



Welcome to January and February 2017 Monthly Digest! NEP participated and organized in several important meetings such as TPAP technical working group meeting, Regional Seminar on Education Reform in ASEAN, National ESWG and PFMR TWG meeting and SDG4 localization.

## 1. TPAP Technical Working Group Meeting

On 17 January 2017, NEP have participated in the Teacher Policy Action Plan (TPAP) Task Force Working Group at MoEYS. The purpose of the meeting was to develop action plan for 2017-18 implementation related to teacher issue. There were 21 participants (Three women) from representative of Inter-Departments of MoEYS, UNICEF, UNESCO, EU, SIDA, KOIKA, NEP, and VVOB. Dr. Dy Samsideth, Deputy Director General of Education Department was a chair of the meeting with actively participation discussion by DPs and NGO representatives.

After the discussion, the TPAP Task Force working group agreed on the key actions to be implemented during the 2017 and 2018 including:

- The Teacher Council will be established in order to empower teachers and address all teacher issues for teacher by teacher not would be a political agenda related.
- The implementing BA Fast track recognizing more HEIs to join the playing field.
- Revise 12+2 Pre-school teacher training curriculum-the Pre-school Program that will be continued until 2020.
- Developing 12+4 curriculum for Primary and lower secondary teachers to be implemented from 2018 at TEC and RTTC.
- BA+1 program for LSS teachers would be supported by UNESCO
- Feasibility study on ECE program in some PTTCs would be conducted.
- Working on key steps/roadmap towards having a teacher Council-addressing all teacher issues for teachers by teacher-a need to move teacher upgrading program, teacher career pathway, TEC curriculum, TSO appointment of teachers under the TCP-why we need TC, ToR-how it fits in its reform Agenda-Supreme National Council for Education.
- Implementing BA Fast Track-recognizing more HEIs to join the playing field-PB under NIE overtime teaching cost for NIE lectures (700-1000) and WB Loan contract with RUPP (400).
- Revise 12+2 pre-school teacher training curriculum-the new 2-year pre-school program will continue until 2020.
- Developing 12+4 curriculum for primary and lower secondary teachers to be implemented from 2018-2019 at TEC and RTTC.
- Transforming PP and Battambang RTTCs to to be Teacher Education Colleges.
- Supporting 4 Remaining RTTCs to meet Teacher Education Provider Standards (TEPS) and become TEC in 2022 and
- Supporting and regulating interested HEIs to meet TEPS.

## 2. National ESWG meeting

On 26 January 2017, NEP have participated in the national ESWG meeting at World Bank's Office. There were 23 participants (Six women) from DPs and NGOs included UNICEF, UNESCO, WB, VSO, EU, USAID, GIZ, VVOB, and NEP. The meeting was to discuss on the significant agendas such



as: updates progress of sub technical working groups, discussion on WASH in school, and GPE coordinating Agency.

The participants brief updated the status in each of sub-technical working groups included PFMR, D&D, NFE, HEIs, and CFS. In particular discussion on PFMR, GPE II and CDPF II have supported DoF to develop a FMIS system. The system was now developed and 95% of the data were entered into the system. So far about 55% of PoE have entered data into the system. There is some resistance by Technical Departments at national level to input the data in FMIS. There is a need to provide training to relevant stakeholders on the analysis of the data. Some challenges were raised such as system errors, slow internet connection and computer problems. There is also a challenge with ensuring the integration of the three information systems within the Ministry namely FMIS, HRMIS and EMIS it will be important to discuss this with the relevant departments going forward.

The meeting schedule PFMR working group will be held on 30 January 2017 at MoEYS. NEP suggested to be a part of PFMR working group and the suggestion was accepted and invited NEP to attend the PFMR working group meeting. It would be an opportunity for NEP to advocate for transparency and accountability on effective of budget expenditure as well as increasing the national budget for education sector. Moreover, TPAP task force prepared action plan for 2017-2018 which included School Director Standard, Teacher Career Pathway, INSET, and establishing Teacher Council. In particular, NEP will coordinate with member who working on the INSET to group the expertise in order to provide input to the MoEYS.

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 NEP participated in the ESWG meeting and presented the work of P-ESWG at the sub-national level. The members of the ESWG have expressed the strong interest in the P-ESWG work and congratulated NEP for efforts in establishing and coordinating the sub-national network. The members of ESWG have suggested that if any issues that P-ESWG has raised to the PoE and no action has been taken against should bring forward to the national level so that national ESWG could bring to the attention of the relevant departments or to the Minister if needed.

### **3. Public Financial Management Reform (PFMR) Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting**

This is the first meeting for 2017 that NEP is implementing initiative strategy to involve in the Public Financial Management Reform (PFMR) working group of MoEYS in the aim of influence government on the effective of education budget expenditure and education financing. The PFMR Working group meeting is a platform that NEP can access the information related to education budget status, the progress of PFMR program implementation, challenges, and interventions that would be addressed by the Minister of MoEYS. In addition, DPs and CSO representatives could use this platform to strengthen education financial management system as well as lobbying the MoEYS to prepare budget plan for sub-sector or thematic more effectively and contribute to increase budget allocation for education sector.



On 30 January 2017, MoEYS organized a quarterly meeting chaired by the Minister of MoEYS with numbers of participant from UNICEF, UNESCO, WB, EU, ADB, USAID, GIZ, JICA, KOIKA, WFP, French Embassy, VVOB, and NEP. During the meeting, the Department of Finance of MoEYS has presented the progress of PFMR program implementation on education, challenges, and plan for 2017. A significant change has been notified particular MoEYS has advanced level on the progress of program based budget implementation compare to other ministries. The budget allocation has been increased for MoEYS from 2,029.0 in 2016 to 2,383.7 (In 000 million riels) in 2017 or decreased from 18.3% in 2016 to 18.1% in 2017 of national budget due to the total of national budget have increased for 2017. However, it has challenges related to planning particular on preparing the personnel cost and there has too many sub-activities under sub-program of POEs and have difficulty to monitor. MoEYS committed to improve its planning and official's capacity with support from Ministry of Economic and Finance. Based on observation, the effectiveness of budget expenditure is still main topic for CSOs would try to find evidence to advocate for this reform program on education financial management system especially it links to the NEP's findings of teacher deployment analysis.

#### **4. Regional Seminar on Education Reform in ASEAN**

On 10th February 2017 NEP participated in the regional seminar on education reform in ASEAN countries jointly organized by the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC) and Senate. The regional seminar aimed to share case study of education reform from different countries in ASEAN including Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia. The regional seminar gathered stakeholders including Ministries, academics, senators and parliamentary officials within the region.

NEP was invited to the panel discussion on the role of partners in education reform together with ministry of education, youth and sport, UNESCO, JICA. NEP Executive Director had presented the role of civil society organization in education reform which could be summarized that CSOs have the insights into local knowledge and needs of the community, ensuring policy planning reflects contextual realities and voices of marginalized group; CSOs have experience in implementing innovative and effective education sector interventions to help provide successful approaches for integrated into national policy and reform process; support effective policy implementation by building sub-national ownership and monitoring progress on policy commitment. Some concrete examples how CSOs contribute to the policy reforms have been shared with the participants such as the formation of thematic and sub-sector group to provide specific inputs to the government whenever needed, conduct research in the areas where policy gaps were identified.

#### **5. CSO's Contribution to the SDG4 localization**

In the 2016, NEP have provided awareness to the education NGOs particular NEP's member and P-ESWG across the country through the activities of dissemination and consultation at sub-



national and national consolidation. The inputs and recommendations from education NGOs in Cambodia have been collected and NEP and its representatives participated in the formal consultation organized by the MoEYS in order to provide inputs on the draft of Cambodia SDG4 localization. In addition, NEP have been invited as a member of SDG4 indicator localization working group at the national level. Therefore, NEP has a chance to bring more concrete recommendation and evidence from its member and mainstream into SDG4 localization. On 16 February 2017, NEP has been invited to present on CSOs inputs and recommendations on the Cambodia SDG4 localization during the National Launch on “**Formulating the Cambodian SDG4 Education 2030 Roadmap**” organized by the MoEYS and UNESCO at Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh. The current status of the collected inputs and recommendations from the CSOs have been presented to the MoEYS and Development Partners for their attention on the area of eliminate informal school fee, teacher issues, quality of learning outcome improvement, education financing, strengthen policies, inspection, relevant ministries collaboration, monitoring, and evaluation system act.

For 2017, NEP continues its commitment to expand its strategy to collect more critical inputs from the group of NGOs expertise through sub-sector or thematic working groups such as NFE-SSG, PESSG, WGED, and NECCD that is coordinated by NEP. At the same time, NEP will organize two sub-national consultations that will bring the draft version of the Cambodia SDG4 and organize the national consolidation to verify and prepare NEP member to be ready for the formal consultation by the MoEYS.