



Monthly Digest March 2018

Welcome to NEP's Monthly Digest for March 2018!

Throughout the month, NEP prepared the first quarterly meeting of NFESSG, organized Annual General Meeting of 2017, quarterly meeting of P-ESWG, AoP reflection, and the first quarterly meeting of working group on Education and Disabilities and the signing of the sub-grant event and Education Congress 2018.

1. The Quarterly Meeting of the Non-Formal Education Sub Sector Group SSG - 28th February 2018

On the morning of Tuesday 28th February, NEP organized the first quarterly meeting of the NFESSG (Non-Formal Education Sub Sector Group), with the participation of 23 members (8 women). The objectives of the meeting were to gain and understand the best ways to strengthen the CLC system towards a sustainable model, topic kindly presented by Mr Kranh Vanthai, Chief of Education Unit of the NFUAJ (National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan); learn about the best practices of the CLC in Thailand; update and comment about the CLC Checklist. As a result, NEP has received good comments from the NFESSG members in order to improve the development of CLC Checklist.

2. Annual General Meeting – 1st March 2018

NGO Education Partnership (NEP) successfully organized the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2017 at Phnom Penh Era Hotel on 1st March 2018. There were 90 participants (39 females) from 69 member organizations from Phnom Penh and provinces. There was also participation from UNICEF and MoEYS as a resource person on Gender Mainstreaming in Education Program Design and SDG4 roadmap.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Update NEP members on key information such as SDG4 roadmap, NEP achievements 2017, Plan 2018 and NEP strategic direction 2018-2022, the result of NGO Education Intervention Mapping 2016 and the draft Community Learning Center Checklist.
- Share about Gender Mainstreaming on education
- Elect members of the Board of Directors

The meeting was opened by Mr. Keo Sarath, Chairman of NEP Board Director. According to the Chairman, stated that NEP is going on the right track to meet its objectives both locally and internationally despite some struggles. It is hoped that NGO members are a part of this development which focused strongly on the result to improve the learning outcomes.

In 2017, NEP achieved some remarkable achievements – Represent Members' Voice and View to the government and DPs, Coordination and Networking, and Capacity Building and Information Sharing. Therefore, NEP will continue representing members' voice to the government through attending and presenting P-ESWGs' work national ESWG and JTWG meeting in 2018. Besides, we will participate in final SDG4 consultation as well as publish the SDG4 plan, organize Global Action Week of Education



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(GAWE) and World Teacher's Day Campaign, conduct the research to understand challenges and opportunities and a desk review research.

NEP's Strategic Directions 2018-2022 was also presented by Mr. Chin Chanveasna, Executive Director of NEP, to the members to make them informed of how NEP would strategize in the fast developing context as a result of the education reforms, which are being taken place. There are two major goals to be achieved in 2018-2022:

- **Goal 1:** to advocate for high quality, accessible education services by amplifying the voice of the members and producing new evidence and analysis ensuring representative of our members, gathering and generating evidence advocating and campaigning
- **Goal 2:** to build the capacity of Education CSOs to engage in policy dialogue, join initiatives, and education sector reform process, facilitating networks of NGOs working in education, providing varied training and learning opportunities, helping members to understand national policies and their implication and Promoting learning.

Moreover, participants have learnt about Cambodia SDG4-Education 2030 Roadmap presented by Mr. Nham Sinith, Director of Planning Department, DGPP, MoEYS and Gender Mainstreaming in Education Program Design which was presented and discussed by Ms. Katheryn Bernette, Chief of Education, UNICEF. During the meeting, the members have also elected 4 Board of Directors' members including Dr. Jill Reimer from World Vision International, Ms. Men Rumdourl from Save the Children, Mr. Neth Sovann from World Renew, and Ms. JoJo Lam from Teach for Cambodia. Besides, Key findings of NGO Mapping 2016 conducted by NEP and CLC Checklists were also presented to the members for better understanding and using it in their target provinces. World Education also presented their applications-Textbook Tracking System and TestX.

3. QUARTERLY MEETING WITH P-ESWG – 12th March 2018

The quarterly meeting with the provincial education sector working group (P-ESWG) was conducted successfully on 12th March 2018 at Sunway Hotel with 33 participants (7 Female) from 28 NGOs and 19 provinces. The meeting aimed to share the findings on grassroots research, to reflect on what P-ESWG have done together, consult on larger presentation, and to consult on developing CLC Checklist.

Mr Chin Chanveasna, Executive Director of NEP welcomed and thanked all participants for their contribution the valued time to participate in this meeting, and he mentioned about the role of P-ESWG to mobilize NGOs in their province for participation in the meeting and raise concern or any issues to work together to address the problems in their target provinces. Additionally, Mr. Keo Sarath provided advices and explained to the members about School Based Management which is one of wide education reform strategies. The findings on grassroots research were distributed to the members, and the electronic copy of the finding Assessment of Early Grade Teaching Quality in Cambodia by SeeBeyondBorders can be accessed in our libraries via this [link](#).



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The activity is conducted in the framework of EU project “Tackling the Implementation Gap in Education Reform, Mobilizing Civil Society” implemented by NEP. Thanks to the European Union for this financial support and BMZ for co-financing.

4. AoP Reflection

On March 13, 2018, NEP organized the AoP reflection from the support of EU Project in the framework "Tackling the Implementation Gap in Education Reform; Mobilizing Civil Society". Notably, this activity has conducted successfully with 22 participants (2 Females) from 20 NGOs and MoEYS and 7 NEP Staff.

The reflection aimed to share experiences of AoP Participants in 2018 including their learned lesson, challenges, suggestion, and the recommendations. And to agree on ways forward to improve NGOs participation in the future provincial AoP Formulation.

The reflection was welcomed by Mr. Chin Chanveasna, Executive Director of NEP. It is noted that NEP has organized AoP training to 5 clusters provinces in October and November 2017 with 110 NGOs staff participated. ESWG from Kratie, Tbong Khmum, and Kompang Cham have shared their own experiences, challenges, and the solutions and lessons learned. There was also the open discussion with all P-ESWG chairs and vice chairs to share about the situation of NGO contribution to provincial AoP of their respective province.

5. Working Group on Education and Disabilities Meeting – 15 March 2018

NEP managed to conduct a meeting with WGED Members on March 15, 2018, at NEP Office. The meeting was successfully conducted with the 12 participants include 4 females. The meeting mainly focused on six objectives as follows:

- Data collection presentation on disabilities from EMIS department.
- Consultation on how to disseminate NEP national research findings on disabilities.
- Discussion on how WGED members could monitor the progress of the recommendations from the national forum
- Election of the second representative of WGED and Advocacy at the national level through ESWG Channel
- Updating the status of the draft policy on disabilities
- AoB

As a result, the participants have learned about the key findings and six key recommendations from the research. Through the discussion, to monitor the progress of the recommendation from the national



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forum, the members could follow up meeting with SED and align the monitoring of the national forum to the monitoring of SED, increase budget for school that has children with disabilities, increase budget for school teacher from Krousar Themey, and advocate with the person at MoEYS to be responsible for this work. Meanwhile, CRS implemented project in Takeo on preschool and primary. For the next meeting, it is proposed by all participants to meet CRS Office.

6. Sub Grant Signing Ceremony – 22 March 2018

NEP organized a kick-off event for NEP sub-grants on 22 March 2018. 4 NGOs leading applicants (Coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability, Green Umbrella, Buddhism for Social Development Action and Save Vulnerable Children) as well as their partners (9 NGOs) are awarded NEP sub-grants under the EU funded project named “Tackling the Implementation Gap in Education Reform; Mobilizing Civil Society” aimed at improving educational services in Cambodia.

The 4 awarded projects focus on local research and advocacy related to School Health Policy Monitoring at primary and secondary school level in Takeo, Kampong Chhnang, Battambang, and Pursat province and drop out school children in Ratanakiri province. A total of 20 participants (6 female) from 9 NGOs joint this kick-off event at NEP to sign the sub-grant contracts and capacity building sessions on financial management procedures of NEP sub-grant under EU project to NEP, EU visibility and other guidelines to implement the project successfully.

7. Education Congress 2018

From 19th to 21st March 2018, Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport organized the 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 86 representatives of NEP’s Members. H.E Hang Choun Naron, Minister of Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport and Ms. Debora Comini, ESWG chair had delivered welcome remarks and opening speech by H.E Bin Chhin, Standing Deputy Prime Minister. H.E Bin Chhin highlighted what MoEYS have been trying to keep on progress on both policies and implementation. Meanwhile, H.E Dr. NATH BUNROEUN, Secretary of State, MoEYS, presented about the Summary report of education sector achievements in School Year 2016-2017 which can be assessed through this [link](#). H.E Academician Hang Choun Naron presented about MoEYS on Education Reform to achieve SDG4 2030.

All thematic and sub-sectors concept paper and presentations were discussed and analyzed. The documents can be downloaded [here](#), and the report of the Education, Youth, and Sport Performance in the Academic year 2016-2017 and Goals for the Academic Year 2017-2018 can be accessed [here](#).



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NGO EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

VISION
Working together to
achieve equal and
timely access to high
quality education for
all Cambodian
people.

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Prime Minister Hun Sen closed the remark by mentioning the importance of Cambodia Education Reform. Prime Minister stated that Education Sector is a priority sector; therefore, the government will continue providing the budget for Education Sector on selecting and training teachers. He also recommended MoEYS to focus on five major key sectors – 1) Continuing to actively carry out active and quality work in an equitable and environmentally friendly manner and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, 2) Promote the policy of guaranteeing leadership, leadership and management of education officials at all levels, 3) Enforcing Kayarith and Youth, 4) To actively participate in sporting activities, developing sports associations, sports teams, students, developing physical and sport education programs, and national and international training, strengthening and expanding school-based physical education and sport activities, 5) Optimize the use of cooperative financing.

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