Women’s Rights Day

DEA, in collaboration with the Gender and Development Network (GAD-Net) and Gender and Development for Cambodia (GAD-C), organized an International Women’s Rights Day on the theme of “Increasing the Potential of Women and Youth for Social Development” in Prasat Balaing district, Kampong Thom province on March 2nd, 2010. The event aimed to exhibit the achievements of women who have been active in social development, to attract attention toward those achievements, and especially to encourage women to be an equal development partners with men.

The Women’s Rights Day Event was celebrated under the chairmanship of Mr. Kim An, Governor of Prasat Balaing district, and 488 participants, 251 of which are women, came from seven communes in Prasat Balaing district to attend. Continued on page 2

A Dialogue with Dr. Ramos-Horta

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and President of Timor-Leste Dr José Ramos-Horta discussed ‘Transforming Natural Resource Wealth into a Source for Sustainable Growth and Democratic Development’ with His Excellency Dr. Phan Phalla, Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme National Economic Council. The dialogue was organized by the International Peace Foundation, Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency (CRRT), and The Heinrich Böll Foundation on the 23rd of April 2010. Mr. MAM Sambath, Executive Director of DPA and Chair of CRRT, served as moderator of the dialogue.

The keynote speakers examined topics including: extractive industries in Cambodia and national methods of resource management; Continued on page 5

Plenary Session on Indigenous Community Recognition

On February 11th and 12th, 2010, the Integrated Community Development Program of DPA organized a plenary session to review and approve the draft statute of indigenous Phnong communities in O Chra village, Keo Seima district, Mondulkiri province. The plenary session was presided over by Mondulkiri Congressman H. E. ROATH Sarem as well as the Governor of Mondulkiri province, H. E. CHAN Yeung, and the President of Provincial Council, H. E. ENG Bunheang. Continued on page 3
Those participants include students, teachers, civil servant officers, commune councils, villagers, and non-governmental organization staff.

Mr. KIM An encouraged participants to “send your children and our youths to school for their bright future and so that they avoid using drugs and getting involved with gangsters. The youth is a pillar of our nation, but unemployment can push them to be marginalized persons in society.”

Mr. YIM Yoeun, 37, resident of Kra Ya commune, Prasat Balaing district, Kampong Thom province, expressed his support of the Women’s Rights Day event. Mr. Yoeun strongly supported the participation of women in social development work, noting that women have equal capacity as men.

A similar event was also held under the chairmanship of Mr. Bou Keosovann, Deputy Chief of Se San district, on March 05th, 2010 in a hundred-house village in Se San district, Stung Treng province. 246 participants, 151 of which were women, attended this event.

DPA has worked actively to achieve equal gender rights in social and economic development through capacity building and empowerment for women to escape poverty, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

Women’s Rights Day
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Managing Resources for Regional Prosperity
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Mr. Sambath shared a few comments on the theme of responsible revenue management, noting that in order to achieve full and meaningful transparency in extractive industry resource management, the whole value chain needs to be held to the same high standard of transparency, beginning with the initial phase of contract and licensing. “We all know that oil, gas, and mining will provide little employment for the poor and therefore we want to see that revenue from oil, gas, and mining are spent in ways that improve the lives of the rural poor,” he said.

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Managing Resources for Regional Prosperity
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The emerging large scale oil, gas, and mining industry is a new field for civil society groups as well as for the Royal Government of Cambodia. In its 2009 report on the implementation of the Public Financial Management Reform, the Ministry of Economy and Finance expressed that it lacks legal expertise for preparing policy on revenue from oil and gas; it also suffers from inadequate qualified staff.

Mr. Sambath stressed that, “In my view, this is a challenge which development partners should make every effort to address and remove, in collaboration with the Royal government of Cambodia. We believe that this invaluable support will help the government to move closer to achieving transparency.”

He concluded that “civil society welcomes the government’s ongoing consideration of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative principles and sincerely hopes that Cambodia can soon move forward as a candidate country.”

DPA, in collaboration with four other leading NGOs in Cambodia--Cambodian Center for Social Development (CSD), Economic Institute of Cambodia (EIC), NGO Forum, and Youth Resource Development Program (YRDP)--created Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency. During the signature of the memorandum of mutual understanding in January 2008, the five founding members of CRRT expressed their vision that revenue from oil, gas, and mining be used for future development and managed transparently. The group hopes that all information related to extractive industries in Cambodia will be publicly accessible.

Plenary Session on Indigenous Community Recognition
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O Chra is an indigenous Phnong community in Sre Preah commune, Keo Seima district. The community has been supported by DPA since 2008, and Mondulkiri Department of Local Administrative (DOLA) which is in turn funded by the International Labor Organization in monitoring and evaluating these communities. Continued on page 5
**Training on Case Study Writing in Kandal province**

DPA organized a training course on case study writing on February 8, 2010 in Svay Ampea commune, Mok Kampul district, Kandal province. A total of 14 participants (6 of whom were women) attended from Leuk Satui Chivaphheap Kasikar Association (LCK) and Punleur Kasikar Thmei Association (PKT).

Pream Sam Ol, the director of LCK association, said that, “I had limited knowledge in writing case studies before this course, and I wanted to improve my understanding. After the training, I have a better idea of how to use quotes and other information in a case study.”

LCK is a non-profit and non-political NGO which has been funded by DPA since 2006 for community development. Today, LCK is working on gender projects in seven target villages in Mok Kampul district.

**Strengthening Fishery Laws in Kampot**

The Integrated Community Development Program, in collaboration with the Fishery Department in Kampot, organized a Fishery Law Forum on March 19, 2010 in Prey Veng village, Sre commune, Chumkiri district, Kampot province. The forum was presided over by Deputy Governor of Kampot, H. E. Heng Chantha, and the Delegate of Royal Government in charge of Fishery Administration, Nov Thouk. 316 people, 105 of whom were women, attended the forum.

The forum aimed to promote awareness of Fishery Laws, and to encourage participation in management and protection of natural resources.

H. E. Nov Thouk expressed his admiration DPA’s efforts in promoting the enforcement of Fishery Laws and reminded the attendees of some articles of the Fishery Laws and their attendant punishments. He encouraged natural resource protection for today and tomorrow’s benefit.

The Chief of Prey Khmoa village, Mr. Men Nav, expressed his support toward DPA in disseminating the Fishery Law. “I always told villagers not to go fishing illegally. Today’s forum shared a lot of important information which will contribute to halting illegal fishing.”

At the end of the forum, 10,000 fingerlings were released into Prey Phav lake located in Prey Veng village. Of the 10,000 fingerlings, 5,000 were sponsored by DPA while others were sponsored by the Fishery Department. Additionally, 278 sets of illegal fishing gear, confiscated from fishermen in 7 communes in Kampot province, were burned publicly.
The plenary session aimed to discuss and adopt a draft statute of Phnong indigenous community and committee in O Chra village, and to raise awareness among all stakeholders about the issues at hand.

H. E. CHAN Yeun said that, “I’m content with this recognition of the indigenous community, which is supported by the Royal Government through the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Rural Development, as well as by NGOs. This support will help facilitate the land titling which is intended to preserve our culture and natural resources. In the past, I noticed many forests here, but now there are fewer. For the recognition and registering of the two communities, I would like to express my sincere thanks to DPA and International Labor Organization for their financial support.”

Mr. Khlen Kreun, 40, a Phnong villager living in O Chra village, said that, “I am happy to see the presence of the Congressman in the plenary session. The plenary session will let Phnong people like us use the land legally or collectively and avoid land abuse.”

A Dialogue with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Ramos-Horta

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examples of successful, sustainable resource management practices, looking specifically at Timor-Leste as a case study; and why is ‘transparency’ significant?

Timor-Leste is widely recognized for its successful management of oil and gas revenue, upon which approximately 80% of its economy relies. Dr. Ramos-Horta said that his country’s success has come from the effort national assembly in applying laws effectively, collaboration with civil society groups and media, being a member of Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, taking strong measures against corruption setting aside a large sum for poverty reduction.

H. E. Dr. Phan Phalla, Deputy-General Secretary of Supreme Economic Council, said that compared to Timor-Leste, Cambodia has virtually no laws on oil, or on tax from oil, although drafts of the two laws have been finished. He also noted that the capacity of the staff working on oil and gas revenue is still limited.

Over 200 participants attended the event, from government officials, university students, civil society organisations, local non-government organisations, international non-government organisations, ministry officials, donors and members of the private sector. Miss. Yong Sreileak, a student from Royal University of Laws and Economics attending the dialogue, suggested that the government and civil society group work together to ensure that revenue from natural resources be used in an effective manner contributing to poverty reduction.
Managing Resources for Regional Prosperity

Mr. MAM Sambath, the Executive Director of DPA, together with 120 other participants from Southeast Asia and England, attended a conference on “Governance of Extractive Industries in Southeast Asia: Managing Resources for Regional Prosperity” organized by Oxfam American and held from March 30th to April 1st, 2010 in Phnom Penh.

Each speaker addressed governance of extractive industries in his or her own country and discussed strategies for better natural resource management. Continued on page 2