

NEP NEWSLETTER

June 2007 – Issue # 5

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

The Global Campaign for Education Week of Action, April 23-29, was very successful this year. The theme of this year's campaign is **Education as a Basic Right**.



His Excellency IM SITHY, Secretary of State, MOEYS

The **Big Hearing** event, held on April 26, 2007 was attended by hundreds of students, teachers and educators from around the country. The purpose of the event was to draw attention to the issues identified and raised during the global action week. This event was in the style of a "hearing" in which dossiers from across the country were brought together to use as evidence to present a case in support of out of school children.

His Excellency **IM SITHY**, Secretary of State, gave a speech expressing his appreciation of the GCE campaign and the contribution of various national/international organizations around the world that were carrying out similar events aimed at accelerating the EFA defined target in

2015 which is conform to the global agreement at Dakar, Senegal in 2000.

His Excellency, Im Sithy applauded the efforts of the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport for designing clear activities that would lead to the realization of the Cambodian Millennium Development Goal to achieve 9-years of basic education for all children by 2015.

Also mentioned was the recent integration of the child-friendly school curriculum into the basic education program. The CFS initiative is currently being implemented in some provinces, and plans are in place to expand this program in all provinces in late 2008.

The objective of the Week of Action was to draw attention to issues facing vulnerable children in hopes that the government and civil society will continue to give 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.



Informal School Fees Research Results

The purpose for the research was to discover both the extent of informal fees being paid by parents, as well as the impact these expenses have on families' decisions to keep their children in school. Researchers spoke with 100 families in eight districts of Kompong Cham, and the results have revealed a very startling situation. Parents and students interviewed reported that they are spending on average between 443,200 riels (\$110.80 US) and 606,100 riels (\$151.53 US) to ensure their children's success in school.

This UNICEF funded research project, was undertaken by NEP, in the collaboration with Professor's Alliance for Development (PAD) and Women Development Association (WDA). Presentations of the findings were made at the NEP Annual General Meeting, CCC membership meeting, at the June EDUCAM meeting, and at ESWG meeting.

Farewell to VSO volunteer

Our VSO Management Advisor, Roneen Marcoux finishes her placement with NEP at the end of July 2007. She will return to her family and friends in Canada, and take up a teaching post with a university college. The NEP Board and staff would like to thank Roneen for all her hard work, and wish her all the best the future.



New NEP Staff and VSO volunteer

The NEP board and staff would like to welcome Miss Leng Theavy to the position of Education/Capacity Building Officer. Many of you may have met Theavy at the Annual General Meeting. We look forward to getting

to know her in her new training and capacity building role.

Welcome also to short-term VSO volunteer Julia_Lalla-Maharajh, who will be working on the Valuing teachers' project for six months.



From the left, Theavy and Julia

NEP elects new Board of Directors

1. Mr. Chan Solin, from World Education Cambodia (WE)
2. Mr. Vorn Samphors, from Disability Action Council (DAC)
3. Mr. Ket Chanto, from World Vision Cambodia (WV)
4. Mr. Kan Kall, from Save the Children Norway (SCN)
5. Mr. James Whitehead, from Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

Education Watch Project

NEP will start a new research project. The goal for the Education Watch Project is to monitor the progress of Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MoEYS) in Cambodia in terms of its stated goal to reduce parental costs to education as stated in the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) and the Education Sector Support Program (ESSP).

NEP Moves and Changes office hours

New address:

No. 11A, street 248 Vealvong

7 Makara, Phnom Penh

Tel : 023 22 47 74

Website : www.nepcambodia.org

New Office hours :

Morning : 7h30-12 am Afternoon : 1h30-5 pm

Next Member Meeting

The next member meeting will be at the beginning of September