



NEWSLETTER



Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Cambodia



Mr. Soeung Saroeun delivered twelve key asks of CSOs at MOI in Jan 2019.

Photo: CCC

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JOINT EFFORT TO GIVE STRENGTH The Second Partnership Forum Between the Gov't and CSOs

By: Sin Putheary

Twelve key asks of civil society organizations (CSOs) have been proposed to Ministry of Interior (MoI) during the 2nd Partnership Forum between the Government and CSOs in Jan 2019.

This is the joint effort of CSOs for years in claiming for dialogues with the government concerning the civic space issues. Some of the positive responses have been addressed by MoI including the followings:

- 1). The removal of three-day notification to the sub-national administration if NGO activities are the same of their mandate registered with MoI
- 2) The regular Partnership meeting between the government and CSOs at National and Sub-national levels at least twice a year.
- 3) CSOs are able to contact directly to Administrative Department, MoI for support/intervention in case of non-collaboration from sub-national administrative regarding the implementation of CSOs activities.

Around 500 participants were from CSOs (mostly from Local NGOs), General Commissariat of National Police, Sub-national administrative officers, Development Partners. They were at the Venue to witness the achievements, challenges, and suggestions from CSOs, and responses from MoI.

After the 2nd Partnership Forum between the government and CSOs ended in Phnom Penh in Jan, the same modality started at the provincial levels including Siem Riem, Kompong Cham, Svay Rieng, and so on.

Although the genuine process of Partnership Forum were the concerns among participants especially from CSOs side, there were the responses from the government that have been made, and the culture of dialogue have been introduced.

Civil Society Day : Celebration to Mark 40th Anniversary of Civil Society Work

By: Sin Putheary

The role of civil society is greatly appreciated in this modern-day after the remarkable contribution to the development for four decades.

To mark 40th anniversary of civil society work, CCC co-organized with other twelve NGOs including UN Women organized the Civil Society Day in March 2019 in Phnom Penh. The purposes of the event are to celebrate key achievements of civil society contributing to the development of Cambodia, to discuss on thematic priorities including their challenges and key recommendations that civil society working on, and to enhance the enabling, financial sustainability and long-term impacts of civil society in development of Cambodia.



Delegates and Participants presented themselves on CS Day. Photo: CCC



Participants attended breakout session on Civil Society Day. Photo: CCC

Around 300 participants who are CCC members, partners and members, and development actors (the government officials, the development partners, the Civil Society representatives, and the private sector), community-based organization representatives, and youth committed to improve good governance, human rights protection, democratic governance and environmental conservation at all levels.

Civil Society Day is an annual platform for civil society to share their key milestones and success stories, to discuss on key issues, development trends and challenges of last year and for the following year.

In addition to, the event is the annual platform to strengthen inclusive partnership in global, regional, and sub-national policies such as SDGs, ASEAN, CSDGs, NSDP, IP3, Implementation of Social Accountability Framework (ISAF), and other sectoral policies.

The discussions are mainly framed around the thematic focus on Inclusive Partnership for Sustainable and Democratic Development. Other nine breakout sessions were under the topic of Global trends on development, Enabling Environment and Financial sustainability for civil society, Human capital development, Governance and anti-corruption, Natural resource management and governance, SDGs 16 on Peace, Democracy and Human Rights, Policy engagement, Multi-stakeholder engagement, and Gender and social inclusion.

The CS day ended, but guest speakers and the participants from all sectors and at all levels still continue to take action for improving enabling environment for civil society, as well as the joint efforts to promote sustainable development.

“ In three decades, Non-governmental organizations and associations has significantly contributed to the development of Cambodia by injecting the total annual budget of approximately USD 500 Million to USD 700 Million that improve livelihood of the marginalized people living under poverty, especially vulnerable women, children, youth and almost all general Cambodian citizen. ”

**Ms. Hun Boramey,
Chair of ExCom, CCC**

The 25th ICT Learning Forum on «Powerful Visual Content Online»

24th May 2019
 from 8:00am – 5:00pm,
 at
 Diakonia Center

Session:

1. Social Media Security
2. Basic Design Tool
3. Hologram

Registration:

Ms. Luy Theary
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BEYOND TAXATION

The Success in Setting up the Taxation Working Group Between GDT and CSOs

By: Sin Putheary



CSOs Representatives had a meeting with H.E. Kong Vibol at GDT. Photo: GDT

Meeting with General Department of Taxation (GDT) organized by CCC is beyond the taxation discussion. It is an opportunity to collaborate, to clear the perception, and to communicate the alternative solutions.

H.E. Kong Vibol, Delegate of Royal Government of Cambodia, In Charge as Director General of GDT, agreed on the proposed of joint taxation working group between NGOs and Department of Taxation.

After getting the approval from Ministry of Economy and Finance on setting up of taxation committee members (maximum of 17 from NGOs and 11 from Department of Taxation), there will be high level meeting of working group co-chaired by H.E. Kong Vibol and Mr. Soeung Saroeun, Executive Director of CCC in May 2019.

To ensure bringing voice from all corners, CSO technical work group on taxation formed the secretariat in which all the issues and concerns on taxation will be noted and reported to the high-level meeting. The door for in-depth discussion on taxation between CSO and GDT is about to start. Many positive expectations on tax compliance begin.



CSOs Representatives had a meeting with H.E. Kong Vibol at GDT. Photo: CCC

POWER OF TOGETHERNESS NEVER ENDS

Strengthening Civil Society Membership Platform

By: Sin Putheary



CCC presented 29 years experience of membership platform. Photo: CIVICUS

Coming from the largest and longest established membership-based organization in Cambodia, I have a privilege to be part of International Civil Society Week (ICSW) in Belgrade, Serbia while several other colleagues of civil society are not able to physically present themselves at the conference due to visa issues. However, this cannot stop us from moving together.

Strengthening Membership Platform for CSO Effectiveness, 29 year-experience from Cambodia context, is one of the buzz sessions I shared during the event. At the same time, participants also exchanged their experiences of civil society in Finland, France, U.S.A, Argentina, West Africa and Cuba. The discussion showed that our challenges are similar particularly the claiming for civic space.

Facing many obstacles on space, CSO realized the importance of working together in the collaborative manner. The power of common voice brought so many great examples of positive change in the region. At the meantime, the critical question on representation of CSO in policy discussion with the government remains unanswered for decades.

My observation through the discussion is that the risk is not just CSO as an institution, but it threatens to individual CSO staff mainly advocacy and human rights defenders. Since the adoption of Declaration on human rights defenders in 1998, the estimated 1,000 human rights defenders lost their lives in the cause of their work. It is a sad story, but I still believe that CSO has a home grown, and other members, partners, and networks of CSO are not static. Therefore, the dynamic

of joining efforts will bring the success near.

One of the lessons learned from the event I noted is that CSO need reassess our function in society. Additionally, CSO also require a long-term vision, clear strategy, and flexible tactic to ensure their effective role in responding to the need of the people. These cannot happen by working alone, but together.

Throughout more than ten years working for civil society sector, I found out that dialogue on membership platform is beyond the classical NGOs meetings. It spiritually builds a momentum of hope and solidarity among CSO although they are coming from

Messages from Partners to Mr. Soeung Saroeun, Executive Director, CCC

"It has been a privilege working with you. It has been a privilege working with you. You do a vital work in Cambodia. I wish you all the very best for the road ahead."

- Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, former United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cambodia

"It was also a great opportunity for us to get to know each other. CCC plays an important role in Cambodia and we promise to keep the good relationship to support each other and cooperate together."

- Ms. Masumi KANO, Public Relations, Foundation for International Development/Relief (FIDR)

"I would like to express sincere gratitude, personally and on behalf of the rest of Accountable Now, for the hard work and important contribution you made to this initiative during your time as a member of the Independent Review Panel. Your input during your time on the Independent Review Panel has been invaluable, helping individual organizations, Accountable Now and the sector as a whole to grow."

- Mr. Brendan Gormley, Chair of the Board of Trustees Accountable Now

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