



វេទិកាផ្សារអង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល កម្ពុជា  
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

Working Together for Positive Change



## LEADING STORIES

### Enhance the Implementation of Adaptation Action by Scaling



#### Phnom Penh; Cambodia, 08 November 2016:

Through the Climate Change Policy Monitoring Project, NGO Forum has been actively working with Adaptation Fund NGO Network, GermanWatch, DCA/CA and Southern Voice to host a Disseminate Workshop on Adaptation Fund Tracking and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Linkage in Cambodia. The workshop took place at Tonle Bassac II Restuarant, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. There were approximately 67 workshop participants, of which 11 were female.. The group of participants included government officers, embassy representatives, academics, youth development partners, NGO members and affected community members. The objectives of the event were to:1) share efficiencies and challenges experienced with the Climate Change Adaptation Projects and Climate Change Policy, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in Cambodia; and 2) present the research results along with strategic recommendations on climate change finance in Cambodia to relevant stakeholders, such as UN agencies, decision makers, academics, NGOs and affected communities.

This workshop also outlined calls to action in relation to the Paris Agreement and the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) held in Bab Ighli, Marrakech,

Morocco from 7-18 November 2016.

During the Open Session, H.E Khiev Borin, Director General, General Directorate of Community Development, Ministry of Environment, and Tek Vannara, PhD; NGOF Executive Director, highlighted that Cambodia is consistently ranked as one of the most vulnerable countries regarding climate change, and one of the three most vulnerable in Asia. This is because the country has a low adaptive capacity and is exposed to frequent flooding and other unpredictable rainfall events as well as to tropical storms and rising sea-levels.

Tek Vannara added that climate change has affected Cambodia’s economic growth and social welfare. Human activity is a major cause of increasing GHG concentration in the atmosphere. The least developed countries, like Cambodia, are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to a lack of knowledge, technologies, adaptive capacity, resources, etc. In response to these challenges, Cambodia’s government has adopted many policy frameworks, and institutional arrangements. While NGO’s are playing an important role to support government policy implementation and closing the gaps, financing is required to support this policy implementation and capacity building. Climate change financing is crucial for supporting the climate smart program in Cambodia. As stated in an analysis report of the NGO Forum in 2013, a total fund for 95 projects is USD 655.6 million (36% concessional loan).

However, climate change mainstreaming into a sub-national/commune investment plan still faces financial and technical chal-

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lenges. We need to address all of these challenges and strengthen our finance system and institutions to gain easier access to international sources in future.

The workshop gave updates on the climate change financial flow from both external and domestic sources. The finance mechanism is channeled through multilateral funds – such as the Global Environment Facility and the Climate Investment Funds – as well as increasingly through bilateral channels. In addition, a growing number of recipient countries have set up national climate funds.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2lvY7E7n>



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## The Engagement of CSOs in the Creation of Natural Resource and Environmental Code

**Phnom Penh, 23 November 2016:** Finally there are 6 pages of 26 inputs and suggestion had been consolidated of draft Law environmental code from 116 participants (21 Female) from research institutes, academia, legal firms, NGOs, development partners, representative communities and indigenous people who have been affected by any project development or investment in Cambodia. The NGO Forum on Cambodia along with development partners, NGOs, academia and technical working groups collaborated to collect more comments and inputs on the Environmental Code.

The NGOF and CSO members in Cambodia organized a CSO National Consultation Workshop on “The Draft of Natural Resources and Environmental Code” to be held on 23 November, 2016, a day before the 3rd national consultation workshop hosted by Vishnu Law Group and Ministry of Environment (MoE).

The CSO Consultation Workshop aimed to collect wider inputs from relevant stakeholders and to consolidate inputs for the final submission on the draft of the environmental code to the Vishnu Law Group and the Ministry of Environment (MoE).

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



## CSOs’ Joint Principle for Adaptation and Climate Change Response in Cambodia



**On 04 December 2016:** On 4 December 2016: In Civil society’s initiative for promoting effective and equitable adaptation, Southern Voices developed Joint Principles of Adaptation (JPA) to promote multi-stakeholder participation in the shaping of climate-change adaptation policies. In total, 120 climate-change practitioners and representatives, including 15 sectors of the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAPs) to CCCSP; government representatives, development partners, academia, NGOs, community-based organizations all involved in the implementation of climate-change related projects, as well as private sectors had been educated about JPA principles. The Joint

Principle for Adaptation in Cambodia context was shared in the Knowledge Sharing Event on Cambodia’s Response to Climate Change. The event also brought together 15 authors of the most relevant adaptation cases submitted in response to the call for documented, community-based climate change practices in Cambodia.



This is a very innovative exercise, introducing many new tools and approaches for mainstreaming of Climate Change in our regular practices. JPA will be used as a benchmark to ensure effective and fair climate change application especially with CCAP’s operation. It will be a learning process for us and beneficial for many international partners.

The Project Coordinator for NGOF and partner of SV-Adapt, Mr. Sey Peou, commenced the proceedings of the workshop with an introduction on roles and how the CSOs are using the JPA principles. He also highlighted the need for a transparent and inclusive

means of implementing the CCAP’s NAP process, as well as the need for a transparent and accountable adaptation finance mechanism. He commented on the need to secure the grassroots through capacity building, and to focus on a more inclusive representation of vulnerable groups by taking into account the capacity of women and the differently-abled people in disaster situations.

*Read more at <http://bit.ly/2m6J1ML>*





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## HIGHLIGHT STORIES

### Strengthening the CSO Network for Inclusive Development



Under funding from the EU through VSO Cambodia, NGO Forum on Cambodia is implementing the project titled “Strengthening the CSO Network for the Inclusive Development” within 8 target provinces, including Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Kratie, Stung Treng, Rattanakiri and Mondulkiri. The one-day workshops were conducted in each province from 8 to 19 December. The advocacy team from NGOF who facilitated the training on advocacy and planning for the CSO network included **Mr. Ian Elless**, Advocacy Specialist, and **Mr. Keo Bunly**, Development Policy Project Coordinator. This workshop assisted the network in preparing their advocacy plans and aligning them with the three themes included in Natural Resource Management (NRM), Education, and Public Finance (PFM), all leading to the small grant proposal for their provincial network.



### Regional Exchange Program on Strengthening River Coalition in Cambodia



#### From 21st – 27th November 2016, Pak Mun Dam, Mekong River Basin, Thailand:

River Coalitions in Cambodia (RCC) has been facilitated by Community Rights on Hydropower Development project of The NGO Forum on Cambodia. RCC members work closely with dam-affected communities and partners with both national and regional levels to advocate, debate and influence national and regional environmental policies for sustainable hydropower dams, to ensure that they are ecologically sound and beneficial for the dam-affected communities. The project also works to increase awareness of the impacts of hydropower dams on climate change amongst dam-affected communities and network members, and encourages public participation in development projects. It highlights the acknowledgement of people’s rights to timely, complete and accurate information on the various development initiatives that affect them. Ten RCC members attended the program. The overall focus of the program was to strengthen cooperation work and increase the knowledge and skills of RCC members, both men and women, through their exchange and learning of information about dam-affected communities and CSO’s organizations in the Mekong region. There were three specific objectives:

- Strengthen cooperation and increase knowledge and skills of RCC members and enhance their implementation at ground-level to share with other CSO network members and dam-affected communities and;

- Provide a space for sharing, learning and forming a joint action plan about CSO’s engagement to work for protecting and promoting community rights in the Mekong region.

**Mr. Srisuwan Kuankachorn**, co-director of TERRA,, warmly welcomed RCC members. He added that he planned to organize a similar trip from Lower Sesan 2. He appreciated seeing representatives from dam-affected communities in Areng valley, Lower Sesan 2, Sambor and Don Sahong. He hopes that RCC members and community representatives will benefit from regional engagement and joint advocacy works.

**Mr. Ek Chamroeun**, a representative of RCC’s steering committee, would like to thank Mr. Srisuwan Kuankachorn and the TERRA team for supporting the regional exchange program. As is well known, we have actively worked to advocate on dam issues for the betterment of the livelihoods of dam-affected communities and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Mekong region and its tributaries. We recognize that effective advocacy should be supported by evidence-based research or investigation reports with reliable data. For instance, we conducted a study on the impacts of the decreasing water level in Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia. We hope to learn good experiences from community and CSOs in Pak Mun, Thailand.

#### Allocating recovery for the struggling communities of Pak Mun

A community committee for the recovery life of Pak Mun River was established in 2000. The committee members have worked with and for 55 dam-affected villages along the Mun River. They divided the group into 9 regions.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2kLYD6t>





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## National Consultation Workshop on Agriculture Land Law



**On 19 November 2016:** NGOF, along with its members and partners, organized a two-day National Consultative Workshop on “Agricultural Land Law” on 19-20 December 2016 at Intercontinental hotel, Phnom Penh. 260 participants joined from ministries/agencies, provincial authorities, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector. This national consultation workshop gave all stakehold-

ers a chance to review inputs on the drafted agriculture land law, made up of 13 chapters and 113 articles. As a result, this law aimed to: 1. support policy and strategic development of agriculture products, 2. ensure the effective management of agricultural land for long term usage, and transparent and sustainable techniques for agriculture productions.



## Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Cambodia Responsible Agribusiness Forum on “Human Rights and Business”



**On 03 November 2016:** NGOF collaborated with Development and Partnership in Action (DPA) to organize the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Cambodia Responsible Agribusiness Forum on “Human Rights and Business:

Promoting Responsible Agribusiness Practice in Cambodia.” This was funded by the Swedish government, Caritas Cambodia, Forum Syd and Oxfam, and was held at Tonle Bassac II Restuarant, Phnom Penh Cambodia. Approximately 110 participants joined this event. The objectives of this event were:

- To enhance and build up knowledge and understanding of civil society organizations (CSOs)
- To create a platform for engagement with relevant stakeholders on Agribusiness in Cambodia
- To share best practices learned from Responsible Agribusiness in Cambodia to

help motivate other companies

- To understand how agri-business contributed to economically empower women from different commodities







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## CSOs REDD Reflection Workshop



**On 15 December, 2016:** a CSO-REDD+ annual review meeting was held at Diakonia Centre 24 participants, including one female, from various network member NGOs attended.

**Dr. Tek Vannara** kicked off the meeting by welcoming valued participant speakers and network members and gave updates on progress, challenges, and so on.. He added that this year some CSO-REDD+ network meetings didn't take place due to staff movement, a lack of funding, and high workload in their own institutions. However, NGOF has participated in crucial meetings at national level, with MoE on REDD+, regional meetings on Climate Change and Adaptation (CCA), and an international conference on CCA with COP-22. Dr. Tek Vannara encouraged all participants to feel free to discuss and raise key activities for working together for change.

**Ms. Sem Tola, Srey Poeu** made a presentation to share REDD+ key achievements in 2016 and actions set for 2017 implemented by Consultation Group (CG). Carbon Forest Partnership Facility (CFPF) granted to RECOFTC, has boosted the capacity of CG members to implement CG work plans until June 2017. Key actions for 2017 have been set. Some of these action points include supporting CG meetings, strengthening stakeholder engagement in REDD+ policy development, supporting CG representatives to implement and enhance local community knowledge on REDD+.

**Mr. Ear Chong**, from NGOF, presented a CSO-REDD+ work plan for 2017, with the key message being that more focus is needed on enhancing knowledge and awareness of local people. REDD+ collaborated with stakeholders from radio, and TV programs, and with youth – especially environmental/forestry students, to increase REDD+ knowledge awareness and to give support with events and campaigns about forest improvement and sustainable management. To achieve this, a short course for 25-30 participants will be held, a TNA will be conducted, and targeted training will be given. Visits to local regions in Cambodia, Thailand, Lao, and Vietnam will take place to exchange information and share experiences. Network meetings will be held four times per year, as well as various other meetings with REDD+ interest groups. Assessments will be made on the ground at Odor, Meanchey, Kampong Thom, Kratie, and Chinese investment areas CF or CPA.

**Read more at:** <http://bit.ly/2mf64VU>





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## Exposure Visit on Advocacy of Land and Natural Resource Conflict Resolution



**From 01 - 05 November 2016:** NGOFA, a secretariat of Indigenous Peoples and Forestry Network (IPFN) and Land and Housing Rights Network (LAHRIN), organized the “Exposure Visit on Advocacy of Land and Natural Resource Conflict Resolution in Sisaket province, Kingdom of Thailand” hosted at the Sisaket Rajabath University. 45 delegates, 6 of which were female, joined this exposure visit. The purpose of this visit was:

- To strengthen common spirit and capacity building of NGO network members (IPFN & LAHRIN) through learning from experiences of NGOs, communities and competent authorities of Thailand on land and natural conflict solution
- To learn about policy success, advocacy strategy, the government’s land and housing management strategy and natural resource management in Thailand
- To expand the regional network and increase collaboration and engagement between CSOs and other related stakeholders in Cambodia with NGOs in Thailand
- To share lessons learned and achievements of 2016 and develop a work plan for 2017



## The 10<sup>th</sup> National Advocacy Conference



**On 30 November 2016, Tonle Bassac2 Restaurant, Phnom Penh, Cambodia:** The 10th National Advocacy Conference was run by 59 civil society organizations. Approximately 400 participants, from various Cambodian communities, CSO’s, government, national assembly, senate, and private sectors, attended the conference. The civil society organizations are currently working together for the enhancement of draft laws and policies and how to better implement them in a manner that acknowledges human rights, good governance, social justice, protection of environment for the promotion of sustainable development and reduction of poverty rate in compliance with the Cambodian government’s national strategic plan. In this annual conference, we hold a debate on policy relating to land and natural resource governance. It is like one slogan says that - “we share heart, sharing thinking, share doing and we share responsibility”.

Welcome remarks by, **Mr. Tek Vannara**, Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia: May I take this opportunity also to inform you that, in 2015, we organized the 9th national advocacy conference with the topic called “working together for the promotion of social accountability on land and natural resource governance in Cambodia” and there were participants of 432 persons who came from throughout the country and we then discussed the six important topics

including issues related to land, indigenous people, forestry, hydropower dams, access to information, extractive industry, and responsible investment. We issued recommendations and a joint statement which received endorsements from 48 local and international organizations and obtained endorsements from affected communities throughout the country. As a result of CSO’s working together, it has been noticed that those stated recommendations and other major issues have been addressed and put in a remarkable progress for actions such as the government declaring Preylang forest as a wildlife sanctuary in which Preylang forest consists of size of 43,0000 hectares. The government has also taken actions on a number of other important issues.

Responding to this situation, I wish to appeal to all levels of leaderships for their actions as follows:

- To be united and be open hearted for constructive criticisms for the glory of nation
- Work together for the promotion of freedom of expression in a sense of promotion of democratic implementation and respect for human rights in Cambodia.
- Propose to review and release human rights activists, land rights activists and political activists who claimed for land rights and housing rights who use their freedom of expression.
- Stop accusation against CSOs activists whom were accused of having done incitement and staying behind of community people.
- Expedite the process of investigation on shot death case of Dr. Kem Ley and the death of journalist who worked and traced on the issues of forestry, minerals and other natural resources.

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





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## Results and Recommendations from Regional Workshops on Environment Impact Assessment



**On 02 November 2016, Siem Reap Province:** Results and recommendations from regional workshops on the National Guideline on Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment Process were given to the director of Vishnu Law Group and minister of environment by the director of environmental impact from the ministry of environment. These results and recommendations were collected from two regional workshops conducted in Siem Reap and Kampot provinces by the NGO FORUM on Cambodia.

These results and recommendations will be useful for the final draft of national guideline on public participation in environmental impact assessment.



## NGOs Celebrate the 68th Anniversary of International Human Rights Day



**On 10 December 2016:** around 2,000 people from various institutions, including NGOs, INGOs, national and international news, community activists, factory workers and other fellow Cambodia citizens, gathered at the Freedom Park to celebrate the 68th anniversary of International Human Rights Day under the theme “Promoting Rights to Freedom of Expression and Assembly”. The celebration took place to show the united voice of communities and civil society organizations in order to have the right to full freedom of expressions and assembly following the government’s passing of new restrictive laws, such as the law on peaceful assembly, law on Association and NGOs (LANGOs), and law on trade union.

**Mr. Young Kim Eng,** President of PDP-centre, on behalf of CHRAC and the organizing committee, highlighted the obstacles that NGOs and civil society communities are experiencing in regards to the freedom of expression in 2016. The arrest of human rights and environmental activists and the assassination of government critic, Dr. Kem Ley, were brought up along with the current political developments, in particular the agreement by the new main political parties that may lead to creating a positive impact on human rights work. Mr. Kim Eng, in his last remark, encouraged people to continue debating and holding peaceful marches every year, since these actions affect everyone.

**Mr. Tek Vannara,** Executive Director of NGO Forum, highlighted the importance of freedom of expression and assembly, and how it affects prosperity, sustainable development, environment and natural resources. His emphasis was to have all stakeholders cooperate to ensure that freedom of expression and assembly could be made possible. The head of Cambodia’s Labor Confederation (CCLC), Mr. Art Thun, marked the importance of 10 December as it demonstrates the significance, problems, and process of human rights development in Cambodia. Mr. Art Thun emphasized the importance of authorities and organizers working together to ensure a peaceful march. He also discussed the significance of the focus needed on the minimum wages of garment workers and the wage increases that should be considered.

After a long and productive day, the event concluded in a very peaceful manner, with participants showing their support and willingness to participate.

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







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## Review Full Draft of Access to Information Law



**Phnom Penh on 02 December 2016:** Advocacy and Policy Institute (API) and NGOF conducted a forum to provide the opportunity for senior and middle officials of the government, NGOs, media and other public institutions to review the full draft of Access to Information Law together, and draw out recommendations and substantial inputs for consideration. Over 30 participants joined this event at Orchidee Pasteur Restaurant. API used pre-defined tools and criteria to assess how comprehensive the law should be to inform the ministry of information on the public's perception about the draft law.



## NGO Forum's Annual Program Reflection



The Staff of the NGOF organized an Annual Program Reflection from 26 to 29 December 2016 at the Bellevue Building. The purpose of this program was to strengthen the capacity of staff related to program and operation implementation; strengthen team building, communication and accountability within and across teams; and finalize NGOF's 2017 action plan and risk mitigation strategies.



**Mr. TEK Vannara** stated that he greatly appreciated our accomplishments throughout 2016. He added that NGOF had actively contributed to helping the poor and vulnerable in our society by influencing policies and engaging in dialogues with government agencies, private sectors and national assembly.

**Mr. TEK Vannara** acknowledged that NGOF achieved more significant results this year, despite having fewer staff than the previous year. He emphasized that NGOF's work this year gained attention and admiration by several development partners and key embassies, including the U.S. and U.K. embassies. Regarding funding support this year, he mentioned that NGOF had sufficient funding resources to operate the annual operational plan, especially during

the last semester due to the delay of some activities from the second and third semesters.

Another significant achievement is that NGOF was awarded by government agencies for its contributions to Cambodian development, along with 15 other leading NGOs and DPs in Cambodia. However, the most important thing is that NGOF has wanted to see more transparency and accountability by the government for the people in all development aspects. In addition, it was highlighted that the government has opened dialogues with civil society organizations (CSOs) in Cambodia. Even though NGOF has made many significant achievements in 2016, the organization has still been faced with some large challenges, including:

- Disagreements on political environment
- Arrested environmental activists
- Arrested Human Rights' defenders
- Ever-increasing requirements from donors for reports and audits



**Ms. Prum Bopha**, a member of the management committee, participated in the Annual Program Reflection. She also extended a welcome to NGOF's colleagues and advisors for attending the four days of meetings and expressed her hopes that NGOF staff would efficiently implement the action plan for 2017 to achieve more feats.

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





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## ON THE MEDIA



**Topic:** Interview with PNN TV on initiated of Japan project-construction of fish pool exhibition in Tonle Sap

**Location:** NGO Forum

**Date:** 29 November 2016

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



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

**Location:** Ministry of Environment

**Date:** 23 December 2016

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



**Topic:** Civil Society's Recommendations for Budget 2017

**Location:** Radio Free Asia (RFA)

**Date:** 22 November 2016

**Speakers:** Mr. Sun Youra, Research Advocacy and Communication Manager of NGOF

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





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## UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2017

### 01 January

Internal New Year Day

### 07 January

Victory Day Over Genocide

### 19 January

Meeting between CSOs and members of 3rd Commission

### 20 February

Meeting between CSOs working on natural resource conservation and Minister of Ministry of Environment

### 02 February

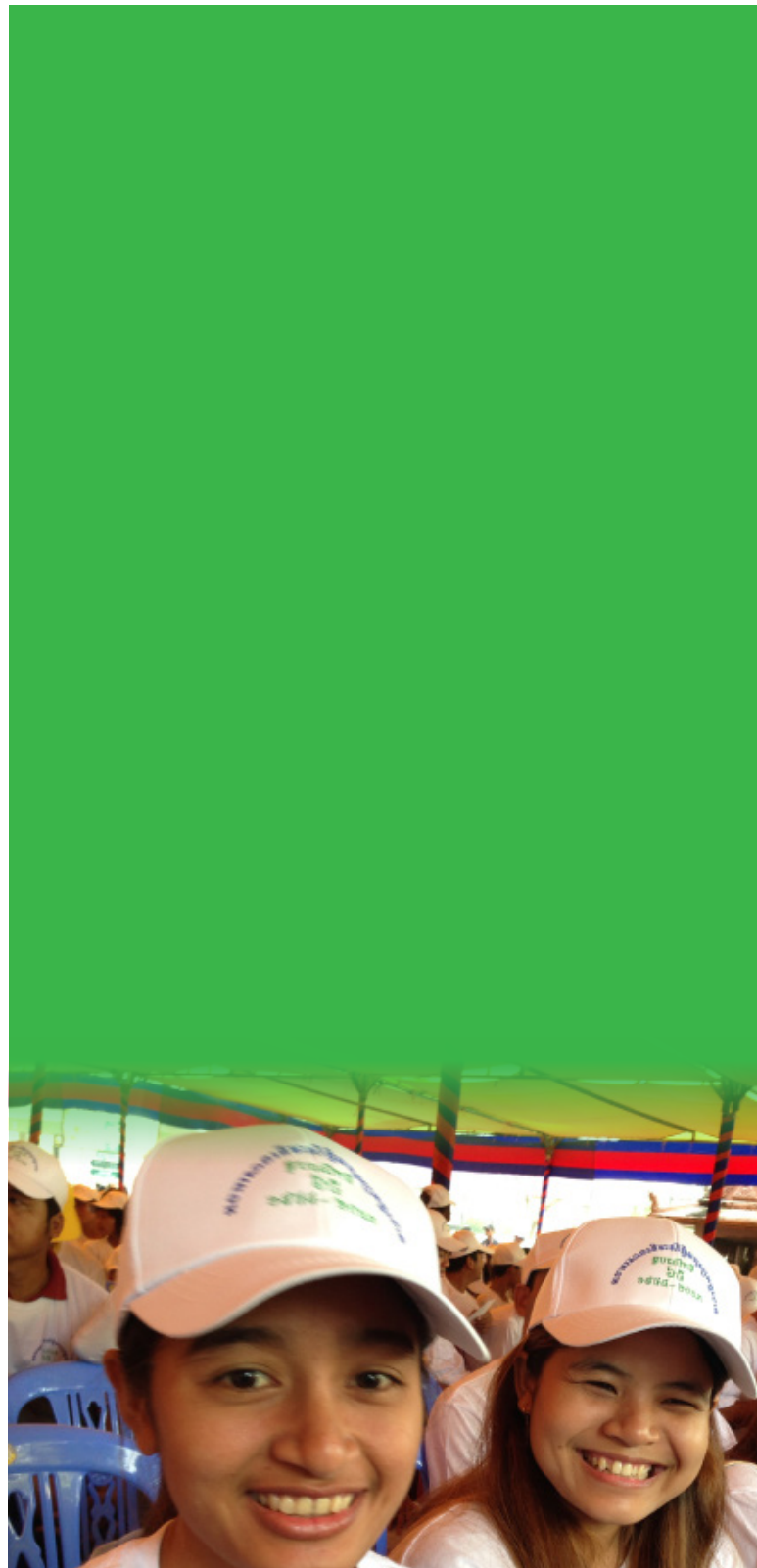
NGO Forum Quarterly Member Meeting

### 11 February

Meak Bochea Day

### 17 February

Press Conference on CSOs Concerns over Pak Beng Hydropower Dam Development in Lao Mekong mainstream







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