



គណៈកម្មាធិការ
សហប្រតិបត្តិការដើម្បីកម្ពុជា
Cooperation Committee
for Cambodia
Comité de Coopération
Pour le Cambodge

ទស្សនវិស័យ: ការអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយនិរន្តរភាពសម្រាប់ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា
Vision: Sustainable development for Cambodia

Minutes of Members Bi-Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: 3 June 2014
Meeting Time: 7:30am to 12:00pm
Meeting Venue: KSSA/ICF Center
Recorded By: KEO Phalla

Members Bi-Monthly Meeting

The bi-monthly member meeting is aim to bring member organizations together to share and discuss on the global and national development progress and challenges. The meeting is not only provide opportunity for member organization to encourage networking and collaboration among CSOs of more than 150 international and local NGOs from more than 20 countries, but it is also an enabling space to bring members up to date and debate on hot issues or policies of government relating NGOs at sub-national, national, regional and international levels. This bi monthly meeting on 3 June 2014 share and discuss the following specifics objectives:

1. Introduce new members on their profiles and key activities;
2. Update CCC members on the key interventions of Governance Hub Program (GHP), and its engagement with CCC members; and
3. Reflect on the potential impacts of three laws related to the Judiciary to civil society in Cambodia, and proposed action points.

The bi monthly meeting participated by 60 participants from local and international member organizations. They kept up to dated about the progress of NGO code and voluntary certification System, the campaigns on post-2015 development agenda, and process of CCC online database for CSOs that are consist in the governance hub program of CCC. During the meeting, participants called to share their recent challenges with the government in operational works at sub-national or national level and propose for solution through a quick survey. The hot issue on potential impact of new adaptation laws related to Judiciary to CSOs in Cambodia was also share the by expert freelance lawyer Mr. Sok Sam Oeurn and Mr. Duch Piseth, Coordinator for Trial Monitoring and Business and Human Rights Projects, CCHR. During this session, guest speakers share overview of three laws related to the judiciary and the advocacy strategic actions on the three laws related to judiciary. In addition, participants were engaged to share debating and inputs for future advocacy action.

Detail Results of the Meeting

Topics	Speakers/Presenters
<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p>	<p>Dr. Sok Thim CCC EXCOM Chair, and Executive Director, CHC</p> <p>EXCOM Chair expressed his pleasure with his honor in providing the penning remark for the bi monthly member meeting. In his speech, he remarked that CCC has about 160 NGOs. Unfortunately, today there are less than 50% of the members attended today meeting. This issue, it required CCC needs to pay more attention on the reason of members absented. This quiet of member has two meanings. One it is perhaps they trusted to CCC. So they just let CCC goes ahead and another and another reason it maybe they are challenges with time constraining. In contrast, this quiet it maybe because of the topic is not attractive for participation. Or another reason, it seems a culture of Asian people that do not intend to interfere to the internal issue of others. EXCOM Chair was also remarked that many of participants are not decision level. Thus, it would be not much effective influence for the policy change. Anyway, CCC has to seek out what the problems are happening?</p> <p>In his remark, he reminded on the reasons of why CCC organize the bi monthly member meeting. He mentioned it is because the solidarity of relevant actors is needed for effectiveness development. So CSOs should not avoid from join discussion. Together will contribute for better changed. Here, EXCOM Chair appreciated the recent effort of CCC and its members under the leadership of Mr Soeung Saroeun. CCC has a great achievements and performance. These factors made CCC earned a good credit in the regional and international level among CSOs and development actors.</p>

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	<p>Lastly, on behalf of the Executive Committee and the staff of the CCC, EXCOM Chair has sincerely thanked participant members in the meeting and announced to open for official meeting.</p>
<p>Introduction to new members</p>	<p>Among four more organizations approved by Executive Members to become full member of CCC in this first quarter 2014, in the second member meeting where Kone Khmeng (KK) and EWHA Social Services (ESS) were invited to share to the participant on its profile to members. Mr. Pang Sophany, co-founder/Director provided a comprehensive presentation about Kon Khmeng to the CCC Excom and members. Please see detail information in Kon Khmeng website at http://www.kone-kmeng.org/. Unfortunately, EWHA Social Services (ESS) absented in this meeting. So ESS will be invited to conduct presentation in the next bi monthly member meeting on August 2014.</p> <p><i>Note: Slide presentation is available at CCC website:</i> www.ccc-cambodia.org/resources/events-archive/</p>
<p>Session 1: Update on progress: a) CCC Governance Hub Program (GHP) b) Announcement to the CCC by-laws amendment</p>	<p>Mr. Soeung Saroeun Executive Director, CCC</p> <p>Mr. Soeung Saroeun started with expression his warmly welcome to new members. He had confidence that member of CCC is continuously increasing even the funding for NGOs seem decrease recently and some international NGOs tended to merge together to be a single management system e.g. Oxfam and Save the Children and some others international NGOs had and/or tended to withdraw from Cambodia such Trocare and CONCEARN. Then, he began with the following items:</p> <p>1. General updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCC's by-laws had been approved by CCC Excom – keeping the same logo; - CSO green paper drafted (key priorities, strategies, key roles of CSOs, etc) - Consolidation of key analysis of 7 draft laws has been drafted – and based on feedback and analysis from different sources some of the articles in most of these draft law are potentiall restricting freedom of expression, association, and assembly, and violating national constitution and some human rights instruments. <p>2. NGO Code and Voluntary Certification System</p> <p>The new Voluntary Certification System (VCS) code is approved by the NGO Code Compliance Committee (NCCC) which consists 6 key headings included governance, relations and communications, sound financial management, accountability and transparency, quality assurance, and human resource management. If donor uses this system to conduct partner's assessment, they will gain at least 3 things. First, they spend less money and time with high quality. Second, this self-assessment will make partners able to build up their capacity and capacity of partners through peer and self-learning. The last, their partners able to get certificate which another value added for their organizations.</p> <p>Therefore, Executive Director also called for members to use this system and support their partners, as well as call for other donors to support this system. Donor should also seek support fund for partners to involve in the system. Lastly, he strongly encouraged members to use this system as the criteria for select partners.</p>

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	<p>3. Beyond 2015 Development Agenda</p> <p>A lot of activities have been implemented and voices of CSOs have been heard, the following are summary points related key movements and interventions from CSOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSOs' key asks have been heard and reflected in SR report; but wanted good governance as standing alone goal; - Inclusive partnership: Triangle partnership, and measurements (Government, private sector and CSOs); - Human rights based approach (social accountability framework), and open government partnership (OGP); - Sustainable resource mobilization, e.g establishment and implementation of Cambodia national trust fund; - Target: for most vulnerable including children, youth people with disabilities, those living with violence, minority, and indigenous people, those affected by HIV/AIDS, girls and women. <p>4. Online NGO database</p> <p>The database aims at providing public, government and the world about the roles and contributions of CSOs to the development of Cambodia as CSO sector rather than individual organization. Recently, CCC upgraded its online NGO Database that has capacity to store comprehensive CSOs information. The online NGO Database is able to generate the important of CSOs contribution including total budget of each year, amount of staff, number of projects/programs implement, sectoral based, covered areas, beneficiaries and other information as needed. It can also automat many kind of NGO directories. Anyway, the cooperation from all NGO is needed. So please kindly share your information due CCC is now being collect information for international NGO directory. CCC strongly encourage its members and partners to use the online database.</p> <p>5. Key Engagements for CCC members</p> <p>The following are key events useful for members to engage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate and/or encourage their partners to participate in GPP; - Update information in CCC online database; - Feasibility study on development of CSO center (June-August); - Consultations on CSO green paper and its roles (July –December); - Survey on NGO's salary and benefits (June – August); - Consultations and advocacy campaigns on 7 draft laws; - New IP3 Formulation Process (May – September 2014); - Campaigns on Beyond 2015 agenda (ongoing); - World Bank consultation (22June?). <p>Question: Why survey on NGO's salary and benefits is needed?</p> <p>Answer: Because it is out of date and it needs also to re-study on the benefit for staff among small, medium, large NGOs. This version will also include the study on Daily Support Allowance (DSA) and other supports to participants so that its results can inform NGO community to have better harmonization in supporting participants of their individual events and can hell to address the conflict of CSO implication their program in community and higher level.</p> <p><i>Note: Slide presentation is available at CCC website:</i> www.ccc-cambodia.org/resources/events-archive/</p>

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<p>Adding Session: Quick survey on NGO - Government relationship</p>	<p>Mr. Keo Phalla Membership Development Manager, CCC</p> <p>The Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) was conducted this quick survey to learn about working relation among the organizations with government. It will help CCC to better learn, and advocate for improvement on this specific area of challenges. The quick survey participated by the high level of member staff with 52% were the Senior Management; 48% were the Middle Management; and another are in the officer level. Total 64% of the respondents were from international NGOs. The results from the quick survey with members:</p> <p>1- Function of Board of director for the organization According to the survey results, 16% of the participants confirmed that the functioning of board of directors was “very good” because they can seek support from the board members at any times as they needed while other 34% of participants reported that board functioning was “good” since the attended the meeting regularly and able to contact for helping. It was surprised when 50% of participants responded that the function of their board directors was fair. However, the fair in their explanations means that there was nothing new some of them were not active in providing direction to the organization. For example, they did not respond email, did not attend the board meeting as required, remain passive manner, did not a helper but sometimes a problem maker.</p> <p>2- Collaboration between CSOs and Government Participants have been asked about their organization collaboration with and Government especially after national election in July 2013. The results, 34% of participants shown that “getting better” because their organizations have a good relationship with the government and they got effective communication with government staff. The 47% participants said it remained the “same” and the 18% were “getting worse”. The same situation and getting worse here, the respondents clarify that they still met the difficulties to get job done, hard to get support from government and kept long process for approval e.g. Memorandum of understanding renewal and support letter from line ministry especially government officer still request extra money and gift.</p> <p>3- Informal fee payment for organizational operation From the quick survey found that the informal fee for organizational operation are still happing including sub-national and national level paid to the authorities and relevant government agencies. By survey, 53% of participants reported that they paid for their organization operational cooperation. The informal was from \$10 USD to \$300 USD. At the national level tended to require pay more money.</p> <p>4- The recent challenges and proposed solution for better performance Depend on the response from participants; they have been facing with some challenges within their organization and the relation with the government. The most three challenges and solutions that participant commonly shared where:</p> <p><u>Key Challenges</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) NGO is hard to getting cooperation from the government officials. For instant, seeking support letter and memorandum of understanding from ministry due the request/application was always kept it in the long complicated process without clear of guideline for NGOs. 2) Requirement to make unofficial payments to government staff to facilitate

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	<p>operations. If not, the request was delay for long process of approval or they required to re-submit again and again by suggestion to correct spelling, wording...etc. So it needed to follow up many time.</p> <p>3) Still lack of effectiveness communication mechanism between NGOs and the government.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) NGO should keep building good relationship with the government officers to negotiate them and advocate for a clear guideline on the process of registration or renewal the memorandum of understanding between NGO and government ministry. 2) Ministry (ies) shall offer the official receipt of payments for the fee charge from the NGOs, if there is any requirement from the government institutions. 3) The regular meeting between CSOs and government should be set up to share update information, challenges, and discuss to find solution for improvement the relationship. 4) NGOs shall working together to advocate with government for improvement the quality of services. <p>Additional suggestion for improving CSOs performance in Cambodia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government should help to contribution/allocate some fund for CSOs to use for development projects. - All members of CSOs should be having a regular meeting. So that they can bring all the issue which happen in our organizations. - Strengthening the networking and good cooperation among CSOs. - In fact, UN always supports the government so the better way provide more supporting to local NGOs.
<p><u>Session 2: Panel Discussion</u></p> <p>Potential Impact of three laws related to Judiciary to CSOs in Cambodia.</p>	<p><u>Session 2: Panel Discussion</u></p> <p>The Panel Discussion Potential Impact of three laws related to Judiciary to CSOs in Cambodia was moderated by Mr. Mi Nac, Advocacy Specialist of CCC. The two speakers who expertise in national and internal law analysis were Mr. Sok Sam Oeurn, Freelancer and Mr. Duch Piseth, Coordinator for Trial Monitoring and Business and Human Rights Projects, CCHR.</p> <p>Moderator started with introducing on the bio of the both speakers (see annex) and providing the brief information of adaptation of three laws related to Judiciary in Cambodia. After that, speakers were invite to conduct presentation following:</p> <p>Overview of three laws related to the Judiciary:</p> <p>By Mr. Sok Sam Oeurn: How is called an independent judiciary? Called judicial independence does not mean that, unless the court is located at island alone isolate from other! But judicial independent refer to when the trail made judgment through avoided the following four prejudicial partialities: 1) Partiality due fear (ភ័យភាគតិ); 2) Bias due to hatred (ទោសភាគតិ); 3) Partiality for a loved one (ឆន្ទាភាគតិ); 4) Partiality due to ignorance (មោហភាគតិ). Regarding to three draft laws on judicial is not allow the court independent. The laws could affect political stability, and people's accountability towards the government. CSOs do not have the rights to intervene but CSOs have the freedom of expression the concerning for the political institutions to reconsider.</p>

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	<p>By Mr. Duch Piseth: It really concerns with the three draft laws because the national assembly hasn't involved any direct participation of the people and civil society. Even these laws drafted by the French consultant, but the contents are not following the model of France law.</p> <p>Through the analysis and panel discussion among CCC member, CSO had similar concerned that the law will not only affect the court's independency, but also cause negative impacts on the lives of the poor and venerable people. CSOs are very dissatisfied that the government doesn't open wider consultation with civil society. Therefore, CSO will take action</p> <p>Action plan of CSOs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request to have dialogue with them the government, national assembly, and senate 2. Seek support voices from other local development actors and other like minded countries 3. Have clear communication and advocacy strategies and prepare communication message to take to different stakeholders including company/investment joins the statement to advocate with the government. <p><i>Note: Slide presentation is available at CCC website:</i> www.ccc-cambodia.org/resources/events-archive/</p>
Conclusion and closing remark	<p>Mr. Soeung Saroeun Executive Director, CCC</p> <p>Executive Director of CCC expressed his thankful to the participants for actively sharing and learning during the meeting. He expected participants will convey what they learned from the meeting to their management team and colleagues as information and take action accordingly. He recall that the more members have used GPP and online database the more united and stronger CSOs are.</p> <p>Finally, Mr. Soeung Saroeun prayed the best wish to all participants and announced to officially close the meeting at that time and date.</p>

General Feedback of Participants:

In general, participants expressed their appreciation to the general organizing of the meeting as attached table especially the topic for panel discussion was very interested. The following table is the evaluation for the meeting managing.

Descriptions	Don't know	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good
Overall rating of this meeting	--	--	10%	82%	8%
Contents of the meeting	--	--	5%	85%	10%
Facilitator/resource persons	--	--	15%	75%	10%
Organizing of the meeting	--	--	7%	85%	8%

Toward the next Members Bi-Monthly Meeting, it **will be held on 5 August 2014** at the same place KSSA/ICF Center meeting room, Phnom Penh. For that meeting, members proposed some important topics for discussion such as:

- The update on the progress of NGO law, cyber law and political situation in Cambodia
- Share the update information of Salary and Benefit Survey and CCC NGO Database
- Update information relative NGOs with the government relationship and advocacy action such as global citizenship responsibility.
- Discussion on how well of NGO performance and how to work well with government