



**Consultation Report on**

# **The Review of Cambodia's Progress on The Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010**

02 November, 2011  
SILAKA, Cambodia



# 1. Introduction

Most countries' awareness on the existence of the Brussels Program of Actions (BPoA) is low. Therefore, monitoring and contributing to the effective implementation of the BPoA is low. That is why raising awareness on this is essential. The program included a short presentation on the BPoA and the LDC Conference process. Another key aspect of the process was to raise awareness not only on the international programme, but also on what the national Government is doing to achieve the targets laid out in the programme.



The consultation comprises 38 participants from civil society and NGO representatives. This programme conducted on the morning on 2 November 2010 at SILAKA organization in Cambodia.

## The programme

Time	Agenda
07:30-8:00	Registration with welcome tea/coffee
8:00-8:15	Welcome and sharing of objectives of programme and the introduction to LCD, by Mrs. Thida C. Khus, Executive Director of SILAKA and BOD members of LDC
8:15 - 09:00	Update on the process and the status of LDC situation by Mr. Abhas Ghimire, Program Officer, LDC Secretariat, LDC Watch International Khatmandu, Nepal Questions and Answer
9:00-09:45	Status of the Implementation of the BPoA by the government of Cambodia, by H.E. Theng Panhathun, Deputy Director General Directorate for Planning, Ministry of Planning, RCG Questions and Answers
9:45-10:00	Break
10:00-10:45	Key issues and Floor discussion
10:45-11:00	Wrap Up and recommendations, by Mrs. Thida C. Khus CSO representative
11:00-11:45	Closing by Mrs Thida C. Khus and Mr. Abhas Ghimire
12:45	Lunch

## 2. Opening

### WELCOME ADDRESS

Mrs. Thida C. Khus

The consultation on the Review of Cambodia's Progress on the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 was opened by Mrs. Thida C. Khus, Executive Director of SILAKA and BOD members of LDC, H.E. Theng Panhathun, Deputy Director General Directorate for Planning, Ministry of Planning in Cambodia, and Mr. Abhas Ghimire, Program Officer, LDC Secretariat, LDC Watch International Khatmandu, Nepal. Mrs. Thida C. Khus welcomed and shared of objectives of programme and the introduction to LDCs.



Thida gave an overview on objective of the consultation. the consultation today are raise awareness on the Brussels Programme of Action, and Gather inputs on success/failure of implementation of the BPoA, to feed into its review in 2011, and the establishment of a new programme of action for LDCs for the coming decade, and set up an informal group to communicate with the government and to share information among CSO on and after the LDC IV.

She mentioned that Cambodia is also signed the Brussels Programme of Action. This Programme contains mutual commitments of the LDCs and their developed countries in seven interlinked areas: fostering a peoplecentred policy framework, ensuring good governance at national and international levels, building human and institutional capacities, enhancing the role of trade in development, reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment and mobilizing financial resources.

She expressed her thanks to the representative of the government of Cambodia, Ministry of Planning that participated to share the status of the implementation of the BPoA by the government of Cambodia to the civil society. She hoped the understanding about this program will contribute to help the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the development Cambodia in the future.

### 3. Brief look at the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the UN LDC-IV

#### Presentation

Mr. Abhas Ghimire

Program Officer, LDC Watch International Khatmandu, Nepal


He gave a brief look at the least Developed Countries (LDCs) around 1 hour, on the LDCs criteria, common LDCs trait, climate change, Observation on Cambodia, BPoA, and The UN LDC-IV. Please see the slice presentation below:



- **Slice Presentation**




### A brief look at the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the UN LDC-IV



### Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

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- In 1971, the United Nations identified 24 countries as Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- Today, there are 49 LDCs in the world, home to 850 million people
- LDC Criteria is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Last review in March 2009



### LDC Criteria in 1971

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- The United Nations established the first group of LDCs with 24 countries in its resolution 2768 (XXVI) of 18 November 1971
- The principal criteria used to establish the group were:
  - Per capita GDP of US\$ 100 per person in 1968 or less
  - Share of manufacturing in total GDP of 10 per cent or less
  - Adult literacy rate of 20 per cent or less



### LDC Criteria Today

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- The “**Low-Income**” criterion of per capita GNI, with a threshold of \$905 for addition to the list, and a threshold of \$1,086 for graduation
- The “**Human Assets Weakness**” criterion involving a composite index (the Human Assets Index) based on indicators of nutrition, health, school enrolment, and literacy
- The “**Economic Vulnerability**” criterion, involving a composite index (the Economic Vulnerability Index) based on indicators of natural shocks, trade shocks, exposure to shocks, and economic remoteness

A country will qualify to be added to the list of LDCs if it meets the addition thresholds on all three criteria and does not have a population greater than **75 million**.

### 3. Brief look at the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the UN LDC-IV (con't)



#### Common LDC traits

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- Extreme poverty
- Poor health services
- Water and Energy Poverty
- Conflict
- Poverty trap
- Debt Burden
- Lack of adaptive capacity to deal with natural disasters
- Weak democratic institutions
- Lofty rhetoric and plans but very little implementation or accountability



#### Climate Change and LDCs

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- Already plagued by poverty, conflicts and geographical constraints, LDCs are further subjected to the devastating impacts of climate change, leading them to perpetual crises of poverty, energy insufficiency, indebtedness and underdevelopment.
- Abnormal changes in air temperature and rainfall are likely to risk the livelihoods of large sections of the LDC population that is dependent on agriculture for income.
- Progress towards attaining the MDGs are all in jeopardy due to the unpredictable effects of climate change.
- LDCs do not have sufficient resources for a high adaptive capacity to deal with the effects of climate change set out by the IPCC in 2001.
- LDCs are disproportionately suffering the impacts of the climate crisis because they have contributed the least towards climate change. They deserve additional resources for adaptation.



#### Climate Justice

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- We need to bring the issue of Climate Justice to the top of the international agenda.
- This includes protecting the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalised people by securing their ability to survive natural disasters, the continued destruction of their ecosystems, food insecurity, and loss of livelihoods due to climate change.
- Recognition of climate debt by the northern countries who are responsible for emitting large proportions of GHGs. Reparation and rehabilitation is required including the creation of a binding and adequate Global Climate Fund.
- These resources have to be additional to those required to meet existing social and economic development needs in order to ensure that past, present and future gains in these areas are not compromised.



#### Observations on Cambodia

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- The Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs) are remarkable display of country ownership and initiation to reframe the MDGs according to its own context
- CMDG 9 – De-mining, removing ERW and victim assistance – is a great example that should be followed by other conflict-affected LDCs
- Some progress in the health and primary education but Cambodia seems to be off-track to meet the MDGs by 2015, especially in the areas of poverty, maternal mortality, and tertiary education



#### Observations on Cambodia

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- Economic growth rate seemed likely to meet or exceed the BPoA target of 7% but is suffering right now due to the Global Financial Crisis
- Competitive advantage in agriculture, which contributes about 30% to the GDP, and employs about 75% of the population
- Tourism one of the largest industries with tourism revenue significant part of budget
- Need to significantly invest in human capital for long term sustainable development.



#### LDC Specific UN Actions

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- The First United Nations Conference on the LDCs was held in Paris in 1981. It adopted a comprehensive Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the 1980s for the LDCs.
- The Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCII) was held in 1990, also in Paris, adopting the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s.
- The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCIII) was held in Brussels, hosted by the European Union from 14 to 20 May 2001.

### 3. Brief look at the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the UN LDC-IV (Con't)



#### Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA)

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- In May 2001, Third UN Conference on the LDCs (UN LDC III) declared the BPoA for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010
- Aimed to ensure sustainable development and poverty eradication for LDCs during the decade 2001-2010
- Contains 7 mutual commitments and 30 international development goals with indicators, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration
- The 7 commitments include good governance, building human and institutional capacities, reducing vulnerability, and mobilizing financial resources



#### Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA)

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- Some of the goals and targets of the BPoA are:
  - Attain a GDP growth rate of at least 7 percent per annum.
  - Increase the ratio of investment to GDP to 25 percent per annum
  - Achieving a 50 percent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults
  - Halving malnutrition among pregnant women and among preschool children in LDCs by 2015
  - Modernizing and expanding ports and airports and their ancillary facilities to enhance their capacities by 2010
  - Donor countries providing more than 0.20 percent of their GNP as ODA to LDCs: continue to do so and increase their efforts



#### The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV)

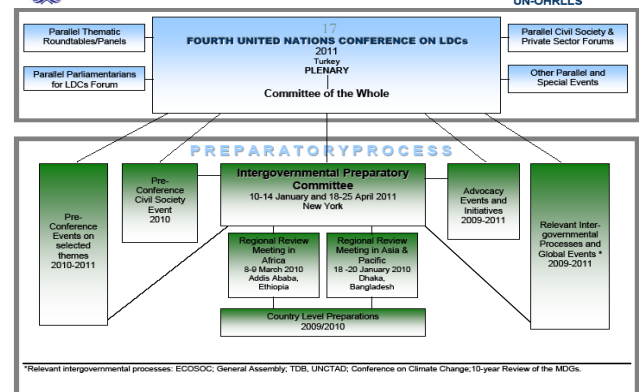
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- Turkey, 9-13 May 2011
- Review the implementation of the BPoA (National, Regional and Global) and adopt follow up strategies
- Opportunity to reflect on the failure of BPoA to achieve sustained results intended and to mainstream adaptation needs in the broader development agenda for the LDCs.
- A Civil Society Forum (CSF) will be held parallel to the official LDC IV Conference
- LDC Watch will lead and coordinate the civil society process towards the LDC IV. It is engaging and intervening in the preparatory process towards LDC IV by attending official events as well as organising events in parallel to the process.



#### Official Roadmap by the OHRRLLS

UN-OHRRLLS



#### Civil Society process towards LDC IV

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- **National consultations** ongoing in the 49 LDCs
- **Regional consultations**
  - **Africa LDC assembly** - March 2010 in Addis Ababa
  - **Pacific LDC assembly** - August 2010 in Vanuatu
  - **Asia LDC assembly** – November 2010 in Bangkok
- **Global consultation** planned for February 2011 during the World Social Forum in Dakar, Senegal
- Culmination with the **Civil Society Forum (CSF)** parallel to the LDC IV in Istanbul in May 2011. A global civil society report based on these consultations is planned to be released at the CSF.



#### Participation of Civil Society Organisations

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- CSOs are expected to suggest substantive alternatives for the LDC programme of action for the next decade
- As coordinators of the Civil Society track to LDC IV we will shortly start a forum in our website <http://www.ldcwatch.org> to collect inputs from Civil Society members towards that alternative agenda
- High turnout of CSOs with a concrete alternative agenda and demands in Turkey can send a strong message to world leaders.
- Participation of one male and one female civil society representative from each LDC will be supported by the UNOHRRLLS
- Information on UN accreditation for Civil Society Organisations will begin shortly

## Question and answer

### Question and Answer

Q. What are the mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the BPoA at the national and international level?

A. All LDCs governments monitors and evaluate the BPoA. They produce yearly report and 3 years progress report by ministry of planning at national level. UNDP, Millennium Development Goal and ECOSOC are also monitoring and evaluating at the regional and international level.

Q. Who decide on the graduation of the LDCs?

A. The ECOSOC decide on which country should be graduate from the LDCs list.



Mr. Young Kim Eng, President of the PDP, Cambodia asked questions

Q How does Nepal achieve or maintaining their commitment? Does the government do it alone or cooperation with Civil Society?

A. The development and implementation of the BPoA in Nepal is better than some LDCs country but is not perfect, as we know that Nepal meet with long civil war 10 years ago. And the civil society in Nepal is new but they are very active in persuading the government to implement BPoA. So it means that the government commits to work with civil society to maintain the progress of the BPoA in Nepal. We also have many problems on education, maternal mortality rate, and health.

Q. Does the civil society work closely with the government in Nepal?

Yes, the civil societies work closely with the government in Nepal. There is no hard feeling between government and civil society.

Q What are the difference between 0.2 GDP of ODA in the commitment of the BPoA and 0.7 GDP of ODA in Montreal, does this means .9% total of ODA commitment?

A. The OECD countries has committed to 0.7 of their countries GDP for development and 0.2 of this 0.7 GDP are committed to LDCs but in reality in 2009 they only contributed up to 0.09 of the GDP to LDCs, less than half of the commitment of 0.2 GDP.



## 4. Status of the Implementation of the BPoA by the government of Cambodia,

### Presentation

**H.E. Theng Panhathun,  
Deputy Director General  
Directorate for Planning,  
Ministry of Planning,**

Afterwards, H.E. Panhathun gave a presentation on the progress of implementation of the BPoA by the government of Cambodia.

He showed to the participants following point:

To response to the BPoA and commitments, the government of Cambodia has prepared:

- National Socio-Economic Development second 5 years plan (2001-2005)
- National Poverty Reduction Poverty (2003-2005)
- Cambodia National Millennium Development Goal (2003)
- National Population Policy (2003)
- National Strategies Development Plan( 2006-2010)
- Rectangular Strategy
- Integrate the BPOA in the NSDP with mechanism for monitoring

### **The implementation of the BPoA of the Cambodia goverment:**

The government of Cambodia has approved the following strategies for BPoA implementation:

#### **1. Commitment 1: Fostering People-Centered Policy Framework**

- Rectangular Strategy Phase I (2003-2008) and II (2008-2013) for growth, employment, equity and efficiency, the Good Governance is the core of the Rectangular Strategy.
- National Strategies Development Plan (NSDP) (2006-2010) and (209-2013)
- Prepared the mechanism for monitoring and evaluation NSDP
- Ministry and Government institute prepared the strategies to NSDP implementation
- Prepared annual NSDP progress report and half mandate report and NSDP implementation evaluation report.
- Delayed the mandate of the NSDP to follow the government mandate (2009-2013)

#### **2. Commitment 2: Good Governance at National and International Levels**

- Electoral process through democracy: An independent National Election Commission conducts the democratic elections based on full adult franchise with the last was held in 2003. In 2007, the second commune election was held, which further exercise the democratic process in the grass root level. Cambodia has conducted a national general election for its fourth mandate in July 27, 2008, organized and supervised by an independent National Election Committee. Moreover, Cambodia also conducted a sub national election on 17 May 2009.





- Anti- corruption: The Royal Government is well aware that the Anti-Corruption Law is an indispensable legal instrument to fight corruption effectively.
- Improvement in the legal and judicial systems: by focusing on the development of a sound legal framework and enhancing professional capacity, independence and neutrality of the judiciary, which are crucial for strengthening the rule of law.
- Administration reform: A National Programme for Administration Reform has been taken up around four strategic objectives: improving delivery of public services; enhancing pay salaries and performance; developing capacity of people and institutions; and promoting use of information and communication technology. Innovation tools like Priority Mission Groups (PMGs) have been designed to accelerate special tasks.

### **3. Commitment 3: Building Human and Institutional Capacities**

- Strengthening government ministry and institute capacity and form priority group and allocated budget program.
- Creating the mechanism for participation, consultation, and discussion
- Approving the decentralization and deconcentration law
- Straightening the national policy and national level and under national level
- Increasing tax revenue and preparing priority budget for local
- Strengthening local government capacities, Quality education , Health service , Gender policy,
- Implementing National population policy

### **4. Commitment 4: Building Productive Capacities to Make Globalization Work for LDCs**

- Cambodia’s accession to the WTO in September 2003.
- improving the SMEs
- developing Local infrastructure
- building human resource for the new technology
- increasing exportation to the international market

### **5. Commitment 5: Enhancing the Role of Trade in Development**

- Cross-cutting reforms: The RGC’s on-going reforms in various areas such as in governance, legal and judicial sector and in public administration as well as in infrastructures will contribute to a better climate for trade and investment by the private sector.
- Enhancing role of trade in Cambodia’s development: Along with ensuring a sound macroeconomic policy framework and improving policy predictability, the RGC’s priority is to develop human and institutional capacities, remove procedural and institutional bottlenecks to reduce transactions cost, take full advantage of market access opportunities, intensify horizontal and vertical diversification especially to boost productivity and move up the value chains, and promote competitiveness and sub regional/ regional cooperation to Cambodia’s exports and facilitate the integration of domestic enterprises into international economy.
- Overhauling legal framework and institutional structures: Cambodia has overhauled the legal framework, procedures and institutional structures in line with international standards including the implementation of harmonized customs nomenclature.

### **6. Commitment 6: Reducing Vulnerability and Protecting the Environment**

- Natural hazards: The RGC has been strengthened its disaster preparedness and mitigation measures along with comprehensive policies of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery.
- Creating the national agriculture strategies and national wide water resource policy

- Creating social protection policy to the vulnerable people to not depend on only the natural resource but also protection the environment.
- Reducing the investment that effect to the environment

**7. Commitment 7: Mobilizing Financial Resources**

- Preparing financial policy through public financial management reform as able to increasing the national revenue, improving the procurement, and creating internal auditing department in ministry and government institute.
- Straightening the efficiency of allocation the budget by increasing expend on the social development.
- Official Development Assistance flow: Cambodia remains highly aid-dependent at its present level of development. Cambodia’s urgent need is to rapidly move to a new and expanded era of partnership with the international community which, in the past, has provided extremely valuable financial and technical support in its fight against poverty.

**Question and answer**

Q. Development affect environment what do you think about that?

A. Yes it is true, that why there must be a study before any project can be decided to take place or not as to protect environment and on society. There must be a balance between the two.

Q. Does the government connection BPoA with MDGs?

A. The BPoA is the same with MDGs, with additional indicators;

Q. What is the method the government monitor and evaluate the BPoA?

A. The government works closely with Development Partners and Civil Society to discussion to evaluation the progress of BPoA and we have indicators for monitoring and evaluation. We have formed a committee for this purpose, that made of the World Bank, UNDP, and the Ministry of Planning.



## 5. Key issues and Floor discussion

### The worry of the Civil Society to BPoA

#### Plenary discussion

Facilitator by Ms.Thida Khus

In Plenary, Participants chose 5 topics to discuss on the issues of their concern: Trade, Good Governance, Education, Climate Change, and Gender and youth.

##### 1. Economic, Trade:

- Not sufficient measure to facilitate the production for export their products to other country.
- No effective policy to provide productive land for families. They would need at least 3 hectare per family;
- Not effective policy to help the SMEs with the raw material and export
- SMEs in Cambodia lack capacity to compete in an open trade.
- SMEs does not have access to credit and technology to be able to compete
- Cambodia Chamber of Commerce has not been active with small and medium business to market their product for export.
- Current measure and government interventions are not helping farmers for increasing their produces for export.
- The free economic zone is another gray zone where none of the country law are applicable. Is this policy benefitting the people.



##### 2. Good governance:

- Lack of enforcement of their commitment in BPoA for LDCs from developed countries;
- Should ODA funds funneled through the World Bank? The reason is the neo-liberalism paradigm and the high use of consultant cost that leave the recipient countries to minimal % of the aids. This is a movement from other countries to push for more ownership of the LDC countries to monitor the fund used.
- ODA funds should focus on the Human Development
- Citizens should have access to information and participate in monitoring on government activities and the use of budget; therefore all LDCs should have access to information law.
- Government should accept the youth policy and freedom of information law.
- Should look into the other countries who are taking advantage of LDC weak governance and exploit for their own economic gains at the expense of the poor and underrepresented. E.g. Singapore in the buying sand from Cambodia, causing a lot of problem with the environment, China investment in Cambodia

that cause a lot of problems with the environment and a lot of corruption, Thailand and Malaysia on trafficking and migrant workers, especially women.

### 3. Climate Change:

- There is no safety net for the poor people when they face with climate disaster
- There is no adequate measure in place for the sustainable livelihood program for the vulnerable
- Must find ways to build capacity of farmers to adapt to climate change
- Government should not deforestation in the picture of land concession
- Government should have a clear monitoring and evaluation policy and mechanism on extractive industry
- There is no clear social compensation for people affecting by climate change

### 4. Gender and Youth

- Developing strategies to protect labor migrants at the ASEAN Level.
- Review on policy and law enforcement
- Address the problem of human trafficking to the LDCs IV



### 5. Education

- Poor quality education program and services. Not enough school in remote and rural areas
- Must address the high rate of secondary school drop out of the students from the school. Must pay attention to the security of girls in going to school
- Limit qualified teachers at high school



### Next Plan for LCDs IV

- A group was formed to write a shadow report on the BPoA implementation of government of Cambodia
  - SILAKA is tasked to take the lead on the task in developing a concept note and approach LDC Watch International and ECOSOC Bangkok for support.
  - Should build more awareness BPoA to grass root level in Cambodia since this is important for CSO advocacy at the local and national level.
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## Attendance List

### LDCs Watch Cambodia at SILAKA on 02 December 2010

<b>N</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Institution</b>
1	Yeng Virak	M	Executive Director	CLEC
2	Abhas Ghimire	M	Program officer	LDC Watch
3	Oum Chanpanha	M	M&E, Publication coordinator	GAD/C
4	Aum Borany	F	Trainer	SILAKA
5	Keo Darith	M	PC	NICFEC
6	Ung Yekkhon	F	Executive Director	Amara
7	Pron Sory	M	Coordinator	COSP
8	Long Khet	M	Executive Director	YFP
9	Meas Sain	F	Project Officer	ADHOC
10	Chan Sereyrath	F	Volunteer	YRDP
11	Mouy Sochea	F	Project Officer	CEDAC
12	Prak Sokhany	F	Executive Director	CCSP
13	Meredith Hikman	F	volunteer	CCSP
14	Theng Pagnathun	M	DDG	MoP
15	Chhim Chhun	M	RP	CDRI
16	Chan Kunthea	F	Cordinator	CPWP
17	Khiev Vuthoun	M	Training Assistant	SILAKA
18	Moeun Sokmung	F	Media	Comfrel
19	keo Somoun	M	Trainer	SILAKA
20	Sak Sothea	M	Trainer	SILAKA
21	Dy Many	F	PO	Action Aid
22	Neb Sinthay	M	Executive Director	API
23	Im Phanim	M	Trainer	SILAKA
24	Tina Fraket	F	Advisor	Star Kampuchea
25	Mun Duong Ratanak	M	Technical officer	MoE
26	Horm Somnarg	M	Training Assistant	SILAKA
27	Doung Samphong	F	Deputy Executive Director	Star Kampuchea
28	Soeung Saroeu	F	SoFM	CCC
29	Pok Panka	F	Executive Director	CWCC
30	Sun Chansen	F	President	KYA
31	Yong Kimeng	M	President	PDP
32	Yim Nimda	F	Director	KWYC
33	Um Phanna	M	Office manager	SILAKA
34	Heng Leckhena	F	Admin Assistant	SILAKA
35	Thida Khus	F	Director	SILAKA
36	Men Moline	F	Training Assistant	SILAKA
37	Ry Sotharith	M	Trainer	SILAKA
38	Chan Bunthoeun	M	Network Admin	SILAKA