



វេទិកាសម្រាប់អង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ស្តីពីកម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការវិវឌ្ឍសេចក្តីវិជ្ជមាន
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LEADING STORIES

1st Quarterly Member Meeting in 2021



The First Quarterly Member Meeting (1st QMM) fell on the 22nd February 2022. The meeting was held for half-day from 8:30 to 12:00. The NGO Forum (NGOF) is the main organization to facilitate the meeting.

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. To Update on the achievements of NGO in the 1st QMM and action plan in 2022;
2. To elect two new Member Committees (MC) to replace the current two MC, who ended their terms; and
3. To share progress made on gender strategic development and gender balance among the key organizations.

At the beginning of the day, she invited delegates to chair the event. They were:

1. H.E. Ms. Chhay Sivlin, President of the Cambodian Association of Travel Agents (CATA)
2. Mrs. Luy Rasmey, Member of MC and Executive Director of CEPA
3. Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF
4. Ms. Sengphal Davin, Deputy Director General of the General Department

of Gender Equality and Economic Development of Ministry of Women's Affairs

5. Mr. Fabrizio SENESI, Program Manager Governance, Democracy and Human Rights of the EU Delegation to Cambodia



Welcome Remark by Mrs. Luy Rasmey, Member of MC and Executive Director of CEPA

On behalf of the Management Committee (MC) member, she informed the participants that the NGOF holds quarterly meeting every three months to share results, challenges, and recommendations

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from one quarter to another of the years. She noted on the key presentations of the meeting as shown on the Agenda. Mrs. Rasmey further pointed that with the facilitation of the NGOF, the members had shared the concerns and annual action plans.

Mrs. Raksmei continued her notes that “for two years now the quarterly meetings have been, off and on, held either in person or online because of Covid pandemic.” However, she was proud of efforts made by active participation of the members to continue the meetings. She, finally, thanked all the participants, donors, and representatives from the government ministries for their efforts for the meeting of the day and wished all the participants with success and healthy, and announced that the meeting was opened.

Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGOF

He updated on the achievement of NGOF in the 1st quarter and action plan in 2022” which made by the NGOF and its members. There are:



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- Held workshop on Land and natural resource (NR) managements.
- Working with TWG-A&W on the final Strategic Plan. The plan was finalized and submitted to the TWG.
- Comments on NSDP progresses that was reviewed and studied by independent consultant.
- Provided inputs to Regional meeting on Mekong basin management.
- Commented on costal management and plan to improve local livelihoods of the people;
- Participated in the ASEAN regional meeting on climate change (CC): to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emission based on the CC Paris Agreement.
- Participated in CSO regional meeting on CC (10 countries of the ASEAN).
- Consultation on possible Research studies for the 2022. There are 18 topics suggested by the consultation team members.
- The NGOF developed the annual work plan and budget, which was held in Koh Rong Island.
- Dissemination on Land and NR challenges: the information is available on the NGOF webpage.

- The program called N4F has annual action plan for the 2022.
- Gender mainstreaming in CC: working with MOE.
- Workshop on Mekong River Flow, 2020-2021. The workshop produced recommendations and submitted to MRC for consideration.
- Held meetings and provided comments on agriculture, watershed and water management and NR management (there are 39 sites of watershed areas);
- Working with Green CC Fund: for conservations of Prey Land and the Northeastern areas of Cambodia, and Koulen Protected Area management.
- Meeting with Bank Association in Cambodia for Green Financing.
- CSO 2022 Work Plan establishment.
- Small and medium farmer forum meeting was organized for inputs.
- Verification of investment report of private mechanism.
- Working with the UN long-term carbon green investment and financing.
- Family-scale Natural Rubber plantation and development reviews.
- Gender mainstreaming within the NGOF and partners.



Mr. Ouk Vanara, Deputy Executive Director, the NGOF

He facilitated the election to aim for selection for two Management Committees that replace the two ended-term Committees”.

The new MCs are nominated through Voting Session that were elected: **Mr. Tourt Chamroen (VBK) and Mrs. Soum Samoun (UPWD).**

The participants obtained lots of recommendations on improvement of national policies for gender balance and development programs.

Mrs. Raksmei, finally, ended her remarks by wishing the entire participants of the meeting with health and successes, and announced the session closed.





ព្រឹត្តិការណ៍រូបវន្តកម្ពុជា ផ្លូវចិត្តកម្ពុជា
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Launching and Dialogue on Research Findings on Green Financing Policies Implementation in Cambodia

On 24 February 2022, The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and Fair Finance Cambodia co-organized Launching and Dialogue on Research Findings on Green Financing Policies Implementation in Cambodia which supported by Diakonia and Oxfam.

Welcome Remark by Dr. Tek Vannara – Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia

Taking this opportunity, Dr. Vannara would like to inform you about the dissemination of this report is designed to provide opportunities for key stakeholders, in particular, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Environment, the National Bank of Cambodia, the Association of Banks in Cambodia, and the Securities and Exchange Regulator of Cambodia, together with development partners and members of the Fair Finance Coalition Cambodia (FFC), discussed the report on the implementation of legal frameworks and regulations related to the implementation of green finance policies in Cambodia.

Remark by H.E. Meas Sok Sem San, Deputy Secretary-General of the General Secretariat of the Public Financial



Management Reform Steering Committee
The Ministry of Economic and Finance (MEF) has an obligation to identify different policies to give direction to use



economic and tax policies in order to affect and respond to social and human well-being as well as the effectiveness of the government's financing. In the public framework, we keep working through our government's agencies, which include ministries and institutions that implement activities related to the environment. We have many ministries and institutions working on environmental factors, and the government has related policy frameworks, for example, rectangular strategy, which values environmental protection in each government's mandates. In particular, the last mandate of the Royal Government of Cambodia, we encourage all ministries and institutions to keep working and have important policies to respond to environmental issues. Let me add some points as well as draw your attention to the fact that we do many things in the public sector and we have engaged many stakeholders. Coordination with the private sector is also another job of MEF through our agents, including NBC and SERC, even though MEF is not a directed mandate for that. We must work together to make environmental protection happen. Cambodia considers what is important and emergent to

respond to as well as what is in the best interests of the world. Let me also clarify that MEF has the responsibility of coordinating the green financing, and all implementation is dependent on the fund/ budget and sources of funds to be used for the process of activity implementation. Eventually, since the past (1990s), we have depended on the sources of funding from overseas (ODA) for almost 80% of the total budget. Thus, some agendas were based on funding from overseas, which surely shows that Cambodia has been working to protect the environment since the 1990s. Now the funding from overseas has been reduced to about 20%, and Cambodians have their own ability to use their own budget to contribute to the policy implementation in the country. We have more than 80% of the national budget to manage at our national expenses for all ministries and institutions. The Royal Government of Cambodia also pays attention to the environment. The key agents of the government that are working to promote the environment are the MoE and other ministries in order to contribute to the main policy.



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Remark by Mrs. Phean Sophoan, Director of Oxfam Cambodia

Oxfam Cambodia worked together with partners to establish Fair Finance Cambodia (FFC) in 2019, and until now, FFC has had five members, including (1) the NGO Forum on Cambodia, (2) Cooperation Committee for Cambodia, (3) Transparency International Cambodia, (4) ActionAid Cambodia, and (5) Oxfam Cambodia. FFC is a member of Fair Finance Asia, which has membership from eight countries in Asia. The purpose of Fair Finance Asia is to contribute to the financial institutions' making decisions on finance provisions in the region with social, environmental, and human well-being responsiveness. Oxfam Cambodia has had the privilege of working with a variety of partners over the years, including government institutions, NBC, SERC, ABC, and research institutions, as well as banks and NGOs. Our purpose is to promote the financial sector to ensure sustainability, and we are implementing one specific project named "Fair Finance Cambodia (FFC)".

Presentation of Report on Green Financing Policy Implementation in



Cambodia by Mr. Kim Veara, External Consultant

The financial and banking sectors have been considered to play an essential role in promoting sustainable economic growth. The proliferation of a large number of banking and financial institutions by 2019 in Cambodia is a clear testament to the growth of economic activity in the country, including a rise in investment or

development projects, which matches the aims of the Development Policies of the RGC. The damage to the environment and resources caused by unsustainable development projects can often be indirectly and, in some cases, directly linked to financial institutions' credit policies and lending practices. This issue becomes more acutely evident if these institutions do not require their clients to conduct environmental and social impact assessments as part of the loan usage policies for development projects. A recent study by Fair Finance Cambodia (FFC) on the Social and Ecological Impact Assessment (ESIA) compliance in the banking sector in Cambodia proposed clear policy options for both the banking sector and the MoE.

New non-banking sector actors that facilitate sustainable/responsible financial markets have emerged in many different forms in response to recent macroeconomic policies and socio-economic development and growth in Cambodia. Among them, the Securities and Exchange Regulator in Cambodia (SERC) has played a crucial role as a regulatory body on securities and exchange transactions in Cambodia, which is essential for promoting ESG frameworks and integrating the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) criteria. To understand the implementation of ESG policies and regulations by SERC, FFC, through the NGO Forum on Cambodia, undertook a study to examine if SERC's policies and regulations have incorporated ESG principles in regulation and enforcement, focusing primarily on green financing.

Closing Remark by Mr. Sok Khim, representative from Oxfam

This case makes them think about responsible and sustainable investment.



To be sustained, they do not think only investing that is profitable in the short but affect the environment and society, and encourage them to think about social and environmental impact. Creating demand for the private sector to promote Green Financing related to taxonomy is a good thing. The government already has some policies, so we just build more, especially as we listened to our workshop this morning, we discussed the need for defining what Green Financing means for Cambodia context then we will be able to create more on Green Financing Policies. The legal framework related to Green Financing for our country is a step we can start. I recognize that the Green Financing concept is a new for Cambodia and this research is a starting point. I hope there will be further research on the recommendations given by our speakers this morning. It is hoped that our Fair Finance Cambodia Coalition with Oxfam and other partner organizations or other donors will continue to work with relevant ministries, particularly the MEF, NBC, ABC to continue to promote and implement our Green Financing. In addition, I would like to thank the representatives from the NBC, ABC and other stakeholders for input. Without the involvement of all institutions, this study would not have been possible. I would also like to thank the NGO Forum, a member of the Fair Finance Cambodia Coalition, for these efforts to make this study success even there are some challenges.



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HIGHLIGHT STORIES

Assessing the Impact of Low Water Flow on the Mekong Riverine and Tonle Sap Lake Communities



For the half-day of the 6th January 2022, there was a Webinar meeting organized by the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) to present findings of the study on “assessing the Impacts of Low Water Flow on the Mekong Riverine and Tonle Sap Lake Communities”. The study was financially supported by Oxfam Cambodia and NGOF in 2021. Findings have been consulted for comments and consolidated for final study report till the event of the meeting. The Webinar meeting was for the last chance of comments, if any, from key relevant stakeholder agencies. The objectives of the meeting are:

1. To disseminate the findings to the relevant stakeholders and policy recommendations to inform policy discussion in the future.

2. To organize a round table discussion with all relevant key stakeholders to understand a possible ways to minimize and mitigate the impacts.

The results of the meeting are classified into three (03) parts: Key Notes, presentation, and discussion (Questions and Answers). There were 54 participants from various agencies including government, communities, and NGO participated the meeting. Key notes were presented by Mrs. Luy Reaksmeay (CEPA), Sok Khim (Oxfam Cambodia), and moderated by Dr. Tek Vannara (NGOF).

The study findings are classified into two documents: the technical findings report and policy recommendation report. There are lots of concerns regarding hydro-

dams of the upper Mekong River and development programs in Cambodia that have negatively affected on water flow of the river and the Lake. Explanations and concerns were, also, presented by expertized agencies such as CNMC, MRC, IUCN, WWF, and Tonle Sap Authority.

In addition, there are many study subjects raised during the discussion session, which are for possible future studies. They are cause-and-effects of water levels, aquatic biodiversity abundance and water resources management. Don Sahong dam is the closest dam to Cambodia, which should be the first to study for its impacts to the Mekong River and its tributaries. The meeting is useful for the participants to share their experiences and information on the subjects and sharing sources of data like website addresses, stated. Dr. Vannara. In addition, Dr. Vannara announced that the study was officially endorsed and will be available on the NGOF websites soon.

Mrs. Luy Reaksmeay, RCC Chairperson and Executive Director of CEPA

Mrs. Reaksmeay paid her acknowledgement to Respected Excellency, Ladies, and Gentlemen before delivering her key remarks. She paid specific respects to H.E. Kol Vathana, Sok Khmim, and Dr. Tek Vannara.

She announced that she was proud of being invited to the meeting to discuss on the findings of the study entitled “assessing the Impacts of Low Water Flow on the Mekong Riverine and Tonle Sap Lake Communities”. She emphasized that the findings are to:

- Inform all relevant stakeholders to



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Partners Meeting of Budget Working Group (BWG) and Fair for All

The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized Partners Meeting of Budget Working Group (BWG) and Fair for All (F4A) which held on 26th January 2022 at Sunway Hotel. This meeting aim for

1. Share the overview of FAIR4ALL project
2. Update about the NGOF's contribution to the project
3. Define member/partner key priority plan to cooperate

The program aims to strengthen Civil Society to educate, activate, mobilize and participate in their legitimate demand for FAIR value-chains through.

- Advocating progressive Fiscal, trade and investment policies;
- Developing Alternative Business models;
- Promoting Inclusive Laws and regulator frameworks;
- Demanding Responsible business practices.

This program consists 9 NGO Partners: BirdLife, FNN, CAWF, NGOF, CCC, SILAKA, GDR, TIC and Oxfam. The geographical areas are: Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Kampot, Kratie, Mondolkiri, Ratanakiri and Tbong Khmum.



CSOs Leaders Gathering for joint Collaborative Works in 2022

In the afternoon 28 January 2022, The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized CSOs Leaders Gathering for joint Collaborative Works in 2022 at Himawari Hotel. The objective of this meeting aim:

- Presented our achievements in 2021
- Frankly and open discussion, sharing and contribution of our NGOs and key priorities in 2022, and
- Appreciation letter ceremony to NGOs partners.

The meeting of civil society leaders was held on January 28, 2022 with the participation of 23 members of the network and budget working group, 4 women and 16 national and international organizations. This meeting achieved discussions and updates for the organizing



of the Asian People Forum and the action plan. Action Plan 2022 of NGOF should include peacebuilding as well as an agenda for sharing each organization's research during meetings with civil society organizations. In addition, civil society organizations should be working together to strengthen the implementation of international law.





Annual Meeting of Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Water



In the morning of February 07, 2022, the Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia and his colleagues attended the Annual Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Water, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology and FAO, co-chairing the working group and members of the technical working group from relevant ministries, development partners, civil society organizations, and NGOs.

The objectives of the Annual Meeting are 1) to review the progress of the Working Group on Agriculture and Water 2) to discuss and approve the Working Plan 2022 of the Working Group 3) to present the Cambodian Agricultural Diversification Project, a presentation on the Action Plan for Combat And declining soil quality and the final draft of the Agricultural Development Policy 2021-2030 and 4) others. Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, thanked the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and development partners for including the input from civil society organizations into

the draft of Agricultural Development Policy 2021-2030 to meet the needs of smallholder farmers. At the same time, Mr. Vannara also requested for the meeting to include some points which benefit for the farmers and the communities that depend on forest resources and natural resources, such as:

- 1) the sustainability of natural rubber and the development of rubber. Towards families into the first strategic goal: to enhance the competitive agricultural product chain; On forest resources and natural resources into point ៩-7
- 2) on increasing products and value-added in the value chain of forest and wildlife production 3) Incorporate the promotion of smallholder agricultural production through digital agricultural markets into point ៩-10
- 4) Incorporate the increase of resources and techniques for community forestry and fisheries management into points ៩-1 and ៩-2 on improving management. Forests and wildlife and fisheries resources
- 5) Incorporate ecotourism development National and ecotourism is a joint mechanism to support the management

and development of community forests, and fishing communities to increase people's income and career choices in points ៩-1 and ៩-2 as well.

- 6) Include the promotion of research and resource development of Marine fisheries for the sustainable management of marine fisheries resources and coastal areas in ensuring the sustainability of marine biodiversity and the livelihoods of communities into point ៩-2 on improving fisheries resources management
- 7) Incorporate forest law amendments The Law on Fisheries into the monitoring indicators in the fourth goal to strengthen governance and human resource development in the agricultural sector and sustainable zoos model in Cambodia; and
- 8) Request the Sub-Working Group on Gender, Climate Change, and Indigenous Peoples to provide additional support for the Joint Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Water. In response, H.E the Co-Chair of the meeting agreed and requested the Director of the Secretariat of the Technical Working Group to review and consider the submission as appropriate.



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UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2022

03-04 March

Workshop on Review Results of Research Study of Collective Land of IP in Mondolkiri

04 March

Orientation and Dissemination Workshop on National Social Protection Broadcasting Mechanism

07 March

Staff of NGOF celebrate International Women Day

07-08 April

Training on negotiation skill and mechanisms for land dispute and natural resource resolution

20 April

Meeting on assessment of VGGT

27 April (Morning)

2nd Quarterly Member Meeting

27 April (Afternoon)

Launching & Dialogue Workshop on the Research Study Report of People Migration link to Climate Change



THANK YOU!

The NGO Forum on Cambodia would like to thank to our local and international donors that always support our good causes missions to support Cambodians in need.

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