

LEADING STORIES

Impacts of Vietnamese development project, Benh Hoeurk Kratie Rubber 1 Company Limited in Chak Cha



180 families of Bunong indigenous people living in Chak Cha village, Sre Chhouk commune, Keo Seimar district, Mondulkiri province have occupied traditional collective land and resin trees since their ancestors. The process of collective land registration is on ending of second stage, the communities' interior status was completely recognized by the Ministry of Interior.

Firstly, the Royal Government of Cambodia granted 10,000 (ten thousand) hectares of Economic Land Concession to the Benh Hoeurk Kratie Rubber 1Company Limited in Keo Seima district, Mondulkiri province for developing agro-industrial rubber plantation. Later, the ELC land size was reduced to 8,926 hectares by the Royal Government of Cambodia under a 70-year contract, signed by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries on October 24, 2011. Finally, Royal Government of Cambodia has further reduced the ELC land size to 5,100 (five

thousand and one hundred) hectares in 2015. Base on the investigation result, the ELC process of Benh Hoeurk Kratie Rubber 1 Company Limited is not complied with the domestic and international laws and regulations including the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia (article 58 and 59), the Law on Environmental Protection law on Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management, Land Law 2001, the Law on Forestry, the Law on Environment, Sub-Decree No. 146 on Economic Land Concession of the Royal Government of Cambodia, and the Sub-Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment, as well as other two international laws (the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands focusing on related interests between states and citizens to prevent and avoid abuse of environment and to ensure global environmental safety and the Convention on Biological Diversity).

For instance, the ELC has not been registered

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as state private land, and the Company has not Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as well as public consultations with local authorities, affected communities and other relevant stakeholders. In December 2012, Benh Hoeurk Kratie Rubber 1 Company Limited used machineries to destroy indigenous communities' resin trees and bulldozed the1500 ha of IP rotation plantation in the areas of Sre Trao, O'Tayang, Trapaeng Thmar, and Trapaeng Ploes in Chak Cha village ownership by Bunong indigenous communities.

Read more at http://bit.ly/1PFYTT9



Meeting between the representation of NGO and the First Commission of National Assembly



27 participants, who are NGO representatives, parliamentarian members and their assistant of the first commission of National Assembly, were participated in the meeting on Tuesday 02 March 2016 to update and follow up the land dispute and finding the

cooperation between National Assembly and NGOs as well as the relevance stakeholders. The following cases and discussion are results as per below information:

Boueng Pram land conflict in Boeung Pram commune, Bavel district, Battambang province was recognized by first commission as a complicated case due to the conflict between the people and people. One group of the people they have the land, but no the land certificate, and another group have the certificate, but no land. 250 formers of soldiers do not get the farm land. In responding to the case, provincial gover-

nor of Battambang wanted to provide the land to the people group who has the certificate, and for the people group who has no the certificate will provide another plot of land at other side as social land concession. The first commission will request the government to build a good infrastructure in the new area so that they feel safeguard.

Read more at http://bit.ly/1sNIe50



Monitoring the affected communities' advocacy, submitting petition for land dispute resolution



Phnom Penh, April 27, 2016: The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) joined the monitoring the advocacy activities of thousands families of affected communities from two districts (Tambe and Memuth), Tbong Khmom province to submit their petitions to Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF), The Cabinet of Prime Minister, Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) and National Assembly in order to take action for land conflict resolution and land title.

This morning, the officials of Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction, chaired by H.E Sar Sovann, Deputy Secretariat of State of MLMUPC came to meet all those communities and

received the petitions of two groups of affected communities including group of 524 families from from Tramoung commune, Memuth district and 282 families from Trapieng Pring commune, Dambe district of Tbong khmom province. In the meeting with them, H.E Sar Sovann said "we receives all these petitions and will be facilitated a meeting to critically review your petition and find the way for addressing the cases, and then we will inform all of you later." Ms. Khuth Srey Aun, 48 years old, a community representative of 524 families from Tramoung commune says their residential land was abused by Memuth Rubber Company. The objective of their petition is to get land title. She said "I do appreciate for the action taken by MLMUP officials, allowing us to be in site of the ministry building for meeting discussion within warm receiving our petition and promising to solve our land dispute cases". However, she has only 50% of belief in that process. If no information during three days after receiving their petitions, they will come again.





HIGHLIGHT STORIES

A Field visit to follow up on the Boeung Pram Case



March 13-16, 2016: There were five representatives of a working group, which consist of CLEC, LWD, Council of the Ministers and NGOF, was conducted a fact finding trip related to a long time land disputes case at Boeung Pram zone, located Boeung Pram commune, Bavil district, Battambong province. During this strip, the working group was attended the eight

mixed meetings with a total of 60 participants came from ADHOC Office in Battambong province, authority of Bavil district, land victims of 192 group and 1,299 group, a head of Boeung Pram commune, Senior leaders of Battambong provincial authorities, a former staff of LWD in Battambong province and a representative of 192 group by raising a different issues, root causes of a problem.

Regional Consultation Workshop on Agriculture Land Law



Preah Sihanouk province, 28 - 29 March 2016: The inputs and recommendations from stakeholders for improving the draft Law on Agricultural Land have been heard and considered by the working group of general directorate of agriculture (GDA), MAFF. In collaboration with Network of Food Security and Safety in Cambodia (NDF-C), Land and Housing Right Network (LARHIN), NGO Forum and General Directorate of Agriculture, MAFF co-organized a geographic consultation workshop.

It has been observed that the participants have a good opportunity to share and discuss their inputs openly in terms of legal aspects and socio-economic conditions reflecting in the draft law. A front liner agribusiness company Mong Reththy Group actively engaged and provided a lot of inputs based on their advance practices. Also, woman farmer champions raised their experience which reflect in their life to include as important substances to improve the quality of the draft and to ensure it's appropriate within a Cambodian context.

103 participants (31 females) from private sector, farmers, NGOs and the Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDA), the Provincial Department of Land Management, Urbanization, and Construction (PDLMUPC), and the Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology (PDWRM) of the

8 Capital and provinces (Phnom Penh capital and provinces of Kandal, Svay Rieng, Takeo, Kep, Kampot, Preah Sihanouk, Koh Kong, and Kampong Speu) have involved and engagement in the consultation workshop.

A preliminary draft Law on Agricultural Land, which consisted of 11 Chapters and 93 Articles. This preliminary draft Law was then sent to be reviewed and revised Deputy Director General Directorate of Agriculture before submitted for discussion in the working group. Once again, this resulted in the first draft Law on Agricultural Land with 13 Chapters and 113 Articles.

The second workshop will be held in Battambang province with participants from the provinces of Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Pailin, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Uddor Meanchey, and Preah Vihear; and the third will be held in either Kampong Cham or Kratie province with participants from the provinces of Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Tboung Khmum, Kratie, Stung Treng, Ratanakakiri, Mondulkiri, and Prey Veng on May 2016. Meanwhile, a national consultative workshop is scheduled for the fourth week of June 2016 with approximately 108 participants from ministries/agencies, the 25 Capital and provincial authorities, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector.





The 6th Annual National Farmer Forum: Women Champion in Agriculture



Phnom Penh, 08-09 March 2016: Water, capital and market for agriculture products discussed in 6th Annual National Farmer Forum, particularly female farmers' voice their concerns, needs, and suggestions to relevant stakeholders on water, capital, and market for agriculture productions have been heard by approximately 320 participants (203 females) from a variety stakeholders including monks, government representatives such as MAFF, MoC, MRD, NGOs/CSOs, university institutes and private sector (Mong Reththy Group, Green Eagle, MFIs, Rural Development Bank) through opened-discussion with key relevant stakeholders and a joint statement from 100 woman farmer champions in the 6th National Farmer Forum. Moreover, the farmer recom-

mendations through the statement have been handed to Minister of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries.

The 6th National Farmer Forums on "Women Champion in Agriculture" has been asked to nominate delegates especially 100 women champion from the 25 provinces/capital (selected from sub-national women farmer forum) to come together in order to represent the views, sharing experiences, challenges, creative ideas to influence policy makers and development partners and increase public participation, to support small landholder farmers both male and female to ensure equal benefits.

The main recommendations for the government and national- as well as international organizations to support the female small landholder farmers include:

- Government: policy development and implementation related to the improvement of small landholder farmer's livelihood including access to water, capital, and market.
- Private sector micro finance: provide clear information to farmers regarding criteria's of making loan with "farmer community" and with low interest rate.
- NGOs and Development Partners: continue to organize this farmer forum and provide more opportunities for farmers to dialogue and learn from relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, the outcomes from this forum will be sent to government agencies, civil society, national- and international NGOs, DPs, private sectors, and farmers to consider implementation and observation on major actions gained from the discussion, recommendation, and key notes from the ministerial level government officers.

The meeting of Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Water



On 30 March 2016: Representative of the NGO Forum on Cambodia participated in the Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Water at the meeting room of Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry. The main agendas of this meeting are 1) to discuss

and endorse the work plan of TWG-AW for 2016, 2) Report on updating outputs and output indicators/targets linked to 5 year JMI outcome, 3) Toward for improvement of sustainable of irrigation system and 4) Contract Farming Experiences and Key for success of the project on support to commercialization of Cambodia Rice. From the NGOF side, we have requested to TWG-AW secretary for included consultation on the draft of agriculture land law and annual national farmer forum activities. Especially, we have requested TWG-AW to update their functions for fitting to current situation of Cambodia development such as Industrial Development Plan 2015-2015, ASEAN integration 2015, Lower Middle Income Country 2018, Sustainable Development Goal 2015-203 and Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam Economic Development. Finally, we requested them to include private sectors to become member of TWG-AW.





Monthly Meeting TWG LAND and Development Partners



Phnom Penh, 2016 March: Development Partners on Land Monthly Meeting was held in World Bank Office on April 06, 2016 from 10:00 AM – 12:10PM participating by 11 CSO/Institutions including GIZ, OHCHR, EC, PKH, Forum Syd, Oxfam, USAID, UN Habitat, MRLG, STT, and NGOF. This meeting focused on the key agenda items as following: 1) Review and approval of minutes of the last meeting (March, 2016), 2) Follow-ups with OHCHR and MRLG concerning the co-facilitation of DPs Land Group following the departure of Germany from the Land Sector, 3) Sharing an update on the land conflicts in Preah Vihear Province by PKS, 4) Briefing on MRLG Innovation Fund (IF) Call for Proposals, including some clarifications for any inquiries made by DPs Land members Updating on the World Bank Annual Conference on Land and Poverty held in Washington D.C., 5) Information on the process of Systematic Land Registration (SLR) for 3 communities in Tumnup Village, Sangkat Phnom Penh Thmey, 6) Update on the 02nd field mission of Ms. Rhona Smith, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia (incl. field trip to Stung Treng and Preah Vihear) and update on the resulted of consultation workshop on the draft of agriculture land law, resulted of the meeting between CSO and first and third commissions of the national assembly, 6the national farmer forum, Prey Lang issues and Economic Land Concession. The NGOF's director was the Chair of this monthly meeting on behalf of Dr Ludgera Klemp, Counselor and Head of Cooperation from the German Embassy who has mission.

Regional priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific



On 02-05 April 2016: Representative of the NGO Forum on Cambodia participated in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD 2016) at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. Main objective of this forum is regional priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The first regional forum on sustainable development to take place following the adoption of the 2030 agenda in September 2015 and it is shape the regional response to the 2030 Agenda. The Forum has engaged member States, United Nations institutions and other institutions,

major groups and other stakeholders on regional priorities for the implementation of the 2030 agenda in Asia and the Pacific. There are recommendations on scientific and technological innovation for sustainable development and on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Talked to the forum, Mr Tek Vannara, executive director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia raised about awareness of SDG and the process of SDG localization in Cambodia, especially contribution of CSO in Cambodia to the whole process of SDG localization.



The minute of the First Quarterly RCC Meeting in 2016

The first quarterly of RCC meeting was organized on 24th March 2016. The meeting was facilitated by NGOF. There were 31 RCC members and partners, 9 women, attended the meeting. The overall objectives of the meeting is focused on sharing and updating concerning issues of hydropower development and to define advocacy strategies of its members and partners.

Ms. Nang Noy, who is a member of RCC steering committee, welcomed and thanked to participant for his/her value time and proactive attending the RCC meetings. She also provided an opportunity for self-introduction and introduced to agenda of the



meeting which was welcomed for any comments or adding more points. There were two more agenda items were requested to include for discussion.

Read more at http://bit.ly/24J1cGB



The Regional Technical Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and CSO Leader Meeting



On 27-29 April 2016: Mr Tek Vannara, Execbodia was participated in the third meeting of the regional technical working group on environmental impact assessment and ing are provided comments from member of working group on the zero draft of the regional guideline for public participation cussed general comments and suggestions around the draft guidelines, agree on leadership program agenda to develop capaciregional and national discussions as well as to strengthen CSO networking across the for 2 leadership training activities and agree of public participation in decision-making (and EIA). The resulted of the meetings are 1) final comments on the zero draft of the regional guideline was produced and every meetings were organized in Sokha Hotel, participants who come from 5 countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao, Thailand and Myanmar.

The NGO Forum's Quarterly Members Meeting



The NGO Forum on Cambodia organized Quarterly Members Meeting (QMM) on Friday 29th April, 2016, at Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Centre (PPEDC). The meeting was participated by 84 (25 female) who are representatives of member organizations, network members, and partners. The common objectives of the Quarterly Member Meeting are to:

- Exchange the current information and knowledge among NGO/CO community;
- Update members about the NGO Forum's progress and challenges; and
- Discuss common solutions in order to improve performance of the NGO Forum as well all member organizations; and

The meeting was opened and welcome by Ms. Prum Bopha, Director of Rural Aid Organization (RAO) and member of management committee of the NGO Forum on Cambodia. In her opening remark, Ms. Prum Bopha mentioned the objectives and the main agenda of the Quarterly Member Meeting:

- Update of the government's recent approval and announcement on the Prey Lang Protected Area;
- Update on the progress of ongoing of the National Committee for Crack down Illegal Logging and Timber Trade;

- To present progress and challenges and more activities of Prey Lang Community;
 and
- To urge the government to be accountable in implement the sub-decree on establishing PreyLand Protected Area;

Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia reported the achievement and works in progress of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia within the first quarter of 2015 as well as its ways forward. Observed Progress for CSO/NGOs including the changing in public management and function of Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture; the government through Ministry of Agriculture more open for CSO/NGOs to provide consultation on Agriculture Land Law; established of National Forest Crime Crack-down Committee; more space for CSO/NGOs cooperation with Chinese firm in Cambodia; and the reshuffle of ministerial cabinet composition and minister



of agriculture was replaced. During the period there are some challenges which is GIZ's land right project faced out; TWG-Land: the meeting, update and progress was not clear flow; European Union program faced out of forestry sector and turn to fishery; and recent pressure against CSO/NGO's human right activists.

Read more at http://bit.ly/1XWkV7d



Community Network was threatened in protecting their Prey Land



The Prey Lang Community Network (PLCN) is a group of Indigenous People volunteers who join together to protect the Prey Lang Forest, which has been part of our lives for many generations. PLCN come from the four provinces surrounding Prey Lang, Kampong Thom, Preah Vihea, Kratie and Stung Trung and have volunteered, working together to protect Prey Lang for 16 years.

As part of their patrol routine, from 23 to 27 March activists from all four provinces traveled through Prey Lang patrol to monitor and suppress the illegal logging that is destroying Prey Lang forest. During the five days of patrol their confiscated many cubic meters of wood, 35 chainsaws, and other materials involved in logging activities. Over the past 2 months of 2016 they have confiscated 85 chainsaws and many more cubic of wood from illegal loggers in Prey Lang.

On the evening of 26 March they camped overnight near Ta Chuel stream, in the Bueng Char region. On 27 March, between 1.30 and 1.40 in the morning, local time, a group of people slipped through their camp and attempted to kill one of youth activists, Phan Sopheak, who was asleep in her hammock. They did not see the faces and do not know how many they were, but activist was badly injured on her left leg. If she were sleeping the other way, they would have cut her throat. The criminal soon escaped after Sopheak yelled for help.

Read more at http://bit.ly/24ZZP60

Civil Society engagement with 3rd Commission of National Assembly on the issues of Environment and Natural Resource Management



The engagement with 3rd Commission of National Assembly were facilitated by The NGO Forum on Cambodia to join meeting with Prey Land Working Group (PLWG), Indigenous People and Forestry Networking, and 3rd commission of National Assembly, which meeting held on 31 March 2016.

To begin, H.E Pol Ham, chairman of 3rd commission of the National Assembly warmly welcomed the cooperation between the commission and civil society networks. He also advised members of the commission to facilitate such communication and cooperation.

Cases presented by civil society networks were on the challenges involved in fisheries, forestry, land, Dam, and human rights issues. The first case presented was about the Prey Lang which is cut down drastically. In the forest areas which borders to concessions company was faced by logging and transforms illegal wood into legitimate. The deforestation, mining concession occurred in areas around Chum Anlongsor of Chey Sen district, Phear Vihear province. Water polluted due the forest clearance for roads construction. The reforestation company named Think Bio Tech Co Ltd has permission from government with a total area of 34,000 hectares does not report the full environmental impact, overlapping boundaries area of 7,000 hectares of residential land and forest land.

The second case was about the fishery issues which through the study of FACT organization. There are about 6 million people live in 17 provinces depend on fisheries resources, but these resources are at risk of losing due to lack of law enforcement by local authorities to prevent illegal fishing, and deforestation of flooded forest.

The third case was on the land issues on the investment Companies for sugar production in 4 provinces of Koh Kong, Kampong Speu, Oddar Meanchey, and Preah Vihear. The issue is about lack of proper law enforcement causing impacts on the forest land and community people. Therefore, residents protested to the relevant institutions, nationally and internationally, and the European Union has responded that it will not purchase sugar from the investment firm if not resolve the dispute ended with the community.



Fourth is about the hydropower dam which is the Sesan 2 in Stoeung Treng currently facing of 54 families of Kbalromeas does not accept compensation and refused to dismantle their residential with non-negotiable. 50% of households in the village Srekor not receive compensation with conditions 1) for an ancestral compensation equal two thousand dollars, 2) need to dealing with new married family, and 3) compensation policy is cheaper cost which requested to review more option of increasing.

Read more at http://bit.ly/1XWkV7d



ON THE MEDIA



Topic: Radio talk show on "Land Disputes Case in Cambodia"

Location: RFI

Date: 18 March 2016

Speakers: Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF

Read more at: http://rfi.my/22rEW8f



Topic: Radio talk show on "The Open Budget Survey"

Location: VOD

Date: 21 March 2016

Speakers: Ms. Kim Nay, Development Issues Program Manager of NGOF



Topic: Radio talk show on "Global Warming"

Location: VOD

Date: 20 April 2016

Speakers: Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF



UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2016

02 May

Meeting with the National Assembly Commission 2 on the National Budget

04 May

Dialogue meeting with Minister of Ministry of Environment (MoE) on Environmental Issues

25-26 May

Accompany Asian Youth on the NGO Contribution to the National Poverty Reduction

03 June

Meeting of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) and Civil Society NGOs in Cambodia

05 - June

National and World Environment Day

07-09 June

Training Workshop on EIA Monitoring and Effective Communication at Sekong Hotel, Stung Treng Province

10 June

NGOs working on Land and Resettlement Housing Rights Network (LARiN) discuss meeting with Ministry of Land Urban Planning Construction (MLUP)

28 June

Lanuching Publication on Statical Analysis of ELCs in Cambodia



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Mr. SUN Youra is officially commences as Research, Advocacy, and Communication (RAC) Manager of the NGO Forum on Cambodia from April 01, 2016 forward. He has 17 years extensive experience in rank senior positions in Cambodia with local and international NGOs which most of my field related to capacity development, land and natural resource management, and integrated community development.

Mr. SUN Youra graduated in Master in Development Management from the Norton University in Cambodia in 2009, Diploma in Integrated Community Development from the Cologne University of Applied Sciences in Germany in 2006, and Bachelor of Business Administration in field of Management from National Institute of Management in Cambodia in 2003.



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Mr. Bun Narin is officially commences as Forestry Rights Project Coordinator, Land and Livelihood Program of the NGO Forum on Cambodia from April 08, 2016 forward.

Mr. Narin has been working more than 15 years professional work experience with various NGOs and partners such as on sectors of Natural Resource management/ Community Forestry Development, Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP), Silviculture operation, GPS GIS, Tree and Bamboo planting, Agro forestry, NTFP, Tree Nursery, Watershed Management, Climate Change and Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).





THANK YOU!

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

Working Together for Positive Change



























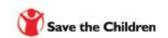




















The NGO Forum on Social Media!