H.E. Dr. Academician Hang Chuon Naron, presided and gave a speech in the 6th National Forum on Inclusive Education

NGO Education Partnership (NEP) in collaboration with its members Working Group on Education and Disabilities organized the 6th National Forum on Inclusive Education on Thursday 14 December, 2017 under the theme of “Making the Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities Real in Cambodia”, under the presidency of H.E. Dr. Academician Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport.

The objective of this sixth forum is to launch the CSO position statement on improving inclusive education for children with disabilities and to discuss action plans for implementing CSO position statement on inclusive education.

129 people attended this important event, including representatives from Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Provincial Offices of Education and District office of education from all provinces, Development Partners, CSOs and Disabled Person’s Organization working with children with disabilities and media.

H.E. Dr. Academician Hang Chuon Naron indicated the importance of SDG4 Education in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has been working to achieve inclusive education especially education of children with disabilities. This huge work required in particular training of teachers in identification of children with disabilities, elaboration of legislative framework to establish infrastructures at schools and provisions of learning materials to ensure access to education for children with disabilities. There is also a need to prepare one common action plan between MoEYS and partners in providing education services for children with disabilities.

The Minister welcomes the CSO position statement of NEP on improving inclusive education for children with disabilities and has responded to the 3 recommendations mentioned in the CSO position statement as below:

**Recommendation 1:** MoEYS established a National Institute for Special Education who provides training to teachers in teaching children with disabilities, by investing financially and keeping experience and existing resource persons. The Minister noted that it is important to provide special
salary for staff who have extensive experience in this education of children with disabilities. MoEYS will collaborate with other NGOs in improving teacher training standards.

Recommendation 2: Related to the collaboration with other ministries, DAC under the Ministry of Social Affairs work on training and work opportunities for people with disabilities. It is important to provide special programs and career development so that the individuals can access a proper education, and at the end of their school period they can find decent employment.

Recommendation 3: For investment in school monitoring, there is a need to mainstream education of children with disabilities in teacher training. The trainers need to have enough knowledge about education and how to pay special attention to these students. The children with disabilities shall have access to the full day teaching (morning in public school and afternoon in special class). The Minister expressed that it should have specific line items in the budget which will help the Special Education Department to prepare their infrastructures and books and their training program for teachers, and especially the training methods.

The groups’ discussions have resulted in many prioritized recommendations and concrete actions to implement each recommendation in the CSO position statement on inclusive education with the responsible departments/stakeholders to implement these recommendations.

The Forum ended with a panel discussion focused mainly on a mechanism in which the Ministry could work together to identify children with disabilities from birth and send them to the right services.

3rd Annual Learning Event for Provincial Education Sector Working Groups (P-ESWGs)

The annual learning event of P-ESWGs is one of the important events that frame with an aim to capacitate and motivate the management team of P-ESWG (Chairs, Vice-chairs and secretaries) to better implement their education work. The third annual learning event has been organized in Kampong Cham province from 23-24 November 2017 to address the needs of P-ESWGs, in terms of School Based Management (SBM) in Cambodia. This will help them understand the concepts of SBM and pilot experience in this field in order to plan ahead of how the School Based Management can be implemented in their respective province in order to strengthen the engagement of NGOs working on education with the sub-national government education authorities.

A total of 31 participants including 9 women from 26 NGOs in 20 provinces attended this annual learning event. The overall objectives of the learning event aimed to:

1. Introduce all P-ESWGs Management Team the concepts of “School Based Management” in papers.
2. Share all P-ESWGs Management Team the experiences of how to put School Based Management into practice.
3. Provoke discussion to all P-ESWGs in finding the ways that they can engage and support PoE to put School Based Management into practice.
4. Introduce the new structure of NEP focal point that will support all P-ESWGs.

The School Based Management (SBM) training is supported by Save the Children, led by Mr. Keo Sarath, Education Specialist, and also NEP’s Chairman of Board of Directors. It is noted that the school based management is a new mechanism adopted in March 2017 by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in order to improve the learning outcome of the children. The SBM include four main manuals and covered the areas of 1) the Administrative Management; 2) teaching, learning, and practice of study program; 3) Teacher capacity building and inspection work and 4) School development plan and budget management.

The learning event includes a visit to two primary schools where SBM is being implemented with support from Save the Children (Tuol Beng and Angkor Ban). The Chairs, Vice-chairs
and Secretaries of P-ESWG have interacted with different groups such as school director/teachers, students, school support committee (SSC) and parents/community to understand the strengths and areas to be improved in implementing SBM. The reflections after field visit was made with similarities shown as both schools are organized with a clear structure and role of each component; they comprises of key active stockholders such as school principals, teachers, SSCs, parents/communities, local authorities, and NGOs that actively contributed to the improvement learning quality; teaching methodologies might be an exceptional environment that seems to have not many primary schools, especially in the rural areas in Cambodia did the same things. It just because they make the schools as an environment friendly to attract students and promote learning outcomes with quality.

This leaning event also provided a chance for P-ESWG Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Secretaries to discuss issues and challenges in regard to Early Childhood Education, Non-formal Education, and Primary Education by separated into 3 groups by sub-sectors in education and they are assigned to find solutions over the problems they raised during the past P-ESWGs quarterly meetings.

In response to the overall aims of this annual learning event, challenges, questions, ideas and solutions, and experiences in different contexts had shared and exchanged among participants from different provinces. Additionally, this event has drawn their attention and commitment to bring what they have learned from the learning event to support PoE at their respective province to put SBM into practice.

Training on Annual Operational Plan Formulation for P-ESWG members

From 6th November 2017 to 7th December 2017, in the project framework that is funded by European Union (EU) and co-funded by BMZ “Tackling the Implementation Gap in Education Reform; Mobilizing Civil Society” NEP organized 5 clusters training on “Annual Operational Plan Formulation” for its P-ESWG members.

The trainings covered 5 main provinces, held from, with a total of 110 NGO staffs of P-ESWG members (35 women) from 75 NGOs. The first training was organized in Kratie province from...
Training on Annual Operational Plan Formulation for P-ESWG members in Battambang Province from 15-16 November 2017 with a total of 42 participants including 13 women from 35 NGOs in 4 provinces (Oddor Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Siem Reap). The fourth training organized in Kampong Cham Province from 21-22 November 2017 with a total of 19 participants including 4 women from 15 NGOs in 4 provinces (Kampot, Takeo, Kep and Preah Sihanouk Province) and the fifth training organized in Kampong Cham Province with a total of 12 participants including 7 women from 7 NGOs in 3 provinces (Kampong Cham, Tbong Khmum and Prey Veng Province).

The training responded to the national education sector public financial management development, which has taken place within the context of the broad Public Financial Management Reform (PFMR) program that is led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. MoEYS has introduced the Annual Operational Planning process at the national and the provincial levels and continues to refine and improve the content and the process. Program based budgeting has been effective in providing education establishments with budget resources to be used linked to results. The PFMR Program Phase 3 aimed to improve the relationship between the budget allocation and policies and improved accounting practices by strengthening and expanding the scope of the programme budget preparation and improving the preparation of the budget strategic plan as well as improving the budget implementation and cash management.

The training provided and assisted P-ESWG members to understand on how to make annual operational plan for 2018, to responded to Department of Planning, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport’s mission in producing education information, statistics and data, propose education policies, and develop all kinds of education plans in close cooperation with all stakeholders based on the accurate information gathered. This training is under direct technical support from the Chief of Planning Office of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.

Beside thankful to NEP, P-ESWG members have shown their interests and support NEP’s vision and insisted NEP in capacity development by providing such concrete training on AoP formulation. They promised to take the training practices and share among P-ESWG members who didn’t attend the training.