



វេទិកាសម្រាប់អង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា  
The NGO Forum on Cambodia  
ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការវិវឌ្ឍសេចក្តីផ្តុំ  
Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

Annual General Meeting and Network Reflection



The NGO Forum on Cambodia organized Annual General Meeting was hold on November 14, 2018 at Tonle Bassac II Restaurant, Phnom Penh. There were 151 (32 women) participants from membership organizations, development partners, donors and partners, especially representative of Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economic and Finance, Rural Development Bank, USAID and Green Eagle. The overall objectives are: 1). To update on the NGO Forum’s key achievements and expenditures for Jan-Oct,2018;2) To review and reflect on key intervention of 3 year action plan (2018-2020) of the NGO Forum on Cambodia; 3).To prepare action plan for implementation in 2019;4). To update and share information on 4th Rectangular Strategic Plan in 6th mandate (2019-2023), National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023, and Cambodian development context for membership organisations and network members.

Session 1: Updates on 4th Rectangular Strategic Plan (2019-2023), National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023, and the Cambodia Development which Facilitated by Mr. Sivouthan Norng, Member of the Management Committee of the NGO Forum on Cambodia and Country Director HEKS. Mr. Chea Sopheak, Deputy Department of Macro Economic Policy and Finance presented about the stability of Macro Economic and Finance of Ministry of Economic and Finance by stated that the poverty rate in 2014 about 13.5 % and the indicator of NSDP in this mew mandate will achieve about 10 % in 2019. Beside that the income management and expense if compare to GDP Cambodia can reach from 20% to 22% within the next two to three years. Mr. Or Muny Deputy Department of Association and Political Party, Ministry of Interior said that within 10 months of 2018 total of 234 NGOs and Associations has registered with Ministry of Interior (92 NGOs

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and 144 Associations). He added that total 5,446 NGOs and Associations has registered with the Ministry of Interior (3,201 NGOs and 2,245 Associations).

Session 2: Updates on the NGO Forum’s key achievements and expenditure for Jan-Oct,2018 Facilitated by Mr. Norng Sivouthan, Member of the Management Committee of the NGO Forum on Cambodia. Mr. Ouk Vannara, Deputy Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia Presented on the NGO Forum’s key achievements for one year (Jan-Oct, 2018). Mr. Som Chettana, Finance Manager of the NGO Forum on Cambodia presented on the budget and expenditures in (Jan-Oct, 2018). Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia updated on NGO’s working approach in the context of CSDG & new NSDP 2019-2023.

Session 3: The Contribution of Inter Banks, Development Partner, and Private Sector





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for the next five years Cambodian Development 2019-2023 which facilitated by Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia. The were three speakers including H.E Uch Chantha, Deputy General Director of Rural Development Bank, Mrs. Camila Lobard, Representative of EU in Cambodia and Mrs. Thlang Sovann Pisey, Director of Khmer Organic. The panel discussion was focused mainly on Inter Banks, Development Partner, and Private Sector for the next five years of Cambodian Development. Many questions were raised by participants and a lot of answered by speakers.

There were 278 membership organizations and Network members who came from 25 provinces of Cambodia actively participated. Dr. Tek Vannara summarized that there were five key achievements in the following: 1). The common operational plan of 8 networks in 2019 which lead by eight secretariats based at NGO Forum on Cambodia; 2). The secretariat of each network review and improve the operation plan and approve ToR for implement in the following year; 3). Membership organizations and network members understood and discussed about the contribution of Inter Banks, Development Partner, and Private Sector for the next five years Cambodian Development follow

by the framework of sustainable development goals; 4). Membership organizations and network members clearly understood about the public financial management, achievement, and challenges of Cambodian economy and partnership between CSOs and government, mechanism and communication approach; 5). Reviewed, Reflected and agreed the three years operation plan 2018-2020 of NGO Forum and operational plan for 2019. Mr. Tek Vannara express great thanks for the active involvement of Membership organizations and network members within 2018 that lead the secretariat and NGO Forum to achieve many key achievements to response to the real need of Membership organizations and network members, poor and vulnerable people especially, to contribute to the policy development and policies monitoring of the implementation of policies and laws in Cambodia. We belief that good cooperation and solidarity with all key stakeholders, working together with honest and respect each other is the key to appropriately contribute to the growth of Cambodia development and achieving the sustainable development goal 2016-2030. In the end, Mr. Tek Vannara wish all Membership organizations and network members with prosperous and success in all their works.



Summarized and Closing Remarkd by Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director. The Annual General Meeting and Annual Network Reflection were held at Tonle Bassac II Restaurant, Phnom Penh from 14-15 November 2018 successfully completed.







ដង្ហែកនៃអង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ភ្នំពេញ  
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## Natural Resource Management CSO Forum on Climate Change Projection, the Road to Sustainability and 1.5°C



Published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Special Report on 1.5°C of Global Warming is dignified to be a game-changer for climate action worldwide and providing policymakers, businesses, and climate advocates a timeline and clear targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent the worsening of the impacts of climate change, including serious-floods, typhoons, droughts, and sea level rise... and so on. The impacts of such temperature increase would highly impact the disadvantaged and vulnerable sectors through food and water shortages, higher prices of commodities, income losses, poorer health conditions, and population displacements. The drastic changes in natural ecosystems could lead to irreversible losses of resources that would affect even big businesses in the long run.

On November 27, 2018; Mr. Sey Peou, a NECA Network Coordinator described the this IPCC SR1.5, Climate Change Scenario and Responses of climate change in the context of the landscape management to 133 participants in Civil Society Forum joint-organized by NGO, NTFP-EP, CEPA, RECOFTC, WWF, FLOW, MY Village as well as local communities from province of Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom, Kratie, Stung Treng and Ratanakiri Provinces under funds supported by IUCN and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

"The adaptation is our priority for Cambodia, yet we need to talk and take action to mitigate the GHG emission...even though we are not a big GHG emitter, yet avoiding impacts of higher temperature increases could help reduce poverty and vulnerability to climate-related risks, which is especially vital for developing countries like Cambodia. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C instead of 2°C or higher would make it easier to attain many aspects of sustainable development, as represented by the SDGs..." he added.

As expected from this forum which are:  
1) all participants discuss on priority is-

issues affecting on landscapes and discuss on natural resource management 2) Identify strategies, position papers and recommendations to respond on proposed issues which particularly landscape management; and 3). Improve collaboration among participants to enable them to work together and to address on impact of development projects in the landscape. The presentation is strong highlighting the the IPCC Special Reports that wish to shift to renewable energy that may result in co-benefits towards sustainability which friendly achieving good health (SDG 3), cleaner energy (SDG 7), more responsible production and consumption (SDG 12), and healthier oceans (SDG 14). Accelerating energy efficiency, which also reduces further greenhouse gas emissions, would result in additional synergies with more sustainable industries (SDG 9) and cities and communities (SDG 11), along with stronger partnerships among different sectors (SDG 17).

As a vulnerable country to climate change impacts; Cambodia needs to adapt to a 1.5 degree warmer world through more sustainable economic practices, most notably in agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors, and strengthen the capacity of local communities to deal with both sudden and slow-onset impacts of climate change. Adaptation practices would specifically lead to lower poverty (SDG 1) and hunger rates (SDG 2), good health (SDG 3), cleaner waters (SDG 6), equality among various sectors (SDGs 5 and 10), and stronger institutions promoting peace and justice (SDG 16).

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2Gzv3R3>





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## National Consultation Workshop of the Study on Comparison between Legal Document and Voluntary Guideline on Land Governance, Fishery, and Forestry



The national consultation workshop of the study on comparison between legal document and Voluntary Guideline on land governance, fishery, and forestry which was held on November 07, 2018, Tonle Bassac II restaurant, Phnom Penh.

The working group of VGGT land governance, fishery and forestry (VGGT) which consist of NGO Forum, Building Community Voices (BCV), Cambodian Centre for Human Rights (CCHR), STAR Kampuchea, Oxfam Cambodia and ActionAid Cambodia working together to strengthen cooperation between governmental, private sector and CSOs for contributing to establish the land governance, fishery and forestry. The working group initiates the study to compare the existing policy and national law in the context of food security. The result of the study conducted by an independent consultant will be presented in the national consultation workshop to reflect, verify, collect inputs and recommendations for consolidating in the first draft. The objective of the study is to understand about the important and role of the international voluntary guideline land governance, fishery, and forestry (VGGT) and compare with the national guideline of royal government of Cambodia and legal documents in the sector of land, forestry, and fishery. The draft study completely finished as the basis for a further consult with other stakeholders and interviewee who involve in the study as well as a government official, CSO, independence consultant and community from some provinces.

Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum provide opening remarks and share information related to the process of the environmental code which reaches to the amendment of the other three laws related to fishery, forestry and protected area. He added that he was very happy

in the cooperation with the government especially relevant ministries in this sector. He also expressed thank to the co-operation and encourage for active participation in this consultation workshop. Mrs. Hum Boramy, Executive Director of ActionAid Cambodia expressed thanks to all participants. She stated that the study happens with the finance support from the EU through “strengthening CSOs and vulnerable community in Cambodia to secure land title” program which is help the vulnerable community to secure land title through good governance, high accountability and comprehensive policy. She added that this study report contributes to better livelihood and food security under the national framework as well as the human rights aspect. Mr. Franck Viault, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Cambodia welcome and happy to involve in the national consultation workshop. He thought VGGT is a voluntary guideline of land governance, fishery and forestry was approved in 2012 and initiated by FAO. He added that the land, fishery and forestry resources are very important in providing food and income, especially for a poor community in the rural area. This workshop, however, conducted in accordance with the rapid urban growth and agricultural land issues in which cause of population and business growth, and concern relation to deforestation.

The contribution of CSOs’s inputs into the research study is very important and highly appreciated. Mr. Franck Viault proved that within the past five years, EU provides lots of funding to government and Non-governmental Organization that are working related to this sector. Due to the result of EU meeting in Brussel to ap-

proved funding package, approximately of 100 million dollars for fisheries development in Cambodia. He added that the EU will continue to cooperate with CSOs and government for better implementation of these sectors.

H.E Chong Phet, Deputy Secretary General of Ministry of Rural Development provided welcome remarks that this is impressive workshop and very important for discussion and generate inputs to ensure food security, and in which relation to the three laws on land, fishery and forestry. However, he MRD is involve in developing alternativelivelihoods of the poor community in rural area. H.E then muted the audiences how the relationship between forestry law and forest degradation in which all issues should be addressed outside the judicial system which more focus on the sub-national level. In other words, H.E shared some steps for addressing land issues including 1). Systematic registration is better; 2). The commune council addressing land issues by establish the committee to help the community. At the end, H.E supports the working group of VGGT that has been established.

H.E Touch Ponlok representative of Ministry of Interior provided welcome remarks and expressed admire to the VGGT working group. H.E shared information of the national committee for sub-national democratic development implementation including strengthening the management to ensure the ownership of comprehensive management to promote NGOs and community participation and closing the workshop. The results of this workshop will be used to compare and provide inputs for finalizing the study report.







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## HIGHLIGHT STORIES

### The Mekong Basin Connect Workshop



Promoting System-Scale Water – Energy Planning in Cambodia seeks to build understanding across a range of key stakeholders in multiple sectors about how integrated water-energy planning, the adoption of more structured frameworks for renewable energy, and changes in regional markets open the door to smarter and more sustainable water and energy planning on the national and regional levels.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has also expanded the use of solar energy more widely spread to communities to access electricity. The construction of a 60-megawatt solar power plant pulled out of solar panels in Kampong Speu province which will be completed in 2019, while coal-fired power plants are under construction which capacity of 150 megawatts and it will be complete in 2019.

In particular, the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) co-organized with STIMSON, IUCN, OXFAM and U.S Embassy Phnom Penh to host event on “Mekong Basin Connect Workshop in Cambodia” on December 11, 2018, at Tonle Bassac 1 Restaurant. The objective of this event aims to introduce Mekong Basin Connect’s

strategic, system scale water-energy planning approaches and discuss pathways for reducing risk in Cambodia and in the Mekong River Basin at large. There were 52 participants from River Coalition in Cambodia (RCC) its Network members, representative of IUCN, STIMSON, U.S Embassy Phnom Penh, Researchers, and local and international NGOs.



Firstly, Dr. Tek Vanna, Director of NGO Forum on Cambodia, started paying respect to Mr. Jake Brunner, Head Indo-Burma Group, IUCN, Mr. Brian Eyler, Southeast Asia Program Director and Ms. Courtney Weather by, Southeast Asia Program Research Analyst of Stimson Center as well as thanking to all respective participants for today’s workshop. He emphasized the objective of workshop which is to pro-

mote the linkage of the systematic planning of energy systems in Cambodia and to build capacity of key stakeholders on the plan for water and energy integration, combining and restructuring of renewable energy as well as the opening of exchange market towards a smart and sustainable for water and energy plans at a national and regional level. He introduced the key speakers from regional and international levels for today to share about new tools, experiences and new knowledge related to global as well as regional water and energy planning.

He mentioned about what’s written in the power plan of Ministry of Mines and Energy that at least 70 percent of Cambodia’s population can access electricity in 2020 and in 2030 at every home. According to World Bank Report in 2000 to the present, there was only 16% of Cambodians who have access to adequate electricity, and 78% of the electrical connection in rural areas. The number of available homes which got electrical connected is 73 percent, according to the Ministry of Mines and Energy’s report. The total electricity generated in Cambodia is 40 percent from hydropower dams, 36 percent from coal, and others from solar energy purchased from neighbouring countries and other sources people use gasoline or petrol for their generators. The report also mentioned about the expanding the use of solar energy in the remote communities when the electrical network is being struggled in planning and the testing of the construction of solar-power energy plant which is being built at 60 MW in Kampong Speu and planned to be completed in 2019. Another 150 MW coal power plant is also planned in 2019.

He continued that the sources of energy that we are using come from the five sources in relation to the methods for utilization which is appropriate for hydropower dam implementation. We have seen the Regional Level, Regional Electricity Association, and also at the global level





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established many more tools. Water management in Cambodia has the same plan but there are questions raised about the quality and quantity of water availability in the dry season associated with quality of agricultural inputs in the use of water resources. So these are important questions we need to act on. The government also promotes the IWRM approach to manage mixed resources which the Cambodia National Mekong Committee has tested on the four types (4Ps) of the Mekong River in Kratie. The tools are continuously published by the committee to share knowledge. He encouraged participants to find the document and think of how civil society could participate.



Jake started to compare Nokia and iPhone technology trend. The stock price in this huge company of Nokia 10 years ago was so high. Everyone would raise hand for having Nokia phone by that time. The price of Nokia increased rapidly in 2005. For the last 5 or 10 years, it is flat.



Brian Eyler, Southeast Asia Program Director of Stimson Centre  
He first started with a question of why Cambodia? He continued that his team come to Cambodia to interact with policy makers. To learn from development partners about the need about the opportunities particularly in Cambodia to argue with decision makers and policy makers.

The reasons they chose Cambodia because:

- Cambodia is a region's highest energy tariffs. The electricity price in Cambodia is higher than Vietnam and Thailand. This prevents the country development where needed.
- Cambodia is at the early stages of energy development and this is the opportunity to influence the future of Cambodia energy development.
- Shifting interest to diversifying renewable energy portfolios. Opportunities for robust bidirectional power trade.
- National Council for Sustainable Development.
- Downstream impacts.

The workshop was finished at 12:15 pm with the fruitful results. Stimson team shares their name card to participants for further communication.

Jake Brunner, Head of Indo-Burma Group, IUCN started with the expression of his mixed feeling worrying about the impacts of dams on forest and wild life and the recognition of solar power energy development. He claimed that this is not an anti-micro power proposition and it's more complex. The research here is pretty clear that is the energy that terminate the faith of the Mekong. When come to decision making, people tend to talk about environment economic analysis, International law, but he would like to emphasize that those arguments have very little impact on decision making while they are here in Cambodia. Jack will show about the solution to help Ministers and Prime Minister to decide on energy security in this country. That's why IUCN is happy to partner with STIMSON to connect the strategy and design national security energy.





Validation Workshop on Statistical Analysis of Land Dispute in 2018



The statistical analysis on land dispute annually produced under collaboration with LAHRiN network and NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) with supported by DCA, Diakonia, HEKS, NPA, MISEREOR and OXFAM, the first drafted version was bringing for a consult with stakeholder which held on December 18, 2018, at Tonle Bassac I restaurant. There were 60 participants (21 women) from a representative of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLUPC), 13 provincial authorities and NGOs member of Land and Housing Rights Network (LAHRiN) and communities. The objectives of the consultation workshop including 1). Present the methodology of the research and findings of the drafted report; 2). Verified information within some provinces of a representative of provincial authorities on land dispute report; 3). Collect inputs from a representative of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction and provincial authorities who participated are significant contributions to the report and improved quality of report more consistency and reliable information.

Welcomed remarks by Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum and inform about the purpose of the validation workshop. He provided a brief fact-finding in the statistical analysis on land dispute report 2018 and he added about the plan of the way forward for the launching of

statistical analysis on land dispute report 2018 going to be launched in March 2019. He thanks all NGOs networks at the local level who joined hand for keep tracking on land dispute issue for producing the important statistic of land dispute report as an evident base for NGOs who working on the land sector and pushing to the RGC to take action for solve the remaining cases. He also thanks provincial authorities who always give space for NGOs/NGOF to verified land dispute cases for producing this report and so happy to see the representative from 13 provinces and from Ministry of Land Management Urban planning and construction to join this validation workshop. He asked for all the participants in this workshop for putting the input on the draft of this report.



Mr. Vuthy Vananra, a representative from the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction mentioned that MLUPC going to accepted all the report

which has clear identification or information. He also suggested and commanded on the report such as all information on the number of land dispute a such number of cases and number of household affected, soon, need to be clear, change some wording to align with new S.Ch.Nor announced about provincial and district administration. He also asked for re-consider on direct and indirect affected people of land dispute cases, and cases going to be counted as a land dispute, does it forest issue or land issue? The last he suggested to take off all land dispute cases have been solved, cases in the progressing of solving, and cases which not able to access for information with the provincial governor and for the next workshop please be professional about the participation should be the same level between civil society, communities, and governor. And the statistical analysis on land dispute report should be a delay and need one to two time for a consult with the ministry. Dr. Toul Dina, deputy of LASSP program from MLUPC, he appreciated what NOGF and its network tried to work for producing the important report. He has mentioned about the special team for land dispute solving and theses teams have solved successfully on many land dispute cases. Does he consider time spending for land cases verification with over than 300 cases? Does he question for sources of information? He asked for change some wording, page numbering. He has mentioned that this report should be consulted with a ministry environment, the ministry of agriculture forestry and fishery because some land dispute is linked to their responsibility.

Mr. Norng Raksmeay, the representative of the department of land management from Oddar Meanchey province, suggested for more participation for the next consultation workshop. He noticed that some information posted by media, it has both pro and con if receiver accepted and not do any clarification with stakeholder it can be the feck news, all land disputes information should be talking directly to the local authority for both hot case and gen-





eral cases. He raised concern about land dispute cases linked to community forest and military, it is about the country's security. Other cases about land grabbing on forest state land should not be included or count as land dispute case. Last, he asked for more consultation workshop on this report at less two times.

Mr. Hou Kimloeung, representative of Ratanakiri province, for this province land dispute cases in the hand of provincial authority has three cases about 12 villages and 1,442 ha. In name of the provincial representative from Ratanakiri, he welcomes all time if NGO Forum wants to talk about land dispute issue.

The deputy of the department of land management, from Kampong Cham province, said that land dispute case caused by Maen Saroun company on 400 ha of land areas with 643HHs, people occupies this land illegally but Royal Government of Cambodia issued the land title for people. Kampong Cham's authority was happy to share all information about land dispute cases in the province.

Mr. Van Nary, representative of Kampong Speu province. Cases number 2885 unclear information it maybe not happened in this province. Another case linked to road number 44 have been solved, the case should take out from the report. A case linked to Star Mart company this case some affected people double counted so please make sure the data illustrated in this report is the actual one. Last, he suggested changing some wording.

Mr. Chan Ra, deputy governor of Prey Veng province, suggested to categories land dispute as for a land dispute on state land and private land, NGO Forum should come to meet with local authority again and prepare one more workshop for last validation.

Mr. Chhun Chanvanthun, the representative of Kep province, asked for more detail information on each case in the province. He appreciated with NGO Forum and its networks who work on land dispute issue by co-operating with authority.

A representative from Kampot province, mentioned one land dispute that occurred in Chomkiri district affected to 95 House Holds were solved, one case in Chhouk district caused by ELC affected to 103HHs provincial authority have been solved by providing land for them and other 189HHs provincial governor requesting approval from Royal Government of Cambodia.

Mr. Ouk Sophal, the representative of Stung Treng province, recommended that the workshop should invite district authority because they are able to respond to what report finding.

Mr. Chheam Tich Long, the representative of Pursat province, suggested to categorize the type of land dispute and the detail information of each land dispute cases should be clear in a table distributed to all province.

Mr. Kaen Puthy, the representative of Siem Reap province, suggested for re-check spelling, report outline, old historical of each case should cut off from the detail information, keep the new updated one. The lesson learns from land dispute solving, Siem Reap province governor always reconciliation between dispute party. There were some cases have been solved

such as cases along Siem Reap stream, land dispute case linked to social land concession have been solved 99 percentage. He asked for a contribution from NGO Forum and its network should bring all fact-finding in this report to talk with the provincial governor for taking action to solve the issue, and more cooperate both direct and indirect to provincial governor they are happy to work with.

Lastly, Mr. Chea Sophart, representative of affected people in Khan Chroy Changva, OCIC case, said that all affected people are eager the resolution for their case, they tried to put their complain letter to many institutions such as parliamentary and ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (MLUPC) but not yet solved.

Mr. Ouk Vannara, Deputy Executive of NGO Forum on Cambodia, wrap up the results of the discussion and thanks to all participant who representative of each province, provincial departments, representative of MLUPC and communities. He also added that all the comments on the first drafted of the statistical analysis on land dispute report going to be review and make a change as much as a possible base on the methodology of research and objective.

The Meeting was finished at 12.30 PM with fruitful results and clear follow-up action.







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## Civil Society Organization Forum on Mekong River Management in 2018



On November 27, 2018, Tonle Bassac I Restaurant, Phnom Penh, the CSO Forum on Mekong River Management is seen as essential to facilitating and strengthening CSOs as well as local communities at the sub-national level. The forum is also connecting part of a forum on natural resource management organized annually under the chairmanship of respective governor in Kratie, Stung Treng, and Ratanakiri provinces. The 2018 Mekong River CSO Forum was held in Phnom Penh for a one-day period to provide opportunities for organizations and target communities to share their experiences, challenges, and recommendations to propose interventions on sustainable and transparent management of the Mekong River. There were 134 (24 women) participants were from six provinces namely Preah Vihear, Kompong Thom, Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri, Kratie, and Stung Treng. They were representatives of 21 CBOs and NGOs working in the areas. There were four presentations related to forestry and other four presentations related to the fishery. At each of the presentation session, there was also a question and answer session.

Mr. SUN SOVANN, Program Manager of NRD, shared his experiences, best practices and challenges of fishery resource management in Kratie province. Northern Rural Development (NRD) is mandated to assist community fisheries in Sambo district, Kratie province in addressing is-

ssues of overfishing using prohibited fishing gears which established in 2012 as a community-based organization. After years of interventions (including providing various training on rights, FPIC, and material assistance), and engagement strategy of involving all relevant stakeholders, NRD has faced challenges like many other conventional non-profit organizations including issues of funding, lack of collaboration with the so-called community groups, and support of the 'government'.

Mr. MAK BUNTHOEUN, Secretariat of River Coalition of Cambodia, presented on working with communities to mitigate impact from the development of hydropower dams. Cambodia seems to be in a cross-road trying to fulfill its energy demand and the bio-diversity conservation, particularly those along the mighty Mekong rivers and its tributaries. Having witnessed this fight, the River Coalition of Cambodia (RCC) was on the side of those to be impacted by hydro-development project arguing the impacts including depriving of some people sources of income, disturbance of endanger species habitats, river bank erosion, deforestation under the name of basin clearance, water level irregularity, and unfair people resettlement are not well mitigated. Working with the communities to respond to this national development decision have been compounded by rhetorics like lack of evidence to support the

demand, heterogeneity of RCC members, and political repression.

Ms. Luy Reaksmey, Executive Director of CEPA, presented on how to achieve community solidarity and ownership. I had 20-year experiences working with the community and notice that we still do not have clear indicators to show solidarity and ownership. Maybe we need to create ones. On the issues of cooperation with technical departments. They seem not to have ownership of their own work. Moreover, technical departments and local authorities are also not consistent. For example, in Ratanakiri province, technical departments support the establishment of a community network, but local authorities do not welcome it. How can we deal with them?

In the afternoon, we broke into small groups to draft letter appealing for intervention from relevant stakeholders. There were 29 letters drafted and the committee will continue to work on those letters in order to submit them to respective receivers. After a full day program, we get a proudly result through sharing experiences and drafting the above letters.

Closing speech by Ms. Luy Rasmey, CEPA Executive Director: "Ladies and gentlemen! Our forum was conducted as planned and produced a result as wanted. I noticed that you are happy and we are the organizers are happy as well to see your contribution and commitment to protecting shared resources. Please do not forget to spread the words to your peer community members since we could not effort to invite everyone to participate in this forum. We hope that you will share what you have learned with your members through monthly meetings. We are not only sharing a good point but also things to be improved. We will continue to organize other events with your participation. I also would like to thank the donor, working group and all of you that make this forum happens. I wish all of you good luck and announce the closing of the forum at this moment."





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## CSOs Consultation on the 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 Nutrition. 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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## Promoting Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products and Foods in Cambodia



The NGO Forum on Cambodia co-organized with Department of Agro-industry of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), and fund supported by Oxfam and HESK to host a workshop on promoting quality and safety of Agricultural products and foods, Somadevi Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap Province, on December 14, 2018. There were 200 participants from representatives of Sangha Organization The Network for Development of Food Security and Safety in Cambodia (NDF-C) represents the Agriculture and Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, representatives of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Siem Reap province and representatives of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from 25 provinces / cities as well as farmers, civil society organisations, private sectors, universities, research institutions, and development partners.

This workshop aims at awareness raising and understanding on regulatory standards which related to improving quality and safety of agricultural products and provided opportunities for stakeholders to provide inputs on effective policy formula-

tion and implementation, in order to contribute to sustainable in agricultural development in Cambodia. In addition, this workshop will build good cooperation and partnership between farmers, civil society organizations, the private sector, universities, research institutions, development partners, and government institutions more actively participate and contribution to promoting quality and safety of agricultural products and foods.

### Workshop Outcomes

#### A. Government Institution

Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the department of agro-industry have been playing the important role to formulate the regulations, publicly disseminate, training, facilitation, monitor and evaluate in order to eliminate chemical and pesticide usage minimize agricultural products to reduce poverty and improving people's living standard and food security. Meanwhile, the department of agro-industry has a laboratory to monitor all kinds of agricultural products to ensure the high quality and safety to the households. Up to now, this laboratory has been

operated for two years, as a result of its mission found the irregularities in the shopping malls and Phsar Deum Kor market about vegetable display is that "fresh vegetables displayed in shopping malls have been used excessive chemicals more than Phsar Deum Kor market". Moreover, this department of Agro-Industry have been sponsored from the development partners to formulate a drafted law and relevant legal documents on "Quality Improvement and Safe Agricultural product" will be finalized in 2019 and will be completed in 2020.

#### B. Private Sectors

It is very vital that the private sectors have contributed to the exchanging businesses with small, poor communities, and farmers to collect the agricultural products to invent initially or to the final one. Actually, Ly Ly Food Industry Co.,Ltd has contributed with the Royal Government of Cambodia through the Contract Farming Policy to reduce poverty and unemployment by making to purchase the agricultural products [Jasmine Rice] from the communities from some zones in order to cut down maximum demand of raw material which purchased from the neighboring countries and offered job opportunities to the people.

Furthermore, to improve the product's quality and hygiene, this company set the following items and procedures:

- Have dressing rooms for male and female staffs before entering working sites
- All equipment is cleaned and standardized in each step of productions
- Production site is safe and comfortable
- Final products are nicely packed and safely stored.





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Based on experience, to ensure the sustainability of demanding agricultural products, farmers who supply products to the private sectors through Contract Farming Policy must ensure the quality and safety of the products.

### C. Non-governmental organizations

Relating to the quality improvement and food safety, NGOs including NGO Forum, Oxfam Cambodia and NDF-C network members, World Fish Organization etc., have actively and firmly participated to conduct trainings, educating, awareness raising, supporting, enhancing in sustainable agricultural techniques and ecological agriculture etc., to the communities especially, poor families have been facilitating with government or relevant institutions by urging and promoting the local households or poor families to understand on the challenges of using an excessive chemical products and to start using or choosing fertilized agricultural products.

### D. Farmers

Mr. Run Bunly, a representative of farmers from Bavel district, Battambang province raised the research project of World Fish Organization on sustainable nutrition practice which has implemented by Knong Srok Knong Phum Organization focusing on provinces surrounding Tonle Sap Lake. This project had started in May 2017 and will end in September 2019. This project aims at (1) improving nutrition and living's standard of the poor by eating all kinds of small fishes and in-house planting, (2) raising awareness of aquaculture and nutrition to poor families. Especially, whose families have kids under five years old, (3) making those women with kids under five years old be aware of advantages of eating and eating porridge with quality and hygiene and (4) improving understanding and experiences from the aquaculture development and the nutrition at Tonle Sap Lake area. Moreover, he added the differ-

ences that local farmers/households and he Mr.Run Bunly get from NGOs' training course projects such as technical or aquaculture training related to the quality improvement and food safety include:

### Conclusion

The one-day workshop on Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products and Foods is very important for each relevant institutions such as government institutions, private sectors, NGOs and people to share information and what their own institutions have contributed in promoting quality and food safety to the public.

Lastly, a representative from the Department of Agro-Industry of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries stated that both farmers and manufacturers must ensure about chemical or pesticide usage are not excessive in agricultural products and safety to the users, and what this workshop get including good concepts, challenges, issues and other suggestions, the Department of Agro-Industry will take and set guidelines for promoting to the public about food safety, quality of agricultural products and especially put into the strategic plans and the drafted law on Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products.

### 4. Recommendations and suggestions

There are the feedbacks from the partici-

pants to improve the quality and safety of agricultural products:

- Continues sharing and strengthening through training to disseminate widely with collaboration from relevant institutions like government, private sectors, NGOs, producers, and consumers.
- Promote domestic product growth or organic or vegetable products or in-house planting
- Improve farmers from being a farmer to the agro-business person.
- Strictly apply a free trade agreement when found an excessive chemical usage on the products.
- Improve a standard of the organic agricultural products package nicely with quality and hygiene.
- Firmly oversee chemical or pesticide usage onto the agricultural products through the laboratory in the operational zones.
- Strengthen the partnership between the private sectors, producers and relevant partners to improve quality, the safety of food and agricultural products by aligning with market demands.
- Conduct a series of public forums for expressing ideas widely and frequently.
- Encourage to establish drying centers for keeping, packing with high quality and technical standards.







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## Exposure Visit Bunong Indigenous Community and Prouy Indigenous Community

On December 05, 2018, NGO forum on Cambodia organized the exposure visit to Bunong indigenous community in Kbal Romeas old village, Kbal Romeas commune, Sesan district, Stung Treng province. There around 80 participants who were from NGOF staffs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Rural Development and provincial governors in Stung Treng province at least 80 participants attended.

The objective of this exposure visits to learn more about the daily life of indigenous communities and the process of collecting land, CLT procedure and community's key challenges, to find out more information for development plan to the priority needs of indigenous communities, and keeping strengthen a cooperation between state institutions and civil society in supporting indigenous communities in accordance with the policies of the Royal Government of Cambodia.



On the same mission, on December 06, 2018, The NGO forum on Cambodia through Indigenous Peoples and Forests Network (IPFN) and led by Mr. Ouk Vannara Deputy Executive Director and colleagues facilitated the exposure visit Prouy indigenous community in Katot village, Kampoun commune, Sesan district, Stung Treng province. There were 60 participants who from NGOF's staffs, Ministry of Interior (Mol), Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) and provincial governors in Stung Treng province.







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## 13th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum On Social Welfare and Development

As member of International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), the NGO FORUM on Cambodia (NGOF) has participated in 13th ASEAN GO-NGO FORUM ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, held on 21 NOV 2018 in Singapore which focus on Social Welfare and Development "Realising the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025": Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Mr Tek Vannara, executive director of the NGOF has requested to ASEAN for adding another five important points of CSOs into Masterplan 2025 are 1) Develop clear and specific targets and indicators for the action points in the Enabling Masterplan in which persons with disabilities having access to services i.e. educational, medical, occupational, social; 2) Include civil society and NGOs, in particular DPOs, to follow up on the issues of mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities and any other engagements benefiting persons with disabilities; 3) Encourage AICHR( ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights) to have persons with disabilities represented in its committees, 4) Encourage dialogue on international standards of disability classification and 5) Organize a meeting specifically for Civil Society Organizations: NGOs and DPOs concerned with the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, to encourage continued dialogue and active engagement on the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities.



## Roundtable Dialogue on Sustainable Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

Opportunities and Challenges for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) held on 13 November 2018 at United Nations Office in Beijing, China by UNDP, Oxfam and World Without Poverty. Participants from NGOs, Companies, Academic and Government from Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and China are participated in this dialogue. The four main topics were discussed are 1) Attaining SDGs through SEZs: Key Issues for the Development and Operation of Sustainable SEZs, 2) Creating an Enabling Climate for Harnessing FDI, Job Creation and Industrialization: Economic Aspect of SEZs Development (SDG 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17), 3) Towards More Inclusive Special Economic Zones: Social Aspect of SEZs Development and Operation (SDG 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 16) and 4) Greening SEZs: Environmental Aspect of SEZs Development and Operation (SDG 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15). Mr Tek Vannara, executive director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia shared experiences to all participants on the benefits from environment impact assessment in special economic zone. Public participation in the whole process of environment impact assessment are very important to ensure transparency, accountability to the public and reduce negative impacts on environment and social. Moreover, fully implementation of environment management plan and open space for public participation to monitoring and evaluation of project it would be good for sustainable project. Additionally, he shared about the best practice of CSO participated in the reviewing on EIA report with inter-ministries meeting which led by Ministry of Environment.







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## ON THE MEDIA



Topic: Government, UN, NGOs meet to discuss Climate Change

Date: 29 January 2019

Source: Phnom Penh Post

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2B7yvhk>



Topic: The limited communal budget for climate change should increase

Date: 28 January 2019

Source: RFI

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2uBAx5J>



Topic: Funds sought to tackle climate issues

Date: 29 January 2019

Source: Khmer Times

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2HPxX4M>

## UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2019

### 28 January

Dissemination Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)/Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Mainstreaming into Commune Investment Program (CIP)/Commune Development Plan (CDP)

### 14 February

Quarterly Member Meeting

### 14-15 February

1st Quarterly LAHRiN Member meeting

### 15 February

National Consultation Workshop on Engaging CSOs in the Cambodia Voluntary National Review 2019

### 27-28 February

Training On Legal Procedure As The Capacity Building Action To Prey Lang Community Network





## THANK YOU!

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