

MINUTES
33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Date: 02 March 2023

at Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Phnom Penh

Minutes Takers: Ny Veasna and Chuon Chhonn

Introduction

The AGM is CCC’s major event organized annually for CCC members and relevant actors to review and reflect on the achievements CCC made over the past year. The learning topics and discussions concerning issues faced by CCC members and key development challenges are usually included in the event. This year the AGM was held to:

- Acknowledge the joint efforts of members & partners, celebrate key achievements and appreciation for their contribution to the development of Cambodia.
- Reflect the previous year performance, and upcoming plan for implementation and organizational Executive Committee.
- Enhance inclusive partnership, networking and the collaboration among CCC members, donors and development partners, provincial NGO networks, and government partners for democratic and sustainable development in Cambodia.



The event brought together 137 (55 females) participants, namely CCC members, provincial network leaders, community-based organization representatives, development partners and the government representatives.

Welcome Remarks by CCC’s ExCom Chair

CCC’s ExCom chair began her remark by extending a warm welcome and expressing her deep gratitude to all participants for taking the time to participate in the event. She also applauded all members for their participation and thanked development partners, donors and representatives of relevant ministries of the Cambodian government for their participation in this important event. Then she introduced the event’s main objectives.

She also took the opportunity to remind the participants of the country’s recent history that after the 23rd October, 1991 Paris Peace Agreement on Cambodia, more and more civil society organizations (CSOs) were formed. Since then CSOs have played a very important role and significantly contributed to the development of the country almost in all sectors from providing disaster relief, promoting good governance to protecting human rights and environment throughout the country. CSOs have continued to play such an important role till today. For instance, CCC with 192 members contributes up to about 500 USD annually to the development of the country. This is significant in financial terms. She continued to highlight CCC’s important

coordinating role. Having played such a crucial role, CCC has been able to provide capacity development, bringing various stakeholders together to share experience and knowledge through various learning forums that CCC has created. In addition, CCC has also been seen not just as a coordinator, but as a bridge builder and connector among diverse stakeholders and engaging them in discussions concerning development challenges as well as gathering their inputs for improving policies and various laws from LANGO to law on taxation, etc. Through such platforms as Govt-CSO Partnership Dialogue, CCC was able to communicate issues and challenges to the attention of the Ministry of Interior. She ended her remark by thanking the participants for their participation and blessing them with best wishes.

Opening Remarks by Deputy Head of the Department of NGOs and Political Affairs of the Ministry of Interior (Moi)

The remark commenced with welcoming all participants. It proceeded by calling the event an opportunity to build relationships and learn from each other, and strengthen cooperation between civil society, development partners and the government. The remark went on to acknowledge that CSOs have significantly contributed to promote development in Cambodia through provision of assistance as well as technical and financial support for livelihood improvement, particularly for poor and vulnerable people, strengthening of human rights, democracy and policy formulations. The remark noted that the partnership work between CSOs and government in the past has yielded the following:

- Provision of humanitarian assistance, responding effectively to disasters and the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Strengthening quality of public services such as in education, health and infrastructure development in rural areas.
- Promoting democracy and human rights through awareness raising, citizen empowerment, enabling them to participate in local development and the implementation of sub national democratic development.
- Human resource development that includes building capacity of citizens, local authorities and the capacity of sub national administrations.
- Contributing to governance reforms and legal and policy developments
- Improve livelihoods and employment creations
- Natural resource protection and policy recommendations concerning natural resources and environmental protection.



The remark went on to appreciate the joint effort of CSOs and the government in the past that contributed to Cambodia's economic growth at a rate of 7% per year for almost two decades before the COVID 19 pandemic. However, Cambodia like most countries in the world was hit by the COVID 19 pandemic. This has a negative impact on daily life of ordinary people as well as slowing economic growth. The remark went on to express that joint effort be continued, so as to overcome challenges and realize the country's development goals set in the Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2030) and National Program for Sub National Democratic Development (2021-2030). To achieve this, it requires participation, cooperation and work in partnership with CSOs, donors, development partners and the government stakeholders. The remark also reminded CSOs of the followings:

1. Avoid engaging in money laundering activities and providing funding to terrorists and trade in weapons of mass destruction.
2. Continue to participate and support the government and sub national administration in reforms particularly in sub national democratic development and the implementation of social accountability in order strengthen the accountability of the public administration, sub national administration to enable them to respond to the needs of citizens in their respective jurisdictions.
3. CSOs must perform their duties in accordance with LANGO and other regulatory and policy frameworks of the government. In addition, CSOs must be neutral in conducting their activities, particularly during the period of the coming general election in 2023.
4. CSOs are prohibited from carrying out activities for personal benefits or sharing dividends among themselves, which is contrary to laws and regulations.

The remark ended with thanking CSOs, development partners, donors, particularly CCC for organizing the event, and it wished the event to go smoothly, generating good ideas and building relationships, strengthening partnership and cooperation to contribute better in the development of the country, and finally wishes all participants and open the event.

Official Announcement: CCC Member’s ExCom 2023-2024

One of the members of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of Mr. Leng Vireak, the Treasurer and Operation Director of World Vision has ended his 2-year term, serving as CCC’s ExCom Treasurer, but unfortunately, he and other three ExCom’s members were not able to attend the AGM because they were away on their mission out of Phnom Penh and the country. The other three ExCom’s members, Ms. Onn Sokny, Mr. Tum Vira and an incoming ExCom’s member Mr. Billy Gorter were in attendance. Mr. Tum Vira was elected to be the ExCom’s Treasurer, replacing the outgoing Treasurer Mr. Len Vireak. Mr. Billy Gorter is an executive director of an NGO called This is Life Organization based in Siem Reap. Mr. Billy expressed his humbleness and excitement of having been elected to be CCC Excon member. He is committed to serve the role as best he can for CCC and the interest of CCC members.

Mr. Tum Vira is Executive Director of HelpAge Cambodia. Like Mr. Billy, Mr. Vira is excited to have been selected to be CCC ExCom’s member and as a Treasurer. Mr. Vira thanked CCC members for their confidence and trust in him. He is committed and looks forward to utilizing his skills and experience to perform his role as CCC ExCom’s Treasurer for the benefit of all CCC members and to contribute to sustainable development of Cambodia.



Ms. Onn Sokny is the country director of APICARTS and the ExCom’s member at large. Ms. Sokny has served as ExCom’s member since 2021 and she has been very pleased to have performed her role as ExCom’s member. She is particularly inspired by one of CCC’s core values, which is Inclusiveness as APICARTS works with people with disabilities. Nonetheless, inclusiveness does not limit to just people with disabilities, but working together for all of us, this is according to Ms. Sokny. She hopes to contribute more and learn from CCC members too.

Ms. Chi Soheat is a Country Director of PSI. She has served as an ExCom’s chair for a year. She expressed her satisfaction to have performed her role as the ExCom’s chair, through which she believed contributes to helping the work of CSOs. She also conveyed her feelings and wished that she could have done more to support CCC, but it was difficult for her to balance her organization responsibility. However, she is

committed to do more and better in terms of performing role as CCC's ExCom's chair to serve best interest to all CCC members.

Key Snapshots: 2022 Key Achievements, and its 2023 Operational Plan

- CCC's 2022 Key Achievements by short video clip
- Key Snapshot of CCC's Operational Plan and Budget for 2023 of GHP by Ms. Luy THEary, CCC Head program

CCC Background:

- CCC was established in 1990 as a membership-based organization (international NGOs)
- By November 2022, CCC has 188 DNGOs and FNGOs active as its members (around 50% FNGOs).
- 16 provincial NGO Networks (new additional in Koh Kong)
- 10 Voluntary Working Groups (103 members)
- **CCC mission:** works in inclusive partnership for good governance, enabling environment and sustainability of civil society organization in Cambodia.
- **Two program goals:**
 - Improved enabling environment for CSOs.
 - Sustainability and functionality of CSO Resource Hub attained at the national and sub national level.
- **Four outcomes:**
 - CSOs empowered with enhanced capacity, resiliency and representations.
 - Enabling environment and democratic space enhanced for CSOs.
 - Resource made supportive to CSOs at the national and sub-national level.
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- **Impact:** resourceful, cooperative and capable development actors, particularly civil society, to accountably respond to development challenges in Cambodia.
 - CCC has implemented a single program called Governance Hub Program (GHP) since 2011 and with the ambition of working areas coverage to 20 provinces/city.
- **Role of CCC:**
 - Governance champion
 - Coordinator
 - Advocate
- **Working Approaches:**
 - Member Center
 - Decentralization
 - Inclusive Partnership
 - Rights Based Approach and Do No Harm
- **Seven Program Strategies:**
 1. Governance System Tools: volunteer system
 2. Learning and Capacity Development: the 4 learning forums and others learning like HID.
 3. CSOs Resource Hub: Information (well-informed), HR (capacity), and Funding (sustainable funding).
 4. Research: collect recommendation.



5. Multi-stakeholder Engagement Inclusive Partnership.
 6. Campaign and Advocacy: joint force and campaigning.
 7. ICT and Innovation: modernized and technology.
- **Governance Hub Program with 4 specific objectives:**
 - CSOs empowered with enhanced capacity and representation.
 - Enabling environment and democratic space enhanced for CSOs
 - Resource made supportive to CSOs at the national and sub-national level => 4 Expected results.
 - CCC become a sustainable CSOs Resource Hub.
 - **Budget Plan for 2023:**
 - Program Cost: 890,905 \$
 - Salary and Benefit Cost: 571,206\$
 - Operational and Admin Cost: 82,664
 - Audit Cost: 14,055\$.
 - Contingency: 15,000 \$
 - Total 1,573, 830 \$.
 - Reserved fund 47K (membership fee 7K, gain income around 3K interest in each month).

Closing Remarks by Mr.Tum Vira

Mr. Tum Vira gave a wrap up of the event by recalling all key items of the event. The main of the welcoming speech delivered by Ms. Chi Socheat, CCC ExCom chair was on CSOs' role and contribution to the development of Cambodia and CCC's coordinating roles in servicing members and engaging with development partners, donors, private sectors and representatives of relevant ministries of the Cambodian government to tackle development challenges through dialogues with the government stakeholders. The opening remark delivered by deputy chair of the Department of NGOs and Political Affairs of the Ministry of Interior (Mol) was on three main points: recognition CSOs' contribution in development, CSOs must refrain themselves from engaging in such activities as money laundering, providing funding to terrorists and CSOs must be neutral in conducting their activities, particularly during the period of the coming general election in 2023. He also recapped CCC's GHP implementation of the program in 2022, delivering 295 events with more than 5000 participations, more than half are women. CCC members have increased from 188 to 192 members. CCC works with provincial NGO networks in 16 provinces. Koh Kong is the new one. He also mentioned concerns that CSOs have related to compliance with laws such as LANGO, tax, accounting and auditing laws.

CCC has initiated 10 voluntary working groups with 103 members (33% females). The ICT working group is made up only of males. He urged women to join the ICT working group for the interest of CSOs as a whole. Among others, CCC GHP 2023 focuses on working with the government, particularly with the Ministry of Planning on VNR to produce a voluntary report on CSDG. CCC's budget plan increases 1.57 million USD for 2023, so CCC has a lot to do in 2023. Mr. Vira ended his closing remark by thanking all members, CBOs, development partners, donors and the government representatives for their participation, cooperation and support to CCC and in the development of the country. He blesses all participants with good health and success.