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The NGO Forum on Cambodia

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការងារល្អឡើងវិញ
Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

Discussion Meeting between Civil Society Organizations and Minister of Environment on Collaboration in Management of Environment and Natural Resources in Cambodia



On 20 January, 2017, at the Prach Sun Meeting Hall of the Ministry of Environment: a meeting between the Ministry of Environment and representatives of 18 national and international civil society organizations was held. Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director, NGO Forum on Cambodia, started by thanking the Ministry for giving civil society organizations the opportunity to meet, discuss and collaborate on the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and for being able to present achievements and challenges, and to seek collaboration for the 2017 work-plan. Important issues raised in the meeting included: 1) Land conflicts that continued to occur between economic land concession companies and indigenous communities. The Heng Roy, Lan Fen, Roy Fen, Heng Nong, and Heng You companies cover more than 40,000 ha of forest land, and affect 36 villages in Tbeng Meanchey, Chheb, and Chey Sen, Preah Vihear province, Binch Phuoc, Sre Preah commune, and Mondulkiri province; 2) Forestry crimes that continue to occur in indigenous areas, like those in Pu Kung village, Sre Preah commune, Chakchar village, Sre Chhouk commune, Keo Seima district, Mondulkiri province, Prey Rokar and Prey Lang wildlife sanctuaries, and Kravanh mountain range areas; 3) Forestry crimes that continue to occur in areas transferred

from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries to the Ministry of Environment; 4) Granting of social land concession affecting productive, protected, burial, and reserved forests, and the safety of indigenous communities that live in them; 5) Challenges faced with effective protection of forestry resources and management of natural resources. At present, natural protected areas of the Kingdom of Cambodia cover about 7 million hectares; 6) Mechanisms for mitigation and management of disasters caused by climate change and the effects on agriculture, irrigation, economy, etc. For example, the last drought had serious effects on people's livelihood and on fisheries by resulting in the death of about 67 tons of spawning fish in the Tonle Chhmar Lake area, and of livestock in the Ramsa areas of Stung Treng province, etc.; 7) Allocation of financial governance budget for climate change and the environment, in particular at sub-national levels, has remained limited; 8) Construction of hydropower dams on the Mekong River mainstream and key tributaries continue while there is no in-depth study of impacts on water flow and biodiversity, and no consultations with affected communities. For instance, the construction of the Xayaburi Hydropower Dam started in 2012 despite a clear and strong response from the governments of the Mekong River Commission member countries against the construction of the dam. Construction of its second hydropower dam, the Don Sahong Hydropower Dam, started in 2016 and the Lao government is requesting a third project on the Mekong River mainstream, the Pak Beng Dam. Similarly, the Royal Government of Cambodia is studying the construction of a hydropower dams on the Mekong

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





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Joint Principle for Adaptation (JPA) and Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)



Recently, NGOF has been supporting JPA and CHS by co-hosting a radio program and stakeholder consultation workshop with the Voice of Disabled People. These activities were organized by the Cambodian Disabled People's Organization (CDPO) to

promote good governance and ensure the participation and support of disabled people in the DRR/CCA planning process.

As a civil society initiative for promoting effective and equitable adaptation, Southern Voices developed JPAs with the aim to promote multi-stakeholder participation in the policies on climate change adaptation.

This use of JPAs is a good example on how to introduce many new tools and approaches for the mainstreaming of climate change in our regular practices. JPAs are seen as a benchmark on how to ensure effective and equity-based climate change application. Though this is a learning process, it is one that will help share experiences of Cambodia with other parts of the world.

The Project Coordinator for NGOF and partner of SV-Adapt, Mr. Sey Peou, commenced that so far in our planning and implementation of CCA/ DRR & emergency response, and through our work with JPA, VRA and HVCA, we are taking into account the most vulnerable groups, including Disabled People. He commented on the need to establish the grassroots through capacity building and to focus on a more inclusive representation of vulnerable groups. This should include the consideration of women, disabled and differently-abled people and their capacities in disaster situations.

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

Forum on “The Protection and Conservation of Natural Resources”



On the morning of February 06, 2017 at the Ministry of Environment: NGO Forum on Cambodia, along with civil society organizations working on the conservation of natural resources, participated in the forum on “the protection and conservation of natural resources.” Issues about natural resources and land were identified and solutions were discussed in this forum.

Speaking at the forum, HE Sam Al encouraged progress on the environmental code, to continue to implement the Directive 01 by resolving issues of conflict with the population, crackdown more on forest crimes

(like checking the timber depot), allocating the Ministry of Agricultural Forestry and Fisheries to be responsible for cultivation and the Ministry of Environment to be in charge of conservation. Circular 05 designates national and sub-national equal responsibility. According to this circular, civil society organizations will work to conserve natural resources by working with local land authorities and park/forest rangers. To help promote land registration and resolve land disputes, HE Sam Al also suggested that civil society organizations provide information about location identity and the number of families affected to the Ministry.

In terms of the representation of indigenous communities, Mr. Tola worried about cutting their conquest of social concession land in Busra and Dak Dam Commune by proposing H.E help.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sokhoeun, a representative of Prey Lang, requested the Ministry to handle requests related to deforestation in wildlife sanctuaries and settlements in the area, transitory machines and various crafts. The forum ended at 12:00 PM.





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HIGHLIGHT STORIES

Training on “Budget Analysis and Advocacy”



The NGO Forum on Cambodia cooperate with Oxfam in Cambodia to organized two days training on “Budget Analysis and Advocacy” from 27-28 February 2017 at Orchidee Pasteur Restaurant. There were 38 participants (15 women) to from CSOs/NGOs and some media to join this training. All participants will gain more understand on budget literacy, budget cycle targets and opportunities for advocacy.

In particular all participants gained more technically identifying budget advocacy issues, research and analysis and planning advocacy logics. Lastly, the participant will able to carry out advocacy in planning, working with media and communication with public and social media, as well as monitoring and evaluation.



Results of a Meeting between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Resources (3rd Commission) of the National Assembly



On 19 January 2017, at the National Assembly: a meeting was held between members of the 3rd Commission of the National Assembly and representatives of 16 national and international CSOs. H.E Chair of the 3rd Commission was pleased and welcomed the collaboration. Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director, NGO Forum on Cambodia, expressed his gratitude to the 3rd Commission for this meeting with the civil society organizations. The meeting agenda consisted of a presentation of achievements and challenges, an open discussion, and collaboration for 2017 plans.

The meeting also requested supervision and monitoring of solutions for a number of important issues, including: 1) Land conflicts that continue to exist between economic land concession companies and indigenous communities. For example, Heng Roy, Lan Fen, Heng Nong, and Heng You are companies that cover more than 40,000 ha of forested land and affect 39 villages in the districts of Tbeng Meanchey, Chheb, Chey Sen, Preah Vihear province, Binch Phuoc, Sre Preah commune, and Monduliri province; 2) forestry crimes in indigenous areas continue to occur in Pu Kung village, Sre Preah commune, Chakchar village, Sre Chhouk commune, Keo Seima district, Monduliri province, and Prey Lang; 3) Granting of social land concession affecting productive, protected, burial, and reserved forests, and the safety of indigenous communities that live in them; 4) Remaining land conflicts and a lack of solutions by authorities have result-

ed in complications with preliminary mapping and slow collective land registration; 5) Challenges with effective forest protection and management of natural resources. At present, natural resource protected areas of the Kingdom of Cambodia cover 7 million hectares; 6) Mechanisms for mitigation and management of disasters caused by climate change and the effects on agriculture, hydrology, financial governance of climate change. For example, the last drought had serious effects on people's livelihoods and on fisheries by resulting in the deaths of about 67 tons of spawning fish in the Tonle Chhmar Lake area, and of livestock in the Ramsa areas of Stung Treng province, etc.; 7) Fishery crimes continue to occur, in particular in Tole Sap Lake; 8) Concerning low rice prices, there has been no specific solution mechanism; 9) Construction of hydropower dams on the Mekong River mainstream and key tributaries continue while there is no in-depth study of trans-boundary impacts on water flow and biodiversity, and no consultations with affected communities. For instance, the construction of the Xayaburi Hydropower Dam started in 2012 despite a clear and strong response from the governments of the Mekong River Commission member countries against the construction of the dam. Construction of its second hydropower dam, the Don Sahong Hydropower Dam, started in 2016 and the Lao government is requesting a third project on the Mekong River mainstream, the Pak Beng Dam; 10) Similarly, the Royal Government of Cambodia is studying the construction of a hydropower dams on the Mekong River mainstream located in Sambor district, Stung Treng province, and Lower Sekong while the construction of the Lower Sesan 2 Dam has been underway; 11) There are shortcomings in monitoring companies' project implementation in accordance with investment contracts and existing regulations. At present, some development proj-

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



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Budget Working Group of civil society organization meeting with Ministry of Economic and Finance in the Discussion and Cooperation in 2017



On 23 February 2017, at Building B, Hall of the Ministry of Economy and Finance: a meeting between the Ministry of Economy and Finance and representatives of 12 national and international civil society organizations was held. Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director, NGO Forum on Cambodia, started by thanking the Ministry of Economy and Finance for giving civil society organizations the opportunity to meet and discuss budget transparency, public financial management reform and cooperation for 2017. The Budget Working Group discussed their background, achievements, challenges, and their aspiration to collaborate on the 2017 work plan. In 2016 the Ministry of Economy and Finance appointed 3 CSO/NGOs to take part in the national budgeting process, and attended other NGO Forum works.

Substantial topics discussed in the meeting included: 1) The Budget Working Group went from 8 NGO/CSO members in 2006 and to 12 members today. The group's four main activities consist of increasing its members' capacity, raising awareness within the CSO/NGO networks, observing policy implementation, and monitoring national budget.

2) An update on the previous meeting with the representatives of Ministry of Economy and Finance in 2016. Budget Working Group (BWG) met with Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) in 2015 and 2016 to ask for collaboration between MEF and BWG. BWG requested MEF personnel to train NGO/CSO network members and MEF asked for shared insight into budget information. MEF attended the Public Forum conducted by BWG and its core members, providing awareness to BWG members and NGO/CSO networks on National Budget and Sub National Budget, and reviewing the Open Budget Survey that will go public soon after finalization. BWG are faced with the challenge of not assigning a focus person from MEF to work with NGO/CSO networks.

3) An update on BWG work and achievements. Citizens are participating in monitoring the budgeting process. Collaboration with MEF continues to seek human resource and technical support to provide training. Thorough analysis is being conducted on budgeting processes especially on priority sectors such as education, health, and good governance. The target groups involved in the budgeting process include vulnerable people, media, youth, and sub national governors.

4) BWG strives for collaboration with MEF for the 2017 work plan. There is an opportunity for BWG to be fully involved in the cycle of the budgeting process and be allowed to contribute to MEF works in terms of improving Public Financial Management Reform.

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

Press Conference on CSOs concerns over Pak Beng Hydropower Development on the Mekong Mainstream



A press conference on "CSOs' concerns over Pak Beng Hydropower Development on the Mekong mainstream" was organized on February 17, 2017 at NGOF's office. The press conference aimed to express concerns over the Pak Beng hydropower development and to release a joint statement with the the River Coalition in Cambodia (RCC) on con-

cerns over initiation of the Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA) process for Pak Beng hydropower project.

Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia and representative for RCC members, introduced a brief background of the Pak Beng hydropower project which is connected to both the Xayaburi and Don Sahong hydropower dams projects on the Mekong Mainstream. Pak Beng Hydropower dam would be the third dam constructed on the Mekong mainstreaming in Lao PDR. The project is situated in Oudomxay Province, northern Laos. The dam is a 'run-of-river' project with the capacity to generate 912 MW of electricity .

As a representative for CSOs in Cambodia, Dr. Tek Vannara raised apprehensions about the proposed new dam and released a joint statement expressing great concerns over the notification by the Government of Laos of its intention to go ahead with dam construction despite the commencement by the Mekong River Commission (MRC) of the Prior Consultation for the Pak Beng dam under the Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA). He added that as experience to date shows little evidence that the concerns raised during prior consultation procedures will have any meaningful impact on decision-making.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2mzP3bN>



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Study Tour to Takong Community Forestry



The secretariat and steering committee of the Indigenous Peoples and Forestry Network (IPFN) from the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and Community Legal Education Center (CLEC) visited Takong community forestry at Chrob village, Kbal Romeas commune, Sesan district, Stung Treng province on 22nd February 2017 under the facilitation of My Village (MVI).

The NGO group met 05 members of Community Forestry Management Committee (CFMC) who are Prov indigenous peoples. Currently, there are 227 families who are the members of this CF who are benefited and protect this CF. Roots causes of the establishment of the CF soon after the land conflict of forest land clearing occurred between the communities with a company of Economic Land Concession in 2007 which affected livelihood of people. People have used many means of advocacy to struggle with company which lead to block national road along Steoung Treng province to Ratanakiri province and prepared many documents to submit to provincial department for CF creation.

As result, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries issued a “Prakas (declaration) on potential community forestry” of Takong in which the area is 1,073 hectares in 2015. In the present, the CF agreement is not yet signed with the specialized department due to the sub-national structure change has caused the delay in signing an agreement between Forestry Administration Cantonment and Management Committee of the community forestry.

Regional Workshop on National Implementation of SDGs Voluntary National Review (VNR) of UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF)



Bangkok, 24-25 February 2017: Over 30 participants of the regional workshop on CSO engagement on SDGs in particular HLPF-VNR jointly organized by the Asia Development Alliance (ADA) and Asia CSO Partnership for Sustainable Development (APSD). The workshop having discussed the global and regional processes of SDG implementation by the UN and CSOs, and assessed the CSO engagement with the government on SDG implementation in 11 countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, in particular the preparation for the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

Representative from Cambodia, Mr. Sun Youra representing The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and Mr. Soeung Saroeun representing Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) has contributed the experiences of CSO engagement on SDGs in Cambodia, which is including the good practices, gaps, and the call to action and strategy to ensure the meaningful participation of CSOs in the preparation of HLPF-VNR and accountability mechanism in SDG implementation and monitoring process at the national level.

The major findings about good practices of



CSO engagements on SDG implementation at the national level in some countries, including:

- The SDGs provided the framework for various types of CSOs to come together in a national platform – human rights groups, social movements, development NGOs, research and think tank groups, INGOs, etc. In others, the CSOs even lead the formation of loose coalitions working on the SDGs to include business, government, academic and media organizations.
- CSOs are able to participate in the government’s national processes and committees on the SDGs, providing researches and improving government data.
- It is more strategic to influence the bureaucracy and local governments on the SDGs, if the national government is indifferent or antagonistic to CSOs.

In most countries and at various levels, we found the gaps of CSO engagements on SDG implement as below, but not limited to:

- Civic space is either limited and superficial or downright closed. The situations are most difficult for those working on human rights, justice and peace, and environmental issues.
- The governments’ SDG targets are not ambitious enough and prioritize only those which can be easily reached or where data is available.
- Availability of government data for the indicators are generally poor – there should be a way for CSO data and researches, even for thematic areas, to inform government data.
- The governments’ voluntary reports to UN are often sugarcoated. They should not replace national and local accountabilities.
- At the grassroots where the monitoring and review of the SDGs matter most, awareness and participation are very limited. SDG materials are mostly in English and too technical.
- CSO thought leaders are maturing - we need to bring younger advocates to sustain the campaign in the next 15 years.

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



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Training on Budget Analysis and Advocacy



The NGO Forum on Cambodia cooperate with Oxfam in Cambodia to organize two days training on “Budget Analysis and Advocacy” from 27-28 February 2017 at Orchidee Pasteur Restaurant. There are 38 participants (15 women) to from CSOs/NGOs members and some media to join this training. All participants will gain more understand on budget literacy, budget cycle targets and opportunities for advocacy.

In particular all participants able to identify budget advocacy issues, research and analysis and planning advocacy logics.

Lastly, the participant able to carry out advocacy in planning, working with media and communication with public and social media, as well as monitoring and evaluation.



Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation(DRR/CCA): mainstreaming is a central discussing



NGOF Office, 20-21 February, 2017: At the first NECA member meeting for 2017, 17 selected CSO members joined to give more focus on the strategic milestones that were defined last November with DRR/CCA mainstreaming. At sub-national level, CIP/CDP planning is key. Regarding the Annual Operation Plan and Climate Change Strategic Advocacy, NGOF and NECA members agreed to organize regular meetings among the operating committee and members. All NECA network members and partners are invited to attend these meetings so that they can share sensitive information/news on climate change and advocacy activities, raise their concerns and challenges working at grass-roots level, especially with regard to government policy implementation related to climate change, and seek solutions for climate change issues.

During the two-day meeting; NECA Steering Committee and Members made the following achievements:

- The committees fully acknowledged and appreciated everything that NECA members have done in order to build the community resilience against climate change impact at both national and sub-national levels.
- At the beginning of 2017, ten CSO members, including CYA, NRD, CDC, MPC, RAO, CACO, DARE, HAC, PIN and CBTO, joined NECA.
- Internal advocacy approaches have been developed and agreed by NECA members. The committee also suggests that NECA and NGOF provide technical support, capacity

building, and greener collaborations with sub-national authorities for refreshing the JPA, and working on CIP/CDP.

- The roles and responsibilities of NECA members have been agreed upon and assigned.

- It was established that the collaboration between NECA, NGOF, NCDD as well as DPs needs to prioritize building partnerships to reach common strategies and address the shortcomings.

Based on recent research findings on CSO strategic advocacy last November, it is likely good while it was observed that some NECA members who have existing projects and fund supports from the DPs have worked closely with local authorities, technical provincial governors, and affected communities to influence CCA actions into the CDP/CIP since the early stages to the final stage including planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation. First, NECA provides training for capacity building to the communities and/or commune councils to ensure that they understand CC knowledge and the CDP/CIP formulation process. They will then empower and support communities to get involved in CDP workshops to address the priority needs related to CCA in their area. The involvement of relevant stakeholders in affected communities, including village chiefs and leaders, elders, women and youth groups, is vital to identify the priority needs of the villages. NECA's main mechanism to engage with the Commune Council on CCA

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2m5BnB0>





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Exchange Program and meeting on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance



Mr Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia participated in Exchange Program and meeting on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG). In the exchange program and meeting, each country representative reported the progress and challenges of FLEGT implementation, especially focused on implementation of ASEAN FLEGT planned, and discussion with inter-governments and ASEAN secretariat on all stakeholder involvement the whole process of FLEGT such as communities, private sector, development partner, CSO/NGO and government.

The exchange and meeting co-organized by GIZ and ASEAN in Surabaya, Indonesia from 20-22 February 2017. Forest Law Enforcement and Governance and Trade (FLEGT) has emerged as a major policy response by national governments and international organizations seeking to promote sustainable forest management practices. It is also being promoted as a means to arrest forest loss and illegal logging activities; provide a more viable platform for sustainable forest management; capture loss of forest revenues for the government and thus benefit the poor through higher government expenditure; and improved benefit sharing with communities, especially the indigenous people, forest dwellers and forest-dependent communities.



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

Quarterly Member Meeting



On Thursday 02nd February 2017: the NGO Forum on Cambodia conducted its Quarterly Membership Meeting (QMM) at the Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Center (PPEDC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This was a half-day meeting among NGO Forum's members, network members, and relevant stakeholders from 8:00am to 12:00am. There were 138 participants in this meeting.

In the opening remark by **Ms. Prum Bopha**, Member of the Management Committee of the NGO Forum on Cambodia and Executive Director of RAO. Firstly, she thanked all government officers, NGO members, network members, INGOs and NGOs who attended today's membership meeting. Then, she introduced the QMM's objective – to share and discuss issues in Cambodia in order to find the best solution.

Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) thanked all participants who were from government agencies, NGO members, and INGOs/NGOs participated in this half day meeting. He presented an Update on the achievements of the NGOF from November 2016 to January 2017 as follows:

- National Forum on Agro-business was held on 2-3 November 2016 under cooperation with MAFF and donors. As a result, inputs were collected related to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of private sector on agricultural sector.
- Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) dissemination workshop was held on 8 November

2016. As a result, Cambodia's position in CoP 22 was addressed and agreed upon with government to work together on CCA action.

- Natural Resources and Environmental Code (EC) consultation workshop was held on 23 November 2016. As a result, about 50% - 75% were incorporated. Currently the draft 7th was released and handed to Minister of MoE.

- National Advocacy Conference on sustainable development was organized under the cooperation of 53 NGOs. MAFF, MoE, and other relevant ministries participated in this event. 4 sectors including human rights, natural resources, EIA, sustainable development and Green Growth Development (GGD) were discussed at the event

- Human Rights day "rights to express ideas and access to information" was organized, achieving everything we had planned in the agenda. NGOF Annual program reflection meeting took place, where the action plan and budget plan for 2017 were developed.

- In the meeting with US government representatives on environment and development – lawyers joined to talk about environment rights

- Meeting with 3rd commission of National Assembly (NA) was held on 19th January 2017. As a result, NA and NGOs have actioned a joint study tour in Tonle Sap area.

- On 20th January 2017, there was a meeting with MoE, resulting in NGOs and MoE organising a meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen in 2017 to check what has been achieved from the discussion on 22 August 2016, and what needs future work.

- Inputs for the Mid-term review of NSDP 2014-2018 were collected and a joint statement was developed to send to government

- Meeting with network members of NGOF on each sector and other relevant meetings/events that NGOF have attended both in and out of the country until now.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2n2X6hn>



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NGO Forum in Cooperation with the European Union Meeting with Ministry of Economy and Finance



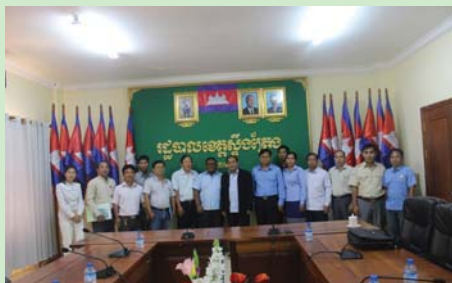
On February 15, 2017, Budget Working Group (BWG) members facilitated by NGO Forum in cooperation with the European Union has unofficial meeting with Ministry of Economy and Finance to discuss transparency in Cambodia. The meeting held at Ministry of Economy and Finance and chaired by H.E Ros Silava, General Secretariat of Public Finance Management Reform Program. The open budget survey (OBS), assess the transparency level of the central government, methods and questionnaires were presented to MEF to find cooperation to increase OBS score for 2017 and onward. This meeting provide mutual understanding on capacity of the central government in disclose budget documents and capacity of CSOs in supporting government to achieve target score. Then, BWG has requested government to public draft budget law before it is tabled to National Assembly for approval. Government has considered producing a summary report after the council minister approval for next year budget stated during discussion.



Study Tour to Relocation Site of Affected Community by Lower Sesan 2 Dam



On 14-15 February 2017, NGO network members which consist of The NGO Forum on Cambodia, ADHOC, Oxfam, and My Village visited relocation sites and to seek understanding on compensation process for people who are affected by lower Sesan 2 dam at Kbal Romeas, Sre Srokor, and Sre Sronuk village, Sesan district, Stueung Treng province. The team met with representative of Kbal Romeas village around 25 people who are indigenous people BUNONG and representative Sre Kor village who are Laos around 26 people.



As result, it was revealed that there are 58 families still live in Kbal Romeas village and 102 families live in Sre Kor village who will not accept compensation (data from Stoeung Treng authority only 72 families) and will not move to live at new sites because they thought that new site cannot earn money as usu-

ally they can get profit from fishing and collect NTFP.

Based on clarification from provincial governor of Stoeung Treng province, however, the government requires all reaming families to move to new site which the government already build house and reserve land for them already. People must move to live at the new site at the end of April 2016 because the old village will be flooded when dam of lower Sesan 2 closed.





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1st Quarterly Land and Housing Rights Networks Member Meeting in 2017



First quarterly meeting of Land and Housing Rights Networks in 2017 Land and Housing Rights Network (LAHRiN) conducted its first quarterly network meeting at Diakonia Center, Phnom Penh Cambodia held on 02 – 03 February 2017 which participated by 44 (06 women) participants. The meeting aim to update the land issues information from network members including the field monitoring, current situation, challenges and advocacy strategy. Furthermore, LAHRiN quarterly meeting was discussed about the network strengthening, Action Plan 2017, and preparation for meeting with national assembly.

The results of study tour and network reflection in Sisaket province, Thailand were presented which focus on situation of land management in Thailand in 2016. During the study tour, LAHRiN had learnt on long term strategic for organizing, collective group in strengthen their capacity through awareness raising, knowledge transferred and community livelihoods. They create market for incomes generate, saving group in their community. The community had their own strategic in peaceful confront and flexible, and discussed for good solution. Through the result of reflection and capacity building to network members, LAHRiN had shared good experiences, lesson learnt, and developed good action plan for 2017 as plan.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2nNdD6l>

1st Quarterly River Coalition in Cambodia Meeting in 2017



On 2nd – 3rd February 2017, Phnom Penh, the 1st Quarterly River Coalition in Cambodia (RCC) Members Meeting in 2017 was organized. The meeting was hosted by Community Rights on Hydropower Development Policy Monitoring Project Coordinator of the NGO Forum on Cambodia as a vital role of RCC's secretariat. There are 22 participants (6 women) who represented for both national and international NGOs attended the meeting. The overall objective of the meeting was focused on sharing and updating on emerging issues of hydropower development on the Mekong mainstream and step forward to advocacy to benefit for community rights and sustainable use of natural resources.

The meeting was defined advocacy approaches for specific cases includes (i) Lower Sesan 2 hydropower in Stung Treng province, (ii) the proposed new dam in Sambor, Stung Treng and Sekong, Cambodia (iii) Don Sahong case and new proposed dam in Pek Beng, Lao. Importantly, the meeting was come up with key action towards CSOs campaigns and dialogues on the issues of water governance in Mekong Region. See results of discussion as below:

- Lower Sesan 2 hydropower, Cambodia: the project is the first large dam development in Cambodia along the Sesan River located in Stung Treng Province. It will provide capacity power with 400MW for using in the country. Based on our findings, the project it will bring more negative impacts to the ecosystem of the Mekong Tributaries Sesan and Srepok River. It's one thou-

sand households and other communities that living along the river will be resettled because of the dam reservoir from this project will destroy up to 30,000 ha of forest areas, including 10,000 ha of private forest concession.

Currently, there are some of concerns were raised by local people and dam- affected communities such as: (i) Relocated communities (new settlement communities) are do not happy within \$6,000 US dollars of compensation and as well as house building, which provided by dam project developer, because of those amounts are do not enough for them to start up with new house. In additional, for house building which provided by company it's doesn't go through living standard for local people and some of those house have been cracked and rain leaked can't use. (ii) Relocation communities are facings many problems related to their health and livelihoods, because the new area is not good enough quality of water resources and soil for them to access traditional crop plantation, livestock and animal raising, especially sustainable food security. (iii) the final decision making from Disagree-relocation communities "We don't leave from our village because it's great place for my people and other villagers to rely on such as fishing, crop growing and Non-timber products harvesting. We scarify to die here in our village even the dam has been closed gate and/ or flooded into my village."



Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2mODV81>



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UPCOMING EVENTS/ HOLIDAYS FOR MARCH- APRIL 2017

06 March

Monthly Staff Meeting

08 March

International Women's Day

09 March

Dialogue Forum on conflict resolution on
Lower Sesan 2

14-16 March

Training on VGGT

16 March

RCC Steering Committee Meeting

28 March

Mekong People Forum

3 April

Monthly Staff Meeting

14-15-16 April

Khmer New Year Day

27 April

Political Debate Forum

1st Quarterly Meeting of Indigenous People and Forestry Network



First quarterly meeting of Indigenous Peoples and Forestry Network (IPFN) of the NGO Forum on Cambodia was conducted in the same day of Quarterly Member Meeting of the NGOF which was held on 2nd and 3rd February 2017 at Diakonia Center, Phnom Penh which participated 40 (5 women) participants.



The main objectives of IPFN Quarterly Meeting were focused on (i) updating the major key activities that the IPFN engaged known as the exchange visit at Sisaket province of Thailand and National Policies Dialogues on National Policy on the Development of Indigenous Peoples and the IPFN Secretariat Plan 2017, (ii) sharing the land conflicts/issues in indigenous territories in Preah Vihear, Mondulkiri, Kompong Speu and the progress of Prey Lang protection and National REDD+ Program, (iii) seeking guidance on the national and regional engagement of the network, (iv) completing the training need assessment for capacity building of the network 2017 and (v) adoption of new

membership application to IPFN.

The meeting achieved its expectations such as (1) approval the IPFN membership application – CTO and FLO, (2) sharing the results of the exposure visit reflection in 2016 in Sisaket (Thailand), (3) sharing National Policy Reflection Workshop/Dialogues on National Policy on Development for Indigenous Peoples (NPDIP) and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), (4) Updating on the situation of Land case - Busra, Prome, Bukong, Kodountey, Chokchar and Dakdam and next key action plans, (5) updating on Prey Long case and way forwards, REDD+ program and the advocacy strategy, (6) IPFN Secretariat Operational Plan in 2017 and 1st Quarterly Plan, (7) Participation in the regional & international mechanisms such as Asian People Forum (APF), ASFN, and CSO exposure visit and the network presentation selection processes, (8) Participation in the coming regional Asia Prep Meeting & Intl mechanisms United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and CSO exposure visit and the network presentation selection processes, and (9) Completing the Training Needs Assessment for the IPFN capacity building in 2017.





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ON THE MEDIA



Topic: Interview with VoA on Pak Beng Hydropower Dam Development Project

Location: NGO Forum office

Date: 03 February 2017

Speakers: Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF



Topic: Extractive Industry Governance Forum in Cambodia

Location: Sun Way Hotel

Date: 31 January 2017

Speakers: Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF



Topic : Joint Principle for Adaptation (JPA) and Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS): Disability Inclusive on Disaster

Location: Voice of Person with disabilities (VPD) of CDPO

Date: 20 January 2017

Speakers: Mr. Sey Poeu, Climate Change Policy Monitoring Project of NGOF



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការចូលរួមសង្គមស្តីពីកម្ពុជា
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Introduce New Staff



Ms. Lim Sophea
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She is officially commences as Administrative Officer of the NGO Forum on Cambodia from January 01, 2017 onward. She graduated Bachelor degree in Accounting, Vanda. She was worked as Administrative Assistant for more than 10 years with UN-DSS Cambodia and since 1998 – 2005, and worked as administrative tasks for Home of English, Home of Khmer Education, JICA, and GRET.



Mr. Sea Povry
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He is officially commences as Finance Manager of the NGO Forum on Cambodia from February 01, 2017. My education backgrounds are pursuing ACCA with CamEd Business School and Master of Private Law with Royal University of Law and Economics. I graduated Bachelor degree of Economics Management and Accounting from University of Management and Economics. I was worked for My Village Organization “MVi” as Operation Support Coordinator for 6 years, and worked as National Finance and Admin Officer for 3 years with Indigenous Support Organization “ICSO”.



Miss. Uch Sovan Nalay
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She is officially commences as National Budget Policy and Monitoring Coordinator of the NGO Forum on Cambodia from January 16, 2017. She graduated Bachelor degree of English in Communication from Norton University. She was worked as Project Coordinator of National Resource Management for 1.5 years with Khmer Youth Association “KYA” and worked as Project Coordinator of Woman and Youth Participation in Electoral Process for 2.5 years with Neutral and Impartial for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia “NICFEC”.



Mr. TOUCH Thou
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He is officially commences as Community Rights and Hydropower Development Policy Monitoring Project Coordinator of the NGO Forum on Cambodia from February 20, 2017. He graduated bachelor degree of general management at BBU, and attended one year scholarship summer course on Human Rights and Environmental laws at Earth Rights Mekong International School in Chain Mai, Thailand. He was worked as livelihood coordinator at Winrock International in 2015-2016.



ផ្នែកស្រាវជ្រាវនិងប្រតិបត្តិការ
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