



NEP NEWSLETTER

August 2006

The NGO Education Partnership Newsletter is published quarterly (in English and Khmer) and distributed to all NEP member organizations. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep members up-to-date on changes in MoEYS policy, activities at the Secretariat, and other relevant news about what is happening in the education sector. In addition, the newsletter is a place where NEP members can share news about what your organization is doing, resources you wish to offer for circulation, workshops or training opportunities, and any other information you feel would be of interest to our membership.

NEP Secretariat News and Updates

NEP STAFF VISIT MEMBERS

Over the past months NEP staff have been visiting member organizations to become more familiar with their programs and to meet the people who are providing education programming in the field. NEP staff have visited both member and non-member organizations in Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, Mondulkiri and Battambang. Each visit was very informative and it was great to see the good work being done to improve education in Cambodia.

PHNOM PENH

In January, NEP staff visited Pour un Sourire d'Enfants, an international NGO that works with the community that lives near the Streng Mean Chey Rubbish Dump. PSE provides many programs including: childcare and nutrition; basic medical care, family support; boarding programs for at-risk children; catch-up school programs, primary and secondary instruction, and vocational training.



Children having breakfast at PSE childcare centre

In May we visited Sister Luise Ahrens who works with Maryknoll at the Royal Phnom Penh University. We met staff working in the English Support Unit, Department of Science Research

Study, Database Unit, and were given a tour of the Library.

Also in May we visited (WDA) the Women's Development Association and met with Soreach Soreithida, the Executive Director at her office in Phnom Penh. We talked in length about the different programs the WDA is supporting.

In June we visited three child friendly schools in Phnom Penh: Norodom Primary School, Baktou Primary School, Beung Salang Primary School. These schools all offer bright classrooms, smaller class sizes and well-kept playground areas for their students.

In July we visited with Noeun Phalin, Executive Director of Cambodian Independent Living Centre (CILC) that works to help disabled children to attend public school in Kampong Speu.

NEP staff also toured the Agir Pour Les Femmes En situation Precaire (AFESIP) Drop-in Centre and Clinic for girls and women who are victims of the sex trade. We also visited a vocational training site where women were learning to be beauty salon technicians.

MONDULKIRI

In May NEP staff traveled to Mondulkiri to attend the MoEYS ESP/ESSP dissemination workshop and to visit NGOs working in education. On the day we visited International Cooperation for Cambodia (ICC), rain and poor roads conditions prevented us from observing a non-formal classroom in a village outside the city. However, we talked with Mariam Smith who showed us educational resources ICC is producing for minority Phnong speakers.

Richard Steinmetz, of Cambodia Corps Inc gave us a tour of their residential facility which supports 120 poor students, ages of 12 and 18, who attend secondary school.

We also visited two non-members organizations: Nomad RSI and Cambodia Family Development Services (CFDS).

KOMPONG CHAM

In June, Hong Seng observed child-friendly classrooms at KAPE. While there he also visited Save the Children Norway, Save the Children Australia, and the Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization.

BATTAMBANG

While in Battambang from July 12th to 15th NEP staff met with Handicap International France (HIF) and visited the Rehabilitation Hospital located at the same site. We also visited Operation Enfants de Battambang (OEB), Buddhism for Development (BfD), Puthi Komar Organization (PKO), Assembly of God (private school – SALAA HOPE), Homeland (Meatophum Komar), Punleu Selapak, Komar Reakrey. We also met with VSO volunteers working at the POE and the TTC.

MEETINGS WITH MOEYS

NEP continues to attend the following meetings with the government

The Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG-ED) held every two months is a forum where NEP members have advocated and support the ministry to form a specific committee on inclusive education.

The Small Working Group (SWG), is conducted more frequently, to discuss in more detail, the technical aspects of education policy to prepare for JTWG-ED

Education Sector Working Group (ESWG), a monthly meeting for Donors and NGOs is a forum to discuss mutual concerns on education policy development.

NEP also attended the Special Needs Education Policy Draft Workshop, in Sihanoukville, July 17-19. At this workshop the MoEYS, donors, NGO's and NEP started to draft a policy on Inclusive Education.

NEP will also attend the upcoming Education Congress on October 24-26 in Phnom Penh at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, which will include the ESSP review.

CONDENSED VERSION OF ESP/ ESSP

NEP has produced condensed versions of both the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) and the Education Sector Support Program (ESSP). Both documents are available in English and Khmer. Hardcopies are free to members and for non-members there is a small fee of 4000 riels to help cover the cost of

photocopying. You can also download each document from the website free of charge.

TRAINING ON ESP AND ESSP

The first training for members about the ESP and ESSP policy development and implementation process took place on July 28. The second and third trainings were held on August 4th and 25th. Feedback from the training has been both positive and useful and will help to improve future trainings.

The **next training** (in Khmer) will be on **Fri. Sept. 15th**. To register call or e-mail Sothath at the NEP office.

NEW NEP WEBSITE

NEP's new website is up and running, but it is still under construction. Please visit the site and browse what is now available at www.nepcambodia.org

SURVEY AND NGO REPORT

Thank you to those who filled out and returned the NGO Survey. We have collected 45 surveys and are now in the process of compiling the data and writing the NGO Report. This document will be available in late September.

NEW VOLUNTEERS AT NEP

In June 2006, the NEP Secretariat advertised for a volunteer to work as an Administrative Assistant in the program office. We are happy to announce that we have taken on two volunteers, Thy Daraphuong and Phan Chanhoeurn. Each volunteer will work five half days per a week.



New volunteers Hoern and Dara with Sothath

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

NEP welcomes member contributions to the newsletter. We would like to include any news, views, announcements you wish to share with other members. Please submit articles of between 100 and 150 words.

Contact NEP at:

#227C Street 63 (between Streets 334 and 352)
BKK I, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Tel: 023 726 159, Email: info@nepcambodia.org

Website: www.nepcambodia.org