8th Meeting of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All

From 8th to 9th May 2017, UNESCO and NEP co-hosted the 8th Global Meeting of UNESCO’s Collective Consultation of Non-Governmental Organizations on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA) in Siem Reap province. A total of 121 participants (90 Women) from education coalition NGOs and development partners in 120 countries from around the world attended. The objectives of the 8th Global Meeting of UNESCO’s CCNGO/EFA were to:

- Discuss and agree on the updated Working Procedures for the CCNGO
- Elect the CCNGO Coordination Group for 2017-2019
- Exchange information, networking, Substantive positioning and take stock of approaches and action taken so far in the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 at global, regional and national level and increase networking among CCNGO/EFA members, fostering cooperation and collaboration among them and with UNESCO at national, regional and international levels;
- Agree on the role of civil society in the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 and the education-related targets in the other SDGs, including in terms of advocacy and awareness raising, governance and accountability, partnerships and collaboration, research and innovation, supporting delivery, review, monitoring and reporting, and financing;
- Agree on the way forward and key areas of action 2017-2019.

The Collective Consultation of Non-Governmental Organizations on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA) is UNESCO’s key mechanism for dialogue, reflection and partnership with NGOs working in the field of education. Since its establishment in 1984, the CCNGO/EFA has evolved to become an international network of over 300 national, regional, and international NGO members. The network continues to be a key mechanism and platform for civil society organizations to contribute to the collective 2030 commitment...
to ensure quality and inclusive education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. The work of the CCNGO/ EFA is facilitated by the CCNGO/EFA Coordination Group. The CCNGO Global Meeting brings together the entire CCNGO/EFA community for global policy analysis, dialogue, and advocacy on the rights to education as a public good and a collective societal endeavor as well as identify challenges and gaps, capacity building needs and agree on key strategies and actions for the future.

Prior to the official opening of the global meeting, Mr. Chin Chanveasna, Executive Director of NEP presented the overview of NEP role in representing education NGOs sector in Cambodia within the key component in different platform of policies dialogue included national ESWG and JTWG, Sub-Sector Working Groups, Government/ Department Joint Sector Review, Public Financial Management Reform on education Working Group, Teacher Policy Action Plan Steering Committee, and SDG4 localization Working Group. For fulfilling two days, the meeting brought together representatives of international, regional and national member NGOs from around the world to discuss and reflect on where civil society stands after the adoption of the global education agenda, taking into account activities undertaken, key challenges encountered, opportunities and the way forward. As a result, the participants were updated information and approaches in implementing SDG4-education 2030 at different level and strengthened the collaboration among education coalition NGOs with clear role of CSOs in advocacy, awareness raising, supporting, monitoring, and reporting. In addition, the Global Meeting have adopted a Joint Declaration in implementing SDG4-Education 2030 within defined a clear role of civil society, challenges, opportunities, recommendations for stakeholder in particular government to take into account to all targets of SDG4-Education 2030 implementation.

A large scale of consultation on Cambodia Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) on Education localization was organized for education NGOs in Cambodia. NGO Education Partnership (NEP) has mobilized hundred education NGOs across the country to provide input for Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport (MoEYS). In 2016, three consultative workshops were conducted with 97 NGOs consist of 126 participants (27 women) in 22 provinces at sub-national level. A national consolidation workshop was conducted with 72 participants (17 women) from 62 education NGOs in 22 provinces. In 2017, two consultative workshops were conducted with 105 participants from 72 education NGOs in 21 provinces at sub-national level and a national consolidation workshop was conducted with 126 participants (44 women) from 61 education NGOs in 24 provinces and cities.

The consultative workshops aim to collect and provide concrete inputs and recommendations from NGOs in both sub-national and national levels to Ministry in the process of developing SDG4 localization and prepare education NGOs to be ready for engaging in the official consultation of formulating CSDG4 localization at sub-national level that will be held by government. Mr. Keo Sarath, Chairman of NEP’s Board of Directors and Mr. Chin Chanveasna, Executive Director of NEP have driven the participants about the direction and chances to influence the national policy development on education sector in taking the CSO inputs on the Cambodia SDG4 localization for education 2030. A draft version of Cambodia SDG4 on education and collected inputs and recommendations from the consultations were presented to update participants about the progress of Cambodia SDG4 localization.

The participants were grouped by their expertise in each target of SDG4 to verify information and provide additional inputs. The expertise group discussion was prioritized on three aspects including policy, program, and strategy.
priority for Cambodian SDG localization on education 2030 in order to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunity for all.

As a result, the inputs and recommendations for Cambodian SDG4 localization were consolidated and verified with participatory approach from the different expertise and area across the country and defined as three aspects of key policies, programs, and strategies priority recommendations related to primary, early childhood, skill, youth, inclusive, and Non Formal Education. The consolidated inputs and recommendations have more critical and quality that lead to be more confident for NEP and member organizations to provide input for MoEYS in localizing Cambodian SDG4 in the coming months. NEP will communicate with MoEYS in order to identify specific date of the official consultation that will be held by MoEYS and will invite member representative to participate accordingly. In addition, NEP will use the consolidated inputs and recommendations to provide in-depth inputs both MoEYS technical working group and leading committee on SDG4 as NEP is full membership of these groups.

From 23-29 April 2017, NGO Education Partnership (NEP) and Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Cambodia leading committee conducted a Global Action Week for Education Campaign marked 2nd year (GAWE) for 2017 under the theme of “Education Financing”. GCE is a global civil society movement that promotes education as a human right, and advocates to ensure that governments deliver equitable, inclusive, free and quality of public education for all. GCE Cambodia joins together with national and global coalitions around the world to call for increased investment in education so that all people, including the most marginalized, can realize their right to education.

The primary aim for the 2017 campaign was to call for the Cambodian government to increase national budget
for education to ensure inclusive, equitable, quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This includes raising the budget for education to at least 20% of the national budget expenditure, or 4%-6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). After the several meetings of preparation since February 2017, the activity plan was identified and cooperated with GCE members to implement at both national and sub-national levels. The street and standing banner were produced with several campaign messages included: 1) Increase education budget to at least 20% of the total national budget expenditure is to contribute to the education quality improvement; 2) The government should increase program budget for education; 3) The education budget increasing is to contribute to poverty reduction in long term; and 4) We all support government to increase education budget for at least 20% of the total national budget expenditure.

A media advisory was issued and attracted media to join the press conference on GAWE campaign in Phnom Penh on 25 April 2017. The press conference aimed to spread out the campaign messages and call for attention on education agenda. At the same time, the press conference event was live the video on the Facebook page of NEP for the public awareness in particular deliver the campaign message to the decision making. During the week of the campaign, the GCE Cambodia members have organized five sub-national campaigns in different provinces including Kampong Thom, Oddar Meanchey, Koh Kong, Preah Vihear, and Kampong Chhnang Provinces. The sub-national campaigns were to raise awareness and echo the campaign messages from the grass root level. There were a total of 610 participants (275 women) from Deput Provincial Governor, PoE, DoE, teachers, local authorities, parents, school support committee, community people and students involved in the sub-national campaigns in the five provinces.

As a result of the national event, there are 261 new likes to NEP Facebook page, 56,271 reached page, 40 shares, 16,242 views and 4 comments on the article of GAWE campaign and over 400 people have showed their critical support to sign on the street banner under the message that “We all support the government to increase budget for at least 20% of the total national budget expenditure for education”. In addition, there were three radio stations and seven newspapers were captured and released article on GAWE campaign 2017 and there was no reaction from the government on campaign messages.