



Welcome to April 2017 monthly digest! NEP organized and participated in few meetings and events such as CSO position statement as step forward for the 5th national forum on Inclusive Education, Global Action Week for Education campaign 2017, and Strengthening NEP staff capacity on EU sub-grant management.

1. CSO position statement as step forward for the 5th national forum on Inclusive Education

For the year 2017, the Working Group on Education and Disabilities (WGED) conducted its first quarterly meeting on 24th April 2017 at NEP office with 14 participants (Five females) from 11 NGOs. The purpose of this quarterly meeting was to discuss and agree on step forwards of the 5th National Forum on Inclusive Education which was held in December 2016. This quarterly meeting was a very fruitful meeting. As a result, decisions were made:

- *All participants unanimously agreed to develop a CSO position statement, which is a next step after the 5th national forum. It is noted that the CSO position statement is an advocacy tool which will be drafted by WGED. It is comprised of current issues of education of children with disabilities, our recommendations based on the results of the 5th national forum and our position on inclusive education.*
- A technical team was formed to draft a CSO position statement. Then the draft CSO position will be submitted to WGED members for comments and more inputs. The final CSO position statement will be submitted to 140 NGO members of NEP for endorsement based on the procedures approved by NEP board of directors.
- Save the Children (a member of WGED) updated the status of the upgrading of the National Manual on Teaching Children with Intellectual Disabilities. By this time, the Steering Committee representing the MoEYS leaders and technical working group (TWG) were officially established by the MoEYS. In addition, the Teacher Training Need Assessment (TNA) was completed and the international consultant to help with the detailed syllabus is on board.
- Krousar Thmey, WGED member introduced the purpose of the pre-service training 28 hours manual, which aims to help teachers to cope with children with disabilities in their classrooms. It was developed by a consultant.
- Reports of the 5th national forum (English and Khmer version) will be available on NEP website. This report includes the results of the 5th National Forum and its recommendations.

2. Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) campaign 2017

From 23-29 April 2017, NEP and Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Cambodia leading committee conducted a GAWE campaign 2017 under the theme of "Education Financing". The specific objective was to call for the Cambodian government to increase national budget for education to ensure equitable, inclusive and quality of education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This includes raising the budget for education to at least 20% of the national budget, or 4%-6% of GDP.



After the several meetings of preparation since February 2017, the activities plan was identified and cooperated with GCE members to implement at both national and sub-national levels.

- The street and stand banner were produced with several campaign messages included:
 - a. The education budget increasing for at least 20% of the total national budget expenditure is to contribute to the education quality improvement.
 - b. The government should increase program budget for education.
 - c. The education budget increasing is to contribute to poverty reduction in long term.
 - d. We all support government to increase education budget for at least 20% of the total national budget expenditure.
- On 22 April 2017, NEP and GCE Cambodia released the media advisory to announce the public about GAWE campaign will be started and also invite all media and GCE Cambodia member to the join the press conference on GAWE campaign.
- On 25 April 2017, a press conference was organized at Phnom Penh Hotel to launch the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) campaign on the theme of education financing in order to attract medias to spread out the campaign messages to the public.
- From 26-29 April 2017, five sub-national campaigns were conducted by the GCE Cambodia member organizations in five provinces including Kampong Thom, Banteay Meanchey, Koh Kong, Preah Vihear, and Kampong Chhnang.

As a result, at least two radio stations and seven newspapers were released article on GAWE campaign and there was no reaction from the government on campaign messages. In addition, there were over 400 people included PoE, DoE, local authorities, NGOs, teachers, and community people signed 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”.

3. Strengthening NEP staff capacity on EU sub-grant management

In the framework of EU project, a training workshop on sub-grant management was organized at NEP office from 26th to 28th April 2017. This training was provided by Dr. Johann Heilmann, a trainer from the partner of EU project and DVV International (Germany).

The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of NEP staff on sub-grant management and to develop sub-grant management manual in order to accelerate the small grant provision to local NGOs. 13 participants (Eight Women) attended the training: 10 from NEP and 3 from DVV. NEP sub-grant scheme including eligibility criteria was reviewed to cope with challenges faced by



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NGOs in applying for sub-grant. As a result, NEP staffs have been strengthened on the training contents and successful in developing the sub-grant management manual which included all procedures and steps to manage sub-grant. In addition, NEP is now ready to receive applications for small grant. Call for proposal on NEP sub-grant will be available soon on NEP website. We invite NGOs to apply for this sub-grant (from 5,000 to 11,000 USD) which will be focused only on three main areas: public service monitoring, local research and advocacy.