



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

ទស្សនវិស័យ: ការអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយនិរន្តរភាពសម្រាប់ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា
Vision: Sustainable development for Cambodia

Minutes of Bi Monthly Member Meeting

Meeting Date: 3 June 2016

Meeting Time: 7:30am to 12:00pm

Meeting Venue: KSSA/ICF

Recorded By: CMD

Bi Monthly Member Meeting

The 242nd Bi-Monthly Members meeting had been convened on 3 June 2016. Based on CCC’s Bylaw, the meeting was designed for participants who are country representatives/executive directors and/or senior leaders/managers of CCC members to attend and bring the common concerns on the development challenges and prioritize the issues to be addressed by relevant stakeholders. The meeting had been discussed on the following objectives:

1. To share information and update members about status of CBO guideline, Global Standard for Accountability, and CCC’s internal milestones which are beneficial to CCC members.
2. To share and discuss on civil society space and partnership for sustainable development
3. To generate inputs from the members and its mechanism response to development trend.

Key highlights of the meeting:

- Mr. Chat Sophiep said that Taxation was sensitive issue for discussion and CCC had created the taxation’s task force. He encouraged to all participants to participate the task force especially the technical person for working together to align to the law of Cambodia.
- Mr. Nop Channy, Executive director of Sunshine Cambodia had recognized that the family was the best place for children to develop and grow rather than institutions, so Sunshine Cambodia works with families to enable them to function more effectively. Sunshine Cambodia also works directly with children, especially on education sector.
- Mr. Khorn Bunthong had updated to the CCC activities on the CSO spaces, GHP, process of the CBO guideline and global standard on accountability.
- Panel discussion had discussed in the theme of CSOs space and partnership for sustainable development in the context of geopolitics and governance in Cambodia, the Enabling space for CSOs and the development trend and impact on partnership among CSOs, private sector, and financial sustainability.
- Small group discussion to find out the key priorities to respond to the current situation and seeking comments/input from dividing the four sub committees. The critical survey of the taxation had also resulted and extended discussion for the better way and need of members.

Detail Results of the Meeting

| Topics | Speakers/Presenters |
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| <p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> | <p>Mr. Chat Sophiep ChildFund’s Sponsor Relations Manager and CCC EXCOM Chairperson</p> <p>Mr. Chat Sophiep started with warmly welcomed to the participants and expressed his appreciation to members for the value time and always keep working together for poverty reduction and as well as always worked in solidarity to promote democracy space in Cambodia. Mr. Sophiep had mentioned on the taxation because it was a sensitive issue to discuss and responded to the real situation of CSO. CCC had created the taxation’s task force and he encouraged to all participants to participate the task force especially the technical person for working together to align to the law of Cambodia.</p> <p>Following the agenda, objectives and on behalf of the Executive Committee and CCC’s Colleagues, he expressed his sincere thanks to members for</p> |

| Topics | Speakers/Presenters |
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| | attending the meeting and announced the officially opening the meeting. |
| <p>Introduction to new members</p> | <p>Mr. Nop Channy, Executive Director of Sunshine Cambodia</p> <p>Sunshine Cambodia is a Christian non-profit and non-partisan NGO working with families toward the holistic development of poor children and their families in the context of community. Sunshine Cambodia recognized that the family is the best place for children to develop and grow rather than institutions, so Sunshine Cambodia works with families to enable them to function more effectively. Sunshine Cambodia also works directly with children, especially on education sector.</p> <p>There are two mains programs that Sunshine Cambodia focus:</p> <p>Child Development Program: is directly responsible for getting more Cambodian children off of the streets and into the classrooms. This is done through a unique partnership between Sunshine, community schools, and local families.</p> <p>Family & Community Development Program: Sunshine now works with their parents as well. Most Sunshine parents have little education, few employment opportunities and low, irregular income - usually just a few dollars per day. In developing the parent's independence and capacity, risk to the children is minimized and there is far greater likelihood of a strong outcome for the whole family.</p> <p>More details of Sunshine Cambodia</p> |
| <p>Session 1: CCC Update</p> <p>Question and Answer</p> | <p>Mr. Khorn Bunthong, Head of Operations of CCC</p> <p>Mr. Bunthong updated the activities that CCC involvement responding to the shrinking space for CSOs.</p> <p><u>Civic Space for CSOs</u> The space for CSOs is being restricted after the Government enacted to a few of the Laws such as Law on Association and Non Governmental Organization (LANGO), Law on Election of Member of National Assembly (LEMNA), Law on Telecommunications, Law on Trade Union, three laws related judiciary reforms. The recently, political activists and human rights defenders have been arrested and imprisoned.</p> <p>Few of human rights activists and NGO leaders were arrested during the first Black Monday's campaign and continue to crackdown such activities in the following weeks.</p> <p>Recent political climate causing difficulties for NGOs working environment, especially Human Rights NGOs and Lawsuit against independent analyst.</p> |

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| | <p>Responding to the civic spaces, CCC had participated in the observation of the prosecution of human rights defenders and visited some of those CSO colleagues arrested, Facilitated several meetings with NGO leaders for develop economic and political snapshot. CCC had submitted letters to meet MoI and MoFA, and International advocacy trips by CCC Executive Director to Europe.</p> <p><u>Governance Hub Program</u> CCC is in the process of conducting mid-term review 2014-2018 and prepar the new GHP. CCC is focusing to the developing theory of change and developing new five-year program 2017-2021, so CCC would like to get the input from the member with the new key priorities for CCC next 5 years plan.</p> <p><u>CBO Guideline</u> The “Culturing Good Practice and Sustainability of Community-based Organization in Cambodia” Project funded by the Australian Embassy’s Direct Aid Program (DAP). This project is implementing in Phnom Penh and five provinces: Battambang, Siem Reap, Kompong Chhnang, Takeo, and Kratie with one year period.</p> <p>The overall objective of this project is to promote good governance, quality service and sustainability of the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in Cambodia through the adoption of CBO Guidelines.</p> <p><u>Global Standard and Accountability</u> There are 9 project partners from key different regions, aimed to develop a guideline within 3 years, from 2015 to 2018, for a new globally acceptable standard code. The project is financially supporting by SIDA. The main objectives of the project are to improve accountability code and practices, reduce transaction costs, use synergies and contribute to more enabling environment for CSOs. Among the 9 project partners, there are 1500 CSOs members.</p> <p>There are a few meeting to revise and finalize the zero draft of the Global Standard and send the draft 1 (V1) among project partners within the fourth week of June 2016, the project partner meeting in Serbia from 20-22 July 2016, the instalment of the budget for the second year of each project partner and steering group meeting in Uganda from 8-10 December 2016.</p> <p><u>Taxation Taskforce</u> CCC had conducted a meeting with representatives of NGO members on 29 April 2016 for forming a CSO Taxation Working Group (WG). Around 10 members had been nominated to be WG on taxation and still need more member to participate. The next meeting will discuss on the ToR of the WG and activity.</p> <p>A few questions and discussion had drafted for discuss with the government</p> |

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| | <p>official for clarification to adapt to the law.</p> <p>More details on the slide presentation</p> |
| <p>Session 2: Panel Discussion CSOs space and partnership for sustainable development</p> | <p>Mr. Mi Nac, CAN Manager of CCC (Moderator)</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Lao Monghay, Political Analysis 2. Ms. Thida Khus, Executive Director of SILAKA 3. Ms. Serena Lilywhite, CSR Advisor of CCC <p>Mr. Mi Nac had briefed to the discussant’s profile and suggest to discussant to share to their perspective on the context of global political view, local context on the activities of CSOs and the private sector perspective for responding to the shrinking space and sustainability of the financing.</p> <p>Dr. Monghay had shared that the geopolitics reflects the connection between power and interests of the economic and national security in each countries, strategic decision-making, and geographic space in the region and global. Cambodia is a victim from the interests of economic, political competition and strategic interests from other countries while Cambodia does not know the movement from other neighbor countries, in the region and in the world.</p> <p>A lot of conflict in the regions such as the conflict of the South China Sea and the sovereignty from other countries had affected to Cambodia. So avoiding to the impact of the influence from other country all the citizens need to learn more on the geopolitics.</p> <p>Ms. Thida shared her perspective on the enabling space for CSOs activities in Cambodia. A lot of angles and perspective of the government to CSOs especially to the CSOs that working on the human rights sector difference from the development sector. This regarding, the opposition party had took that issue for their political gain, they tried to adapt the people principle to their principle to Human Rights organization and based on this issue the government thought that the human rights organization working for the opposition party more than support to the principle of the government. On the other hand, CSOs’ principle is to provide the awareness to citizens for learning to their fundamental rights and their activities for development to Cambodia.</p> <p>Ms. Serena had shared the nature of aid and development paradigm as now shifting from traditional ‘northern donors’ to new donors. Former aid recipient countries, such as China and Korea, are now transforming into aid donor countries.</p> <p>The global context for financing development has changed, and the aid</p> |

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| | <p>programs are changing too. Other forms of investment, remittances (income from nationals / diaspora working overseas), and other sources of capital, including private philanthropy is much higher than the aid budget to developing countries.</p> <p>For many traditional donors, such as Australia, the goal of poverty reduction is now aligned with the pursuit of regional economic growth. The private sector seen as a crucial aid and development delivery partner. She mentions to the recent speech the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister said: <i>“All new Australian aid investments <u>must</u> consider innovative ways to engage the private sector and promote private sector growth in recipient countries... A strong private sector delivers higher growth, more jobs and will help reduce poverty.”</i> This message had approach an increasingly common one, and emphasizes the importance of engaging the private sector as critical development actors.</p> <p>Governments and donors are encouraging the private sector to work with NGOs and other partners to develop projects that <u>build shared value</u>. <u>Shared Value</u> projects must <u>deliver ‘sustainable social impact in developing countries while achieving commercial returns.’</u></p> <p>The prevailing donor view is that private sector engaged to generate good development outcomes for developing communities. Moreover, private sector partners benefit from the networks, local knowledge, and expertise of their NGO partners, lowering the business risk of entering new markets. NGOs, for their part, can benefit from the expertise and skills of the private sector, particularly to improve project design and implementation.</p> <p>While this may be achievable for NGOs working in areas such as health and education, the likelihood of such partnerships being developed with NGOs focused on advocacy, freedom of association, freedom of expression, freedom of information, and land tenure etc.</p> <p>The private sectors can involving directly and indirectly contribute to human rights violations because of their business activities.</p> <p>She added that, nowadays CSOs are facing with financial sustainability challenges and the government regulations have vastly decreased CSO resourcing capacity international funding restrictions are on the rise, often using legislation that allows governments to arbitrarily target certain CSOs.</p> <p>Additionally, in a time when the world economy lacks confidence, funders become more austere. They prioritize <u>service delivery CSOs</u> because they can show much clearer results than change-seeking CSOs and advocacy groups can.</p> <p>In this time of shrinking space for CSOs, coupled with global funding challenges, it is very important for CSOs to assert their autonomy by</p> |

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| | <p>diversifying their funding sources.</p> <p>One of the key challenges is the need for CCC and members to develop mechanisms for risk identification and management, before entering into partnerships with the private sector. CCC has just recently joined the CSR Cambodia Platform, along with other CCC members, NGO Forum, Oxfam and DPA.</p> <p>Through this platform, we can begin to engage with the private sector, and organizations such as the European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia. She encourages all participants to check and join the new initiative by www.csrcambodia.org.</p> |
| <p><u>Session 3: Small Group Discussion</u> Membership mechanism and Sub-Committee response to development trends</p> | <p>Mr. Khorn Bunthong, Head of Operations of CCC (Facilitator)</p> <p><i><u>Communication and Partnership Sub Committee</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew the media guideline of CCC to responding to the need of member • Being neutral for using the balancing of the information • Provide the awareness on the new policy and guideline to all members • Develop the strategic and action plan for all activities • Radio talk show for the CSO trend and activities for Cambodia development • Newspaper for the CSO activities and appoint the spoke person for CSO movement • Strengthening the global partnership <p><i><u>Governance and Effectiveness Sub Committee</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study the impact of GPP certificate to all member on the governance and effectiveness (assessment) • Promote GPP certification system to member that not yet apply for it • Build the capacity for all the NGOs to fit the requirement and criteria (small NGO) • Increase the follow up times for GPP certificate (more than twice) • Develop CSR code of conduct • Initiative the partnership with CSO and private sector • Build network with government • Promote the CSO practice <p><i><u>Enabling Environment Sub Committee</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the partnership and collaboration among CSOs • Capacity building to CSOs on the good governance and legal framework • Working closely with citizens to build citizens support for CSO contingency • Trust building with stakeholders to understand each other and |

| Topics | Speakers/Presenters |
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| | <p>deliver better services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate and dialogue as well as communication • Develop working approach and strategies for dealing with issues • Review all previous strategies to find out the lesson learn and way forwards • Focusing from now until the 2018 election <p><i>Financial Sustainability Sub Committee</i></p> <p>1. <i>Local fund raising</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Educate CCC member to understand on the donor trend</i> • <i>Advocate to the government for support on fund raising</i> • <i>Establish the code of conduct</i> • <i>Risk dialogue</i> • <i>Check for legality of local fund raising</i> • <i>Company mapping for fund raising</i> • <i>CSO center</i> <p>2. <i>Work further to improve LANGO</i></p> |
| <p>Conclusion and closing remark</p> | <p>Mr. Pa Ngounteang, Executive Director of CCIM and CCC EXCOM Member</p> <p>He expressed special thanks to the speakers, all participants for asking questions actively. He suggested to the participants to keep working together for society change and advocated to the social justice in Cambodia. He also continued to all the participants to stay updated on other advocacy effort on the social media, CCC's email and other meetings.</p> |

General Feedback of Participants:

In general, participants expressed their appreciation to the general organizing of the meeting, as attached table especially the facilitator/resource persons was very interested by the participants with 88% of good and very good. The following table is the evaluation for the meeting managing.

| | <i>Don't Know</i> | <i>Poor</i> | <i>Fair</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Very Good</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Overall rating of this meeting | -- | -- | 31% | 61% | 8% |
| Contents of the meeting | -- | -- | 23% | 69% | 8% |
| Organizing of the meeting | -- | -- | 38% | 54% | 8% |
| Facilitator/resource persons | -- | -- | 12% | 73% | 15% |

General Comments

In general, participants didn't have any further comment.

Next Bi-monthly members meeting suggestion topic

- NGO Law
- CSO Taxation and benefit of paying tax
- Free and fair upcoming election that reflect the interest of citizens
- Independence of military personnel that serve the country rather than individuals
- Civic space of CSOs
- Political heat affect NGO activities
- Restriction freedom of assemble
- Financial Sustainability
- Immigration and discrimination
- NGO role and responsibility for sustainable development
- How NGO cooperated with Government effectively
- Understanding about donor trends for NGOs
- Geopolitics and governance in cambodia
- CBO guideline update
- Taxation working group update
- CSR
- Outcome of the GHP mid-term review
- Awareness raising on Asbestos impact from APHEDA
- CSO handbook on taxation
- Guideline for communication
- Report from government about the taxation for private sector
- Possible cooperation between CSO and private sector
- Update on the progress of 4 sub committees

The next meeting is going to organized on 2 August 2016.