions, the analysis of each Chapter in the Laws had to be done. Participants reviewed each article.

The Workshop was divided into 3 sessions. First session was devoted to general comments on each Chapter and its articles. The recommendations of each article were made in the second session. The last session was dedicated to the summary of the key recommendations.

The summary of key recommendations:

- More participation of people in decision-making process
- The equality before the law; the inactive

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2vDvZuZ>

2nd Regional Stakeholder Forum on the Pak Beng Hydropower Project



2017 at Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR. There are around 200 participants who are from delegation of Mekong region which are Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Thailand and representative of NGOs, private sector, embassy, development partner and others stakeholders. In the discussion meeting, Dr. TEK Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, compares between the consultation of Pak Beng Hydropower development project and Don Sahong Hydropower development project, the quality is poor with three reasons: 1. There is no any field visit study for direct impact in some area, 2. The National Consulta-

tion were not conduct PNPCA among representative of community in Mekong River and Tonlesap River as well as people living in Mekong region and 3. There no documents translated from English language to Khmer language. According to concern over the Bak Beng Dam from Local NGOs in Cambodia, we have been raised up several concerns to speakers such as some case studies had not been integrated civil society organization to participate and especially affected communities along the downstream Mekong and some of key species in Tonle Sap river. In addition, he would request the integration of transboundary impact in the Ramsa which located in border of Cambodia and Lao PDR in Mekong downstream. The Ramsa is enriching fishery resource, therefore, the study should integrate and consider, in order to save and survival the bio-diversity in Mekong basin. There are four topics to discuss which are 1. Environment and Fisheries, 2. Social and Economic Issues, 3. Dam safety and navigation and 4. Hydrology and Sediment.





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HIGHLIGHT STORIES

Development Issue Forum Meeting



On 30 May 2017: As recognized by the 2030 Agenda, CSOs play critical roles in SDG implementation in Cambodia: we raise awareness of and mobilize communities through network members; build capacity; design and implement projects; monitor and review policies; collect data; provide technical expertise; and both support and hold government accountable to their commitments. Up to date, Development Issues Forum Network (DIFN) of the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized meeting to review and discussed on the draft of CSDGs list of Indicators. There were 16 NGOs/CSOs with 24 participants (8 women) to participate for inputs on 17 goals of SDGs. Each goal, target, and indicator along with their definitions and means of verification were reviewed. It is hoped that the results from our discussions will become additional inputs for respective Technical Working Group (TWGs) to ensure inclusive consultation and development framework. The CSO perspective on the draft CSDG indicators contained in this paper addresses each goal and provides general comments and specific comments. We also shared among all TWGs and Ministry of planning for considering all our comments and inputs.



Forum on the Commitment of Political Parties to Respond to Local Development Issues



The Forum was held on 19th May 2017 at Tonle Bassac Restaurant II, in Phnom Penh. The organizer of the Forum was NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF). The number of participants was 245 (86 women). The participants were from various NGOs/CSOs (approximately 53 NGOs/CSOs), different communities from all country, 8 students, 3 officials from the Government and local media (26 medias: radio, newspaper and TV).

NGOF invited 12 representatives from political parties who are participating in the upcoming communal elections to present their agendas and discuss with public. These 12 parties were:

- Beehive Social Democratic Party (BSDP)
- Cambodia Indigenous People's Democracy Party (CIPDP)
- Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP)
- Cambodia Nationality Party (CNP)
- Cambodian People's Party (CPP)
- Cambodian Youth Party (CYP)
- FUNCINPEC Party (FP)
- Grassroots Democracy Party (GDP)
- Khmer National United Party (KNUP)
- Khmer Power Party (KPP)
- League For Democracy Party (LDP)
- Republican Democracy Party (RDP)

This event was divided into 2 days, for the first day, Thursday 18th May, was designated for communities and NGOs/CSOs. 125 participants (49 women) were divided into 3 working groups in which they discussed the issues and questions they wanted to ask

the politicians. As the result of discussions, 3 questions of each working group were chosen.

The first working group focused on the Strengthening Law Enforcement and Public Services. These 3 questions came from the discussion:

1. Does your party have any methods to address, deal and control the grassroots issues (e.g. safety of villages/communes, land disputes, destruction of natural resources and public services)? And how will you strengthen equal law enforcement in communes/Sangkat?
2. Does your party have any plans on how to effectively reform the public services for citizens?
3. Does your party have any mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the anti-corruption law in the grassroots?

The Safety, Welfare and the Environment were discussed in the second group and these 3 questions emerged:

1. How will your party ensure effective and better education system, Social Welfare policy and Safety village commune/Sangkat Policy?
2. Does your political party have any measures ensuring that the management and use of natural resources will be in line with climate change?
3. Does your political party have any mechanisms for effective resolving land disputes in



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Reviewing on the Amendment of Law on Forestry and Law on Protected Area



On 11 May 2017, The NGO Forum on Cambodia organize meeting for reviewing on the Amendment of Law on Forestry and Law on Protected Area that CSOs was organized the National Consultation Workshop on 03-04 May 2017. This meeting review content of 16 chapters of law on forestry which are from chapter 01 until chapter 10 review on the protection area and the responsibility of sub-national level. Most importantly, the chapter 05, CSOs request for take out on “Forest Concession” that we concern on the forest coverage for recently year are decrees for approximately 46%, however, the National Forest Program define that Cambodia commit to save their forest coverage in 60% by year 2029. Lastly, groups of CSOs working group commit to produce the zero draft law on Forestry and Law on Protected Area and will submit to Ministry of Interior in short coming.



CSOs Members Pursue to Build the Local Community Resilience and Tracking the Climate Change Adaption Mainstream to Communal Development Planning



Advocacy strategy on climate change policy influence into CDP/CIP was initiated by NGO Forum on Cambodia and Southern Voice on Adaptation in order to find the best strategy for NECA members to work at both national and sub-national for influencing the CCA consideration and implementation in the commune level where is the CC prone area. During the consultation workshop at the end of 2015; we had been selecting 12 CSO members in 32 commune target area for initial step.

In this second quarterly meeting, there are 31 participants (6 women) participated. This meeting was conducted on 30-31 May 2017. The meeting was discussed 1) CSO inputs for Sustainable Development Goals for the Kingdom of Cambodia 2) Updates ACCC Strategic Plan and Actions 3) How to track the Climate Change Mainstreaming in Commune / Sangkat Development Plan 4) 7S Framework 5) Capacity Building Opportunity for CBOs 6) Election for new Steering Committee.

This meeting was starting with update from NECA members who active working on climate change and environment issue with grass root as well as the progress of CCA mainstreaming into CIP/CDP from respective target area. Would be significant highlighting that under SVA

activity; we focus on in this year on CCA mainstreaming into CIP/CDP by using the JPA principles. So far a three days training had been conducted to 37 participants from NGOs Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA) of The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) from Battambang, Banteay Mean Chey, Kratie, Prey Veng, Rattanak Kiri, Kompong Cham, Takeo, Kompong Thom, Kompong Speu, Tbong Khom, Pursat and Phnom aiming 1) to improve capacity and knowledge of NECA members, CBOs, local authorities and concern stakeholders on understanding of the climate change concept and mainstreaming tools including VRA, CDP/CIP formulation process, and JPA 2) to strengthen sub-national engagement to apply concept and principle of climate change mainstreaming tools into their works in address climate change issues. In order to deep understanding, we at last day of workshop had an outdoor field practice the VRA and JPA tools for climate change mainstreaming into CIP/CDP.

In addition, Mr. Keo Bunly, Development Policy Monitoring Project Coordinator of NGO Forum and is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focal person. In July 2017, Ministry of Planning (MoP) will adopt the SDGs goals into Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs).



Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2vHec5X>



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Cambodia Eco-School Awards Giving Ceremony in 2017 Award



On 26 May 2017, Ministry of Environment: Bases on her mandate and mission to promote raise awareness and policy engagement on green environment and climate change in Cambodia, through climate change project and NECA network, NGOF has involved in developing the Cambodia Eco-School guidelines and Campaign co-leading by Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Education Youth and Sport.

In Cambodia Eco-School Awards Giving Ceremony in 2017 Award, NGOF and NECA representative attended and got the appreciation letter presiding by H.E Eang Sophalet, Deputy Secretary of State of MoE and H.E Ton Sa Im, Secretary of MoEYS. This letter to NGOF and other Institutions as well as DPs is an evidence for good collaboration and contribution among CSOs and government agencies in promoting the awareness raising, environment protection, conservation and better green future for Cambodia.



Consultation Meeting with Development Partners and Donors on Pak Beng Hydropower Development Project in Lao PDR



On 01st – 02nd June 2017, the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), Rivers Coalition in Cambodia (RCC) and Save the Mekong members, and Oxfam delegates from Thailand and Vietnam co-organized a consultation meeting with development partners and donors in Lao PDR (including representatives from the Embassy of Switzerland, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Agence Française de Développement, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Mekong River Commission-GIZ Cooperation Programme). The meeting was to discuss the MRC's standing position on the PNPCA process, Mekong Water Governance, CSOs and affected communities' concerns about hydropower development projects along the Mekong River, especially in riparian countries such as Cambodia and Vietnam in the Lower Mekong region, where the Pak Beng dam, which has been approved by Lao PDR, and other proposed hydropower projects will have tremendous negative impacts.

As a result, we achieved successful collaboration with the development partners, and NGOF and RCC's members participated in several main actives with the donors and international organization agencies such as:

- Development partners and international organization agencies in Lao PDR will develop a public statement on the Pak Beng dam's PNPCA process in order to raise CSOs' concerns and to influence decision makers to stop all dam construction unless council

study reports are completed properly and satisfactorily.

- Development partners and international organization agencies will discuss all the issues, which were suggested by NGOF's network members, related to the PNPCA process, Mekong Water Governance and the concerns raised by CSOs and affected communities living along the Mekong River directly with MRC at the final regional consultation meeting in Lao PDR on 19th June 2017.

In terms of future action plans, we agreed together with the development partners and NGOF's network members to continue our common goals and activities:

- Update final council study report with development partners and MRC by the end of 2017
- Co-organize 2nd national consultation workshop on the Pak Beng dam with NGOs and INGOs in Cambodia on 13th June 2017, which will be presented by H.E Tea Navuth (MRCS) and other high-ranking officials from CNMC.
- Prepare curriculum meeting at regional level between development partners and NGOF's network members along the Mekong River at least two times a year.





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Dialogue on Paris Peace Agreements (PPA)



13 NGOs/CSOs in Cambodia organize Dialogue on Paris Peace Agreements(PPA): Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Peace in Cambodia on 12 May 2017 at American Intercon Institute. There are approximately 50 participants to join meeting who from youths, and representatives from UN agencies, Local and International CSOs and NGOs.

Dr. TEK Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum, he presenting on connectively identified Paris Peace Agreements and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. Connecting to Paris Peace Agreements is foundation for democracy and sustainable development in Cambodia. He elaborate the key points of SDG #16 which consist of fundamental to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Forum on Roles of Youth in Budgetary Process



On 15 June 2017, the National Budget Project (NBP) of the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), with Budget Working Group (BWG) to organize Forum on "Roles of Youth in Budgetary Process". There are over 200 participants to join this forum at Tonle Basac 2 restaurant. The forum aim to increase knowledge and understanding of young people on budget process and budget transparency, as well as budget formulation process at national level. Furthermore, to encourage youth participation for contribution in budgeting process youth space in budgetary process where and how youth involve in budgeting process.

Youth is a potential group for the Cambodia development. Youth should be more involved to all development processes to ensure their needs are addressed. Youth participation in budget process may increase effectiveness and efficiency of budgeting while the country budget affected to everyone life. Youth participation may also contribute to increase the budget transparency. By seeing the important of youth in understanding and participating in budget process and budget transparency, the budget working group shares resources to organize this youth forum named" Role of Youth in Budgetary Process" with the following objectives:

Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) provides open remarks to the forum as stated, he would like to highlight the development of Cam-

bodia with budget work. Currently, we know that Cambodia is a member of ASEAN's which have integrated with ASEAN since 2015 and become a lower middle-income country. Cambodia also has an industrial development policy from 2015 to 2025. Meanwhile, we are localizing the sustainable development for 2015 to 2030. We have also been implemented decentralized and de-concentration since 2002. In addition, Cambodia has just finished the election of a commune council last week. With this regard, we observed youth participation in development process has increasing especially play a role as leaders and members of commune councils. At the commune, there are two important plans: Development Plan and Investment Plans. These plans are funded from the national budget. We can say that it is a sub-national program designed to respond to the needs of the people. Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) also has a public finance reform program to respond to the development of our country. Each year, we have also Budget law or annual Financial Management Law, in which the process involves participation in each ministry at the national and the National Assembly. We see, CSOs are also invited in the processes, especially the macroeconomic consultation organized by the MEF and the Workshop on the draft budget law held by the commission II of National Assembly. The challenge is limited time to provide inputs and comments. At the sub-national, there is also a system of monitoring budget implementation through



Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2eXMdb0>



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Public Student Debate on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fishery and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)



In the morning of June 13, 2017, Mr Vong Kosal, Land Security Project Coordinator of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, cooperation with Action Aid Cambodia and ASIA EURO UNIVERSITY (AEU) as panel member for public student debate on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fishery and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

The Main topics of the debate were focused on:

1. Is it important for Cambodia to advance the implementation of the VGVT?
2. Sustainable Development can be achieved if community actively engages in the development project?

The event was held at ASIA EURO UNIVERSITY (AEU) which participated by 93 people (female 32) as students from various faculties and staff of NGOs under the residence of Dr. Tan Sokunthea, Vice-Dean of AEU.



The 4 Dialogue Meeting between NGO Forum and Media on Budget Transparency in Cambodia



Media has played important role to ensure government provides quality of public services for citizens. On 15 June 2017, meeting organized for increase media persons understanding on the budget transparency that has been implemented by the NGO Forum on Cambodia. In addition, the meeting also would like to collect the feedback from all participants regarding to cooperation with the NGO Forum on Cambodia. What areas should The NGO Forum on Cambodia improved to ensure message/ text on budget transparency, public financial reform, national strategic plan are interested and reported by all medias such as TV, radio, newspaper... etc. In addition, the objective of the meeting is also would like to seek comments on areas /topics that media are interested in, thus the NGO Forum on Cambodia can improved her performance to be more effective in working with media.

Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) chairs of the meeting and gives greeting to all participants for their participation in today meeting.

Mr. Sun Youra, Development Issues Program Manager of The NGO Forum on Cambodia also does the presentation on Budget Transparency through Open Budget Survey (OBS). The OBS has been implemented by the NGO Forum on Cambodia since 2008 in the cooperation with the International Budget Partnership who based in Washing-

ton D.C. This OBS survey is an international standard and can compare over the time for central government budget transparency. He explains what is Open Budget Survey? The OBS is measuring three aspects of how government is managing public finance: Budget transparency, budget participation and budget oversight. The OBS methodology and questionnaires are also presented to help participants to clearly understand about the way in assessing of the budget transparency. In addition, he also highlighted the changes in the OBS 2017.

Last, he presents the Cambodian Finding in OBS 2015. The result of OBS in 2015 has indicated that the budget transparency score for Cambodia was only 8 while the global average score is 45. The budget Participation score was also 8 while the global average score is 25. This has indicated that the government of Cambodia is weak in providing the public with opportunities to engage in budget process. Last but not least, the budget oversight score was 43 for the legislature and 58 for audit out of the 100 score. It means that the budget oversight by legislature and supreme audit in Cambodia are limited.

Lastly, he thanks to all participants who are always active in sharing /releasing information with professionalism. Then the meeting is proceeding with self-introduction by each participant before the first agenda is started.





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CSOs meeting with MoE on Natural Resource and Environment Code



On 14 June 2017: Through Climate Change Project of The NGO Forum on Cambodia coordinated CSOs Technical Working Group on Natural Resource and Environment Code, Members of NGOs Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA), and Development Partners for discussing to Technical Working Group on Natural Resource and Environment Code/Drafting team of Ministry of Environment (MoE) aiming 1) to share the concerns and inputs on the last draft of the code and 2) find out next step to work with MoE to improve the draft before handing to Council of Minister



The 6th CSO Forum on Social Forestry Meeting Chiang Mai, Thailand



For its 6th annual gathering, this year's CSO Forum theme is, "From Planning to Concrete Action: CSO Forum Advancing Social Forestry in ASEAN," which will be held on 9-10 June 2017, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The Forum this year takes off from the country and thematic plans which have been developed from the previous meetings, and now aims to elevate its efforts into continuously increasing the knowledge, exchange of experience and information among participating organizations, strengthening advocacy and networking and elevate regional collaborations. With a common vision and a strategic plan and activities already in place, the Forum will develop advocacy and resource mobilization strategies to implement its plan and activities. Finally, it hopes to deliver a stronger voice and concrete, consistent messages and recommendations on SF and its four thematic priorities to bring forward into the AWG-SF Conference, endorse to the AWG-SF, and in other platforms within and beyond ASEAN.

The 6th CSO Forum on Social Forestry meeting is being organized by the Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme Asia, in partnership with the CSO Forum on Social Forestry Regional and Thematic Working Groups, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), and the Indigenous Peoples' Foundation for Education, NNGOF, Danmmission, and the Environment (IPF), with support from the Swiss

Development Cooperation (SDC) through the ASFCC program.

In general, the objective of the Forum is to continue being the platform to discuss, distill, consolidate, and elevate messages and learnings of CSOs, IPOs, POs, and smallholders on Social Forestry, Climate Change and related topics and develop concrete recommendations to be endorsed to the AWG-SF. The 6th CSO Forum on Social Forestry specifically aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Provide a platform for knowledge sharing and exchange among CSO Forum participating organizations on:
 - a. Country experiences and highlights from the previous plans
 - b. Regional thematic working group updates (accomplishments, challenges and future activities, among others)
 - c. Country plan milestones, progress, gaps, and responses, and the regional support needed
 - d. Regional collaboration windows/opportunities;
2. Increase the knowledge of participating organizations on selected CSO Forum thematic priority learning areas;
3. Develop an advocacy and resource mobilization strategy for each of the thematic working groups to implement thematic plans and:





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CSO/NGO to UN 2030 Agenda and Chinese Investment in Cambodia



On 28-29 June 2017, at Beijing International Hotel in Beijing, China, Mr Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia shared experiences and presented on the contributions of CSO/NGO to UN 2030 Agenda and Chinese Investment in Cambodia to the Second Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)-Non-Governmental Forum. There are 9 topics has been discussed in the conference such as 1)Building Regional Security Architecture with Asian Features/Jointly Build the Belt and Road: Promote Reaching Common Views 2)Asian Security Situation: Assessment and Prospect, 3)UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Asia in Action, 4)Cyberspace Security: Opportunities and Challenges, 5) The Development of Regional Integration and the Role of the CICA Non-governmental forum, 6)Anti-terrorism Cooperation: Seek Solutions to Both the Symptoms and Root Causes, 7)Address Climate Change: Solutions in Asia, 8)Reinforce Financial Security Cooperation, Support Regional Economic Development and 9)Spread Asian Security Concept, Build Community of Common Destiny-the Role of the Media in Asian Security. This conference was participated by governments, private sector, academic, CSO/NGO who come from around the world. The Non-governmental Forum of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is initiated by the Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Fourth Summit of CICA in Shanghai in May 2014, which is an important measure taken by China as the CICA Chairmanship. The Forum aims to build a network for the people-to-people exchanges of all parties of CICA, and spread the CICA concept of security, so as to lay a solid social foundation for promoting regional security governance.

NGOF's Intervention on Issues Related to Forests and Forestry – Maintaining Ecosystems and Sources of Livelihoods in the Mekong Region



Mr. Ouk Vannara, Deputy Executive Director of NOGF shared experiences and key intervention of NGOF to address issues related to forests and forestry to maintaining ecosystems and sources of livelihoods in the Mekong region during MEKONG RESOURCES FORUM III on 15-16 June 2017 which was organized by PanNature at Hoa Binh, Vietnam. The Mekong Resources Forum was organized to connect ideas and efforts of communities and non-state groups across the Lower Mekong region in promoting resilience in agriculture and forestry, as well as reducing negative impacts from development on our natural resources and ecosystems

There were 100 participants from community and non-state organizations in the Lower Mekong region, research and academic institutions, representatives from governmental agencies, media and other interested parties. Following are the main objectives of the forum:

- To share issues, concerns, lessons learned good practices and perspectives in agriculture and forestry sectors in relation to resilience and adaptation to environmental changes at different levels.
- To discuss and promote better development alternatives and approaches in order to secure fair and equitable access to natural resources, improve livelihoods and quality of life and ensure sustainability of our living environment

In his presentation, Mr. Ouk Vannara, shared key points including 1)- Regional and National Policy Framework, 2)-Key Challenges of ELC Policy for Local People, 3)-NGOF's Intervention, 4)- NGOF's Achievements, and 5)- Conclusion and Suggestion.

At the end of his presentation, he suggested the participants to take key strategic priorities into consideration in order to maintain ecosystems and sources of livelihood in the Mekong Region. Those include:

- Many regulations and policies have been adapted by RGC toward improving local livelihood. However, monitoring mechanism need to be strengthened to ensure it's benefiting to the vulnerable people.
- Keep documenting, case studies, and gather evidences for constructive dialogue and engagement with key stakeholders including state actors and non-state actors.
- Constructively engage with government and non-state actors , nurturing and strengthening relationships, wherever it's possible.
- Prioritise advocating at national and international levels, although we will support our network members to advocate at provincial and commune levels, where appropriate.



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Land Resettlement and Housing Rights Network Members Learning Visit to Sorin Province, Kindom of Thailand



On June 27, 2017: Land Resettlement and Housing Rights Network of NGO Forum facilitates 19 NGO members, 4 communities and Phnom Penh, as well as 14 provincial NGOs with total 38 (5 women) organizes learning visit to Khoko in Surin Province, Thailand which facilitates by The Northeastern Thailand Development (NET) Foundation.

This visit aims to learn on advocacy strategy, community organizing, strengthening and empowerment community for increased livelihoods through build irrigation system, stove coal power, land distribution for agricultural land and residential land, as well as sustainable use of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). In addition, the community has recognized and supported by government and private sector.



Consultation Meeting on “Zoning Gridline of Protected Area Management”



On 26 May 2017: Indigenous Peoples and Forestry Network (IPFN) of the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organize draft of zoning guideline of protected Areas (PA) which held at Our Village Restaurant. There are 20 NGOs/CSOs which consist of 32 participants to join for comment and input on the draft of zoning guideline for Ministry of Environment. Consequently, the draft of zoning guideline has developed two languages both Khmer and English. Guidelines are crucial to ensure that Cambodia's vast protected areas are effectively managed and protect to support and enhance ecosystem functions, and thereby increasing ecosystem services for supporting agricultural cultivation and sustaining long-term economic development for the long-term benefits for future generations. At the end of meeting and concluded results of meeting, these guidelines will bring further discussion on 06-07 June 2017 for national workshop which organize by Ministry of Environment.



Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGOF, he acknowledged all representatives of Civil Society Organization (CSO), whose efforts on reviewing the draft zoning guidelines for Protected Area Management (PA). He, went further to note on main agenda points of the meetings and schedule to send comments from the meeting to MOE. He added that additional comments from the participants, either in verbal or written forms, have to be reached the NGOF technical team by 12:00 of the 29 May 2017 in order to be ready to submit to MOE. The technical team of MOE will hold a national consultative meeting tentatively during 6-7 June 2017 in MOE, Phnom Penh.

Mr. Meas Sophal, Deputy General of GDA-NCP, MOE, emphasized that all comments from the meeting would be brought up to discuss in the national consultation meeting to be held during 6-7 June 2017 in MOE. At the present, MOE manage 45 PA, about 7.4 million hectares (approximately 41% of the country areas). According to the Law on PA (2008), Chapter 4, article 11 states that all PA should have Management Zones (MZ) that includes 4 types: core, conservation, sustainable use, and community. It is worth noticed that not all PA need to have all four types of MZ, but the MZ would varies in different PAs depending on the situation of each PA. Allocation of MZ is very much dependent on environment, social, economic, and cultural



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Reflection on Learning Visit to Surin Province, Thailand and 2nd Quarterly LAHRiN Meeting



After leaving from learning visit in Surin Province, Thailand to arrive Oddor Meanchey Province, Cambodia, on June 28, 2017, afternoon, the LAHRiN members organize reflection meeting which reflect what we have learned from the trip in Surin by group discussion on relevant topics: networking and empowerment, income generation in Khoko community, increasing livelihoods and situation of human rights, governance and advocacy strategy...etc.

On June 29, 2017: This 2nd Quarterly LAHRiN Member Meeting in 2017, the working group commit to achieved good results, which are 1. Update list of LAHRiN members, 2. Update activities plan for next 2nd semester in 2017, 3. Identify priority case studies in each provincial NGOs, and 4. Discuss on next 3 years action plan 2018-2020.



NGO Forum Mid-year Reflection



Staffs of the NGO Forum on Cambodia organized mid-year reflection for five days from June 19 – 23, 2017 at Banteay Mean Chey Province. The main agenda topics for this reflection are 1. To learn and understand advocacy practices of grass root, which visit affected community from railway development project, 2. Strengthening NGO staff's capacity on result based report writing through the six month report, 3. Adjustment and update NGO action plan 2017, 4. Enforce policies compliance and capacity development of NGO.

On July 19, 2017, we left NGO Forum office to Banteay Meanchey Province in the early morning. And in the afternoon, we visited affected community from railway development project, there are some communities not yet leave from their land on the railway development to the new re-located site, due to the negotiations and compensation are not yet consensus. We listen to the people, study the background, visit house to see the real situation of their livelihoods, as well as raised some question more.



On 20 July 2017, at Preah Chan Hotel, Banteay Meanchey Province: The first day meeting of mid-year reflection, Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director, welcomes all participants to join in this reflection meeting, he briefs common objectives of this meeting: 1. Present programs key achievements of NGO, 2. Review on draft six month report and orientation on report writing which focus on results based, 3. Strengthening policies and procedure of the NGO, and 4. Reflect our activities in past on gap and challenging.

Ms. Prom Bopha, Member of Management Committee of NGO, express warming welcome all participants and encourages all participants to concentrate on common agenda of this reflection meeting. She also acknowledges and appreciates all NGO staffs for their contribution to achieve on their program and activities of NGO. Lastly, she would requests for all participants to open mind and fruitful discussion.





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ON THE MEDIA



Topic: CSOs in Cambodia Concer Over the Development on Pak Beng Dam in Lao PDR

Location: Radio France International

Date: 14 June 2017

Speakers: Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum

Read more at:

<http://km.rfi.fr/cambodia/interview-with-Tek-Vannara-14-06-2017?ref=fb>



Topic: Interview with Hang Meas TV on Natural Resource Management in Cambodia.

Source: RFA website

Date: 14 June 2017

Speakers: Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum

Read more at:

<http://www.rfa.org/khmer/news/environment/NGOs-concern-on-dam-construction-06142017092352.html>



Topic: Cambodia cannot neglect paris peace agreement

Location: VoA

Date: 13 June 2017

Speakers: Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum

Read more at : <http://bit.ly/2xqZi3O>



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UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2017

04-05 July

Training on Citizen Journalist Writing Skill and Strategic Communication Planning for Policy Influencing

06 July

Report Launching on “Statistical Analysis on Land Disputes in Cambodia, 2016”

13 July

Press Conference on “Standing Position of Affected Community on Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Dam, Before Company Close Gates for Testing Operation First Turbine”

20 July

Quarterly Member Meeting

27 July

Learning Workshop on: “Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)’s Concept and Fair and Just Compensation Policy Implementation”

09 August

The 23rd of International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples in 2017

04 August

The Workshop on Communal Land Title Registration

10 August

CSOs Consultation on “Protection and Conservation of Natural Resource”

29 August

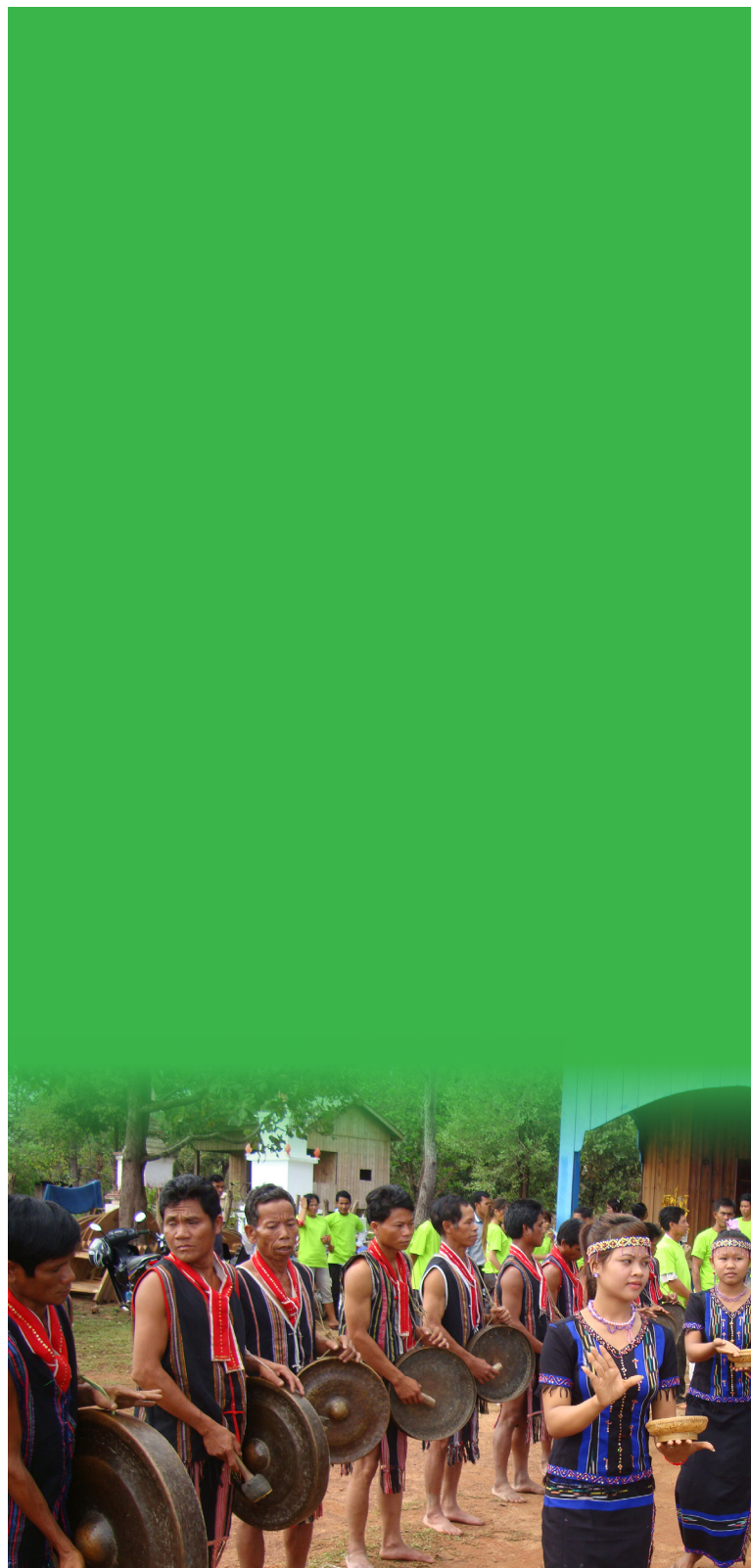
Consultation Workshop on “CSOs Perspective on Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals”

30 August

Campaign on “Food Security”

31 August

Workshop on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the World Bank Country Partnership Framework process in Cambodia





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