

# NEP NEWSLETTER

## March 2007 – Issue # 4

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

#### Global Campaign for Education

Plans for the Global Campaign for Education Week of Action, April 23-29., are well under way. The theme of this year's campaign is **Education as a Human Right**. NEP Executive Director, Seng Hong, chair of the leading committee to organize this year's Global Campaign for Education, says that there are activities planned in thirteen provinces throughout Cambodia including Phnom Penh. The campaign will consist of three main stages:

**Stage 1:** Children and adult learners will create dossiers on the subject of children who miss school and drop out of school, to be entitled **“The case for accessible to school”**.

**Stage 2:** The dossiers will be discussed on the **“Officials Back to School's day”** during the global action week in order to highlight the reality of the situation facing student and learners. Officials, political figures or celebrities will be invited to meet with campaigners they will respond to the concerns raised.

**Stage 3:** The **Big Hearing**, where coalitions will put on national level public events designed to draw attention to the issues identified and raised during the global action week. This event should be in the style of a “hearing” in which dossiers from across the country are brought together to use as evidence to present a case in support of children who are missing from school.

The objective of the Week of Action is to draw attention to issues facing vulnerable children and our hope is for government and civil society to give more attention to Education as a Human Right and translate official promises into policy and practice that will enable all Cambodian children to go to school.

#### International network meetings

NEP Executive Director, Seng Hong, was recently invited to attend four different international network meetings.

1- Real World Strategic Planning workshop and Education Watch consultative meeting in Cheang Mai, Thailand, organized by ASPBAE in December 2006.

2- Roundtable discussion on the Formation of a Southeast Asia Civil Society Network for EFA, at SEAMEO-INNOTECH Building, Manila, Philippines in December 2006.

3- International Baby Food Action Network-Southeast Asia (IBFAN-SEA) meeting to form working groups in order to develop international code for Baby Food marketing in Bangkok, in February 2007.

4- 8<sup>th</sup> National EFA Coordinators' meeting in Bangkok, in February 2007, which organized by UNESCO.

NEP's attendance at these meetings has broadened our regional and international network and put us in touch with policy makers and advocacy groups from countries all over the world.

## Informal School Fees Research

The data collection for the Informal School Fees research is now completed and the report on the research findings will soon be available.



*NEP researcher talking to family in Kompang Cham*

This research was seeking to discover both the extent of informal fees being paid by parents to send their children in school, as well as the impact these expenses have on families decisions to keep their children in school. Researchers spoke with a total of 100 families in eight districts of Kompong Cham, all of whom offered both quantitative and qualitative responses to interview questions.

This research project was undertaken by NEP in the collaboration with Professor's Alliance for Development (PAD) and Women Development Association (WDA) and was funded by UNICEF. A presentation of the findings will be made at the NEP Annual General Meeting and at the April EDUCAM meeting

## Valuing Teachers Research - Update

The research stage of the project is now completed. Researchers have traveled to 8 provinces and interviewed 81 teachers to ask their views on their profession, their roles and needs, what motivates and de-motivates them, what affects their morale, and what helps them to perform well. In addition, 42 school, POE and DOE directors were interviewed, and 15 focus groups held. The advice of other key stakeholders in the education sector was also sought, including Secretary of State, H.E. Im Sethy, and Under Secretary, H.E. Nath

Bunroeun, international donors representatives from the World Bank, UNESCO, USAID, ADB and the European Commission, NGOs, teacher union officials, commune chiefs, governors, parents and retired teachers.

The report is now being compiled and will be analyzed at a round table conference later this year.

## New Cambodian School Atlas

A new Cambodian School Atlas and Teacher's Guide was recently launched by Save Cambodia's Wildlife (SCW). This valuable educational tool is designed for use at upper secondary school or first year college level and provides maps and statistical information on both the environmental and socio-economic situation in Cambodia. A teacher's guide accompanies the atlas, with lesson plans and suggested activities aimed at raising awareness of environmental and wildlife protection issues. These new publications, can be purchased from SCW. Phone 023 211263 or check their website [www.cambodiaswildlife.org](http://www.cambodiaswildlife.org)

## Farewell to Sothath and Dara

After three years of service to NEP our Education/Technical Officer, Ngo Sothath, is leaving to take up a new post, as the Development Policy Officer with the NGO Forum. The NEP Board and staff would like to thank Sothath for all his hard work, on behalf of NEP, and wish him all the best in his new job.

Also leaving NEP is Thy Daraphuong who has been working as a volunteer administrative assistant for NEP for the past seven months. Many thanks to Dara, for all her help, and good wishes to her as she continues with her university studies.

## New Board members needed

NEP needs five Board members to form the new Board of Directors for the 2007-2009 term. Please consider nominating someone you think would bring skills and energy to the NEP Board of Directors. The new Board will be elected at the Annual General Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

## JOB POSTINGS for NEP

NEP is now offering employment opportunities to three qualified Cambodian nationals. These are full time positions at the NEP Office based in Phnom Penh.

### Title: Administration/Finance Officer

#### Duties:

- Arranging meetings and workshops, providing information, serving as office point of contact, and managing the office.
- Prepare and circulate meeting agendas, take and circulate minutes
- Receive and reply to members queries and requests
- Purchase office supplies, maintain inventory, ensure the maintenance of all office equipment
- Assist Research Officer with the annual NGO Survey, and other NEP data
- Maintain library and its database
- Provide oral and written translation and carry out other tasks as requested

#### Qualifications:

- Diploma Business Administration or related field.
- 2 or 3 years experience in administrative and financial management with NGOs.
- Knowledge of Cambodian education sector
- Good written and oral communication in English
- Translation experience Khmer-English, English-Khmer.
- Computer skills; email, internet, MS Word, Excel, and Outlook Express, MS ACCESS an asset
- Ability and willingness to learn quantitative and qualitative research methodology
- Demonstrated capacity and commitment to work in the role of service provider to people from diverse backgrounds
- Open, flexible attitude, and team worker with good interpersonal skills.

### Title: Education/Capacity Building Officer

#### Duties:

- Identify and summarize main documents related to the education policy reform and programs
- Conduct workshops with NEP members to: increase understanding of education issues; build organizational capacity; share skills and knowledge
- Plan activities to increased and maintain membership
- Write reports for donors, the Board and the MoEYS
- Work with the Administrative/Financial Officer to ensure the web-site information is up-to-date
- Maintain the data base of NEP members
- Assist Executive Director in the preparations for the AGM, the annual report
- Other duties and responsibilities as requested

#### Qualifications:

- University degree in Public Policy, Social Science, Education, or other relevant field
- Experience designing workshops and curriculum
- 2-3 years experience in project supervision
- Patience teaching new skills to inexperienced learners
- Knowledge of both formal and non-formal education sectors in Cambodia

- Demonstrated group facilitation and capacity-building skills
- Spoken/ written fluency in Khmer and English
- Proficiency in computer applications especially MS Office, spreadsheets, email and internet
- Open, flexible attitude, a team worker with good interpersonal skills,
- Flexibility to travel overnight outside Phnom Penh.

### Title: National Research Officer

#### Duties:

- Oversee research projects undertaken by NEP
- Participate in the design and methodology to be used in the research
- Identify and work with community partner organizations in target provinces
- Conduct training workshops on research design, data collection, analysis and reporting
- Supervise community-based research teams and make regular site visits.
- Oversee data analysis and report writing
- Coordinate dissemination workshops, and other duties and responsibilities as requested

#### Qualifications:

- Graduate degree (M.A.) in Social Science, Education, Gender Development, and other relevant field
- Solid research background
- Experience doing community-based research
- 2-3 years experience in project supervision
- Patience teaching new skills to inexperienced learners
- Knowledge of both formal and non-formal education sectors in Cambodia
- Demonstrated group facilitation and capacity-building skills
- Fluency in spoken and written Khmer and English
- Computer skills – word-processing, spreadsheet, SPSS, email and internet
- Open, flexible attitude, and a team worker with good communication skills, and
- Flexibility to travel overnight outside Phnom Penh.

Interested candidates are invited to apply no later than **5:00 pm, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2007**. Please submit a CV with a cover letter outlining the position you wish to apply, your work experience and your salary expectations to:

Mr. SENG Hong, Executive Director  
NEP Office  
#227C, Street 63, Boeung Keng Kong I,  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

or send by email to [ed@nepcambodia.org](mailto:ed@nepcambodia.org)  
*Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview.*

**Women are strongly encouraged to apply.**

#### Contact NEP at:

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(between Streets 334 and 352)  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Tel: (855) 23 726 159,

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