



ADVOCACY AND POLICY INSTITUTE (API)

Consultative Forum

“Access to Information among Youth”



Prepared and Organized by API
24th March 2015

I. Introduction

Cambodia currently has no Law on Access to information. In 2004, the Royal Government of Cambodia formally acknowledged the need for a law, “in order to create a transparent Government, reduce corruption and promote confidence in the Government by the citizens of Cambodia.” A policy paper on access to information that lays the groundwork for the development and adoption of a law on access to information was produced by August 2007.

To guarantee the people’s right to access information held by public authorities, a strong legal foundation is needed. Access to information legislation also has significant potential to assist development of a country. Improvements to a country’s policy-making and public service delivery can be aided by the enhanced accountability and opportunities for public discussion and participation for which an Access to Information Law has an important role to play.

Access to information is a big challenge for persons who living at grass-root level particularly the promotion of citizen participation in development project/program as well as access to education, improve the quality of education service. With the lack of communication means and facilities especially have no useful and helpful information and sometime they getting wrong information, unfair, not on time, not enough information that will cause to corruption and will reduce the potential for country development and abuse human right and low education attainment.

API in collaboration with Youth Coalition for Unity and Development (YCUD) conducted a consultative forum on “Access to Information among Youth Group” on 24 March 2015 with 52 participants (23 women). (Annex 1: Attendance List of Participants).

II. Objective

The general objective of this discussion forum is to gather, compile and provide recommendations to the government especially A2I Technical Working Group by focusing on the needed information among Youth communities.

The specific objectives are:

- To increase understanding on access to information and international principle of access to information.
- To identify the type of information that do needed from youth groups.
- To increase understanding on existing law, policy relating to youth communities.
- To collect outstanding recommendations and provide them to government for better establishing access to information law.

III. Expected results of the discussion forum

By the end of the forum, participants will produce a joint statement to indicating the real needed information for youth group and construct critical recommendations for supporting Access to Information law development process.

IV. Participant

There were 52 participants (23 females) from Phnom Penh municipality. Most of them are youth network members, students and volunteers from YRDP, KIND, KYA, YCC, KYSD, YFP, PIC and RULE.

V. Training Workshop Methodology

The discussion forum was organized by the Advocacy and Policy Institute in collaborating with Youth Council for Unity and Development (YCUD). Facilitators from API-A2I Technical Team with having very much knowledge and experiences on public access to information, legal analysis, and human right based approach, democratic development and advocacy among youth communities in Cambodia. Active participation and analysis of the exercises was encouraged. Effective and participatory methodology was used to engage active participation of participants which includes: brainstorming, power point presentation, learning and sharing documentations, plenary discussions (questions & answers), and clarification and comment. Moreover, the forum materials that were used includes: laptop computer, LCD projector and screening, printed papers/document, blank papers and pen, and flipchart papers and colors marker.

VI. Forum Process and Key Results

1. Welcoming remarks by Mr. Chhay Sophal, UNESCO Representative.

Mr. **Chhay Sophal** informed about UNESCO involvement in drafting A2I law with Ministry of Information (MOI) throughout the three years and provides technical assistance to ensure that the MOI made a standard A2I Act. He added that in term of capacity building, UNESCO will conduct assessment with MOI and provide thematic training to A2I-Technical Working Group members. Furthermore, in order to mobilize stakeholder's participation, API and CCIM will organize Community forum and Sectorial forums for giving to citizens the knowledge on access to information. Therefore, forum today is the part of work plan and will continue to conduct more in appropriate time and places. At the end, he asked participants to actively participate and exchanging and sharing key challenges and well-defining and identifying the needed information that will benefit for youth community in the future especially in ASEAN integration by the end of year 2015.

2. Key note address by Mr. Cheang Sokha, Vice Board of Director of YCUD

Mr. **Cheang Sokha**, Executive Director of Youth Resource for Development Program (YRDP), and on behalf of YCUD, he highlighted the importance of information especially transparency that contributing significantly to protect and minimize corruption, reduce poverty and build country development. In term of seeking information, he stressed that in Cambodia youth is majority and have over 60% of total population therefore they should strengthen their capacity to be able to clarify the reliable information that getting from various sources that sometime it is not trust, not fair and bias. So, transparency is the backbone of good governance and it can make country development and harmonization. In addition, he asked everybody to pay much attention on that particularly have to participate actively in the process of law development and would take further action to monitor the progress and its implementation. At the end, he wishes the forum be more productivity and success.

3. Presentation of A2I-international standard principle.

Mr. **Chheav Nak**, A2I Technical Advisor of API, outlined the overall objective of the presentation and the expected results that wish to raise awareness of participants to be clear and confident for participation. To this end, the basic human right principle, the linkage between human rights and access to information law, number of existing laws were enacted by national assembly, the history of access to information law and its benefit and the international standard and principle of access to information were introduced with clear explanation. Finally, for better understanding, Mr. Chheav Nak gave some example by using organic law at sub-national level to show how the nine principle of A2I have been applied in the said law and then seeking the question for answer and clarification.

4. Presentation of legal finding on A2I

Mr. Phorp Phan Barmey, A2I Project Manager, presented the result of legal finding across sector done by API legal experts by using A2I-9 principles to analyze. In addition, he also noted that most of existing laws were not apply the nine principles of A2I yet and sometime it is difficult to access them even hard or soft copy.

Then the forum moved to each session following the setting schedule. (Annex 1: Discussion Forum Program)

VII. Conclusion

The discussion forum was conducted as planned and expected. As a result, this forum come up with the potential list of needed information and outstanding recommendations to improve access to information for youth groups.

Below are the lists of information needed:

- Information relating to staff recruitment, employment opportunity, market-place requirement.
- Strategic plan promoted youth participation
- National Youth Policy
- Information about successful staff recruitment in government/public institutions,
- Fellowship information and condition and selected criteria for obtaining
- Information about migration and legal documents required for safety employment.
- Auditing report,
- National budget report,
- Investment plan and national development plan
- Asian Integration policy framework post 2015
- National Strategic For Development Plan 5 years or 10 years if possible
- Socio-Economic Development Plan at national level
- Annual Development Plan for all sectors and responsible ministries

Recommendation:

- Increase education spots on TV during golden time and disclose information of public institutions related to social and economic sectors (e.g. health, education, agriculture, social work, labor and employment, land etc), the Government's policy platform, national revenues and budgets, and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports of investment projects. Make and/or strengthen employment policy to ensure youths and people with disability are well engaged in the development of the country.
- Establish a complaint mechanism independently and its accessibility. The complaint committee should have members from various organizations (government, CSOs, community and citizens as well) to facilitate, follow up and monitor the existing complain mechanism. Set up hot line system freely to receive complaint and emergency relief mechanism.
- Establish ethic standards for public officials and strengthen the morality of government officials in providing the quality of public services in a fair, timely manner without discrimination.
- Set up specific court (trade /commercial court, Child court, labor court, information commissioner) for addressing different complaints. Create an accessible and reliable complain mechanism with exact timeframe to address and response. Punishment to public officer who reject to release public information.
- Ensure free and fair rights of youths to participate in dialgoues, meetings and forums so that youths can raise concerns and voice on social and political issues.

Reported by: Mr. Chheav Nak

Annex1: Forum Agenda

DISCUSSION FORUM ON
ACCESS TO INFORMATION AMONG YOUTH
Date: 24th March 2015
Khmer Surin Restaurant

Consultation Forum program

Time	Activities	Respond
8:00-8:30	Registration	API staff
8:30-8:35	Session I: Welcome Remark by Mr. Chhay Sophal	Mr. Chhay Sophal National Program Officer - UNESCO
8:35-8:40	Opening of Consultation Forum Remark by Mr. Cheang Sokha	Ms. Cheang Sokha Member of BoD YCUD
8:40-10:00	Session II: Concept and international principles of Access to Information	Mr. Cheav Nak Technical Adviser, API
10:00-10:15	Coffee break	API staff
10:15-11:00	Concept and international principles of Access to Information (Cont't)	Mr. Cheav Nak Technical Adviser, API
11:00-12:00	Session III: Findings from legal reviews by sectors/areas	Mr. Phan Phorp Barmey Program Manager, API
12:00-1:30	Lunch Break	
1:30-3:00	Session IV: Recommendations to the government in support of the drafting process of the Access to Information Law: Types of the information practically needed? Possible mechanisms to be in place to ensure effective implementation of the A2I law Types of complaint mechanism that can be effective and practical Time frame (for how long the law would have to be ready)	Group discussions
3:00-3:15	Coffee break	API staff
3:15-4:30	Recommendations to the government (Cont')	Group discussions
4:30-5:00	Session V: Closing Closing remark	Mr. Neb Sinthay, Director, Advocacy and Policy Institute

Reserves the right to change the program if necessary.

Annex 1: Report of the Consultative Forum on the Access to Information among Youth
Annex 2: Participant List

Annex 1: Report of the Consultative Forum on the Access to Information among Youth

"Access to Information among Youth"

Location: Khlong Sarin
 Period: 24 - March 2015 Programme: _____

No.	Participant's Name	Sex	Position	Organization	Contact No.	E-mail	Signature
1	เล็งมลาย	M	Network	YCC (scy)	093 81 8904	leingmelay007@gmail.com	
2	ชาต	M	Network	YCC (scy)	099 486 695	chamrong.yee@gmail.com	
3	สุวิมล แซ่มะ	F	Network	YCC (scy)	0967642589	AhSomngbl@gmail.com	
4	นง ชัยนา	F	Network	YCC (scy)	0963347496	chawanyanasim@gmail.com	
5	สนธิ สฤษดิ์	M	-	- (scy)	098 244 969	sonsi.khlongsar@gmail.com	
6	สุวิมล แซ่มะ	M	-	YCC (scy)	0965397274		
7	กมล วิเศษ	F	-	YFP (scy)	086 82 01 44	lidelthanna@gmail.com	
8	สุวิมล แซ่มะ	F	Volunteer	YFP/PIC	077779280	savethwath@gmail.com	
9	นิรมล แซ่มะ		Network	YADP	069718008	dhemsieklieng@gmail.com	
10	ชาต	M	Volunteer Network	YFP	096 2444214	phalchomrung.yee@gmail.com	

Prepared by: _____
 Date: 24.03.15

Seen and Recommended by:
 Date: 24.03.15

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Location:

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No.	Participant's Name	Sex	Position	Organization	Contact No.	E-mail	Signature
1	ကျော်စံ မာရီ	M	Network	YCC.(SCY)	077 873507		
2	ကိုယ်စား	M	—	—	081 779906	vtou7799@gmail.com	
3	ကျော်စံ မာရီ	M	Volunteer	YRDP	086665545	sovaanhat@gmail.com	
4	ကျော်စံ မာရီ	M	Volunteer	YRDP	093288 023	theanghar.cheng@gmail.com	
5	ကျော်စံ မာရီ	M	Net work	YRDP	011 470911	hou/soksovaanmonni@gmail.com	
6	ကျော်စံ မာရီ	M	student	GYA/KYSD	016 707 400		
7	ကျော်စံ မာရီ	F	Volunteer	GYA/KYSD	010317731	loursoxhin@gmail.com	
8	ကျော်စံ မာရီ	M	Volunteer	KIND	015508842	sath.sokna@yahoo.com	
9	ကျော်စံ မာရီ	M	Volunteers	KIND	093 838394	kong_nquon@yahoo.com	
10	ကျော်စံ မာရီ	M	Volunteer	KIND	0962652036	ETHUNSHENG999@gmail.com	

Prepared by:

Seen and Recommended by:

Date: 24.03.15

Date: 24.03.15

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Location:

Period:

Programme:

No.	Participant's Name	Sex	Position	Organization	Contact No.	E-mail	Signature
1	Uon Tha	M	Volunteer	KIND	092410005	thatthax6@gmail.com	
2	Sanh Chhaya	M	—	KYA	086254556	chhaya_sanh@yahoo.com	
3	ប៊ុន ធីតា	M	ប្រធាន	YRDP	0969068689	bonidithch1994@gmail.com	
4	ORN CHANDARA	M	CYN	KYA	098689845 015689845	chandaraorn16@gmail.com	
5	Chea Pornleu Pheaktra	F	Volunteer	KIND	016343971		
6	Tem Srey Sngoun	F	Volunteer	KIND	077771232	tensreysngoun@gmail.com	
7	Chea Srey Noch	F	Volunteer	KIND	069914997	sreynoch.chea@yahoo.com	
8	Rot Vannchhai	M	Project Assistant	YRDP	010590128	rot_vannchhai@gmail.com	
9	Mot Kimry	M	Volunteer	YRDP	01023617	motkimry@gmail.com	
10	ឈូ ធីតា	M	ប្រធាន	YRDP	012910589	longmengke@yahoo.com	

Prepared by:

Seen and Recommended by:

Date: 24.03.15

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Location:

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No.	Participant's Name	Sex	Position	Organization	Contact No.	E-mail	Signature
1	විමල ජයවර්ධන	F	නියෝජිත	කුයුට (GyA)	099 606509		
2	ජානිත	F	විද්වතු	YCC	07059447		
3	සාමරා	M		YCC	0889245536	sorsithy123@gmail.com	
4	සුභ ආචාර්ය	F	විද්වතු	KIND	070936580		
5	විචාරකවරයා	M	විද්වතු	RULE	081 999905	hampiden@gmail.com	
6	චන්ද්‍රිකා සමරසිංහ	F	විද්වතු	RULE	070 36 563696	chhimayney@gmail.com	
7	සොඛ්‍ය සමරසිංහ	M		RULE	077 56 36 96	sobann.author@gmail.com	
8	සුමනි	F	විද්වතු	YFP	010 36 5799	sum_somara@yahoo.com	
9	කේම සමරසිංහ	M	Volunteer	YFP	069504294	keemwith@gmail.com	
10	චන්ද්‍රිකා කේමසමරසිංහ	F	youth	YRDP	069584260	ChannamKob@yahoo.com	

Prepared by:

Seen and Recommended by:

Date: 24.03.15

Date: 24.03.15

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No.	Participant's Name	Sex	Position	Organization	Contact No.	E-mail	Signature
1	Mey Samphas	F	Operation Coor	YCUJ	0123246911	samphasmey@yahoo.co	
2	Khim Theany	F	Network	KYA	0862716293		
3	Ebhay Sophanmas	F	Network	KYA	087494871	ebhaysophanmasexlove@gmail.com	
4	Khin Nayheak	F		PIC	01768777		
5	Sim Chankeha	F		YCC	0892229776	chankehasim@gmail.com	
6	Ork Sereirath	F	Youth	YRDP	077878677	orksererath@gmail.com	
7	Mey Rady	M	Volunteer	BIC	09846477	meyrady93@gmail.com	
8	Long Sitha	M	Volunteer	KYA	070861761	Longsitha27@gmail.com	
9	Love Soun	F	Youth	YRDP	095676299	soun.rdlouve@gmail.com	
10	HOUN CHARITY	F		kind	098752505		

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Date 24.03.15

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Date 24.03.15

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No.	Participant's Name	Sex	Position	Organization	Contact No.	E-mail	Signature
1	Phan Phuong Conway	M	PM	API			
2	Chhean Nalo	M	Consultant	API			
3							
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Prepared by:

Seen and Recommended by:

Date: 24.03.15

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Annex 1: Report of the Consultative Forum on the Access to Information among Youth

Annex3: Photos

