



NEP NEWSLETTER

April 2008 – Issue #7

NEP provides a mechanism to promote dialogue among its own members and between government, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, donors, and NGOs in order to improve the quality of education for all in a spirit of cooperation.

NEP Secretariat News and Updates

NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We were very pleased to so many of our members, along with special guests at last month's Annual General Meeting on March 24. It is important that we take every opportunity to meet to discuss issues and actions that will build a stronger voice for education NGOs.

We are committed to communicating with our members this year but need the active participation of our members to achieve this goal. News from members can be included on our new web site at www.nepcambodia.org and in this newsletter. Please share your organization's news and information concerning events, as well as current research and reports that you think will be of interest to other NEP members.

We look forward to working with you more closely in the year to come.

Ou Viyouren

2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the March 24th AGM, outgoing Board Chair, **Chan Solin** thanked fellow Board members and staff for their support during a period of transition for NEP. He expressed strong confidence in NEP's future.

2007 and 2008 Highlights

Executive Director **Ou Viyouren** presented highlights of NEP activity during 2007. National Research Officer **Ang Sopha** who shared some highlights of the 2007 Education NGO Report focusing on NGO activity in the six EFA goal areas. For a copy of this report, please contact sopha@nepcambodia.org.



NEP's new Board Chair Kim Dara (left) and participants at AGM priorities discussion

Samphors Vorn, NEP Board Member and GCE Leading Committee Chair, made a brief presentation on the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and plans for Global Action Week.

For more information on Global Action Week which takes place this year between April 21 and 28, contact: theavy@nepcambodia.org

NEP Executive Director **Ou Viyouren** also presented highlights of 2008:

ESP/ESSP Mid-Term Review **Ou Viyouren** reported that NEP is participating in planning discussions with the MoEYS' Department of Planning, along with major development partners. NEP solicited input on progress being made in the six recurrent goal areas and presented at the Mid-Term Review Forum held by the MoEYS on March 31, April 1 and 2.

At the Forum, Ministry officials and approximately 500 employees from Phnom Penh and the provinces, development partners and NEP members discussed the preliminary consolidated document for the ESP/ESSP Mid-Term Review. **Ou Viyouren** offered summary remarks on behalf of the education NGO sector, stressing that NEP members want to collaborate with government to support progress.

2008 Research The 2008 Education NGO Report will be ready for the Education Congress in early 2009. And on another research initiative, new VSO Advisor **Sarah Jago** is working on the completion of Valuing Teachers.

2008 Priorities: NEP members discussed the four priorities cited in the 2008 Highlights presentation.

- Member communications and capacity building
- Policy reform: ESP/ESSP mid-term review
- Research
- NEP organizational effectiveness.

Members were asked to respond to two questions as part of small group discussions:

1. What would you like to see NEP doing in each of these priority areas by 2009?
2. How can your organization contribute to the achievement of these priorities?

Highlights of the discussion are contained in the AGM minutes.

NEP Board Selection

Kann Kall of Save the Children Norway – Cambodia, **Ket Chanto** of World Vision, and **Vorn Samphors** of Disability Action Council (DAC) are serving the second year of their two-year term.

Members were then asked to elect the 2008 Board. **Kim Dara** of World Education and **Andy Hill** of SCC were selected as the new incoming members of NEP's five-person Board.

Ou Viyouren thanked outgoing Board members **Chan Solin** for his three years of commitment and service and **Alice Castillejo** for her active involvement on the Board.

To obtain the PowerPoint presentation of AGM proceedings and the bios of new Board members, go to www.nepcambodia.org.

MEET THE NEP TEAM!

Thanks to sustained financial support from Unicef, additional core funding support from Misereor, and technical support through volunteer advisors from VSO, we are moving forward!

NEP has a strong team that is working hard to focus on value to members, strengthening links between government and the education NGO sector, and striving towards a stronger voice for our sector on education issues that require action.

NEP members have been introduced to some Secretariat staff and advisors in previous issues of our Newsletter. Here is an overview of all of NEP's current team members:

Ou Viyouren joined NEP in late January 2008 as Executive Director. Viyouren brings to NEP extensive experience in monitoring and evaluating policy reform and implementing strategic action on development priorities involving government, donor and NGO communities. He has worked for the past four years with the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), most recently with its Department of Bilateral Aid Coordination with European Union, and North America.

Leng Theavy has been with NEP since July 2007 and is responsible for Education and

Capacity Building. Theavy has been involved with most aspects of NEP because when she joined, there was only one Executive Director, one other staff member and a VSO volunteer. Given our increased staff and our commitment to increased member communications and capacity building, you will be seeing and hearing more from Theavy in the coming year. Email: theavy@nepcambodia.org



NEP staff at AGM 2008

Our National Research Officer **Ang Sopha** joined NEP in late November 2007 and took on the responsibility of producing the 2007 Education NGO Report which was late in being released due to a management change and limited staff resources. Sopha will have the opportunity to design, research and prepare a more comprehensive report later this year. Currently, she is developing the research methodology for research on pre-school education and its impact on primary level enrolment which we plan to release by August 2008.

Email: sopha@nepcambodia.org

Keo Sokha is our Administration and Finance Officer and is responsible for financial management systems and all administrative aspects of NEP. He came to NEP in October 2007 and has five years experience in the accounting field.

Email: sokha@nepcambodia.org

Phan Chanhoeurn started working with NEP over a year and a half ago as a volunteer and is now on staff as Administration/Finance Assistant. Hoeurn is also responsible for maintaining NEP's recently upgraded website. Email: chanhoeurn@nepcambodia.org

Through VSO, we have three volunteer advisors now working with NEP:

Our Management Advisor **Judy Baldwin** comes from Canada. She joined us in December 2007 and will be with us for two years. Judy works closely with me on policy reform, management and organization development issues, and supports staff in the areas of stakeholder engagement, research, and project management.

Email: judy@nepcambodia.org

Our GCE Advisor **Janneke Harmsma** has a strong background in education and served as a Town Councillor in her home country of Holland. Janneke works closely with Theavy on GCE and GCE Leading Committee in developing a strategy for GCE in Cambodia that will produce more sustained and meaningful levels of engagement among civil society throughout the year. Janneke will be with us for six months.

Email: janneke@nepcambodia.org

Our Valuing Teachers Advisor **Sarah Jago** has worked extensively in the area of adult education, comes to NEP from England. She will be completing the work on the Valuing Teachers research project which was started in 2006. This research examines the attitudes of teachers in Cambodia towards their work, their future and morale issues. Sarah will be with us for six months.

Email: sarah@nepcambodia.org

GCE UPDATE



“Quality Education to End Exclusion”

The Global Action Week 2008 theme builds on the previous theme of the right to education, calling for an end to all forms of exclusion from quality education. To ensure that Education For All is truly achieved, the challenge is not merely to guarantee universal access to education but equally to ensure that it is of good quality.

In Cambodia, during the Global Action Week from 21st to 27 April, the GCE Leading Committee has planned the following events:

- A visit to His Majesty the King by 70 marginalized children
- Back to school events in Speu, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Siem Reap,

Pursat, Kandal, Preah Vihea, Battambang and Kampt

- Games for Education in the Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh
- A round table forum discussion and a radio talk show

Posters will be distributed to NGOs, PoE, DoE office, schools and communities in 20 provinces. For more details, go to the NEP website: www.nepcambodia.org

EDUCATION FOR ALL GOALS

The Global Campaign for Education is striving to achieve these goals by the year 2015:

1. Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children;
2. Ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to a complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality;
3. Ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes;
4. Achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults;
5. Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality;
6. Improving all aspects of the quality of education, and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy, and essential life skills.

OUR NEW WEB SITE

NEP's new web site has been designed to be easier to use and offer members access to more information. It will also be the place for NEP members to share information.

NEP would be pleased to post member news, reports and newsletters. If you have suggestions for new web site content and web links, please email to:

chanhoeurn@nepcambodia.org



NEP's new website: www.nepcambodia.org

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

More information to follow soon!

- NEP membership meeting on Monday, June 2nd, 2008.
- NEP Mid-Term Review
- ESP/ESSP Mid-Term Review and FTI updates
- Education Law workshop

TALK TO US!

NEP wants to hear from members about NEP members':

- Current activities and challenges
- Views of progress being made on ESP/ESSP; and recommendations for action

We also encourage NEP members to share:

- What NEP can do for you in the areas of capacity building (workshops, training), research on specific issues and information needs.
- What you can do to help NEP build its knowledge base and networks, its membership, and help NEP raise awareness of key issues.

If you have any news items or story ideas you would like to see in our July newsletter, please send them to Leng Theavy at theavy@nepcambodia.org.

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