



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការចូលរួមរបស់អង្គការស៊ីវិល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការវិវឌ្ឍសេចក្តីល្អ
Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

7th National Farmer Forum: The Enhancement of Multi-Stakeholder Engagement For Farmers to Access Water, Capital and Market in Agribusiness



There were 320 (87 females) participants at the 7th national farmer forum discussing on “The Enhancement of Multi-Stakeholder Engagement for Farmer to access water, capital, and market in agribusiness”. The include monks, government officials, NGOs/CSOs, academic institutes, private sectors, farmer representatives from 24 provinces/cities together for. This 7th forum conducted on 14-15 December 2017 had the following aims: 1) To enhance agri-business environment for multi-stakeholders to working together to update progress of previous Farmer Forums and to formulate partnership frameworks for national farmer forum. 2) To substantially boost policy implementation so as to support farmers especially women so that they would have greater opportunities to access water, capital and markets, and 3) To strengthen collaboration and partnership between farmers, CSOs, private sector, development partner and government agencies.

One of 18 Organizing Committee members: Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), stated that this forum was a platform to bring all relevant stakeholders to discuss and share

the experiences, lessons learnt, strategies to find good solutions, and to cooperate with each other for agricultural sector improvement in Cambodia - especially for farmers to access market, water, and capital.

Mr. Sam Vitou, Executive Director of CEDAC also welcomed these efforts. He added that the forum was very important to discuss these three topics. Farmers have faced with drought and flood, which bring negative impact to their agricultural activities. Small irrigation is important to be considered for



the drought period. Family or community pond is another important solution as it can store water during rainy season. Relating to Capital – borrowing from MFI can’t gain benefit due to high interest rate. Cambodia has market, but market coordination is another challenging 55% of agricultural products are imported to our country. Quantity and quality of potential products to be produced and networking are important for farmers too.

Mr. Norng Sivuthan, Country Director of HEKS mentioned that enhancement of Multi-stakeholder engagement is a main topic for all of us to work and find solutions together. He thanked to all farmer repre-

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sentatives who worked hard to produce agricultural products ensuring food security, which links to the economic growth in Cambodia. Agricultural is a sector with many challenges due to the lack of agricultural technology.

The three-day forum provided opportunities for small landholder farmers, and



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



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Land Disputes Data Collection Orientation



On November 15, 2017, the Land and Housing Rights Network (LAHRiN) of the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized a meeting on "Land Disputes Data Collection Orientation". There were 10 participants (3 women) of LAHRiN members at Tonle Basac 1, Phnom Penh.

This meeting achieved the following: better understanding on the forms of data collection, used the different forms of data collection, collected more inputs, comments, and new approaches to improve on data collection. On the other hand, all participants also reviewed on the land disputes reported in Cambodia about the existing questionnaire and new questionnaire as well.



CSOs on IP rights organized regular meeting with Ministry of Rural Development



On December 15, 2017, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Rural Development: 14 representatives from the national and international civil society organizations working on indigenous people rights gathered. These organisations include: NGOF, UNOHCHR, NTFP, IRAM, CIPO, CYA, IP Alliance, PKH, OHCHR, FLO, ICSO, HEKS, DPA, and CLEC. The meeting was also held with H.E Madam Mara, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Rural Development. The meeting was aimed for sharing the results and progress of the current situation,

as well as open space for civil society's share common agenda, action plans and some challenging happened from the ground level which seeking for a better cooperation and promptly address the issues of indigenous communities in Cambodia. That morning's meeting was a fruitful discussion, with conclusions made on the establishment of indigenous community census data in Cambodia, and some keys activities to continue increasing awareness. The participants also thought of other outreach programs through radio and television programs for promoting rights and increasing capacity of Indigenous People who are working in the areas of agriculture, Community Fishery, Community Forestry, to produce Manual of Collective Land Titles of Indigenous peoples as well as gender mainstreaming. Besides this, CSOs also requested for the Ministry of Rural Development to facilitate the meeting with Prime Minister in any occasion to

thank and share. In addition, CSOs requested coordination with the Ministry of Rural Development to develop a consensus and supporting letter for better collaboration.





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HIGHLIGHT STORIES

Annual Retreat of Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Water



Annual Retreat of Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Water (TWG-AW) was conducted by the co-chair from Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) and Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology. It was held at Apsara Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap Province on 23-24 November, 2017 under the support of EU and the NGOF. The main objectives of annual retreat are 1) to review the performance of TWG-AW pertaining to the progresses, challenges, and proposed solution, 2) to discuss about the progress of the Agricultural Development Plan (Master Plan), 3) to develop the capacities of the TWG-AW members, and 4) to strengthen and promote partnership among TWG-AW members. All the members of technical working group participated actively in the meeting and produced very fruitful results for the next implementations.



Consultation meeting for capacity building on National Legality Framework and Timber Risk Assessment



On November 13-14, 2017, NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized a consultation meeting for the capacity building on National Legality Framework and Timber Risk Assessment at Tonle Bassac I, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. A two-day consultation workshop was organized with relevant stakeholders. In total, 15 (1 woman) participants attended, with one government staff from Forest Administration, TRAFFIC, NEPCon, WWF, RECOFTC, PBO, Mosaic and NGOF.

Based on the existing action plan for the V4MF project, baseline data gathering is very important stage which related to timber risk assessment and national legality framework in order to compliment with Enabling Environmental Assessment Tool (EEAT). NGO Forum on Cambodia as a national co-applicant for V4MF/ EU-NSA funded. These were the following objectives:

1. Introduce and explain the existing National Legality Framework and Risk Assessment tools to V4MF staff who are involved in the project data gathering and relevant stakeholders;
2. Build up capacity for V4MF staff on how to fill in the existing formats and how to collect data information with relevant stakeholders with effectiveness and quality
3. Have common ideas on the format template with government institution especially FA and MoE

4. Develop next action plan among team Cambodia and nominate project staff to gather data information

During this discussion, the TRAFFIC consultant provided important information on the data gathering process and taught all participants on how to fill in the format of National Legality Framework (NLF) by sharing experiences and examples from various countries. The NEPCon also provided guideline on how to use the format of Forest Risk Assessment (RA) with relevant stakeholders. During the event, V4MF invited government staffs and NGOs to reflect and provide feedbacks on the existing questionnaires EEAT as well, then V4MF team prepared next action plan to gather information, the NGOF play as a key person to take lead the process.





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Discussion on Validating Guidelines for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Asia and Asia Pacific



The Executive Director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia (NGOF), along with other participants from government offices, CSO/NGOs and private sectors from Asia and Asia Pacific regions, gathered for a discussion on Validating Guidelines for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP) for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Implementation. The discussion was co-organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainable (UNU-IAS) on 28-29 November 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. The main focus of the guidelines is to provide a practical guidance for ESCAP member States, policy makers and practitioners to build and sustain an effective MSP aimed at supporting progress on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The guidelines will help governments to identify, build and maintain partnerships to overcome challenges along the SDG implementation policy cycle. The guidelines will respond to the evidence-based assessment of the current performance of MSP and challenges faced in the region to achieve progress on the 2030 Agenda and will provide practical a step-by-step guidance to build and sustain effective MSP.



The NGO Forum Annual Reflection



The 5-day annual reflection was aimed to better understand more on the successful forestry protection of the monks' community forest, to strengthen staff capacity on report writing through outcome harvesting, to identify key priority areas of NGO's annual operational plan and budget, and to maintain a good working environment of NGO and enforce policy compliance. On day 01, December 18, 2017, NGO staff arrived at Oddor Meanchey province and visited the monk' community forest called "Sang Roka Voan". There we had a presentation on the history of forestry community establishment, challenges, and way forward for forestry protection. We also walked through the forest to see trees, animals, birds, etc. Finally, we got monk blessing for peace full mind to continue our mission in the coming year.

On day 02, we crossed the O'smach border to Martina Resort, Surin, Thailand. The coaching and mentoring on report writing through outcome harvesting was introduced. Each program had a chance to practice its outcomes harvesting and finalizing the annual report based on outcome

harvesting principles and comment from the world café approach.

On day 03, the presentation on NGO's six years strategic plan and key priority areas were introduced and discussed. Staffs also presented and discussed on building network and advocacy strategies to focus on CSO facilitation, participatory intervention between sub-national and national level. Furthermore, the template of 2018 operational plan was oriented.

On day 04, the 2018 coordination plan was produced in order to organize event smoothly without overlapping schedule. In addition, each staffs were able to express and give appreciated noted on certificate of appreciation. In the afternoon, the staffs had a chance to sightsee around Surin provincial town and visit the traditional culture of Kouy Indigenous community. At the end of the day, the sodality dinner was organized with motivation gifts for all staff.

On day 05, December 22, 2017, everyone reflected on the 4 days of activities against the set objectives. Finally, everyone arrived home safe and sound.





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Workshop on Traditional Rules, Policies and National and International Laws relevant Indigenous Peoples



On December 14, 2017: The NGO Forum on Cambodia through the Indigenous Peoples and Forest Network (IPFN) of Indigenous Peoples Rights Projects co-organized with Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO) to host a Workshop on Traditional Rules, Policies and National and International Laws relevant Indigenous Peoples at the Tonle Bassac Restaurant II, Phnom Penh.

There were 70 representatives from Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Environment, Forestry Administration of Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, UNOHCR, IPWG and indigenous communities from provinces. This workshop aimed to share the knowledge and experiences of indigenous people identification, rules, living standards, as well as national policies and laws and international laws relating to indigenous peoples to relevant stakeholders for a wider understanding, it was also aimed to promote the recognition and laws enforcement on indigenous peoples' rights in accordance with customary rules and laws from more relevant stakeholders for the dignity of our Cambodian society as a whole, especially on land rights, traditions, culture and nom.



Third National CSO Consultation Workshop On Draft 9.1 Of The Environment And Natural Resource Code



After months of work, the Draft on Environmental and Natural Resources Code (EC) of Cambodia has finally been completed (draft 9.1). The draft has been prepared by Vishnu Law Group with six Sub-Technical Working Groups under the overall leadership of a joint-Vishnu Law Group and the Ministry of Environment Technical Working Group.

During this sensitive stage, the NGO and their development partners, as well CSO members, have co-organized the national CSO consultation workshop on “The Engagement of CSOs in the Creation of Environmental and Natural Resources Code”, which aims to collect wider inputs from relevant stakeholders and to consolidate inputs for the final submission on draft 9.1 of the Environmental and Natural Resources Code to the Vishnu Law Group and the Ministry of Environment (MoE).

A national consultation workshop was conducted at Tonle Basacc 2 Restaurant, Phnom Penh Capital, Cambodia. This event commenced over 2 days from 27th-28th November 2017. There were 114 participants (30 women) including lawyers, academic institutions, national and international NGOs in Cambodia and community representatives including Indigenous People all participated in this event.

This workshop was another contribution by CSO to EC, and had two key aims: 1) Collect wider inputs/recommendations from academic individuals, NGOs, and affected communities to ensure effective inputs/recommendations are developed and incorporated

into the Code, particularly the concerns/issues relating to the environment and human rights. 2) Strengthening capacity of NGOs/CSOs and affected communities' representatives to understand the Environmental Code Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum gave the welcome speech in which he said, “thanks to all participants for attending and the organizing committee for co-organizing this workshop. It should be noted that this code might be put in place for implementation next year after adoption due to commitments of Royal Government of Cambodia. Since Code developing; we have organized such workshops 3 times excluding many other formal and informal meetings and workshops for collecting inputs on this code. Regarding decisions from last CSO leaders meeting, we have identified 7 main topics for today's discussion, these are: 1) Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) 2) Public Participation 3) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 4) Climate Change (CC) 5) Protected Area 6) Access to information and 7) Collaborative management of Natural Resources. NGOs have developed the Technical Working Group (TWG) including academic people, lawyers, and NGO representatives to provide inputs since the first draft of the code. Also, there were many formal and informal meetings with MoE to discuss on this code. Today, it is very important to identify the common inputs from all participants as it might be the final opportunity for CSOs and communities to provide comments. It should



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



ASEAN Civil Society People Forum



In 2017, the ASEAN Civil Society Forum was held in the city of Cu Chi, Philippines from November 11- 14, 2017 under the theme of Strengthening People's Solidarity for Justice, Justice, Equality and Humanity in Southeast Asia. Some of the key topics discussed by the Forum included human rights, access to justice, social responsibility, energy, extractive industries, climate change, social protection systems and life for dignity for all, peace and security. Representatives of ASEAN countries were present in the meeting.

Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, asked the leaders of the 10 ASEAN countries to set up joint ASEAN guidelines or policies on environmental impact assessment, ASEAN Standard Environmental Assessment, ASEAN Standard Strategic Framework, ASEAN Standards for Compensation and Relocation, Public participation in the development process of all stakeholders and the right to access ASEAN standard information. He added more if ASEAN guidelines or policies for implementing it will help to encourage people who are living across border and in region to get the dignity and rights to their livelihood, as well as develop the standards that both regional and international levels, in particular in accordance with the sustainable development goals of the United Nations 2015-2030. The Forum of Civil Society Organizations and the ASEAN peoples ended on November 14, 2017, announcing for a joint communique by strengthening the alliance and continuing to advocate with ASEAN and to address important issues facing the ASEAN nations, especially the vulnerable and the poor.

Asia and Asia Pacific's Civil Society Meeting



Asia and Asia Pacific's Civil Society meeting with Shanghai Cooperative Organization and Chinese Universities for discussion on how to organize Shanghai Cooperative Organization Conference which will held in Year 2018. In discussion, Mr Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia suggested to organizer that there are 5 main topics should including into conference agenda such as 1)Responsibility of Chinese Oversea Investment Policy and Implementation, 2)Mechanism for sharing information and communication between project owner and people, 3)Mekong Water and Environment Cooperation between Mekong Region and China, 4)Infrastructure Cooperation between ASEAN and China: Policies, Implementation and Solution and 5)Environment and Social Safeguard of China Bank and Chinese's International Investment Banks for responses on social and environmental issues happening from the project development. The meeting was organized Shanghai Cooperative Organization at The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries on 1st December 2017 in Beijing, China.

Asia CSO/NGO meeting with the president of International of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation held on 1st December

2017 in Beijing, China. The main objectives of the meeting is exchange experiences and information among participants and future cooperation within this foundation. Mr Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia (NGOF), requested to foundation to distribute information to all stakeholders, especially asking more CSO/ NGO for applying these grants in order to use it for poverty alleviation in the areas that this foundation can support around the world. The meeting was finished by fruitful resulted with very good framework for future cooperation between CFPA and CSO/NGO in Asia.





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Training Workshop on Proposal Writing



Land and Housing Right Network (LAHRiN) of the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized a training workshop on proposal writing for NGOs in Cambodia. The workshop training was held for one day on November 16, 2017 at Tonle Basac 1, Phnom Penh City. There were 27 participants (7 women) present at the training.

Mr. Ouk Vannara, Deputy Executive Director of NGOF, opening remark included the following points: This training workshop was aimed at strengthening the capacity of LAHRiN members on proposal writing, and it is the need of LAHRiN member who demand for have such this training. On the other hand, all participants have chance to share their experience, the expectation and difficulty facing in proposal writing to donor. With this regard, we have our tinnier, Mr. Phum Thol, Consultant of Bread for the World, who facilitated this training to give direction and advice for all participants to meet our objective. Lastly, he wishes all participants gain more skill with this training and able to apply for their working place.



11th National Conference on “Governance on Land and Natural Resources”



On December 06, 2017, 61 Civil Society Organizations co-organized the 11th National Conference on “Governance on Land and Natural Resources” at Tonle basac 2 Restaurant, Phnom Penh. There are were 290 participants including representatives of the Ministry of Land Urban Planning and Construction, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economic and Finance, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Forestry Administration of Ministry of Agriculture Forest and Fisheries, Company and Private Sectors, University students, development partners, communities from any provinces, National NGOs and International NGOs, and community based organization. This national conference aimed to increase understanding of the participants on the process of land governance, land disputes resolution, as well as the governance on natural resources. On the other hand, NGOs and Community Based Organization (CBO) have opportunity to share their experience and challenge facing from the ground, and would request for the government to consider on the inputs of this national conference.

Dr. TEK Vannara said that the 11th National Conference is was an opportunity for communities, civil society, government, development partners, private sector and research institutions to enhance good cooperation and constructive dialogue in partnership loyalty by highlighting challenges facing the various concerns, recommendations and suggestions. This was a move towards creating a good strategic and collaborative ac-

tivities carried out by a joint responsibility to achieve sustainable development in Cambodia. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are ready to contribute with the governance on resolving land issues and improve natural resources management for poverty reduction in Cambodia. He added that Cambodia is enjoying a great deal of economic growth and domestic by international investors: infrastructure, agriculture, agro-industry, mineral resources, food production, and tourism. In the process of these projects also require rules and regulations and good practices to properly respect the principle of public participation principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in monitoring and controlling implementing the project’s developers regularly for proper compliance rights report on social and environmental impact assessment, and the contract, which is the key to preventing and resolving conflicts, land and natural resources. At the same time, CSOs support the Royal Government of Cambodia in deepening reform efforts to effectively manage land and natural resource governance as well as solving land disputes.

H.E Ngan Chamroeun, gave the opening speech at the National Conference. H.E welcomed the conference and thanked the development partners and NGOs who always participate in our activities. His speech focused on four areas of reform: the policy of decentralization and decentralization of the sub-national, the management of the public administration, the public financial con-



Read more at: <http://bit.ly/2FO9Odz>



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ON THE MEDIA



Topic: Farmers seek government help

Source: Khmer Times

Date: 15 December 2017

Speakers: Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director, NGOF

Read more at: <http://www.khmertimeskh.com/5096164/farmers-seek-government-help/>



Topic: Radio Talk on “CSOs Contribution on Environment Conservation”

Source: Radio France International (RFI)

Date: 06 December 2017

Speakers: Mr. Sun Youra, National Development Policy Program Manager, NGOF

Read more at : <http://km.rfi.fr/cambodia/somnong-interview-with-sun-yura-ngo-forum-06-12-2017?ref=fb>



Topic: The 7th Farmer Forum is beneficial for farmers

Source: Radio France International (RFI)

Date: 15 December 2017

Speakers: Mr. Hok Menghoin, Environment and Agriculture Policy Program Manager, NGOF

Read more at: <http://km.rfi.fr/cambodia/itw-hok-meng-horn-15-12-2017>

UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2017

01 January

International New Year Day

07 January

Victory Day Over Genocide

31 January

Meak Bochea Day

13 February

Quarterly Member Meeting

22 February

Research Launching on “Small Landholder Farmer and Agribusiness Engagement”



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