



Committee to Promote Women in Politics

Project “Empowerment Cambodian Women in Politics at the Sub-national Level”

National Workshop Report On: “Enhancement Women’s Participation in Politics”



January 28, 2015
Le’ Royale Hotel, Phnom Penh City.

Supported by:

Prepared by:



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CAMBODIA



Co-operation by:



National Workshop Report
On:
“Enhancement Women’s Participation in Politics”

Date: January 28, 2015
Time: 7:30AM – 12:00AM and 14:00PM-17:00PM
Place: Le’ Royale Hotel, Phnom Penh City.
Participants: Totally 245 (213 Females, and 32males)
Composition of Presidencies:

- **Her Excellency Yos Nita**, representative of H.E. Dr. Eung Kunthaphavy, minister of women affairs ministry.
- **His Excellency Leng Vy**, deputy secretariat representative of His Excellency Sokk Setha, secretariat of interior ministry and as the chairperson of NCDD.

Participants Composition:

- Representative of Ministry of Women Affairs
- Representative of Ministry of Interior
- Representative of Ministry of Education, Youths and Sports
- Representative of Ministry of Planning
- Representative of Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training
- National Association, and City-Provincial Councils
- Representative of Political Party (CNRP)
- Women Leaders at the Sub-national Level, Women ‘s Pace Network for Social Development and Young Women Activists from Provinces such as Kampongthom, Kampongcham, Kampongchnaing, Takeo, SteungTreng, Mondulkiri, Kratie, Kandal, and Prey Veng provincces.
- Provincial level (members of provincial councils, deputy provincial governor and chairperson of provincial ministry of women affairs).
- District level (members of district councils, deputy of district governor, and chairperson of district ministry of women affairs).
- Commune level (Women’s Pace Network for Social Development).
- Young Women Activists (Both provincial and district levels).
- Representatives of civil society organizations
- Representative of citizens
- Representative LGBTIQ
- Representative of journalists
- Members of CPWP organizations like SILAKA, GADC, PADEX, and KWWA)

National Workshop Organizers:

- **Her Excellency Dok Suthea**, chairwoman of Kampongchnaing provincial councils.
- **Her Excellency Khong Sun Eng**, member of Kampongcham provincial councils.
- **Her Excellency Sok Chanthu**, member of Kampongthom provincial councils.
- **Her Excellency Yos Thanary**, member of Kampongthom provincial councils.
- **Her Excellency Neang Kem Mer**, member of Takeo provincial councils.
- **Her Excellency Prakk Chanthorn**, member of Kratie provincial councils.
- **Her Excellency Kot BunMe**, member of Steungtreng provincial councils.
- **Her Excellency Noun Nearadey**, member of Kandal provincial councils.

Report writers:

- **Mrs. Prak ChannPossada**, Advocacy and Network of GADC organization.
- **Miss. Teng Vanna**, project and training assistance of SILAKA organization.

Objectives of the national workshop:

1. To mobilize women and men from different groups and levels to stand under one common goal to promote and increase women 's participation in politics and public policies.
2. To collect voices of women leaders at sub-national level, civil society, young women activist and citizens to advocate in increasing women representation in public service and political sector.
3. To seek endorsement on the statement of recommendation on the amendment of electoral law.

Agenda of the national workshop:

1. Welcome remarks, impression remarks, and announcement to open the national workshop.
2. Press conference
3. First panel discussion on "The situation of women , children, youth and vulnerable group at the local level"
4. Second panel discussion "women 's situation in public affairs and political participation from 1st-5th mandates".
5. Video clip showing on "The supporting to increase the number of women in public affairs and participation in politics"
6. Announcement the joint statement.
7. Third Panell discussion on "The commitment of political parties in increasing women candidate via zipper system using"
8. Summary of the achievements of the national workshop.
9. Closing remarks.

Process of the National Workshop

1. Welcome remarks of Mrs. Thida C. Khus and announcement to open the workshop.

Welcome speeches of Mrs. Thida C. Khus, SILAKA 's executive director and chairwoman of Committee to Promote Women in Politics:



On behalf of management committee of committee to promote women in politics, SILAKA organization, and management committee, Mrs. Thida C. Khus has the great honor and she would like to express the profoundly welcome remarks, and she expressed deep thanks to the presence of His Excellency, Her Excellency, Mr. , Mrs. , Miss, nieces, students and all participants who took part in the national workshop today.

Mrs. Thida Khus informed all participants to be understood that SILAKA organization is the chair of CPWP at the present time, has conducted the workshop called “Empowerment Women in Politics at the Sub-national Level”. Since 2011 to 2013, there were three targeted areas like Kampogcham province, Kampongthom province, and Prey Veng province. And in 2013 to 2015 there are six more provinces that are added into the project such as Mondulkiri, Takeo, Kandal, Kampongchnaing, Kratie, and Steungtreng provinces in order to strengthen capacities of provincial members, district members, vice-provincial governor, and ministry of women affairs of each province and district, and young women activists in order to make them have enough capacities to fulfill their roles to be more improvement in the circle of their works.

Mrs. Thida C Khus added that by seeing that women representatives in Cambodia still have low limitation in making decision at all levels, as reality the number of women who are selected at the sub-national level are only 12% among the total number, and among those numbers women who are chairs of provincial councils is only one. The very small number of women has the serious effects on efficiency of works implementation of councils; in dialogue committee of women affairs and children that has duties to provide service for citizens that there are 52% of the whole Cambodian population is women.

According to the information above, that is why SILAKA organization in cooperation with Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP), especially in cooperation with women leaders at the sub-national level organized this workshop.

Mrs. Thida Khus would like to express the very deep thanks for organizing committee and other organizations like OXFAM, UN WOMEN, and HBF that supported this national workshop. Mrs. Thida also encouraged all participants to participate actively in this national workshop in order to get the very good bear fruit, and together to work effectively to inspire women to take part in public activities much more than this, in the name of representative and obligation implementation and in order to make all decision making at all levels and in political affairs to be more effective.

_ Welcome remarks of Mrs. Wenny Kusuma, representative of UN Women in Cambodia.



Mrs. Wenny Kusuma would like to welcome participants who take part in the national workshop today, and also would like to thank to Committee to Promote Women in Politics and organizing committee that organized this national workshop. In her impression speech, Mrs. Wenny mentioned about roles and situation of Cambodian women that are not equal to men, because the number of women in public affairs is decreased. According to the observation of Mrs. Wenny, there is no any political party that volunteers to use zipper system yet.

Even though zipper system is not classified in Cambodian laws, but political parties in Cambodia have to use it in order to create the equality among men and women in decision-making level, she added. Women have rights to vote to choose their leaders and women could express their voices, so in order to make changes we must start from ourselves, and work together to create women caucus and working together without focusing on political party and political tendency to make women voters become as the political vital voices and have power to demand all politicians to listen to their needs, and we will try our best to adjust policies for benefits and gender equality.

-Impression speech and opening the national workshop by Her Excellency Yoy Nita, deputy secretariat of ministry of women affairs.



On behalf of Her Excellency Dr. Eung Kuntha Phavy, minister of ministry of women affairs, H.E. Yoy Nita has the great honor that she could take part as the distinguished guest in the national workshop on Empowerment Women in Politics.

H.E. mentioned about Cambodia constitution on article 35 that classified that “Khmer citizens of either sex shall have the right to participate actively in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the nation.

Any suggestions from the people shall be given full consideration by the grant of the State.”

H.E. also mentioned about the rectangular strategies of the royal government of Cambodia for increasing of equity and efficiency in Cambodia in the third phase of the government in the fifth mandate of Cambodia national assembly, and aimed to strengthen citizens’ abilities and help boost women’s situation that is the staple motive of economics and whole society, and change our youths to be the main motives for development in all fields in Cambodia. National policies of the royal government of Cambodia under the great leadership of prime minister Samdach Argka Maha Sana Padey Techo Hun Sen, prime minister of Cambodia also continued to keep increasing women’s number in national institutions at all levels in order to make women could take part more actively in decision making as well as joining in developing country and governance at national and sub-national levels. Simultaneously, the royal government of Cambodia has determined to enhance gender equality throughout the seventh item and the third goal of Cambodia Millennium Development Goals that is the endeavor to eliminate gender gap in public institutions and increase

women's number in decision-making roles at all levels. Implementation through that strategy, the royal government as well as institutions and other stakeholders paid high attention and responsible for gender mainstreaming and women empowerment in their works implementation and in other fields. There are many laws and policies that were adapted and released in public to protect women's rights and enhance gender equality. National strategies development in 2014-2018 has included indicators related to gender equality and encouraged ministries, and related institutions to integrate gender in each field.

Gender has been integrated into main national programs such as centralization, deconcentration, public administrative reform program, public administrative management reform program, and climate change management program, she added.

Her Excellency Yoy Nita mentioned about remarkable development in institutions and ministries that have been showing the great roles in its institutions and gender enhancement in participating of women in public roles. The number of women in state-works has increased from 32% in 2007 to 37% in 2013. In the government at the present time, there is one woman works as cabinet minister, there are three women work as ministers, there is one woman works general national editor, there are thirty eight women work as secretaries of state, there are forty eight women work as deputies secretaries of state, number of women who work as members of senate is 14%, and women who are members of Cambodia national assembly is 20%. During the council election of city in 2009 and 2014, the number of women has increased from 37 to 52 candidates. And during the council election of town, district, and Khan the number of women also increased from 363 to 406 candidates. The number of women who were elected as members of councils of commune/Sangkat has increased twice viz from 9:5% in 2002 to 18% in 2012. Every province and every district has women who work as deputy provincial governors and deputy district governors.

The above data is the very good outcome to show that Cambodian royal government paid high attention on gender in Cambodia. In order to receive the good opportunities and values in taking part in public affairs and political affairs, women themselves must try to strengthen abilities, but we need time and we need to come across with many phases, especially we must have support from public and our families. This national workshop is one cell to strengthen women's abilities to help increasing women's number in decision-making levels.

Her Excellency Yoy Nita requested all participants to participate actively to understand all meanings of the national workshop that shared by presentation of each speaker, presentation via short video clip, and practical experience sharing and apply knowledge and experiences that absorbed from this national workshop in their institutions. H.E. Yoy Nita wished the national workshop to implement successfully and wished national workshop presidencies, speakers, group works, and all participants to meet happiness, good health, and get success in all obligations. H.E. declared to open the national workshop from now on.

2. Press Conference of the National Workshop:

In the national workshop, the organizing committee has organized press conference on “Empowerment Women in Political Participation” under the facilitation of Mrs. Ros Sopheap, executive director of GADC, and there are speakers such as:



- **Her Excellency. Khong Sun Eng**, Kampongcham provincial council member and representative of women leaders at the sub-national level.
 - **Mrs. Kun LumAng**, chairwoman of women movement of CNRP.
 - **Mrs. Thida Khus**, SILAKA executive director and representative of civil societies.
- There is no CPP representative in this press conference.

At the beginning of the press conference Mrs. Ros Sopheap executive director of GADC quoted key points that all speakers mentioned in the national workshop like:

First point: Women’s roles in Cambodia has not yet reached the level that we could accept, especially women’s roles in decision-making level, even though there are policies and programs that encourage women to take part in political affairs or decision-making roles, and even there are 52% of the whole population are women but the number of women in decision- making roles and in political affairs still very low either in national and sub-national level.

Second point: Women must know clearly why they go to vote, and in order to make women get equal level at decision-making roles, women must work together to change and if all women could make change, other people will be changed as well due to there are more women than men.

Ministry of women affairs paid high attention and determined in gender mainstreaming policies implementation and to increase women’s number and that thing will lead our goals at national level and sub-national level, Mrs. Ros Sopheap added.

After that is the impression speech of H.E. Khong Sun Eng, Kampongcham provincial council member and representative of women leaders at the sub-national level. Capacity building is the motive that inspires women’s participation, and among 52% of women there will have more women will stand as candidates for others to vote for them, H.E. said.

Impression speech of **Mrs. Kun LumAng**, chairwoman of women movement of CNRP mentioned about four main obstacles that have high effect on women such as:

1. Poverty: the majority of women could not work as the leader due to Cambodia is still under poverty line (70% are women), and that reason made Cambodian women could not go to work outside of their homes.
2. There is discrimination from their families and society.

3. Education: daughters do not have chance to go to school like sons, because parents encourage only sons to study due to those parents care about daughter's' security when they go study far from home.
4. Khmer tradition is strict for Cambodian women.

Therefore, we must find methodologies to inspire women to have understanding and inspire women to take part in public activities via training course, and bring social information to share to local people and it is the best if we can go from home to home.

Impression speech of Mrs. Thida Khus, SILAKA Executive Director and Representative of Committee to Promote Women in Politics. We must work together to advocate to let women get equity and equality in politics and in decision-making levels, she said. She added that voters should combine as one group to make it powerful on decision of politicians. It is important that women should work together for common interests and for our future. The small number of women in public affairs will cause big problem and it is the barrier for women, therefore, we must demand, if women do not have chance to help reducing poverty of women; women national policies, budget allocation for women in receiving services will make women could not get what they should get such as study programs and economic development programs. Studying and security is one of the important thing for women due to Khmer families do not allow their daughters to go outside or to go to study far away from home owing to parents care about security, and that mindset causes women to lose chance to study. Therefore, what are the things that national policies should do for the security of daughters?

Therefore, civil societies and women leaders at the sub-national level demand to have equity measure in electoral law in order to make it reach millennium development goal that assumed to have women for 30%.

After each speaker finished their impression speeches, there is one questions and answers program to let journalists and participants to raise questions and speakers answer questions.

Question & Answer:

There are questions from journalists who come from HangMeas radio, Radio Free Asia, and law students.

Questions:

1. Women's problem in political affairs participation, what is the solution for Kampongcham province? In Kampongcham province, the number of women is decreased or increased? If it is increased, how many per cent?
2. What is the main obstacle for women in political affairs?
3. Please share your own experiences that you faced and solved, how could you solve it?
4. What are the next plans that civil organizations will do for women?
5. What are the benefits or advantages for women in participating in social affairs?
6. Do all political parties accept zipper system to use in their political policies?

Answers:

1. Policies, millennium development goals, and government's strategies were implemented continually. In the first mandate of commune/Sangkat council election there was 8% of members as women who were elected. In the second mandate there was 13%, third mandate there was 17% and among those members there were 13 women were elected to be commune chiefs, it means that women number was increased, but the main cause that makes number of women increased it depends mainly on supports of their families, communities, political parties, royal government, and local and international non-governmental organizations. Mostly training courses are supported by non-governmental organizations. Training course is the education to build capacities and when they have enough abilities, they will intend to take part in public activities to express their achievements to others, and to ask for votes from other people.
2. Sharing experience is to participate in public forum as much as possible, try to listen to ideas or opinions of other people, and try to understand about their reasons and compare to women's interests and must take part with many institutions.
3. Women's barriers or main obstacles for women are poverty (70% at local level), lost chance to study, discrimination from family, community and institution etc...whereas the best solution is that the government must pay high attention to citizens' living standards.
4. In the name of civil society organizations that work related to women in political affairs, there are many activities that were implemented in the past such as capacity building for women leaders at the sub-national level, and we still keep implementing that activity and there are new activities like networking and women solidarity building and works implementation to be more effective.
5. Women get many benefits and advantages from participating in social works such as; women will understand about many stories related to development, policies, and obstacles that women faced. Women who have the good opportunities to take part in social work will know many people, and have chance to help solving women's problems, children's and social matters, it will be the good chance to build their own capacities. Women have pride because they could show their epics to society and people around them to see their abilities in helping social works and solving women and children's problems.
6. Cambodia National Rescue Party considered on accepting zipper system to apply in their political party, but also demands to have participation from women, even though if we have policies to support women but if women do not take part and do not have enough capacities, we still do not get good results, that is why CNRP continues to educate women at the sub-national level to help them to be the candidate for election in the next mandate.

Women's participation in social works not only provides benefits for women themselves but also for men. Women know about women's problems, women could take part to make decision because they do not want men to make decision for them for all the time at all, Mrs. Ros Sopheap added.

3. First panel discussion on "Women's situation, youths, children and vulnerable people at local level"

The First panel discussion on "Women's situation, youths, children and vulnerable people at local level" was facilitated by Miss. Meas Sereyleakh, young women activist from Kampongchnaing province, and there are three speakers such as:

1. **Her Excellency Khong Sun Eng**, Kampongcham provincial council member.
2. **Mrs. Mul Lorn**, council member of Stong district, Kampongthm province.
3. **Mrs. Hong Kheng**, chairwoman for women network for social development of Sdao Koung commune, Baphnom district, Prey Veng province.



At the beginning of the discussion each speaker presented about their own experiences, facing problems and recommendation to share to all participants in the national workshop.

1. Her Excellency Khong Sun Eng, Kampongcham provincial council member shared about her work experience; works that need to be implemented must have activities plan either important works or work that is not so important (big work and small work) to attach with the permission letter of ministry or institution that works in the province. When you get the role, you must start to learn about the role, works that you will lead and start to implement with the clear plan. Women’s problem solving, children’s, and vulnerable people must study deeply about their interests, consequences that they faced in the past that will have bad effect to their families or their needs and citizens in the country. Seek for endorsement throughout studying on related matters profoundly. For training education course must participate regularly but must clearly mention the meaning, short, and easy to understand by depending on each part (especially must know about participants’ abilities or knowledge), and it is not important to have many people but just start to do when there is good opportunities.

Whereas her personal history, H.E. used to work as village committee member, lecturer at provincial political class, trainer for village committee and commune committee as well provincial ministry and office in districts, vice-president of provincial women association and she was elected as the president of provincial women association in 1981, and in 1983 H.E. got more positions as the provincial vice designated, chairwoman of provincial education advertising , Kampongcham provincial governor, chairwoman of ministry of cults, chairwoman of provincial ministry of women affairs, provincial deputy governor, and member of provincial governor.

Simultaneously, H.E. faced some difficulties such as some work is new for her and she never done before, and she needed to implement new work while she just learnt, it means that learning and doing new works were at the same time, she had low education and she did not speak foreign language and that thing made the communication with foreigners was very hard, research and knowledge strengthening are limited, so that she needed to implement her works like the lazy rains because she could reach the development of technology and globalization. When you believe in someone or something just for the first glance, starting to evaluate someone or something just when you meet for the first time, anger, and stressfulness will lead the process of protecting women’s benefits, children’s, and vulnerable people meet failure, and we ourselves will be looked down by other people. When you see something at the first glance and you accept that thing to implement immediately without consideration or discussion with group members will have bad effect to some related people, so we must focus on time or circumstance, legal supporting letter, and understanding.

Those who do not care about themselves and their families will lead to have doubt on their richness as well.

H.E. provided some recommendation like in the following:

- When offer roles or statuses must provide training course and must help to adjust and coach regularly.
- We ourselves must conduct more research in many different fields such as researching on government policies, laws, other related regulation letters, information via radio, TV, old and new newspapers to build capacities in order to help protect women's benefits, children's and vulnerable people.
- Must eliminate jealousy and when know that other people committed mistakes please do not put more burdens on them, we should encourage them by sharing experience and solution to solve problem. Simultaneously, when we do something, we must have exact plan to avoid the wrong mistakes.
- Works implementation requires having action plan, roles and responsibilities or clear budget allocation.
- All regulation letters making is to ensure that the letter is meaningful, short, and easy to understand.
- Encouragement must have reflection meeting by participation (Must not encourage other people by using emotion), it will let you to get support and power on your leadership.

2. Mrs. Mul Lorn, provincial council member of Stong district, Kampongthom province has shared activities, experiences, facing problems and recommendation like in the following:

There is network at commune level in Stong district to serve activities for women and children at local level. They have created and organized Cambodian Women Network Committee for Peace and Development at district level to commune and village level. Organized committee to help Cambodian women who meet crisis at district and commune levels, it is the project of CWCC organization (it is related to violence against women and children). Organized committee to consult with women and children at district level and divide roles and obligation and responsibilities in each commune to clearly understand about the source of information related to women and children and vulnerable people. So far she helped to intervene for women in Konthean village, BraLay commune, who is pregnant and her husband abandoned her alone and he faced serious problems.

Women network went to register names of vulnerable children in targeted villages and communes to get the actual information under the good cooperation with local authorities in order to ask for policies to help victims, especially have cooperated and seek for funds and development partners in Cambodia, generous people and Buddhist monks to help support children, elderly people and widows. For the real instance, so far women network helped 21 vulnerable children, elderly people, widows, and women who were abandoned by her husband; women who have a lot of children, those victims are 25 people; she added.

Under the cooperation and support from CWCC organization organized network to help women who have domestic violence and seek for the real justice for those vulnerable people.

She mentioned about her work background that she got success so far; working as the government staff that is the public role, is the woman who leads at all levels, especially in district level and worked the administrative official for thirty-three years, until the present time. She was

elected as the member of district council and was the chairwoman of consultation committee for women and children.

The facing problems that she comes across are the endeavor is limited and it is hard to study foreign language. Sometimes we may want to stop when we are failed to advocate, families supporting is limited and during working still have anxiety and stressfulness.

At that time she also has recommendations; please try your best to accept training course either short course or long time course, and should have meeting for often, reading documents about experience and about epics of women and men and please do not focus on their political tendency but if they have high knowledge or experience, they are the people whom we should learn, our country will be developed continuously, especially we should inspire young women to take part in social work actively.

3.Mrs. Hok Kheng, chairwoman of women network for social development in Sdao Koung commune, BaPhnom district, Prey Veng province has shared her work experience, work history and recommendation for the national workshop.

According to her works in the past, she has implemented many works, especially works with women to help women dare to make decision by announcing about their rights in order to help those women understand that women are very significant in participation in making decision with men. Moreover, in order to let women understand about the equality in social works, she has provided the good chance for women to participate to create development plan and annual investment plan by inspiring and pushing women to stand as commune candidates, village members, and candidates for many other positions in their communes. Furthermore, we have announced on Children Education Encouragement to help our children have the chance to study at least finish grade 9, and we announced for women and children about the importance of using commune health center, and educated them on how to use social public services, and the significance of getting education for children. She always went to intervene when there is domestic violence by separating victim from perpetrator to avoid the serious crime, and help to find solution for vulnerable people.

She was elected as commune council member and she came across many different experiences during works implementation, and she got supports from people around her such as family, leaders, and other organizations.

She has some recommendations; the royal government should pay high attention and help to strengthen women's abilities, provide the good opportunities for women to be the leaders and have main roles in making decision with men. Especially she asked the royal government to implement via treasure women plan of ministry of women affairs. The leaders should pay attention to women who work in public roles and at least should have four women among ten people who serve in the same work.

After each speaker finished their remark speeches, it was the questions and answer program to allow participants to raise questions:

Questions:

1. What are the obstacles for helping women, youths, children and vulnerable people in the Kampongcham province? What are the mechanisms to solve problems or obstacles that happened for those people in Kampongcham province?
2. What are the activities of young women activists in Stong district, Kampongthom province that we can consider as the activities related to politics?
3. Many custody's ideas reckoned that women cannot work in the main position because their role is to cook or make food for families and their husband, and those parents or those

custody do not allow daughters to study or study only at the low level; do you ever intervene on that matter and what are the strategies that you use to persuade those parents to accept your ideas, and they agree to send their daughters to school because women at the local level get that kind of ideology?

4. In the provinces of the three speakers; among young women, women who are at the medium age, and old women, which women who are the vulnerable people because of the domestic violence? And how many percent of the domestic violence that those vulnerable people get? I would like to ask for favor from council members to share practical experience during working so far, whether you should have clear mechanisms for women in order to avoid from domestic violence and encourage those women to take part actively in Cambodia politics?
5. Activities implementation at the local level for women and children; where do you get fund? You get fund from the royal government or you have donation from other donors? and the fund that you have for activities implementation is sufficient or not?
6. Policies of the three provinces where the speakers come from (Kapongthom, Kg.cham, and Prey Veng), do the three of you ever ask men to help solving women's problems? Because domestic violence and rape are committed by men.



Answer:

1. We use cooperated solution to intervene in each problem, if there is any problem that related to laws, we ask for help from law experts, when there is case related to techniques we ask for help from technological experts, if our institution cannot solve problem or when there is problem that we cannot solve, we always asked for help from non-governmental organizations. For instance, when there is domestic violence happened, we need to ask for help from law expert to help protect benefits for vulnerable people and then we find supporting materials to encourage victims because there are many victims who are poor and they have no money to buy food, and some victims have no innovative ideas and knowledge to lead their lives, so we need to create network to support victims in order to make our effort be succeeded. When there is case that related to court, we ask for help from court and when there is case related to laws we ask for help from institution or organization that work on law service to help, and when there is case related to children we contact to non-governmental organization that work for children to help.
2. At the present time women leaders get praise from men leaders, and for the activities; we have public forum that citizens could take part to advocate by expressing their ideas, and it is one of the result that we received. When our citizens understand deeply about their rights and their duties, they will want to know more and more about their stories, they will participate in the program, especially women will take part in public forum to understand about issues related to women, children and vulnerable people. Women who live in the local level or in the countryside who have crisis related to themselves and their families have come to meet us and communicate via phone call, and we helped to make the easy way for them, and our group went to the targeted areas and provide the good opportunities for them, for instance, there are organizations that work for women helped to intervene and solved women's issues who faced domestic violence, helped children,

and helped victims because of rape and exploitation by working directly with them and send information to related institution immediately.

3. In fact mindset is what we cannot change immediately, it is the ideology that we announced again and again, and it is not steady in one place. After we announced already, we conducted the follow up with them to observe whether they have implemented throughout what they wrote to us or not, and we need to ensure whether they have daughters or sons to study or not? They have son who goes to go study, but what are the things that son can do after they return from school? They said that they do the laundry and house works. We asked them whether it is good or not when they do the laundry by themselves? They said that it is good. We asked them more; why don't they provide good chance to study for daughter like son? They replied that the reason they do not allow their daughter to go to study because they care about security of their daughters. We explained them that; in this generation when their children have high knowledge they will make their families have great happiness. Moreover, when make plans men do not pay attention to women, when women see the inequality of social service of men and women, they (women) started to realize that only women who know deeply about women's problems and men just know a little bit about women's issues.
4. In the past domestic violence is very high, but right now it is decreased, but economic violence is still steady at one position, so domestic violence for women is decreased but mental violence and economic violence are still the same to the past. It is very good for young women because if they live under the great pressure from their husband, they can ask for divorce with their husband but old women when they face domestic violence they always stay still since they deem that it is their bad sin that they have done in the past life.

So far domestic violence always happened for women who are at the middle-aged and women who are old because the majority of men always drink alcohol and when they come home they use violence towards their wife and that thing make their children could not go to school. They have mentioned one case study related to Popok commune and Trapaing Russei commune, Stong district, Kampongthom province, the domestic violence related to middle-aged woman that his husband always used violence on her every day; there is one family, one day after the husband comes back from drinking alcohol, wife organized food and rice for her husband but that husband defecated on plate of rice and food, and at that time wife asks the husband that why you defecate on rice's and food's plate? At that time the husband rebounded to strangle wife's neck. For that case, local authorities conducted the intervention by sending the wife to hospital, and local authorities cooperated with non-governmental organization to help rescue the wife who is the victim.

5. **Kampongcham province:** we received fund from UNICEF that supported on mothers' and children's health, but that fund is still very low and we also get additional funding from our commune chief.

Kampongthom province: UNICEF supported 13 communes and each commune received three thousand USD for supporting women, children and vulnerable people, and so far we helped to facilitate on education and health and also helped to solve problems for some vulnerable people.

Prey Veng province: for 2015 UNICEF does not grant fund for commune yet, but in 2014, I knew that there are 3,990,099 Riels (four millions to one hundreds Riels), and in

2014, I withdrew social fund for 7,000,000 Riels (Seven Millions Riels) to help women and children. In 2015, I do not know the amount of the fund that provincial project will grant us among the fund that UNICEF provided for each commune.

6. There is one project called “Men’s Anger Control” in Stong district, because we asked for help from organizational partner to help us related to men’s anger control, when husband angry at his wife the husband must go to take a bath first in order to avoid using violence on his wife, and at the present time wife has sufficient rights to protect herself because we have many organizations that work for women and they can help solving problems for women who are the victims of domestic violence.

3. Second panel discussion on “Women’ condition in public roles and political affairs from first to five mandates”.

In the second panel discussion was facilitated by Mrs. Kung Sary, project officer and trainer of SILAKA organization, and there are three speakers like in the following:

1. **Mrs. Seun Ketsereyleakh**, educational program facilitator and gender of COMFREL.
2. **Miss. Phئون Thearith**, young women activist of Kampongthom province.
3. **Mr. Vorn Vet**, good governance officer of UN Women.

Each speaker presented on women’s condition in public roles and political affairs from the first to the five mandates.

- ❖ **Mrs. Seun Ketsereyleakh**, educational program facilitator and gender of COMFREL mentioned that the inequality of women and men in political affairs, and in decision-making level still continues and that is the barrier to implement rights between women and men, starting from national institution to local level including senate, national assembly, ministry, institution, provincial ministry, sub-national administration and national election committee as well. The main root of this cause due to Cambodia lacks of precise policies in written language that is the positive measure, and some articles of Cambodia laws, to support and provide good opportunities for women and men to participate equally in decision-making roles and in political affairs. The lack of precise policies and some articles of Cambodia laws caused the National Development Plan could not reach goals like what Cambodia determined, and Cambodia also missed to implement through the duties as the signatory country of CEDAW treaty that Cambodia was the signatory country since 1992. Cambodian government also late to solve the problems towards tradition implementation, the decrease of gender roles and culture that determined women’s value lower than men’s in all fields in society. Furthermore, poverty, discrimination, lack of encouragement, and patriarchal system are the obstacles for women to get equal opportunities and benefits from political participation and social works.

Cambodia does not have gender equality in sharing political power yet, especially representativeness of voters and elected people, even though the number of women who are registered for voting is 52%, but women who are elected as the parliamentarians are only 20.33% among the total number of 123 people in the fifth mandate. And women who are commune/ Sangkat councils are only 17.78 for the third mandate, she added.

There are two points of the progressiveness of the royal government of Cambodia:

1. The progressiveness that ever has in 2008 is the appointment of vice municipal governor, vice provincial governors, vice district governors as the women. Vice municipal and provincial governors have increased for 14.28% (24 people) among 168 people in 2013, but there were no municipal and provincial governors. Vice governors of town, district, and Khan as women are increased for 25 % (184 people) among 776 people, and women who are governors of towns, district and Khan are only 1.03% (2 people) among 194 people in 2013.
2. There is one more new progressiveness is the appointment women in the position as state secretary at least one person, and deputy secretary at least one person in all ministries and in all intuitions (there are twenty-seven ministries and one secretariat), even though the new elected government in the fifth mandate was formed in the complicated situation.

Even though the royal government of Cambodia has two points that are the progressiveness, but still lack of determination from elected parliamentarians and the government in creating sufficient laws framework to help boost women's participation in political affairs. In contrast, Cambodia was failed to implement to reach the goals of Cambodia Millennium Development Goals because both appointed officials and national assembly members were intended to implement the government's works according to their political party's tendencies.

Cambodia conducted national election to choose parliamentarians that supported by "Law on the Election of Representatives and the Law on amendments on Election of representatives". Since the first national election in 1993 until the fourth national election in 2008, the number of women as parliamentarians was increased continually and women also went to vote actively. But the number of women who were elected in the fifth mandate was decreased, even though there were attentions from political parties, government, non-governmental organizations, and development partners (donors), international community for capacity development and support women, and Cambodian people's mindset was change by not thinking to discriminate against women somehow. For the national election in the fifth mandate in 2013, we knew that women did not have enough money to contribute to political parties and the royal government did not have policies to enhance women to take part in political affairs in written language. There are barriers for women voters and women did not have chance to stand as candidate in national assembly as well as voting participation and opportunities to continue life in politics.

She mentioned that; due to the decrease of elected women in the fifth mandate, that is why non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders worked together to provide recommendation related to enhancement women and men equality, could take part in political affairs at the making decision level and suggested to amend Cambodia constitution on article 3, article 34 (new), parliamentarians electoral laws and laws on amendment parliamentarian electoral laws on article 37 (new) of chapter four, and article 120 (new) of chapter nine, and laws on commune/Sangkat election on article 49 (new) of chapter seven in order to guarantee that women candidates are registered in electoral lists

of political parties by using zipper system, and to ensure the real gender equality of what classified in Cambodia constitution.

- ❖ **Miss. Pheuon Thearith**, young women activist in Kampongthom province expressed her opinion on women statistic in political affairs and in public roles. The royal government of Cambodia has paid high attention in creating many laws in order to let both women and men in Cambodia to have equal rights in all fields, and have freedom in participating in politics, economics, culture, have rights to choose the decent careers, get the same payment for the same jobs, and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. The rectangular strategies of the royal government of Cambodia still keep determination in promoting women's situation that is the staple backer of the society and economics with the clear plans in implementing policies to promote gender equality. Gender mainstreaming is the intra-field work in national policies program and other fields in order to enhance empowerment for women in politics and in other public roles.

As we all have known that in Cambodia there are 52% of women among the whole population of fourteen millions (14 millions) of Cambodian people, and there are 70% of women who are aged under 35 years old, that is the potential resource for development in all fields in Cambodia. Furthermore, women are the significant motives in building peace with men, and catch the great opportunities at the same time that Cambodia is walking into free market and free economics from urbanization and ASEAN community integration.

For the real instance rights implementation for men and women in all fields does not get full equality in making decision, especially women candidates and elected women. Even though the number for women who registered for voting there were 52% but the number of women who stand as candidates were only 18% and women who were elected as the parliamentarians are only 25 people, that is equal to 20.33% of 123 people that is the total amount, for the fifth national election and there were 17.78% women who are commune/Sangkat councils in the third mandate. The staple problems of this point are due to the lack of implementation and lack of monitoring mechanisms to support and provide good opportunities for women to participate in all fields and that thing caused the bad effects on national development, and missing points made the millennium development goals could not reach through the determination, and Cambodia also missed to implement duties as the signatory country like what classified in CEDAW treaty that Cambodia was the signatory country since 1992.

She also has some recommendations like in the following:

- She would like to ask Cambodian government and other joint committees from all political parties inspire and encourage women and provide good opportunities for women to take part in political affairs and other public roles.
- She suggested all political parties to use zipper system in putting women in their political polling list.
- Please continue to implement gender mainstreaming strategies of ministry of interior and great recommendation of His Excellency So Kheng, cabinet minister of ministry of interior to be more wider.

3.Mr. Vorn Vet, good governance officer of UN Women:

Mr. Vorn Vet has mentioned three points like:

1. Contact to international organization and international institution to come to Cambodia
2. Progressiveness of Cambodia and facing problems.

3. Recommendation mentions for consideration.

Cambodia is the nation that signed on CEDAW treaty on article 7 that talked about women's political participation but we know that the number of women in politics is still low.

After each speaker finished their impression, there was questions and answer program to allow audiences to raise questions and speakers reply to those questions:



Questions:

1. What are the mechanisms and means in order to reach equity:
 - Related to women's participation in political affairs, what are the mindsets of women regarding to families and authorities; what are the changes and what are the activities that encouraged women to take part in political affairs?
 - What are the challenges of non-governmental organizations in working with government of Cambodia?
2. There are many women, who study accounting and economics, but not many women who study laws and politics; why many women like to study accounting and economics? Because they love that subject or due to political condition of Cambodia? Women in Cambodia feel afraid in participating with political parties; is the feeling of Cambodian women or the feeling of all women in the world? Is that the only problem for Cambodia or it is the world's problem?
3. What are the strategies of UN Women and COMFREL organization to inspire young women or to mobilize young women who just graduate from universities to intend to take part in political affairs like commune/Sangkat councils members?

Answer:

1. (Speaker from UN Women): Gender equality and gender equity in Cambodia have not yet reached our goals. On the other hand, 30% of women who work as leaders in state institutions we also do not reach yet, and we just can get 20% that women work as the leaders in state institutions, and women who work as the leaders still have not worked through the roles as the leaders including political roles and public roles, and those women leaders do not have full power to implement rights and power in their roles. Women leaders still do not have full power to implement their rights and powers, so the government's mechanism should enhance and encourage gender equality plan in each institution by using the strategies strictly, and provide capacity for those women leaders in order to let them know about laws, political policies, and their roles clearly. When those women leaders understand about laws, political policies and their rights, they will be able to implement their roles powerfully and at that time we will get gender equity for real.

(Speaker from COMFREL): In order to let women participate in political affairs to get equity the same to men, we should have amendment on national electoral laws and commune/Sangkat electoral laws, and there are some articles in Cambodia constitutions that our group found that in the past we discussed on mechanisms throughout the special measure by using quota system, that was possible when we studied on the two laws related to some

articles on political parties registration and standing as candidate for election. In the two laws should be amended to use zipper system in order to have gender equity between men and women for real.

-For mindset changing, we know that there are many young women and old women have changed their mindset because they know about rights to participate in making decision and political affairs including mindset in society. Both men and women have changed their thoughts because in the past they reckoned that politics is the men's leadership, but in the last ten years there were changes about 60% because in 2013 there were youths participated in political campaign actively. So far we have provided training course to empower women and we allowed men to take part to advocate in order to lobby political parties and government to encourage women to participate in politics, especially in standing as candidates.

-The facing problems with the government and authorities such as the difference of age because we are the young women activists and we do not have experience in social works and we are experienced in EAM project only.

- Because of the society, because they required economic needs, that is why many Cambodian women like to study accounting and finance.

(Speaker from COMFREL): related to the study on gender that people mentioned about the fitness of gender means that there are works that are fit to sex. For instance, both women and men can work as police officers but there are some works that men and women work effectively up to their sex. Both women and men have the equal rights to make decision. For the fear of Cambodian women in Cambodia politics, it does not mean Cambodian women are afraid of politics but because they hesitate to participate only, due to Cambodia does not have clear mechanism and full of realities and those two things could make women cannot get success and those are the reasons that make them feel afraid and reluctant to join in political affairs.

(Speaker from UN Women): for all activities and tendencies we must include rights, it means that politics is also rights and duties, so when they are fear because they do not understand about their rights and their duties. If they have studied about human rights, they will understand easily on their rights and duties when they seek for works that are related to social accountability and finance. We need to reform policies and there is one policy that is related to gender equality named "treasure women or Neary Ratanak" due to in the last step ministry just issued in order to implement in all institutions and ministries. Donors and civil organizations must work together to implement one joint policy that is called Women in Political Participation, it means that institutions, political parties, and non-governmental organizations that need to recruit staff must provide more opportunities that are related to electoral laws. UN Women organization strongly support the royal government of Cambodia in order to enhance the existing policies, enhance law policies in Cambodia, and policies that related to gender equality and laws, and other policies that the government has promulgated. Simultaneously, UN Women has cooperated with civil organizations, worked with development partners, and youths in order to facilitate them to have the good time to be together to raise ideas and act together, because they have the same requirements in demanding to submit to Cambodia national assembly, senate, and the royal government of Cambodia to let them working together and to respond together.

At the end of the questions and answers program:

Mrs. Thida Khus, executive director of SILAKA organization mentioned one perspective; we all are women and men always say that if women are not ready, what should we do? If they offer power to women, that are the point that we must make consideration together, what should we do? There are many works that are men standard and those works make women to leave, and in order to make women participate in those activities we must prepare women whom we want them to participate in social works to let them be able to actively take part, and we must prepare ourselves to be able to help other women. At the present time we try our best to work in the leading level such as at the local level, medium level and national level, we have done many works but we do not focus on mobilizing network to help each other. We build women network is to help women to prepare themselves, it means that we need women to be prepared, to have abilities, and help one another in order to push national policies because if we do not have suitable policies to enhance women, it must be hard for women because we need to face with men who are prepared themselves already and women just start to prepare themselves, so it does not mean that women have no abilities. Mrs. Thida Khus added that she has seen many women at the sub-national level who can work as provincial governors, but now there is no woman who works as provincial governor, why like that? There are many members councils, and there are many women who can work as council members, why they do not put women to work council members? Youths need to build capacities, for those who work as association leaders must prepare, must encourage, and must support our network to integrate women to work in public roles, what should we do? We need to organize training course for both women and men to let them understand on gender problem, and effect of gender discrimination on our society. When women get equality and outcomes for all, it is the benefits for everyone. So we need to work with youths, what are the things that we should to inspire women in our group to build network in the group with women in order to let them build capacities and can help each other. In order to let our women working in that field, we need to prepare program to help youths. Now we need young women activists and at the present time there are many women who graduate from university and those women have high knowledge as well, what should we do to invite women who graduate from university to participate in political affairs? And we need to them know what political is.

Mrs. Seun Ketsereyleakh added that; we know information from presidents of political parties said that they do not see the change power of women and women cannot change anything, so we must work together, if we are women and we have voices to vote for someone or to withdraw someone, at that time will make those men leaders pay attention on women. But at the present time those men leaders think that women cannot withdraw them, so from now on we must work together to increase our potential and our power to let stakeholders, particularly political parties know that women voices can vote for them or can withdraw them from their position.

5.Video presenting on “ Supporting women’s increasing in public roles and in political affairs”

There is one short video showing on “**Supporting women’s increasing in public roles and in political affairs**” for all participants.

6.The announcement of the joint statement:

Her Excellency Noun Nearadey, Kandal provincial council members came to stage to announce the joint statement



On “Equity Measure Implementation to get real equality for women in political affairs”. In Phnom Penh city on January 28, 2015, committee to promote women in politics(CPWP) including organizing committee, women leaders at the sub-national and organizational members organized workshop on “Enhancement Women’s Participation in Politics” that there were participants totally 145 (213 females and 32 males) who there were representatives from state institutions, women leaders at the sub-national level, minority women and indigenous women, gay and lesbian, women garment factory workers, HIV/Aids victims, housekeeper, sellers and students.

We would like to submit the joint statement to country leaders and policies makers to increase women’s number in political affairs that has the following meanings:

In Cambodia the number of women is 52% among 14 million people that is the whole population of the people in Cambodia, and the number of people who are under 35 years old is 70%. That amount of number is the potential resource for development the country in all fields. Furthermore, women are the main motives with men in building peace for society and catch the good opportunities while Cambodia is walking into free market and urbanization and ASEAN community integration.

As the matter of fact, rights implementation among men and women in all fields has not yet received the full equity in decision-making, particularly women and the elected women even though the number women who were registered for voting there were 52%, but the number of women who stand as candidate for the election there were only 18,96%, and the number of women who



were elected as the parliamentarian there were 25 people, that is equal to 20,33% of the 123 people that is the total number for the fifth mandate of Cambodia national assembly, and there were 17, 78% of women who were elected as commune/sangkat council members for the 3rd mandate. The main points of this problem is the lack of implementation and followed-up mechanisms to respond to policies and strategies from all political parties, and the lack of special temporary measure to support and provide good opportunities for women to participate in all fields and that thing made the serious effects on development, and that missing points made the millennium development goals could not reach through the determination and Cambodia also missed to implement duties as the signatory country like what classified in CEDAW treaty that Cambodia was the signatory country since 1992.

Recommendations:

- We would like to request for the amendment of articles of Cambodia constitution, laws on parliamentarians appointment, electoral laws, laws on councils of city, province, district/khan, commune/Sangkat in order to increase women’s number in all fields to ensure the equality of women and men by 50% and 50%.
 -Article 34 of the constitution (regulation or enhancement electoral rights and rights to stand as candidate for the election must be classified in the electoral laws. Article 37: candidate lists in each polling center must use zipper system from the beginning to the end. Article 38: registration must be done in spiral according to the priority from the highest to the lowest up the regulation of each political party. Articles 120: parliamentarian may ask for resignation

from the member of the royal government of Cambodia in written language but not because of the freedom of expression. And fifth point, any parliamentarian may lose membership in written agreement but not because of the freedom of expression. Article 49 new (98 old): candidate lists of each political party must have names of each candidate in order and must put in spiral between women and men candidates from the highest to the lowest.

- Create women caucus in Cambodia national assembly to increase cooperation among different political parties to organize policies and to follow up women rights implementation to be more effective.
- Take action to create and implement temporary measure implementation in national policies and in political parties to ensure women candidates who are elected to be proportioned to the population of Cambodian people.

7.The third panel discussion on “Showing supporting stance for enhancement women’s number in political affairs by using zipper system in each political party”

The 3rd panel discussion was facilitated by Mrs. Yos Thy, executive director of KWWA organization. In the panell discussion there were two distinguished speakers;

1. Her excellency Mou Sokhau , member of parliamentary from CNRP, and representative from CPP was absent.



Her excellency Mou Sokhau said that for the joint statement that mentioned about the zipper system in political party, for her party Cambodia National Rescue Party agreed to accept this recommendation because before coming to take part in the national workshop she talked with party leaders, and her leaders agreed to accept the recommendation in using zipper system in political party, she added that CNRP must have measure in accepting the recommendation for our voters. National problems in whatever and wherever, it still be the women’s problems like land grabbing, corruption, and court reform.

We increase culture, and the culture is divided into non-violence culture by using dialogue, that is why our women in all levels have the good chance to talk about what we can do for our women, and we must create chance for women who are the opportunities providers for women in order to let women participating in all fields, especially politics. CNRP will increase women’s voices and will increase women’s number in candidate lists to ensure that women will be elected during the election in 2017 and in 2018.

Questions:

1. What are the strategies and plans that Her Excellency has in order to increase women’s number in political affairs and get the spiral number in political party?
2. There are many women in factories in Cambodia, when those women have problems, what are the mechanisms that CNRP will use when those women have matters?
3. How can we participate in CNRP?



Answers:

1. Cambodia National Rescue Party went to visit people at the local level every single day and every month in all centers, that are the party policies and plans of CNRP to visit and to hear citizen's difficulties and listen to our citizens to help citizens have rights and dare to speak about their problems. We help to facilitate for our citizens, especially for women, on the other hand, we help our citizens to have freedom, let them to be able to express ideas, and help to spread democracy at the local level to be more wider for women at the local level, because we know that victims, vulnerable people, and feared-people for the most are women.
2. Demonstration and strike holding of factory-workers is celebrated to ask for salary increasing to have the decent living standard, and living in dignity. So it does not mean that our factor-workers want to go out of their working places, on the other hand, ASEAN integration will arrive in 2015; do Cambodian women are ready? What are the things that our nation has done to help Cambodian women to prepare themselves for ASEAN integration?
So in the name of political party and in the name of women who participate to enhance women' value, our choice is not only making our women to be factory-workers but we want to our women to leaders.
3. Young women activists could take part with CNRP at the local level because those who wish for changes are youths, and the majority of them are women whom we always provide good chance to go to one commune, and our political party will provide training course for those who work in what position and must responsible for that position.

8 .National Workshop Closing Remarks

In the closing program of the national workshop, there was the great participation of His Excellency Leng Ry, vice secretary of state, representative His Excellency Sokk Setha, secretary of Interior Ministry and the secretariat of NCDD. The royal government of Cambodia paid high attention in enhancing women in political affairs and public roles through the clear classification of women's proportion in politics and public sectors in millennium development goals that must be achieved during the 2003 to 2015, he said.

He added that; even though we received the great achievement but we still have not fully achieved through the indicators related to women's enhancement in politics and public sectors that classified in Cambodia millennium development goals yet. In order to ensure the achievement of these goals, the royal government of Cambodia continued to inspire and took action to insert these works as the significant priority in political policies, plans, and other national programs.

for the real instance, strategic plans for gender equality and women empowerment for 2014-2015 that is called " Fourth Neary Ratanak or Fourth Treasure Women" that was promulgated on December 2014, has considered strategies to enhance women in taking part to make decision and gender mainstreaming in policies and national policies are the extraordinary significance that must pay high attention in implementation and respond in the appropriate way by ministries,



Institutions, administration at the sub-national level, development partners, civil societies, and other stakeholders.

His Excellency mentioned about the Three Year Strategic Plans phase two of the national program for the development at the sub-national level that was passed by NCDD on December 2014, in that strategic plan also continued to prioritize on women enhancement on taking part in decision-making in ministries, implementation institutions, and administration at the sub-national level by classification the real measures to guaranteeing on women's number increasing by at least 16% in the position as director, vice administrative director, vice office director, president, vice president of city hall, and provinces by at least 20 % in the position as director, vice administrative director, president and vice president of offices, composition in city hall/district and Khan are women.

Minister secretariat of NCDD and ministry of women affairs will continue to cooperate to provide facilitation and supports for ministries, institution, administration at the sub-national level, civil society and other stakeholders to ensure the achievements related to the encouragement to have women participating in decision-making, gender enhancement, and women empowerment that are classified in the three years development plans phase two.

His excellency strongly believed that all activities of Committee to Promote Women in Politics and three years development plans phase two will be implemented simultaneously, and in the condition of supporting each other in order to enhance women' participation in politics, public sectors and will be reached gender enhancement in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Finally, H.E. would like to extend his wishes to Her Excellency, Mr. Mrs. Miss, and all participants to get success, security, good health, and announced to close the national workshop today.

9. Participants' Interviewing Results.

At the end of the national workshop, our group work members have interviewed some participants and received the following results:

1. **Miss. Mann Chantrea**, young women activist from Kampongthom province.

This national workshop is very beneficial because women leaders who come from nine provinces have come to participate and shared experiences, and presented the number of women in political participation. We would like to share experience to increase relations among national leaders, civil societies and all participants.

I would like to ask civil societies and related partners focus on women by strengthening their abilities to let them could participate in politics.

2. **Chhum ChannDara**, Cambodia Women Prefer.

This national workshop is very good for gender mainstreaming in political affairs in Cambodia, but each speaker has the very short time to talk, that is why they spent more time on work experiences. When mention about recommendations as well as requests to the royal government of Cambodia and related organizations to help boost women in politics, each speaker has the short time and responding to the questions is not clear, but there are speakers who hit the nails on the head of the questions as well. For political word, it seems like it is not clear yet, and could make participants get confuse on the word Politics, so the national workshop still not clear on the meaning of Politics, and what are the activities that they could

consider as Politics, but the national workshop did not mention, and when there is question from participant about the word politics, there is no answer about that question, and that thing made participants feel that Politics unless they participate in political parties, that point they will consider as women participate in politics.

At the end I found that this national workshop is very good, but the seats for speakers and participants are a little bit confusing, related to the activities of the speakers and facilitators when they answers questions and when they express ideas are very tough. The good point is time following, good environment and there was good added speech from Mrs. Thida Khus.

3.Mr. Chann Sophai, program manager of EWHA Social Service.

The national workshop is very good, because we invited all related stakeholders to come to take part in the national workshop. There were representatives from political parties, civil society as well as organizations that work on women affairs. I am so interested it this national workshop because it is fit to my program as well. The main point is the women enhancement in political affairs. There is something more that I am so interested like there were political representatives and there was impression remark from Mrs. Ros Sopheap that aimed to enhance women and women's benefits in political participation without specific tendency to any political party. For me, there is no missing point for this national workshop because it was organized in the very professional way and there were participants from all networks.

4.Dara Nita from NaPa.

This national workshop is very good because it enhanced women's participation in politics. Women have rights to participate in all fields, women have rights to take part in political affairs, women have rights to get knowledge the same to men, and sometimes women have rights higher than men. The main topic that I am interested for the most is " Barriers for women in politics and their experiences in social works" , particularly the points that speaker encouraged participants to develop themselves, and we all still need the encouragement from other people. Both women and men must have the equal rights.

I hope that this national workshop will be shared much wider than this, especially students who study in grade twelve or students at universities in order to let women know that they have many choices, women not only study to finish high school and then work as the housekeepers or just make food for their families at all. If possible we should have video to broadcast to educate all related people to let them understand about their rights to avoid father to use ancient ideas on their daughters.

5.Long Malen from CamAsean.

This national workshop is very good, but it's not very active because speakers conducted the presentation and audiences did not have experiences or ideas to share in the national workshop. This national workshop is not important to have many participants but it must have participants from related fields, there were victims, and there should have men's participation to let men understand about women's problems.