The Advocacy and Policy Institute

A Decade of Evolution

A compilation of API Accomplishments

August 2012

Table of Contents

About API

In 1993, Cambodia emerged from 30 years of devastation and isolation to begin its journey to become a democratic nation. After suffering the purge of all elders and experts in every field – health care, education, law and justice, religion, politics, business, social services – through death and flight during the Pol Pot years, Cambodia was shut off from the rest of the world during the years of Vietnamese rule. Cambodia was rebuilding in those years but an international embargo preventing outside support from the UN and Western countries left the task to be done with no infrastructure and residual scraps of knowledge from before 1975. Cambodia remained unexposed to 30 years of dramatic changes in every field and in technology. The 1993 Peace Accords and establishment of a framework for democracy led to rebuilding once again.

In early 2002, Pact Cambodia, under guidance from an Advocacy Advisory Committee composed of representatives from nine Cambodian and international NGOs, initiated research into advocacy campaigns conducted in Cambodia from 1997 to 2001. This research highlighted the pressing need for Cambodian civil society to strengthen their advocacy skills and to create stronger relationships with Government. To respond to this need the Advocacy and Policy Program (APP) was established in July 2003.

APP was housed with Pact Cambodia, an international NGO with headquarters in Washington D.C, USA. The goal was for the APP to become a sustainable and independent Cambodian organization. In 2007, APP adopted the 'Advocacy and Policy Institute' (API) as its name and registered with the Royal Government of Cambodia as a non-profit, nongovernmental organization. On January 1st, 2008 it gained full organizational independence from Pact Cambodia, becoming the first local NGO dedicated to Cambodia's specific advocacy needs through capacity-building, direct campaign action and policy development.

API's Vision

> The Advocacy and Policy Institute's vision is for a Cambodian nation that through poverty reduction and the protection of human rights creates a national culture of harmony with sustainable democratic, political, and economic stability.

API's Mission

The organization's mission is to serve the long term democratic and social development needs of Cambodia through the empowerment of people to interact with their government to protect their rights and provide for their needs. API is committed to working together with all national and international institutions who share its values to advocate for positive and peaceful social change. API seeks to encourage coordination among governments, citizens and the private sector.

API's Goal

The organization's goal is to increase Cambodia's democratic space by creating more effective advocates and responsive government institutions.

Values API brings to its programs and activities

1. All Cambodians have the right to participate, mobilize and express themselves in matters that affect their daily lives.

2. All matters should be resolved peacefully and justly according to the principles of our shared humanity.

3. Building capacity, particularly at the community level, is the most sustainable way of building a brighter future for all Cambodians.

4. Engaging with all social sectors ensures that when solutions are reached, they are of greatest benefit to the community.

5. Being transparent, accountable, independent, and non-partisan helps build an organization that has the respect and confidence of both the Cambodian people and its international supporters.

Strategic priorities and working principles

API views it as necessary to dedicate itself towards well-defined and specific areas in order to be truly effective. API has identified three priority areas (or pillars) that provide the long-term structural support needed to make it a critical provider and generator of Cambodian advocacy and policy endeavors.

Pillar I: Cultivating Grassroots Democracy

This pillar seeks to support community-based organizations, local government and local NGOs in the promotion and protection of human rights and the encouragement of democratic growth and participation.

Pillar II: Developing Issue-Based Advocacy

This pillar seeks to respond to existing and emerging issues by developing strategically-chosen issue-based advocacy activities through partnerships with NGOs and other important institutions and community stakeholders.

> 'Its (API's) skill to implicate local communities(advocacy) and Commune Councilors (policy) in a common process to strengthen the rule of law and equitable development.'
>
> ***API Evaluation page 25***

Pillar III: Empowering Cambodian Advocates

This pillar seeks to strengthen the capacity of Cambodian advocates from across all sectors—horizontally—and from the local to the national level—vertically—to engage with and influence government policy-makers.

These three pillars define API's role in Cambodian advocacy and policy development and its intention to generate policy and behavior change at all levels of government and across all sectors of the community. API promotes the sharing of resources, expertise and information by a range of community stakeholders in order to achieve positive outcomes. API engages with Cambodian and international NGOs, local and national government, UN agencies, international donors and embassies, and CBOs and community advocates to achieve the best possible and most sustainable outcomes. [1]

[1] Advocacy and Policy Institute, *API 3-Year Strategic Plan: 2008-2010*, page 3

The key strategies for enacting their vision and implementing the pillars were defined in an evaluation of API done in 2010. The four "main positive courses of action" are:

1. *Working with local government: supporting De-concentration and De-centralization.*

2. *Promoting an Access to Information Law: increasing understanding about public access to public information.*

3. *Building capacity for change: produce and implement quality training.*

4. *Influencing national policy and its implementation: highlighting and acting on national issues of concern.[2]*

Since beginning as APP with Pact and continuing as API programs have been linked through interlocking activities continually building API expertise and forwarding past successes. API's work in each of the four strategic areas show this.

Working with local government: supporting De-concentration and De-centralization.

"Cambodia faces tremendous challenges: implementing the De-centralization and De-concentration policy is essential to building an effective and efficient local government system which is accountable and responsive to local people; individual and territorial disparities are severe and growing; there is weak planning and insubstantial control over natural resources, energy and the extractive industries; and there are effects of climate change on the country. Additionally, corruption, harassment and violence against government opposition, lack of accountability and transparency, and partisan politics all flourish."[3]

The 2010 evaluation describes how API's work builds over program cycles:

Local communities are increasingly aware of their rights and the role communities can play in supporting their own development. API's effective activities with rural communities can basically be divided into direct capacity building through training sessions and workshops, and indirect through community forums. Work with grassroots (rural) community organizations (community based organizations, provincial NGOs and more recently Commune Councils) is a vital core activity of API, echoing and building on the previous essential work of the Advocacy and Policy Program of Pact and reflecting API's mission. Previously, Grassroots Democracy Program activities primarily encouraged community advocacy action to protect livelihoods; currently, this Program works more and more with the Freedom of Information Program to support communities and their Commune Councilors to understand the roles and responsibilities of Commune Councils and encourage Councils to disclose, promote and gain access to public information.[3]

A villager raises the issue of lack of drinking water in the dry season in an API forum.

Two community leaders from Tror Pieng Tlork village collected thumb prints from 110 community members for submission to the local and provincial authorities and the line ministries. The petition successfully asked for 400 hectares of community forest to remain with the local people and to be protected from a government investment plan involving a private company.

API Progress Report 08-10 page 20

---

[2]Advocacy and Policy Institute, *Advocacy and Policy Evaluation Report*, 2010, page 6
[3]Ibid, page 21
[4]Ibid, page 15

API (and before as APP with Pact) used its training materials and publications to first educate community groups and members about grassroots advocacy. Training sessions produced advocacy plans that achieved results. More significantly, it produced local community based organizations (CBOs) and NGOs with advocacy skills that were used to provide echo trainings in the community and to continue to advocate at the local level.

API began using forums at the commune level to allow citizens to bring issues to their elected representatives in 2008. CBOs and NGOs used skills learned in advocacy trainings to help raise issues.

Diverse training participants.

Placing Commune Councilors and representatives from CBOs and provincial NGOs together in the same training has created a precedent that appears to be promoting greater understanding, communication and ultimately cooperation among participants. The training, whether about advocacy, access to information or the roles and responsibilities of Commune Councils, allows participants to learn to appreciate other people's individual roles and community responsibilities. After the training, people are generally encouraged to work together on community issues, share problems and communally voices their concerns.

API Evaluation page 31

In the following 3 years, API integrated Freedom of Information concepts into its local level programs. Trainings and materials explaining the role of the Commune Council were added. Recognizing the lack of both basic equipment and administrative skills, API furnished commune offices with file cabinets, essential documents and materials for dissemination to the public. Training commune staff how to store and disseminate information and encouraging the public to access information supported implementation of project goals.

'API's booklet about Commune Councils is used at meetings.'

API Evaluation page 28

Recognizing the importance of district level governance and role in supporting communes to utilize local resources, API in 2011 began working with District Councils is expanding this in their 2011-2013 plan.

Appendix A summarizes API projects over the last 10 years.

Promoting an Access to Information Law: increasing understanding about public access to public information.

Four major challenges inhibit citizens' access to information in Cambodia:

1. There is no legislation providing a comprehensive right to information;
2. Government disclosure practices are weak;
3. Citizens are not informed about access to information and make few demands for disclosure;
4. Government officials and others misunderstand basic concepts underlying access to information.[5]

API internalized these points through their work in the early years. As they implemented advocacy trainings, developed publications and mentored local advocacy efforts, their appreciation for access to information deepened. This was especially true when they supported passing the Anti-Corruption Law in 2010.

In October 2003, API (then APP) in cooperation with other like-minded organizations instigated a Freedom of Information (FOI) Working Group (now called the Access to Information Working Group or A2I). The group brought together key government officials, donors, private sector and civil society stakeholders to raise an awareness of freedom of information and to push for the passage of a freedom of information law to an international-standard.[6]

[5]Advocacy and Policy Institute, *Access to Information in Cambodia*, July 2012, page 5
[6]Advocacy and Policy Institute, *Progress Report July 2003-December 2007,* page 14

API plays a leading role in the FOI Working Group: facilitating and supporting regular meetings; organizing workshops to discuss, share and learn good practices from other countries; and developing educational materials to raise public awareness of the importance of access to public information held by public institutions.   API provided training to Working Group members.

API and the FOI Working Group use multiple strategies to promote passing a FOI law:

- Training of community members, commune councilors, NGOs and FOI Working Group members and parliamentarians to bring meaning to this little understood concept in Cambodia. This is paired with distribution of targeted publications.

- Holding commune and now district level forums to promote seeking of information by the public and disclosure by government staff.

- Bringing community members, CBOs and NGOs, peripheral and central government representatives, journalists and the private sector together to discuss the issues in national forums.

- Learning how to lobby parliamentarians in a more effective way.

- Preparing a model law now being considered by the National Assembly after failure of the National Assembly to pass the first draft of a FOI law.

- Mobilizing the media to hold roundtable discussions, call-in shows and radio dramas and providing materials and interview opportunities to the print media.

- Using sticker and leaflet campaigns to increase public awareness.

"The *Anti-Corruption Law* will lack effectiveness if we don't have the *Access to Information Law*."

Kul Panha, Director of the Committee for Free & Fair Elections

The 2010 evaluation report again summarized API's linked programs and strategies:

> *As far as freedom of information is concerned, the relevance of API's approach in the provinces is threefold. Firstly, each target commune… welcomes and appreciates this support as this is in line with de-centralization policies, local democracy and governance. Secondly, it improves local people's access to commune information, increases their knowledge about the right to access public information and supports their participation in commune development activities and meetings. Thirdly, by working with API, people gain confidence, become empowered, and take ownership over community activities.[7]*

The Information Minister, H.E. Khiev Kanharith, at a workshop emphasized that access to information is a very important component of good governance, as it enhances accountability and transparency. He stated that the Cambodian (government) must be prepared to recognize citizens' rights to access information from the legislative, executive, and judicial bodies.

Access to Information in Cambodia, page 15

[7]Advocacy and Policy Institute, *Advocacy and Policy Evaluation Report*, 2010, page 25

Building capacity for change: produce & implement quality training.

In its years as APP with Pact, API staff developed an expertise in advocacy skills and training others in these skills. Appreciation for this skill set is often spoken of by those from the government, NGOs and communities who have attended API trainings, used their published materials and worked with them in networks advocating on an issue. API responds to requests and conducts needs assessments when developing trainings and training materials. To the extent possible, which is limited by time and funding constraints, API mentors trainees as they use skills acquired during training. Because the training and follow-up are targeted and adapted to meet locally identified needs, skills are used.

The 2010 evaluation report describes the effectiveness of API strategies:

Capacity building is a core activity for API and one for which it is duly praised. The practical training skills of the staff are excellent, particularly when working with rural communities where the training is delivered at the appropriate level. The training methods enable the participants to learn from each other as well as the trainer. Training is effective and relevant to the needs of community participants. This is confirmed by reviewing the post training reports but more importantly through discussion with API's stakeholders…. Participants now understand that 'advocacy' is not about action against the Government, and understand the value of access to public information to their daily lives.

"After attending this six-day training course by APP, I now understand the concept of advocacy and how it can be applied at a grassroots level. Advocacy does not mean to work against the Government as other people have said. I believe community advocates will use the skills and knowledge they got from this course to more effectively address the concerns of their communities."

Mr. Uy Sam Oeun, Deputy Governor of Dam Bei District, Kampong Cham Province

"This type of training allows us to be more effective in carrying out our work responsibilities and increases our ability to advocate for HIV/AIDS support to our superiors, colleagues, and friends. These skills are not only useful for our professional work, but also help our personal lives as we need to advocate and negotiate with all sorts of people every day."

H.E Ing Vuthy, Vice Chair of the National AIDS Authority, Nov.,2006

The majority of provincial participants contacted during the evaluation admitted that prior to the training they had little knowledge and understanding of advocacy and freedom of information and its importance. Now, with improved knowledge and new skills, the roles of community activists and Commune Councilors are stronger along with increased confidence and the ability to organize successful advocacy campaigns.[8]

The need for advocacy training was identified in the survey that culminated in the formation of API. The void was obvious in responses to APP advocacy training in the first three years. Over 80% of participants stated that they integrated acquired knowledge and skills into their activities and 33 CBO's provided echo training to 1,364 participants. API was contracted to train staff from local and international NGOs and 53 partner organizations. APP trained Pact and sub-grantee staff in advocacy skills as a part of a national anti-corruption campaign. Training for federation and trade union staff in partnership with the American Center for International Labor Solidarity Cambodia supported their efforts to promote and implement labor laws.

Influencing national policy and its implementation: highlighting and acting on national issues of concern.

Advocacy is commonly understood as actions against the government. Ministries, such as the Ministry of Health, told NGOs to replace the Khmer term for advocacy with a phrase meaning 'seeking support'. API and others are effecting a change in this belief:

API in 2008 set out to make advocacy and its activities part of Cambodian society: to foster advocacy skills among communities facing threats to their livelihoods; influence national and international NGOs to use advocacy as a tool to help meet their individual goals; and encourage Parliament and Government to re-assess their understanding of the word.

Sub-national government, particularly Commune Councils are slowly changing their attitude towards the word 'advocacy' and its meaning. This new understanding is having a positive impact on reactions to advocacy campaigns by the Government at all levels and is considered to be supporting changes towards more democracy.[9]

One encouraging example is that the Ministries of the Interior and Information signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve public information and communication strategies of sub-national administration in 2011. The MoI Minister stated that he sought to promote participation, accountability, and transparency at the sub-national level. Following from this strategy, the provincial information officials have been appointed in all provinces in Cambodia.

Access to Information, page 13

Initially API/APP concentrated activities at the local level with CBOs, NGOs and community members. The FOI (now Access to Information) Working Group was the first of the national networks, working groups and coalitions that are directed at national level. API and others have learned how to affect this level involving Khmer and international NGOs, UN partners, donors and international campaigns.

The Access to Information Law Campaign is implemented by the Access to Information Working Group led by API in partnership with 3 UN agencies and the United Kingdom based Article 19 organization. This campaign has engaged with Members of Parliament, the Senate and National Assembly, and the Royal Government of Cambodia on access to information legislation.

CBOs & NGO Network Representatives from 6 provinces do face to face lobbying with 11 Senators .

API led and facilitated the Civil Society Lobby Group. This group prepared for lobbying and debriefing the National Assembly and developed capacity of group members. An indication of the active communication and collaboration between the Cambodian Parliament, API and other partners can be seen in the invitations of the National Assembly and the Senate to attend regular monthly meetings and events.

Access to information principles were integrated into political party platforms in 2008. All political parties promised to pass the access to information law in the 2009-2013 sessions.

[9]Advocacy and Policy Institute, *Advocacy and Policy Evaluation Report*, 2010, page 31   8

API with various partners has produced position and issue papers including "The Access to Budget Information in Education Sector" and the results of 189 advocacy campaigns in 2010. API coordinated a review of 310 Cambodian laws and 188 sub-decrees and released the results in "Review of Legislation Relating to Access to Information".

National Workshops bring Members of Parliament, Ministers, local and international NGOs, CBOs and community members together to discuss ideas and share information. Other civil society groups have become involved in access to information campaigns after API brought groups together in a series of 9 sectoral consultations between 2010 and 2012. Combined efforts and reaching out to issue specific groups, such as environment or extraction issue groups, has encouraged local and international NGOs to include FOI activities in their plans and increased donor support.

API has learned how crucial it is to network and work together to be able to affect policy and create change. The Networks API leads and participates in are given in Appendix C.

API as an NGO

API defines itself as a learning organization. Staff are proud to be able to increase their knowledge through operations, challenges, and experiences. Lessons learned ensure that API develops and adopts strategies to meet challenges and to improve and strengthen the services necessary to achieve its mission and goal. Some lessons API has learned are:

- effective training must reflect the real needs of the target community rather than the aims of the service provider. APP (and API) became committed to continually improving and updating training to suit the varying requirements of participants and their communities.

- jointly organized activities between NGOs, the Cambodian Parliament and Government lead to more effective cooperation among the three with greater participation and more positive results.

- patience, being prepared to put aside a large amount of time and good preparation are essential for strategic communication with government officials and administration.

- activities are easier if Members of Parliament and their provincial bases are identified and then invited to participate in civil society organization activities.

- briefing meetings with key secretaries and assistants National Assembly and Senate Commissions are an important way to indirectly lobby the Chairman and other Commission members.

API acquired effective management skills after transforming from Pact Cambodia's Advocacy and Policy Program into an independent NGO. It is now established as one of Cambodia's leading advocacy capacity building institutions, with a reputation for advocacy training courses, effective and accessible publications in English and Khmer and heading the campaign for a law on freedom of information.

A list of API publications can be seen in Appendix B

With technical support from Pact, VSO and Arcadia Associates Inc. and its Board of Directors, as well as short-term consultants, API established a management system responsible for strategic planning, monitoring and evaluating programs and for transparent, accountable use of funds. API's Board of Directors meets annually. API formed a Management Committee that meets regularly to manage programs. API prepares three-year strategic plans with annual revisions. Proposal and report writing skills have been developed. Capacity building for staff is considered essential and API policy promotes ongoing studying.

API provides training consultancies both to widen advocacy skills in Cambodia and provide income for API activities. Primary funding is grants which API has successfully received.

API Funding and Expenditures

year	major donors	donor income	API consultancy	total income	annual spending
2003	British Embassy, ICCO, Forum Syd, Oxfam GB, DCA, CIDSE	237,876	-	237,876	84,047
2004	ICCO, Forum Syd, Diakonia, Oxfam GB, DCA, CIDSE	152,419	-	152,419	290,213
2005	Forum Syd, DCA, PACT Cambodia	60,000	-	60,000	80,802
2006	ICCO, Forum Syd, DCA	60,037	-	60,037	32,700
2007	ICCO, DCA	54,927	-	54,927	1,097
2008	British Embassy, ICCO, Danida, Forum Syd, DCA, World Vision,	199,134	30,206	229,160	185,958
2009	British Embassy, ICCO, Danida, TAF, Forum Syd	194,942	31,697	226,639	213,477
2010	British Embassy, ICCO, EED, Danida, TEI, TAF,	311,499	18,341	329,840	316,622
2011	British Embassy, ICCO, EED, Danida, TEI, UNDEF, UNESCO, VFI,	407,318	16,474	423,792	333,321
2012*	British Embassy, ICCO, EED, TAF, DCA	147,639	11,295	164,113	151,802
	Totals	$ 1,825,791	$ 108,013	$ 1,938,803	$1,760,039

Acknowledgments

Many organisations and individuals deserve credit for their tireless efforts to support API's Mission of serving the long term democratic and social development needs of Cambodia through the empowerment of people to interact with their government to protect their rights and provide for their needs. They have shared their values to advocate for positive and peaceful social change.

API has contributed to increase Cambodia's democratic space by creating more effective advocates and responsive government institutions with the invaluable support of all donors, API's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, advisors and short-term consultants together with the enthusiasm of partners both at sub-national and national levels.

To name a few, they are:

Staff:
Chea Chandy, Chea Sopheap, Chhit Maria, Chhorn Somaly, Chhum Sarany, Chum Chinit, Dara Rith, Heng Thou, Heng Sophanna, Hor Chakriya, Kann Sotheavy, Keam Han, Khim Nina, Kurt Macleod, Lam Socheat, Man Vanpannit, Muong Chanisai, Neb Sinthay, Nhem Sary, Nuon Virak, Ny KeoPonha, Phan Phorpbarmey, Pol Ham, Ros Sotha, Samrith Sambo, Suong Kalika, Tieng Sophorn, Yin Mounirath, Yoib Meta.

Board of Directors:
Chea Chandy, Haidy Ear Dupuy, Meas Nee, Phon Yutsakara, Rebacca (Pem) F. Catalla, Soeurng Chandara, Yang Saing Koma.

Volunteer Advisors:
Francine Silver Taylor, John Authorine, Katherine De Bruyn, Kristina Kellas, Lin Collis, Sven Equist and Victeria Victoria.

Experts:
Dr. Raymond Leo, Katie Gibson, Kong Phallack, Lay Samkol, Ms. Catherine Marie Cecil, Sek Sarom…and others.

Donors:
Danchurch Aid/Christian Aid (DCA), DanChurchAid (DCA), Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED), EveryChild, Forum Syd, Handicap International France, Health Unlimited, Interchurch Organization for Development Co-operation (ICCO), Pact Cambodia, Royal Danish Embassy (Danida), Thailand Enviroment Institute (TEI), The Asia Foundation, The British Embassy (BE), The United National Democracy Fund (UNDEF), USAID Indonesia, Result for Development and World Vision International…etc.

Partners, Networks and NGOs:
A2I WG, CSLG, TAI, CRRT, WGPD, NACOC, FACT, CPN, CISA, VSG, COWS, PAC/S, PNKS, MB, LWD, AFD, TDSP, MODE,

National and Local Authority Partners:
Ministry of Interior, Chhbar Mon Municipality, Kampong Chhnang Municipality, Pursat Municipality, Mongkolborie District Council, Sammeaki Meanchey District Council, Kirivoan Commune Council, Svay Rumpear Commune Council, Toul Ampil Commune Council, Sedthei Commune Council, Thlok Vien Commune Council, Kouk Ballangk Commune Council, Ta Lam Commune Council, Angk Romeas commune Council, Preak Tnoat Commune Council, Pnov Commune Council and Sala Visai Commune Council.

Other individuals, organisations and networks who have contributed in specific activities.

Appendix A: API Projects

Years	Project Name	Project Goal
2003-2007	Advocacy and Policy Program Development	Ensuring that civil society organizations—most working on securing development and human rights for vulnerable populations—possessed the technical knowledge to effectively develop, implement, and monitor advocacy campaigns.
2008-2010	Grassroots Democracy Project	To promote democratic participation and human rights at the grassroots level by educating and supporting CBOs, local government (commune councils), and local NGOs, so that they are more effective at advocating for their communities' needs.
2008-2009	Training curriculum and 5-day advocacy skills workshop on human trafficking	Strengthen partnership and coordination within WV NGOs in the region through establishment of regional mechanism to provide strategic oversight & guidance to the project and Regional Anti Trafficking Working Group.
2008-2010	The Advocacy Capacity Building Project	To build more Cambodian Civil Society Organizations to become proficient in designing, managing, implementing and evaluating advocacy campaigns and initiatives.
2008-2010	National Forum for Discussion, Sharing and Learning	To provide an opportunity for NGOs, civil society, government and development partners to open dialogue on the concerned issues as well as to find out the common understanding on governance of land and natural resources in Cambodia.
2008-2010	Commune Information Disclosure (CID) Project	To mainstream/integrate access to information within the decentralization and de-concentration process in Cambodia for better public engagement in the development process and the improvements of livelihoods.
2008-2012	Support to Improved Access to Information in Cambodia Project	To increase public access to public institutions, information and the legislative process through a coordinated campaign that will encourage the Government of Cambodia and the National Assembly to adopt a FOI law and develop a culture of maximum information disclosure.
2011-2012	Enhancing the Democratic Space	To strengthen civil society networks to effectively collaborate with and influence the Cambodian Government and Parliament to be more accountable and to take action on critical issues.
2012	Enhancing People's Participation In One Window Service	To promote access response to the demand for better services and governance in 3 municipalities in 3 provinces. Raise citizen awareness and participation in municipal government affairs, provide a platform for citizens to voice their concerns and support the effectiveness of one window service delivery in responding to the needs of citizens.
2012-2013	People's Access to Public Information (P-API)	To improve the citizens' access to public information in order to achieve social accountability and transparency, to strengthen administrative and management procedures and to improve local authorities' response to the needs of local communities in Cambodia.
2011-2013	Strengthening Cambodian Sub National Democratic Development	To promote transparency and accountability within the Decentralization and De-concentration framework in Cambodia by improving capacity among sub-national officials and elected council members in 3 target District Councils and strengthening the voice of local organizations and people to participate in local government.
2012-2014	Promoting the Effectiveness Of Public Expenditure in Local Education (PEOPLE)	To promote public accountability and enhance the effectiveness of public expenditure in the education sector, particular for early childhood by conducting evidence-based research and advocacy activities.

Appendix B: API Publications

Title	Distributed
Handbooks	
Advocacy in Cambodia: Increasing Democratic Space	500
Advocacy Handbook: A Practical Guide to Increasing Democracy in Cambodia	1,000
Advocacy Expert series (5 books)	88,820
Gender Discrimination and advocacy	12,000
Grassroots Advocacy	20,000
Grassroots Advocacy Manual	50
Advocacy in Cambodia	500
A2I Handbook	2,000
FOI Political Platform	15,000
Parliament Handbook	5,560
Papers and Reports	
Advocacy in National Resource Management	
Issue Briefing paper	
Baseline Survey Report: The Access to Information Situation in 13 Communes in Kompot, Kompong Speu and Kompong Thom in Cambodia, 2010	
NGO Network Advocacy Assessment Analysis	
Cambodia Assessment Report on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice	
Introduction to Access to Information in Cambodia, 2010	
Legal review on Cambodian laws and Sub-degree relevant to Access to Information	
Access to Information Workshop: The Need of Legal Framework and Public Information Disclosure, 2011	
Booklets	
FOI Political Platform Handbook	15,000
Role & Responsibilities of the Government in Promoting Democratic Accountability	5,000
Role & Responsibilities of the Commune Council and Citizen's Rights	10,866
Role & Responsibilities of the Sub-National Administration to Promote Access to Information	18,000
Human Rights Tools	7,500
Commune information booklets designed for 12 Commune Councils	22,925
One Window Services	12,000
Posters, Brochures & Stickers	
Commune information posters designed for 4 Commune Councils	4,700
FOI Poster	31,200
One Window Service—Service Prices	9,615
FOI Sticker	176,800
Road Finding sticker	20,000
One Window Service—Legalization Service and Role and responsibility of DO	88120
FOI Brochure	204,428

Curricula
Access to Information (A2I) Training Curriculum Manual for CSOs (5 days)
A2I Training Curriculum Manual for Commune Councilors and CBOs (3 days)
Information Management Training Curriculum for Commune Councilors (3 days)
Advanced Advocacy Training Manual (6 days)
Advocacy Expert Training Manual for CSOs (30 days)
Advocacy Skill Training Manual for CSOs (5 days)
Grassroots Advocacy Training Manual for Local CSOs (5 days)
Advocacy Training Manual for Commune Councilors-CC (3 days)
Lobby Skills Training Manual (3 days)
Advocacy in Gender Discrimination Training Manual for CSOs, Government and Private Sector (3 days)
Advocacy Training Curriculum in the Fishery Sector for CSOs (5 days) by API and FACT
Advocacy on Human Trafficking Training Manual (5 days) by API, World Vision, Oxfam Québec
Advocacy Training Materials and Session Plan on People with Disability Issue (5 days) by API, Handicap International and ABC
Advocacy Training Materials and Session Plan on Extractive Industry Issue (3 days) by API and CRRT
Advocacy Training Materials and Session Plan on Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS (3 days) by API, DCA/CA and National AIDS Authority
Advocacy Skills Training Materials and Session Plan on Health Sector (3 days) by API and Danish Red Cross (DRC)
Advocacy Skill Training Materials and Session Plan in Education Sector (2 days) by API and NGO Education Partnership (NEP)
Grassroots Advocacy Training Materials and Session Plan in Promoting Older People Rights (3 days) by API and HelpAge International
Advocacy Skills Training Materials and Session Plan on Health and Indigenous Issue (10 days) by API and Health Unlimited
Advocacy Skills Training Materials and Session Plan on Child Rights (3 days) by API, EveryChild and NGO CRC
Advocacy Skill Training Materials on Session Plan on Labor Rights (3 days) by API and ACIL

Appendix C: Networks API Works With and API Partners

Acronym	Network	# of members	API role
A2I WG	Access to Information Working Group (formerly the Freedom of Information Working Group)	19	Leader & Coordinator
CSLG	Civil Society Lobby Group	5	Leader
TAI	The Access Initiative Coalition, Cambodia	4	Leader
CRRT	Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency	7	Core member
WGPD	Working Group for Partnerships in Decentralization	60	Steering Committee Member
NACOC	National Advocacy Conference Organizing Committee	15	Core member
FACT	Fisheries Action Coalition Team		Partner
CPN	Community Peace Network	24	Partner
CISA	Coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability		Member
	Lobby Works International		Steering committee member

API partners at the sub-national level with the government and provincial NGOs.

Acronym	Name
	Mongkolborie District Council
	Sammeaki Meanchey District Council
	Kirivoan Commune Council
	Svay Rumpear Commune Council
	Toul Ampil Commune Council
	Sedthei Commune Council
	Thlok Vien Commune Council
	Kouk Ballangk Commune Council
	Ta Lam Commune Council
	Angk Romeas commune Council
	Preaek Tnoat Commune Council
	Pnov Commune Council
	Sala Visai Commune Council
VSG	Village Support Group
COWS	Cambodian Organisation for Women Support
PAC/S	Kampong Chhnang Provincial Association of Commune Sangkat
PNKS	Pounle Ney Kdey Sangkhum
MB	Mlub Baitong
LWD	Life With Dignity
	Save Cambodia's Wildlife
AFD	Action for Development
MODE	Minority Organisation for Development of Economic
TDSP	Tekdey Sovanphum

Appendix D: Advocacy stories

The following are successful advocacy campaigns between 2008-2010 as told by people involved in API's activities during API's 2010 evaluation.

Land grabbing: Banteay Meanchey

This involved grabbing 300 hectares of community land in Kork Romeath Commune by a company backed by a military group. Before API training, the CBOs* and local people did not know what advocacy was or how to organize a campaign. After participating in a training and receiving API publications, the CBOs and local citizens drafted a petition, collected thumb prints, got technical support from API's provincial partner (Village Support Group), and sought information and eventual legal assistance from NGOs using contact information in API's Grassroots Advocacy Handbook. They brought the petition to the President of the National Assembly who asked the provincial governor to solve the issue. The land was returned to the people allowing them to continue livelihood and farming activities.

Forestry Communities: Kampong Thom Province

Prior to 2008 there were no forestry communities in the Meanrith Commune. Increasing exploitation by local citizens and others had the potential to lead to diminishing returns and unsustainable use of commune forestry resources. The commune council took the initiative to create forestry communities in the commune.

At the outset, there was strong resistance from the local citizens who believed such communities would limit their rights and their access to forest areas they traditionally benefited from. The commune council organized meetings and home-to-home visits to bring the messages of the importance of having organized forestry communities, to give opportunity for clarification of misunderstandings and to raise awareness about their rights to benefit from the forest communities. After this, six forestry communities were established from 2008-2009. The commune council also advocated the Forestry Administration to provide technical assistance in establishing the forestry communities.

Commune councilors and CBOs encountered during the API evaluation were convinced that these communities contribute to the maintenance of natural resources and the sustainable livelihoods of the people. These results are attributable to the API grassroots advocacy training course where they gained knowledge about advocacy and participated in training exercises together. This led to improved mutual understanding and cooperation: an ideal approach/strategy to future sustainable partnerships.

Fishing Rights: Kampong Thom Province.

Given relatively long distances between lakes and residential areas, local citizens could not prevent ubiquitous illegal fishing and over-exploitation activities in their fishing areas. The Commune Council and CBOs organized an advocacy campaign. They brought local citizens and perpetrators illegally fishing and preventing fishing by local citizens together to discuss the issues. They lodged a complaint and discussed the issue with authorities at district and provincial levels, including Fishery Administration officials and police, to get their cooperation and support. They brought these authorities to talk with the perpetrators, who finally agreed not to fish in the areas again and to allow local people to fish.

Forest Reserve Land: Kompong Thom Province

People from Veal Oh Kdey village were concerned about 4,500 hectares of forest reserved as economic concession land and inaccessible to local people. The community had the opportunity to discuss this for the first time with Provincial Forest Administration leaders. As a result, the government's economic land concession plan has been cancelled and the land has become officially registered by the government as a community forest area. Local people now have access to forest resources.

*CBO—community-based organization

Pollution of a lake: Kampong Thom Province.

A Monkey Farm was draining monkey manure into a nearby lake killing fish, polluting the water and affecting people's health. CBO leaders knew it was a big company and had to be dealt with at higher authority levels. Having received API training and participated in API forums, they felt confident as they were aware of the strategies to advocate for change. They took day and night time photos as evidence, defined actors and lodged a petition to the District Governor, police, environment officials and Provincial Council staff. A meeting was proposed with the farm owner. Given the well organized activities and evidence, the CBOs were able to convince the company not to do such acts again. The CBOs acknowledged their success was due to knowledge gained from advocacy training, technical support and advice from API's provincial partners – the Cambodian Organization for Women's Support and the Minority Organization for Development of Economy.

Land Dispute: Kampong Thom Province.

This case began with the establishment of forestry community by the Forestry Administration. The Administration officials came to demarcate and map the forest community. They returned to announce the total land area for the community was 2,204 hectares. Local CBOs and people knew this was wrong and challenged the Administration and commune authority. They were labeled as oppositionists and uncooperative. The CBOs worked with local citizens to organize a campaign where they used GPS to confirm that the Administration data was incorrect, collected thumb prints on a petition and brought their group to Phnom Penh to lodge the complaint with the Office of the Council of Ministers. The campaign was successful and the Forestry Administration granted 2,891 hectares to the forestry community in Ou Thnoung Community.

> Additional examples taken from API reports show coordinated local efforts to resolve significant problems. API's focus on advocacy techniques and information about laws, regulations and government structure help protect community rights.

Illegal Fishing: Banteay Meanchey and Kompong Chhnang Provinces

There has been a reduction in illegal fishing in Kok Balaing commune in Banteay Meanchey Province and in Bralay Meas commune in Kampong Chhnang Province after key fisherman, communities, fishery lot owners and the local authorities discussed the Fishery Law and the rights of people to access fishery resources.

Land Provision: Banteay Meanchey Province

People and local authorities in 3 communes in Thmor Pok District supported each other in a grassroots advocacy campaign for legal land provision. Community petitions with thumbprints of 3,397 families along with evidence collected were sent to district, province and national offices, including the President of the Senate. The problems were solved with peaceful discussion and negotiation with both parties.

Land Dispute: Kompong Thom Province

Community leaders held effective meetings with Commune Councilors and complained to the District Land Conflict Resolution Committee in order to retrieve 6 hectares of land belonging to 150 families in Sala Santok village that had been seized by a powerful private businessman. The land was returned to the 150 families.

Land Provision: Banteay Meanchey Province

A community forestry group in Thmor Pouk District implemented their advocacy plan of writing letters to commune and district officials and the provincial governor, conducting a non-violent demonstration and writing a letter to the President of the Cambodian Parliament. Their efforts resulted in 132 hectares of state land and 30 hectares of deforested land being officially provided to 75 families as a social land concession.

Appendix E: Acronyms

A2I	Access to Information
API	Advocacy and Policy Institute
APP	Advocacy and Policy Program
CRRT	Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency
CSLG	Civil Society Lobby Group
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CISA	Coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability
CC	Commune Council
CBO	Community-Based Organization
EED	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst
FOI	Freedom of Information
ICCO	Interchurch Organization for Development Co-operation
MPs	Members of Parliament
MoNASRI	Ministry of National Assembly, Senate Relation and Inspections
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
TEI	Thailand Environmental Institute