The Fifth National Meeting on EISEI

Development and Partnership in Action (DPA) in collaboration with partner organizations and donors organized a fifth Extractive Industry Social and Environmental Impacts (EISEI) meeting on June 01st in Phnom Penh with 64 international and national participants.

Mr. Mam Sambath, DPA Executive Director and also a speaker at the meeting, said, "The fifth national meeting is conducted to update information on the meeting with BHP Billiton, present the draft rules and regulation for SC, update the short term and long term strategic plan and present results of trips to China and India."

"The last meeting, we had many ideas and suggestions over the terms of reference of the network and when we finish the finalization, the SC will draft internal rules. Later, will we bring the results to discuss with the members to add or recommend. We are also now in the process of recruiting an adviser and a coordinator to help with EISEI work," Mr. Mam Sambath.

The network and the SC also discussed sharing information and experiences on EISEI among the

CRRT Launching

The Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency (CRRT), on 12th June 2009, was officially launched by five NGO founding members namely Development and Partnership in Action (DPA), the Center for Social Development (CSD), the Economic Institute of Cambodia (EIC), NGO Forum on Cambodian (NGOF), and Youth Resource Development Program (YRDP). The launching happened on behalf of Oxfam, Norwegian People’s Aid, Heinrich Boll Foundation and Trocaire and with the participation of 207 people, including students, civil society groups, embassy representatives, governors, and media groups.

The CRRT is a new coalition of civil society groups which has urged the Royal Government of Cambodia, donors, private businesses and other stakeholders to promote transparency on resources from oil, gas and mining to ensure that these resources reach and benefit every Cambodia citizen.

As Cambodia is expected to experience a sudden resource windfall, careful planning is needed to ensure that a sudden increase in revenues and expenditures is properly managed in a socially transparent and accountable manner that especially reaches the poorest Cambodians.

"The discovery of oil and gas and the revenues gained from it could have the potential to lift thousands Cambodians out of poverty," said Chairperson of CRRT and DPA Executive Director, Mr. Mam Sambath. "At the same time, it is equally important to support other vulnerable economic sectors such as garment, agriculture and tourism." -- More on page 4
Integrated Community Department (ICD) Ratanakiri in collaboration with Development Education and Advocacy (DEA), with support from the European Commission, organised a district workshop on "Natural Resource Use and Management" on 23 April 2009 in Document Resource Center in Trapiang Chres, Koun Mom district in Ratanakiri province.

The half-day workshop was presided over by the Deputy Director of Industry, Mines and Energy Department, Koun Mom Deputy Governor, police officials and armed forces, commune chiefs, village chiefs and village development committees with a total of 51 participants from three villages, Trapiang Chres, Teurn and Ta Ang.

The workshop is aiming to reflect over the past implementation, to discuss issues and challenges, and to talk about participatory planning.

"Natural Resources are our lives. Therefore, we should have to sustainably protect and properly manage for everyday use, especially for our next generations. In that, DPA helps the people in natural resources management and recently we also focus on mines sector besides land and forestry issues," said Team Leader of ICD Ratanakiri, Mr. Khieu Sopheak.

Having three children, Mr. Krala Teury, a 39 year-old member of the Ta Heuy Kreung ethnic group living in Teurn commune. He said, "Natural resources are very important to my family’s living condition and our people. Forestry provides us wild animals for food, resin, honey, vines, resources for building houses and cooking and especially forest attracts regular rain fall."

"The recent challenges are large scale logging and forest clearing due to land invasion for planting," said Mr. Krala Teury. "Losing forest makes the rain fall irregular now and especially it affects to our natural spirits and Kreung ethnic’s cultivation and farming which are our belief and tradition."

Mr. Khim Bun Than, Deputy Director of Industry, Mines and Energy Department said, "The natural resources are the income for the people in Ratanakiri. At the same time, mines sector is a potential natural resource and another priority that our department will put into action. Right now, we have informed the people on investment companies and kinds of mines in Ratanakiri and we also distributed some documents including mining law, licensed companies’ maps and the companies that have license to explore in Ratanakiri."

He hopes that after the workshop the people would understand more the value of taking care of natural resources. He would like to call for unity among the villagers to work together and to be more confident to ask for information and to inform to local authority in case something urgent happens in their areas.
LAW ON MINERAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND EXPLOITATION

CHAPTER III: Mineral Resource License Categories

Article 11:
Six categories of license shall be made available to applicants in order to facilitate the management of the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources within the Kingdom of Cambodia.

1. **An Artisan Mining License** may be issued only to persons of Khmer nationality for the purpose of conducting the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources by using locally available common instruments and their own labor or with the help of family with no more than 7 (seven) persons. Mining crafts may explore and exploit mineral resources found only in loose state in silts, gravel, sand and rock, and within a demarcated area no larger than 1 (one) hectare, and to a maximum depth of 5 (five) meters.

2. **A Pits and Quarries Mining License** may be issued to qualified physical persons or legal entities for the purpose of conducting the exploration and exploitation of any construction and industrial minerals used for constructions, chemical and secondary industry, and mined from pits and quarries. The construction and industrial minerals include sand, gravel, crushed stone, laterite, clay, cement clay, coral, fossil, phosphorite, limestone, dolomite, marble, kaolin, pagodite, salt, potash, gypsum, peat, coal, titanium sand, silica sand or any other mineral compounds used for such purposes.

3. **A Gem-Stone Mining License** may be issued to qualified and competent physical persons or legal entities for the purpose of conducting the exploration and mining of precious and semi-precious stones, and ornament stones. Precious stones include diamonds, rubies, sapphires, smaragdites, and all other similar gem-stone quality minerals. Semi-precious stones include zircon, amethysts, topazs, and all other similar gem-stone quality minerals. Ornament stones are low crystal clear or non-transparent stone used for ornaments such as chalcedonies, ashlarings, normal opals, agates, jades, malachites, stone wood, black basalt, and all other similar quality stones.

4. **A Mineral Transforming License** may be issued to qualified physical persons or legal entities for the purpose of transforming precious or semi-precious stones or ornament stones.

5. **An Exploration License** may be issued to qualified and competent physical persons or legal entities for the purpose of conducting exploration of minerals and studying its potential.

6. **An Industrial Mining License** shall be issued only to the holder of an exploration license for the purpose of conducting exploration and mining of economically viable mineral deposit established within the boundaries of the exploration license. The holder of the exploration license shall submit technical, financial, environmental, social and economic analysis to determine the socio-economic feasibility of proceeding with a mining operation to ask for approval from the Minister in charge of minerals. A sub-decree will prescribed form and content of such a final feasibility study report and required accompanying documents, and the terms and conditions upon which an industrial mining license shall be issued.
community networks and the SC representatives. The meeting intended to build relationships, find information and to study the processes and work implementation of the networks and the companies.

"With this new context, we are now also worried about how to prepare an effective advocacy strategy. Until now, the SC has drafted key factors to prepare a short term and long term strategic plan and instructed all of us to collect information as much as we can and then compile and bring to discuss to get a fruitful strategy plan for the network," said Mr. Mam Sambath, adding that he hopes that the work will be done in a participatory manner to ensure that after creating the strategy, the network will be happy with it and smoothly and successfully complete mission and work implementation.

The CRRT coalition believes that public information should contribute to open discussions to influence decision making on the financial management of revenues from extractive industries. Information should be widely available on operations for exploitation of extractive resources and earned revenues to facilitate public oversight of the extractive industries sector. Also, revenues from extractive industries should be efficiently and fairly used for sustainable development for the benefits of current and future generations.

According to the CRRT’s vision, wealth generated from extractive industries should be managed in a socially responsible manner that is transparent, accountable and participatory to equitably benefit all Cambodians.

Ms. Lim Solinn, Regional Program Coordinator for Oxfam America East Asia, said that to ensure the wealth generated from this sector has accountability and transparency, a strong and meaningful engagement between government, companies and civil society is needed. "It is not important to acknowledge exactly how much the national budget has. But, what is important is to know the budget will have the potential to enable Cambodians to get out of their poverty situation if the budget is accountably and transparently used and if it is successful and well managed. If not, this sector will seriously affect society, environment and the economy and it will be globally known as the resources curse."

"The Royal Government of Cambodia will make sure that Cambodia will be the resource blessed. The future prospects of oil and gas production and mining have opened up a new horizon of economic opportunities to transform Cambodia into a new development center in the region." H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Vice Chairman Supreme National Economic Council, added, "To ensure Cambodia's economic development and prosperity, the Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to transparent management of potential revenue flows from extractive industries. Efficient and transparent revenue management is important to strengthen accountability, and good governance in the extractive industry sector, and to promote economic growth and political stability."