



Monthly Digest March 2017

Welcome to March 2017 monthly digest! NEP participated and organized in several meeting such as Annual General Meeting and 10th Year Anniversary, P-ESWG Quarterly Meeting, Regional Consultation on SDG4 localization, Education Congress 2017, facilitated the discussion during the research launch, organized Primary Education Sub-Sector Group Meeting.

1. Annual General Meeting and 10th Year Anniversary

NEP organized its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 6th March 2017 in Phnom Penh. There were 73 participants (24 women) from 47 out of 144 NEP's NGO members participated.

The meeting was to:

- Share the research findings on Improving Teacher Quality: Maximizing Returns on Investment in Teacher Education in Cambodia by Child Fund and KAPE
- Elect NEP's Board of Directors
- Share the result of NEP members online survey 2016
- Present and discuss about NEP achievements 2016 and NEP plan 2017
- Discuss about Policy Consultative to develop NEP member checklist
- Celebrate NEP 10th year anniversary

As a result, participants have learnt about the research finding especially on limitation of qualified teachers. Online survey with 73 members showed that 69% of members rated NEP's services as useful and very useful. NEP achievements for 2014-2016 and action plan for 2017. Two new NEP board members were elected namely: Ms. Nathalie Dupont from Enfants & Developpement and Mr. Kong Vichetra from Komarpikar Foundation. NEP also consulted with members on the selection of policy to be developed as checklist.

NEP presented certificate of appreciation to five active members including Community Council for Development Organization (CCDO) based in Takeo, Cambodian Childrens' Fund (CCF) based in Phnom Penh, Chumkriel Language School (CLS) based in Kampot, Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA) based in Phnom Penh, and Green Umbrella (GU) based in Takeo. Three P-ESWGs in Preah Sihanouk, Pursat, and Kratie Provinces were also selected to receive certificate of appreciation. In addition, NEP also provided the appreciation letter to seven staffs who worked for NEP Secretariat for five years and more.



2. P-ESWG Quarterly Meeting

On 7th March 2017, NEP conducted quarterly meeting with P-ESWG in Phnom Penh. There were 41 participants (8 women) from 19 Provinces.

The meeting aims to:

- Share results of P-ESWG achievement for the year 2016
- Orientation on P-ESWG handbook
- Orientation on Textbook and School Hygiene Policies
- Provide training on coordination, communication and negotiation skills for better advocating at the provincial level
- Share how to produce P-ESWG Joint Annual Work Plan

As a result, participants have increased understanding on coordination, communication, and negotiation skills for better advocating at the provincial level. In addition, the participants have learnt about key achievements of P-ESWG in 2016. The launch of P-ESWG handbook made P-ESWG representatives more understand the roles and responsibilities of chair, vice-chair, secretary and particularly members and the practical experience in using textbook checklist and joint annual work plan process of P-ESWG at Banteay Meanchey Province.

3. Regional Consultation on SDG4 localization

NEP organized two sub-national consultation workshops on SDG4 localization at Battambang and Kampong Cham provinces with P-ESWG representatives and education NGOs across the country. The consultative workshop aims to collect inputs and recommendations from NGOs on key priority policies, programs, and strategies. There were 105 participants from 72 NGOs in 21 provinces.

Two presentations on collected CSOs inputs and recommendations from 2016 and draft Cambodia SDG4 framework were presented to the participants as background information for the participants to discuss and provide more concrete inputs and recommendations. The participants were grouped based their expertise on the specific target of SDG4 to provide comments on the key policies, programs, and strategies priority for the Cambodia SDG4 framework that will be implemented until 2030. Similarly, NEP has engaged two sub-sectors on NFESSG and PESSG to provide specific inputs and recommendations on NFE and primary education of the SDG4's target. As a result, the key policies, programs, and strategies priority recommendations related to primary, early childhood, skill, youth, inclusive, and NFE were



identified for draft Cambodia SDG4 localization. The collected CSOs inputs and recommendations will be consolidated and verified in the national workshop on SDG4 localization with NEP member and P-ESWG representatives in May 2017 in order to be ready for the national consultation participation that will be organize formally by the MoEYS.

4. Education Congress 2017

From 21st to 23rd March 2017, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) organized Education Congress at Institute of Technology of Cambodia. Approximately 1,500 people participated including MoEYS, POE, teachers, as well as representatives of Development Partners and around 70 representatives of NEP’s members. H.E Dr. HANG Chuon Naron, Minister of MoEYS and Ms. Debora Comini, ESWG chair had delivered welcome remarks and opening speech by H.E Men Sam An, Permanent Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Assembly–Senate Relations and Inspection highlighted on key aspects of the key priority reforms in the education sector including financing, Teacher Policy Action Plan (TPAP), curriculum and textbook, inspection, quality, gender disparity, early childhood, dropout, out-of-school, school-based management, and New Generation school model.

All thematic and sub-sectors were discussed and identified key challenges and recommendations for the proposed solutions for the coming year such as teacher house for remote areas, teacher salary, and set up the following key measures and strategies: ongoing improvement quality and implementation programmes related to the seven sub-sectors, implement the TPAP, review and evaluate education programmes, textbooks and learning environment, strengthen school inspections and principle, strengthen learning outcome evaluation to improve the quality of education through the national, region, and international examinations.

In the closing speech of Samdach Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia notified several significant recommendations including 1) The implementation of the policy on ensuring equity of receiving education services through promotion and expansion of early childhood education programme for fully access in primary and secondary schools at least in 9 years, 2) The implementation of the policy on improving the quality and efficiency of educational services at higher education level with strong focus on training and capacity building in engineering, industry, agriculture, science and technology, 3) Capacity development for education units and officials for decentralization implementation through useful use of all national and sub-national level budgets, 4) Ongoing improvement the National Plan of Action for Youth Development



through focus and give opportunities to develop and link to family, communities and society development, 5) Mobilizing support for sport activities through the development of schools and communities sporting, and 6) Improving the effectiveness of financial assistance and cooperation.

5. Research Launch: Enhancing Collaboration Between School Management and District and Provincial Offices of Education

On 29th March 2017, Siem Reap ESWG (SEST) and This Life Cambodia (TLC) have organized a launch workshop on the research titled “Enhancing Collaboration between School Management and District and Provincial Offices of Education” in Siem Reap province with a total of 55 participants (14 Women) from different actors including POE, DOEs, School principals, School Support Committees (SSCs), and SEST members. The purposes of the workshop were to disseminate above research findings to relevant stakeholders to discuss on challenges and recommendations from group. As the result, POE and DOE acknowledged the findings and committed to take action on the proposed recommendations. TLC and SEST members will prepare advocacy tools after this workshop for future advocacy work to improve collaboration among all stakeholders in education in their respected province. The research report can be found on NEP website www.nepcambodia.org

6. Primary Education Sub-Sector Group Meeting

On 30th March 2017, NEP organized a Primary Education Sub-Sector Group Meeting in Phnom Penh. The meeting aims to share about Primary Department Priority Action Plan 2017-2019, SDG4 localization consultation, the safe school mapping program, and develop the advocacy plan for CCOSC and Primary Education NGOs. There were 56 participants (13 Women) attended this meeting. There were three presentations on Priority Action Plan for next three years (2017-2019); Second, Safe school mapping program, and CSOs inputs on SDG4 localization.

As the result, participants have gained acknowledged on the Priority Action of primary education Plan 2017-2019 and safe school program. In addition, inputs and recommendations on SDG4 localization and advocacy plan development for CCOSC and Primary Education NGOs were collected. NEP will coordinate with PESSG member to organize the annual meeting with Department of Primary Education to address the priority issue of primary education.