



NEP NEWS

November 2008

A NOTE FROM NEP'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am honoured to have been selected by the Board as NEP's Executive Director and have enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with NEP's development partners, many NEP members and some key government representatives.

I have found that my background has been useful in addressing NEP's focus on policy reform, member capacity building and organizational capacity building. I graduated in the education sector and have had over 10 years' experience with local and international NGOs. I come to NEP from the Cooperation Committee of Cambodia (CCC) where I was responsible for dealing with government ministries that had a direct working relationship with local and international NGOs, development partners and other stakeholders.

Last August, NEP staff shared highlights of our Mid-Term Review and Membership Survey with members. Feedback from NEP members and other key stakeholders was extremely useful in helping the Board focus on key short-term priorities. I would like to share with you the status of these priorities.

NEP BOARD PRIORITIES

Leadership: Hire competent, experienced and visionary Executive Director

Action: In Samrithy has been hired as NEP's Executive Director.

Board: Expand Board from five to seven members

Action: At the November 3rd Member Meeting, NEP members voted to change NEP's charter and increase the size of the Board from five to seven members.

Organizational Identity: A clearer, stronger mission statement

Action: At the November 3rd Membership Meeting, NEP members agreed in principle to a new mission statement which will be put to a vote at the AGM.

Strategic Plan: Review current objectives and make changes needed for 2008 – 2010

Action: Strategic plan to be revised and circulated to members for their input in December 2008.

Policy Updates: Keep NEP members well-represented and updated on developments with ESWG, JTWG, ESP/ESSP Mid-Term Review and upcoming Education Congress

Action: Strategy and tactics for sustained policy updates to be included in 2008-2010

Strategic Plan.

Member Input: Attempt to schedule future meetings to occur prior to policy group meetings

Identify sub-groups, e.g. ECE, primary, advanced education. Sub-groups to identify group lead to coordinate sub-group discussions and ensure inputs/feedback from and to NEP

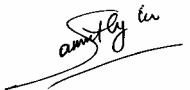
Action: A meeting of organizations working in Early Childhood was held on October 10th to undertake initial mapping of early childhood service delivery in Cambodia. A working group has been formed to continue this work, but with a focus on education. These expert informants will provide their insights on early childhood education policy and policy implementation.

Sub-groups dealing with primary, secondary and advanced education will be formed in 2009.

This newsletter will share updates on the many other past and upcoming activities being undertaken by NEP. There is much to be done and I want to thank the many organizations and individuals who are working together with NEP to help us achieve our goals for improved education in Cambodia.

With continued strong support from our Board, staff, members and development partners and government, NEP has strengthened its network and services over the past year. I plan to ensure this positive trend continues.

Sincerely,



In Samrithy
dir@nepcambodia.org

NEP & EDUCATION POLICY MEETINGS

NEP continues to actively participate regularly in ESWG and JTWG meetings. During the past three months, the focus of these discussions has been on:

- Progress on ESP/ESSP MTR
- Progress report on Program Budgeting 2008
- Preparation for Education Congress in March 2009
- Discussion on Joint Monitoring Indicators and action needed for 2009
- Discussion on incentive principals for teaching staffs
- Presentation on the identification of poor households (also presented at NEP's November meeting)
- Presentation on National Operational Guidelines for Development and Grant Assistance Cooperation
- Annual Operational Plan

NEP has been asked by H.E. Nath Bunroeun, MoEYS Planning Department to gather NGOs information to support ongoing planning and budget allocation processes. We are

More details concerning the policy discussion items listed above can be obtained by contacting In Samrithy at dir@nepcambodia.org.

CAMBODIA EDUCATION NGO INVENTORY PROJECT

NEP is pleased to inform you that, with financial support from UNICEF, an inventory of current operations and projected operations of education NGOs will be conducted. We hope to have this project completed by the end of December 2008. More than 60 education NGOs will be contacted and interviewed throughout the country.

The purpose of this project is to develop a comprehensive inventory of education NGO operations in Cambodia in 2008 and projections of NGOs project activities for MoEYS' next Annual Operating Plan to support Government and development partner planning and decision making. NEP will also use this data for the 2008 Education NGO report.

NEP would like to thank our members in advance for strong cooperation and assistance. Your contribution is very important for the success of the project and improvement of Education in Cambodia.

For further information, please feel free to contact Ms. Leng Theavy, NEP Education/Capacity Building Program Officer, at 023 224774 or theavy@nepcambodia.org.

VALUING TEACHERS RESEARCH & BRITISH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT VISIT

In September, British Member of Parliament Angus MacNail spent two weeks on a mission in Cambodia, part of a larger global advocacy project undertaken by VSO that focused on the Valuing Teachers research being undertaken in 10 countries. In Cambodia, the report was researched and written by VSO volunteer Sarah Jago, who was based in NEP's offices for six months.



Mr. Angus participated in an NEP key stakeholder consultation on advocacy and also participated in a meeting with H.E. Im Sethy and H.E. Nath Bunroeun to discuss the recommendations contained in the Valuing Teachers report. The outcome of that meeting was that His Excellencies supported the report's recommendations and indicated that MoEYS has taken some steps to address some of the recommendations. H.E. Nath Bunroeun repeated his desire to hear from and work more closely with NEP in future.

Note to NEP members: VSO is currently translating this report and it will be published in December. A digital version (in English) of Valuing Teachers can be obtained by contacting Leng Theavy at theavy@nepcambodia.org

PRESCHOOL RESEARCH RELEASED

Highlights of NEP's recently-completed preschool research report were presented at the October 10th Early Childhood meeting and to NEP members attending the November 3rd Special Membership Meeting.

While in the field, NEP Research Officer Sopha Ang and NEP Administration Assistant Phan Chan Hoeurn were strongly supported by NEP member organizations namely Don Bosco, Puthi Komar, Centro Italiano Aiuti all' Infanzia (CIAI) and New Humanity (NH) and research team members from MoEYS' Early Childhood Education Department.



A digital version of the preschool research report can be found under Research Reports on NEP's web site: www.nepcambodia.org.

PILOT ENROLMENT CAMPAIGNS UNDERWAY

NEP project funder ASPBAE has provided funding for a pilot enrolment campaign project, which two NEP members are implementing – Puthi Komar in Battambang and Krousar Yoeung in Siem Reap. The main objective of the campaign is to encourage higher primary level enrolment through visits to families of all disadvantaged and out-of-school children in target villages to encourage them to send their children to school. The experience and findings of this pilot project will be applied to future projects.

NEP'S FIRST SUB-SECTOR WORKING GROUP FORMED

In October 2008, NEP invited all NGOs members and other organizations working in the early childhood sector to a meeting to map NGO activity. The meeting was well-attended by 37 participants from 24 NGOs. Four participants have volunteered to serve on NEP's ECE Working Group to help NEP build on the original data collected and advise on issues, ECE policy recommendations, and progress made with ECE policy implementation. : The individuals and organizations who are volunteered to be represented on the Working Group are:

1. Hervé Roqueplan from New Humanity
2. Mr. Chhoeung Marong from Mith Samlanh
3. Ms. Uth Rattana from Hagar
4. Ms. Becky Roxas from Servants/Tasks

NEP would like to thank Hervé Roqueplan of New Humanity for his active involvement in facilitating the development of this initiative.

NGO FORUM'S FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY PROJECT

NGO Forum, in collaboration with six major NGOs and including NEP, is planning to organize a research project to determine information available on government budgets and expenditures. NEP staff have participated in planning discussions and the project is now waiting for approval from MoEYS.

SPECIAL MEMBERS' MEETING

Charter Resolutions At the 03 November 2008 Special Members' meeting, members were asked to vote on two resolutions involving changes to NEP's Charter.

- Increase Board size from five to seven to increase Board capacity, diversity and increase representation of NEP membership. (Approved)
- Change NEP's mission to more accurately reflect NEP's role and value. (Approved in principle; to be voted on at AGM in 2009.)

Election of New Board Based on member approval of a Board size increase, a new Board of seven members was elected, including three existing Board members who have agreed to extend their two-year term by one year as a means of providing continuity and support for NEP.

Mr. Auray Aun, Aide et Action – two year term

Ms. Maryann Bylander, Protect the Earth Protect Yourself (PEPY) – two year term

Ms. Chim Manavy, Open Institute – two year term

Mr. Lim Sophea, Puthi Komar Organization – two year term

Mr. Kann Kall, Save The Children Norway (SCN) - extending by one year

Mr. Ket Chanto, World Vision - extending by one year

Mr. Vorn Samphors, Disability Action Council (DAC) - extending by one year

A Board Executive will be formed by the Board at its first meeting in December.

Presentations The following presentations were made during the day-long meeting.

1. Highlights of *The Impact of Preschools on Early Childhood Education in Cambodia* by Ang Sopa, NEP
2. Presentation on the identification of poor households by Julian Hansen, GTZ
3. NEP Activity Update **and** GCE updated by Mr. In Samrithy and Ms Leng Theavy, NEP
4. Presentation the Child Friendly Schools and Best Practices by MR. Hin Sinhuon , Kape
5. Mainstreaming Best Practices into MoEYS Programming by Mr. Chan Solin, WE

Minutes of this meeting have been distributed to NEP members. Copies of these presentations made at this meeting may be obtained by going to NEP's web site.

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS!

We wish to express our deepest thanks to two six-month volunteers from VSO who worked on special projects from NEP's offices: Janneke Harmsma, Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Advisor, who worked with GCE's Leading Committee on the development of a GCE strategic plan and has now returned to her home in Holland, and Sarah Jago who recently completed the Valuing Teachers research and is now serving as Advocacy Advisor with the Disability Action Council (DAC).

We would also like to thank Rachel LeCointe who provided valuable research and report preparation assistance for the recently-released preschool research report and who helped to gather data for NEP's 2008 Position Paper on Education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are some upcoming events that may be of interest to NEP members. NEP would like to remind its members that they can include news of upcoming events in this newsletter and on our web site! Information on upcoming events should be sent to Leng Theavy at theavy@nepcambodia.org.

Event	Date
CESSP School Leadership Program	20 November 2008
NEP Membership Meeting & AGM Feedback Workshop (NGO report)	23 January 2009
Education Congress	March 2009 (TBA)

MEMBER UPDATES & INFORMATION SHARING

NEP encourages its members to share news of their projects, campaigns and research with other NEP members. You can do this in several ways:

Request time to present highlights at an NEP membership meeting
Submit a brief profile for NEP's quarterly newsletter
Post information and reports on NEP's web site

Please contact Leng Theavy with your request: theavy@nepcambodia.org.

Member Update from Plan International Cambodia: Learn without Fear



Plan International Cambodia's Country Director Dr. Pedrito Sandy M. Fortuna on 26 August 2008 convened a meeting with 20 potential campaign partners, including the government and NGOs, to discuss Learn without Fear. Representatives from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) confirmed their commitment to the campaign and stated that Learn without Fear activities will complement the government's strategy for child-friendly schools.

The MoEYS has already developed ethical guidelines for teachers, which are awaiting official approval. Once approved, Plan International Cambodia will have achieved their first national campaign objective: to ensure that clear guidelines protecting children from corporal punishment are in place. At the international level, Plan International officially launched the Learn without Fear advocacy campaign on 7 October 2008 officially launched the Learn without Fear advocacy campaign. More information is available at www.plan-international.org/learnwithoutfear

Contact Us!

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