



## **Advocacy and Policy Institute**

### **Programme Progress Report 1 January to 31 December 2011**

**Submitted to**  
ICCO & Kerk in Actie  
Jln. Tukad Batanghari IX No.8  
Panjer Denpasar Bali, 80225  
Indonesia, Tel: 62 361 8955801

**Submitted by**  
**Advocacy and Policy Institute (API)**

**Phnom Penh, 24 February 2012**

## Contents

<b>A. Introduction and an Overview of API and its Programmes</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>B. A summary of the progress made of the project</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>B.1. Output level of API as described in the contract</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>B.2. Agreements at the level of API outcome</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>C. A reflective analysis: success and failure</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>D. The key lessons learned</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>E. The cooperation with other local/stakeholders</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>F. Organisational performance and changes</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>G. Financial management: income and expenditure</b>	<b>21</b>

## Acronyms (A-Z)

A2I	Access to Information
A2I WG	A2I Working Group
API	Advocacy and Policy Institute
CCF	Cambodian Coaliton of Fishers
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 Orgnaization
CPN	Community Peach Building Network
EED	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst
FACT	Fishery Action Coalition Team
HIF	Handicap International Federation
HRTF	Human Right Task Force
ICCO	Interchurch Organization for Development Co-operation
LWD	Life with Dignity
MPs	Members of Parliament
MoNASRI	Ministry of National Assembly, Senate Relation and Inspections
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OPA	Old People Association
PST	Programme Supprot Team
TEI	Thailand Environmental Institute
VFI	Village Focus International
WGPD	Working Group for Partnerships in Decentralisation

## **A. Introduction and an Overview of API and its Programmes**

The Advocacy and Policy Institute (API) has developed its second three-year strategic plan for 2011-2013 which was approved by its Board of Directors in August 2010.

This second strategic plan focuses on three main programmes:

1. **The Local Democratic Development (LDD) Programme** promotes transparency and accountability within the decentralization and de-concentration framework in Cambodia.
2. **The Access to Information (A2I) Programme** promotes access to information by supporting the legislative process leading to an access to information law and encouraging a culture of information disclosure.
3. **Supporting Civil Society (SCS) Programme** enhances the capacity of civil society to engage and establish mutual trust in a partnership environment with the Government, the Cambodian Parliament, the Government's Development partners and Donors and supports civil society networks.

This is API's first annual report. The report demonstrates that API has made considerable progress in achieving the outputs, outcomes, goal and objectives of the plan towards contributing to Cambodia's long-term democratic and social development.

### ***Key summary of results***

- Target CBOs expressed their satisfaction with local authorities that are very supportive and have accountably addressed community issues. Community representatives recognised that because of their involvement, social and environmental issues have been raised and solved. Two target districts "Sameakki Meanchey in Kampong Chhnang and Mongkolborie in Banteay Meanchey provinces) have shown significant improvement in accountability, transparency and participation which can be observed through their key functions and roles played. Indication of this improvement is clear when compared to the other non-target districts by the increased number of forums organised, regular monthly meetings with citizen participation, consideration, intervention and solutions to community issues and co-operation with other inter-administration.
- The communities have increased their understanding and are exercising their rights to access information with the commune councils. In 2011 on average, 5 to 8 people per day in the existing six target communes, approached commune offices to seek commune information. 5,201 community people who participated in the access to information campaign (60% of total households) in six communes received a lot of natural resource information. Approximately 26% of the community directly received information regarding: land law, air pollution, climate change, forestry and fishery conservation and protection from different events of the project. People were satisfied with the responses received from the Commune Councillors (CCs). Illegal fishing and logging cases at community levels were significantly reduced.
- People in the target communes were given more space to express their concerns through workshops, forums and meetings. As a result commune service charges were reduced. Community people dared to question sensitive information with their local authority while previously they kept silent. The Commune Councils are more accountable on Commune services than the other local authorities.
- A legal analysis on an access to information policy framework was produced by members with legal experience from the NGOs Access to Information (A2I) Working

- Group in consultation with civil society organisations, the media, private sector, political parties, local and national governments.
- The proposed law on access to information was analysed by the Article 19 organisation based in the UK and API, recommendations were submitted to the government as well as publicised in local and international news.
  - The NGOs A2I Working Group together with a legal consultant developed the access to information law, which is expected to be the foundation document for the government when they step forward to draft the Cambodian law on Access to Information.
  - The policy on Decentralisation, De-concentration, NRM and Gender issues were debriefed by CSOs networks to and discussed with the Members of Parliament, Senators and the representatives of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Planning and positively responded to.
  - An advocacy capacity assessment and analysis report was conducted with ten issue-based civil society networks<sup>1</sup>. Eight existing networks plus ten additional networks have increased their skills in advocacy and lobbying. They are utilising their skills to influence Members of Parliament; the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Environment and Ministry of National Assembly, Senate Relation and Inspections (MONASRI) and other concerned ministries in addressing critical issues.
  - API interventions and results were acknowledged by key concerned stakeholders including local councils and member of parliament and community based organisations and partner NGOs networks. They acknowledged that API has positively impacted other sectoral areas of development within commune and district development plans as well as contributed to the success of partner project interventions and law implementation in Cambodia.

Even with the above results, the number of challenges raised in working with the sub-national government, especially the local councils include: there is very limited knowledge and a lack of interest in working and engaging with civil society groups has increased. Due to the relationship between representatives and constituents, civil society and the Government's institutions as well as the limited space for engagement on critical issues both at the sub-national and national governments, it has been difficult for API to achieve all its planned results. The proposed NGO law was a critical issue and obstacle in 2011. API has tried to build more confidence and trust with Government institutions and the Parliament in order to reach its goal and objectives.

The commissions of National Assembly, Senate and the Members of Parliament and Ministry of National Assembly and Senate Relation and Inspections showed their openness to considering the recommendations of civil society as well as having a strong commitment to push an Access to Information Law if three qualifications are met: 1.) political will, 2.) having expert advice and 3.) having enough budgeted to ensure the law is addressed. Government and MPs require and expect financial and technical support from the Development Partners and/ or civil society organisations to finalise the current draft policy framework on the rights of access to information or to propose an access to information law with international standards. The development partners and civil society organisations however do not have the financial resources to directly support the National Assembly or the Government. Therefore, API is trying its best to push the Government move forward with this law.

---

<sup>1</sup> Help Age International (HAI), Housing Right Task Force (HRTF), Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT), Community Peace Network (CPN), Cambodian Coalition Fisher (CCF), Pursat Civil Society Advocacy Coordination Alliance (CACA), NGO Advocacy Cooperation Network (NACN), Pesticide Reduction Network in Cambodia (PRNC), Resettlement Action Network (RAN), Land Action Network for Development (LAND).

Line government offices at the district level are not fully implementing Decentralisation & De-concentration reform at sub-national level. This leads to poor relationships between specialised offices, the governor, and district council. Some issues are not addressed or clarified as relevant. Line government officials are not presented in district council meeting/forum on natural resource issues. So far, district councils face difficulties in inviting representative from specialised offices, for example: forestry administration, to be a key speaker at their forums and other activities while CBOs and commune councils demand to have dialogue with these offices.

## **B. A summary of the progress made of the project**

### **B.1. Output level of API as described in the contract**

1. *Increased capacity of the Commune and District Councils and CBOs in the target to work for the benefit of local communities and acting as a channel for public information in response to the needs of communities and as a means to relay the voice of local communities to Parliament and the Government.*

**1a: Milestones:** *Two training manual and one social accountability tool, three handbooks and 11 advocacy training courses. Planned Yearly Resut 2011 was three; Actual Yearly Result was seven.*

Improving capacity of the District Councillors, governors, and Community Based Organisations:

A curriculum for district council training on democratic development was developed by compiling the results of training need assessments. Four trainings were conducted for 115 participants (32 women) including district councillors, district governors, district officials and staff of district government line office and leaders of CBOs. Two trainings were on access to information and situation analysis on local democratic development elements and the other two trainings on information management, relationship between district council, the board of governors as well as other government line agency officials, administration procedure and human resource management. Most of participants confirmed that the topics were new, very interesting and useful for district administration and there is conformity with what is stated in the organic law.

It was observed that their understanding of access to information had increased and key roles and responsibilities of district council and district governors, rights of citizen in participated in local administration affairs. After the training, 61% of 36 of District Councillors have played a key role in regularly participating in the commune council meetings and building capacity of the commune councillors. In support, the District Councillor took this opportunity to attend the meeting to advise and introduce the commune council to improve the meeting and reporting by following the government guideline. It was observed that, many issues have been heard and many commitments and promises were made by the District Councillors. Problems in communities were taken into account. The district council meetings urged the district administration director to take action on information disclosure.

Producing tools and publications: District Councillors, Governors, and Community Based Organisations improved their understanding about their new roles and responsibilities as

stated in the Organic Law, after they had received 3,700 Booklets on “Role and Duties of Sub-national Government in Promoting Access to Information” and 15,000 booklets with title “Roles and Responsibilities of Sub-National Administration and the Rights of Citizen in Promoting Democratic Accountability”. Three of the social accountability tools have been introduced to both target districts. They were public forums, citizen report cards, district accountability boxes and citizen score cards (Octagon tool) and some were practiced. These were effective tools for collecting feedback from people to review performance of local councils in providing public services to peoples with their roles and responsibilities.

**1b: Milestones: 16 public forums and 36 meeting dialogues on NRM issues at district level**

***Planned Yearly Result 2011 was 10 and Actual Yearly Result 2011 was 11.***

Nine public forums at district level organised in two target districts by District Councils in partnership with commune councils, NGO partners, district government line agencies and API. The forums drew 1,253 people (507 women) and covered topics including: the role and responsibility of District Councils on forestry issues, illegal fishing, land dispute, road building, and government policy on commune/village safety. On average 10 main concerns pertaining to fishery, environmental, land disputes, forestry, and commune/village were raised and discussed during each forum. Citizens raised some important issues such as environmental impacts of a garment factory in Sethey commune and community forestry registration in Ror Yeas commune.

The District Councillor tried their best to solve the problems. The engagement space and open dialogue between community members and commune and district councillors to address issues of access to information, developments, human rights, democracy and natural resource management increased. At least 20 critical cases were raised by the community during meetings and forums of the District Council. Four cases were discussed and jointly intervened successfully by the government line offices, Commune Councillors, District Councillors and NGOs and CBOs. The local authorities are satisfied with the commune forums because they see it is one of the mechanisms to reduce and solve rather than increase problems.

Providing support and encouragement to CBOs and Councillors: In cooperation with NGO partners, two meeting dialogues and 24 monthly meetings with the district board of governors and district council were regularly organised with 50% of the meetings participated by community representatives were conducted to reflect the result, challenges and develop strategy. 38 of the 56 CBOs in the six target communes continue to engage with Commune Councillors through commune monthly meetings and other events. It was observed that most of the community people bravely questioned the commune councillors on commune affairs. Some CBO representatives became involved in the District Councils' affairs, including the process of orientation about roles and responsibilities of District Councillors, particularly addressing issues related to natural resource management. It indicated that commune and district councils gave the floor to the CBOs to express their concerns. Concerns of the people were raised and discussed. These were incorporated into the agendas of the meetings.

District Councillors had recognised the value of community participation. Then, they were open for public participation. CBOs also claimed that, participation in meetings with district councils was very important for CBOs to have the opportunity to make request and share

concerns with district councils and governors. The minutes from the monthly meetings were regularly taken by both target districts (Samaki Meanchey and Mongkol Borei) and distributed to commune councillors, community representatives and other stakeholders. Periodic reports have been written with the existing format of the district and comments from API. The report seemed significantly improved by showing the progress results rather than activity. A good report writing format has been oriented to all commune councillors by districts' administrative directors.

2. *Commune Councils and community based organisations in the target communes, Government, Parliament and all sectors of society with more understanding about the concept and value of accessible public information, leading to an increase in the amount of public information available and the promotion of a law on access to information.*

- Target final year 2013: 88
- 2a: Milestones: 8 advocacy in access to information trainings
- Planned Yearly Result 2011: 4
- Actual Yearly Result 2011: 10

Improving capacity about the concept and value of accessible public information: Four commune councils were assessed on the need to improve their skills in access to information, information management and advocacy. A training curriculum for grassroots advocacy and access to information was revised and updated. Nine trainings on access to information, why access to information is important to achieve millennium development goals, advocacy, information management and relevant legislation were held for 329 participants (76 women) representing commune councils, CBO representatives, teachers, village chiefs, district officials, local people, members of FACT, Community Peace Building Network (CPN), Human Right Task Force (HRTF), and the Boeung Kork Community and members of A2I working group throughout the country. These groups are key actors in carrying out any development activities in the community including information collection and dissemination within the communities.

At least 11,200 villagers, district officials and district councillors, District board of Governors and local NGOs received booklets on roles and duties of sub-national government in promoting access to information; poster, handbook, brochure, stickers, and CD drama in promoting public access to information, thousands of copies internal commune meeting rules, commune security policy, commune council meeting reports and minutes. They were seen by the majority of people in communes. They were very useful for raising awareness of relevant stakeholders especially community people on the roles and responsibility of sub-national council, right access to public information as well as it illustrated the rights of citizen in sub-national administration.

Moreover mass media were very interested in issues of access to information and promoted the challenges, concept and value of accessible public information to the public. It found that 88 articles on the importance of access to information were publicised via 15 local and international mass media and internet outlets, UN agency' websites, four radio channels (Radio Free Asia, Radio of Women Media Centre, Radio of Voice of Democracy, and Radio France International), four TV channels (CTN, Bayorn, TVK), and four newspapers (Phnom Penh Post, Cambodia daily, Koh Santipheap, Reasmey Kampuchea, Khmer Mchas Srok and Khmer Today). Most of the articles stated having no access to information caused problems for journalists, the private sector and the public's interests. Furthermore, the media group called for an access to information law to be passed

because it will not only benefit the above group it will also help the government to promote transparency, good governance and social accountability, which are deemed the best weapons to fight corruption in Cambodia. 22 radio talk shows on access to information, particularly on extractive industry and natural resource issues have been conducted on FM 106.5 MHz. Another radio roundtable discussion was organised by the A2I working group on the Access to Information and election through FM 105 MHz. These covered 18 provinces and cities. On average 5-6 people participated in each programme by calling in. The audience understood their rights and raised many problems regarding the lack of information regarding oil, mining, development plans, economic land concession, forestry and the land conflicts, etc. So, more and more communities have increased their understanding and are exercising their rights to access information with the sub-national and national government offices. It found that 30% of CBOs, village chiefs and commune councils' knowledge increased, particularly in the areas of information flow, what kind of information should not be disclosed and to whom and where the information can be accessed. It was also found that the CBOs, village chiefs and members of the Commune Council improved their reporting. It is now easy for the clerk to document and keep track on the commune information flow. 80% of Commune Councils were able to mobilise relevant resource persons to clarify and respond to the concerns of the community regarding natural resource management and protection. 65% of commune councils in cooperation with relevant stakeholders articulated information related to natural resource protection and management to community people through meetings, fishery day and right to know day. However, "such information is more available in the relevant government departments not in the commune hall", people expressed.

**2b: Milestones: 30 workshops on the access to information and 68 public forums on NRM and Good Governance issues; Planed Yearly Result 2011:18; Actual Yearly Result 2011:23**

Twelve one-day workshops on access to Natural Resource Management (NRM) information and planning were conducted. 621 participants (132 women) representing Provincial Planning and Investment Unit, District, Commune Councillors, Health Centre, Teachers, Community Based Organisations, Village Chief, Non-Governmental Organisations, Women and Children Committee members and students, community people (common villagers from all villages in the target communes, CBOs representatives, Youth Group, NGOs partners, and relevant authorities. The purpose of the workshops was to present the results and challenges on the commune information disclosure and to hold CCs and concerned stakeholders accountable for NRM information disclosure.

11 public forums at the commune level on NRM and good governance issues were held in six communes in four provinces (most communes run a commune forum twice a year). They focused on the following agendas: the effect of insecticide usage, land disputes between family versus family and people versus authorities, fishery and forestry destruction versus conservation and protection, air and water pollution, garbage in the water way, drinking and farming water shortages, finding a market for local products, building commune streets, social service charges, commune investment plan 2012, gambling and glue using issues and the overcharge of commune public services (health, education, civil registration). There were 930 participants (292 women) representing the common villagers and effected people, various CBOs, students, NGOs, Commune Councillors, District governor representatives and Councils, health centre representatives, police, teachers and relevant authorities such as fishery cantonment and the department of land management. The objective of forums was to create an enabling environment and mechanism for citizens



to express their concerns related to NRM issues and livelihoods to the elected representatives as well as to solve problems which occur in communes.

After a series of workshops and forums in 2011, on average, 5 to 8 people per day in the existing six target communes, approached commune offices to seek commune information. 5,201 community people who participated in the A2I campaign (60% of total households) in six communes received a lot of information regarding: natural resource information, commune investment plans and achievements, commune services, vehicle taxation, election registration, education registration, health care. Particularly, around 26% of the community directly received information regarding: land law, air pollution, climate change, forestry and fishery conservation and protection from different events such as right to know day, fishery day, information dissemination meetings and forums.

- 3. *Civil society organisation networks, with effective lobby and advocacy skills and understanding about access to information, working with the Government and the Cambodian Parliament for the benefit of Cambodia.***

Target final year 2013: 52

**3a: Milestones:** *10 trainings on advocacy on NRM and D&D policy training ; Planned Yearly Result 2011: 2; Actual Yearly Result 2011: 2*

Improved capacity of the civil society networks: Two advocacy training courses were provided to 60 participants (11 women) from Fishery Action Coalition Team (FACT), Cambodian Coalition of Fishers (CCF), Community Peace Network (CPN), Housing Right Task Force (HRTF) and Old People Association (OPA) in Phnom Penh after completing all process of selecting new partner networks, completing training needs assessment and network advocacy and capacity assessment, documenting case studies on policy advocacy on fishery and decentralisation issues, developing advocacy training curriculum and printing process. 60 representatives of FACT, CCF, CPN, HRTF and OPA from 17 provinces developed their skills in policy lobbying and advocacy on fishery, access to information, older people, forestry, forced evictions issues. Five advocacy plans on human rights, fishery, the elderly, forestry, forced eviction issues were designed by CPN, CCF, FACT and OPA during trainings. One of five advocacy plans on illegal fishing was implemented directly by training participants from CCF, FACT and CPN. Provincial and national government authorities supported the advocacy plan objective, so they in co-operation with community networks confiscated and destroyed illegal fishing tools in the Tonle Sap Lake and rivers in five provinces around Tonle Sap Lake. Other advocacy plans are being implemented: particularly in the Prey Long forest and forced eviction of the Beoung Kak Lake community.

**3b: Milestones:** *Support 15 advocacy campaign of 15 CBOs/CSOs networks in dialouge with parliament, government and development partners; 15 Civil Society Lobby Group meetings; 30 Lobby Group meeting with Parliament.*

Planned Yearly Result 2011 was 12 and Actual Yearly Result 2011 was 28.

Encouraging and supporting networking: API has lead or assisted ten networks and new partner civil society networks by sharing advocacy experiences and access to information knowledge to boost the networks to achieve their goals and objectives and that compliment the work of the Advocacy and Policy Institute. They are: The A2I Working Group (A2I WG); The Civil Society Lobby Group (CSLG); The Access Initiative Coalition, Cambodia (TAI

Cambodia); Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency (CRRT); The Working Group for Partnerships in Decentralisation (WGPD); The National Advocacy Conference Organising Committee for the annual conference (NACOC); Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT); The Community Peace Network (CPN); Village Support Group, Living With Dignity, Kampong Chhnang Provincial Association of Commune/Sangkat ; The Coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability (CISA) and Lobby Works International.

Most of the above respective networks have been significantly supported by API as follows:

1. A2IWG: leading dialogues with Members of Parliament, UN agencies and Representatives of Government Ministry on draft access to Information policy framework and proposed Access to Information Law. A2I WG produced the access to information position paper for The 2011 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Civil Society Conference and ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF) which took place in Jakarta and brought together 1,330 civil society activists from around the world to discuss the main human rights concerns affecting the region.
2. CSLG: Strengthening communication between Cambodian Parliament and Civil Society Organisations, working together with A2I WG to lobby Members of Parliament on Access to Information Law development.
3. TAI Cambodia: Completed the First Cambodia Assessment Report on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice. TAI Cambodia produced a briefing paper on environmental issues based on the Rio Declaration article 10, related access to information, public participation and access to justice for the UN preparation for the next Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012. It was submitted to Ministry of Environment for response.
4. CRRT: supported 3 Year CRRT external evaluation process; produced CRRT annual plan of action and advocacy capacity building training to members.
5. WGPD: API is a WGPD core group member to restructure WGPD and develop by-laws; regularly informed about The Government Three Year Implementation Plan (IP3). WGPD produced a briefing paper on D&D issues for submitting to 11 senators and integrating in a senate forums and integrating in a quarterly meeting between CSOs and Ministry of Interior in Phnom Penh.
6. NACOC: API in cooperation with ADHOC, CHRAC, CLEC, COHRE, CJR, DPA, GAD/C, HRTF, LWD, NGO Forum, Pact Cambodia, STAR Kampuchea, WVC, Vigilance and VSO organised the 6th National Advocacy Conference on "Working Together for Governance of Natural Resources and Contribute to the National Strategic Development Plan Implementation" on 22nd -23rd November 2011 to provide an opportunity for Community, Civil Society, the Government and Development Partners to open dialogue on issues, as well as find common understanding on good governance of natural resources in Cambodia that reflect the National Strategic Development Plan. 300 participants from 20 provinces in Cambodia gained a better understanding of interdependence of human rights principles with regard to environmental protection and natural resource management, protection of poor and marginalised people, particularly women and indigenous peoples.
7. FACT: API in cooperation with FACT held two, two-day workshops on "Reflection and Development of FACT Advocacy Strategy" with around 100 FACT staff and fishery communities. The training workshops were specially designed to reflect the past FACT's advocacy strategy and advocacy strategy 2011 and identify the areas of improvement and working together of the two bodies and prepared briefing notes and position paper on fishery issues to meeting with senators. API led fishery

- community representatives from every provinces meetings with several senators to lobby on fishery issues and concerns of people on hydropower dam project.
8. CPN: API has supported the Community Peace Network (CPN) which is the largest community network in Cambodia to advocate for communities' interest. API in cooperation with other organisations had provided advocacy technical support and legal assistance to CPN members to protest for the Prey Lang forest which is the largest remaining lowland evergreen forest in mainland Southeast Asia. In the early morning of 18 August, 100 protesters from 19 provinces prayed to the spirit for helping to protest the forest in front of Royal Palace. They were detained and questioned by police for passing out leaflets in order to raise awareness of ongoing destruction of Prey Lang after the demonstration. CPN produced briefing papers on Prey Lang Forest and submitted to 16 Embassies and Development Partners in Phnom Penh.
  9. Provincial NGO Networks: API facilitated Provincial NGOs Networks and Community Networks' representatives, NGOs, and government officials in dialogues on concerns, experiences and gaps between policies and current practice on the ground relating to the governance of natural resources (Land, forest, mining, and environment) and mechanism of dialogue between CSOs, parliament and private sector and shared successes and failures of grassroots advocacy experiences and situation of human rights, especially rights to national resources. They identified current emerging issues on natural resources and key advocacy strategies to address natural resource-related issues. API also led the conference to produce three separate briefings for government and MPs through thee lobbying meetings.

API had supported and strengthened above partner civil society networks to effectively communicate with Parliament and the Government and the Government's Development Partners by coordinating 18 formal and informal lobby meetings between around 50 member of parliament of the National Assembly and the Senate, including five human rights senators, government ministries, Development Partners on Decentralisation & De-concentration and national NGO networks (FACT, CCF, CSLG, WGPD, CPN, CBOs Networks' and Provincial NGOs Networks' representatives of 24 provinces) for a series of discussion on critical issues related to democratic space; engagement of civil society organisations; access to information legislation; community rights; freedom of speech and assembly; illegal fishing activities around Tonle Sap Lake, Coastal and Mekong River, particularly a case on serious illegal fishing in Stung Hav, Sihanouk Province and flooded forest in Tonle Sap Lake; De-concentration and decentralisation, gender issues; deforestation in Prey Long, economic land concession, draft Law on Association and NGOs framework, good governance of natural resources and the role of civil society in strengthening the roles of Parliament to address above issues.

API coordinated all above civil society networks' representatives for officially dialouge on policy issues and implementation with around 1,200 commune councillors, government officials, development partners, ambassadors, private, members of parliament, senators including President of the National Assembly and Second Vice President of the Senate within three regional forums on "Senate and its Enhancing of the decentralisation and de-concentration policy implementation and gender"; one Parliamentary Forum on strengthening the cooperation and understanding between the Parliament, the Royal Government, Civil Society and Private Sector with the National Assembly; and the 6th National Advocacy Conference on "Working Together for Governance of Natural Resources and Contribute to the National Strategic Development Plan Implementation".

Policy dialogues, harmonisation; trust, confidence, mutual understanding and cooperation are enhanced between the Senate, the National Assembly, the Royal Government, the private sector and civil society for the sake of national and human interests and to ensure sustainable and democratic national development. It enhanced broad communication and improved mutual understanding of the Senate, the National Assembly, the Royal Government, the private sector and civil society organisations in order to promote the performance of the roles and responsibilities. Particularly, key stakeholders gained a better understanding of interdependence of human rights principles with regard to environmental protection and natural resource management, protection of poor and marginalised people, particularly women and indigenous peoples.

API also actively participated in the draft law on NGOs and Association consultation process which was led by CCC, NGO Forum on Cambodia, Medicam and CRAC.

**4. *The Law on the Access to Information will be passed with significant input from civil society and NGOs.***

**1. Target final year 2013: 82**

**4a: Milestones:** *Facilitate 40 access to information campaign by commune councillors and CBOs and 60 Access to Information Working Group meetings; Planned Yearly Result 2011 was 18 and Actual Yearly Result 2011 was 21.*

Six access to information campaigns by target commune councillors and CBOs called the Right to Know Day. The main purpose of this celebration was to inform the community about their rights to information by encouraging them to access commune halls to seek information and at the same time for the Commune councils with relevant authorities to disclose as much commune information as possible. At the same time, illegal fishing equipment was destroyed, huge species of fish were released and hundreds of plants were grown. Approximately, 1,338 people (615 women) directly participated in these events. And 451 students (232 women) visited commune halls to review the commune council's development processes, information management systems and the level of access to information that they required. The objective of the visits was to encourage students to access information in the commune when needed and to actively monitor their elected representative accountability.

Approximately 3,906 community people (1973 women), participated in 59 dissemination sessions echo implemented by API trained commune councillors and CBOs in 49 villages in six communes, understood the importance of commune budgets and encouraged public contribution to invest in commune development, land law, illegal fishing prohibition, commune decision on the land issues, the commune official service charges, forestry community policies and forestry law, protection of the natural resource and environment, result of discussion on the water issue, village-commune security policy, commune investment plan and to obtain information needed for developing commune investment plan 2012.

Encouraging and supporting networking: Regular updating the progress on access to information, developing briefing notes and position papers on access to information for members of parliament ASEAN forum, Mid-term Review of National Strategic Development Plan and Cambodian Development Cooperation Forum, reflection on the members of parliament position on access to information legislative, preparation for a national legislation on access to information, access to information workshop preparation and

media campaign materials development completed within 11 regularly monthly meeting of the A2I Working Group.

**4b: Milestones: *Work with UN agencies and Government Ministry on Access to Information Law development with 10 joint initiatives; Planned Yearly Result 2011 was 2 and Actual Yearly Result 2011 was 2.***

A series of legal analysis and survey on access to information produced through several official dialogues at regional, national and sub-national levels.

Government leaders and 1,330 civil society activists from around the world discussed the main human rights concerns affecting the region attended the 2011 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Civil Society Conference and ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF) which took place in Jakarta from 3 – 5 May 2011. They received access to position paper submitted by the Access to Information Working Group in Cambodia and they supported the need for having the access to information law and urging government leaders to adopt this law.

The draft policy framework on Access to Information which was drafted by the Ministry of National Assembly-Senate Relation and Inspection (MoNASRI) in 2007 was reviewed again by the A2I Working Group members who possessed a legal background. Meanwhile, the proposed law on access to information, had submitted by the opposition political parties then was denied by the national assembly, was analysed by the API in collaboration with Article 19 based in London UK. The legal analysis was based on the access principles. It gave recommendations to cover the broad extension of access rights. These analysis offered support to the members of parliament to have a foundation and broad ideas in law development. Ministry of National Assembly Senate Relation and Inspection (MoNASRI) in Cambodia also received this position paper and analysis.

UN agencies, particularly UNDP, UNOHCHR, UNESCO supported the API and the A2I WG in dialouge with government and policy makers through cooperation to host a national workshop on Access to Information and meetings with senior leaders of MoNASRI to discuss ways to push forward on the access to information policy framework. 143 Senators, the administrative branch, political parties, local and international organisations, donors, embassies, media, private sectors and effected people attended and supported the need to having access to information law in Cambodia.

Access to information legislature was also actively discussed and supported by several provincial government officials, commune/sangkat Councillors, leaders of districts and communes, representatives from provincial departments and civil society organisations who attended a workshop on “Cambodian Laws and Information Disclosure: supply and demand sides” at the API target province. A small assessment questionnaire on access to information was conducted with all 108 participants, the findings showed 76% of participants confirmed they have faced some challenges to implement their access to information/information disclosure roles. This challages are also found increasing at the community level which was confirmed on a baseline survey was done in Kratie, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang and Banteay Meanchey province to assess the perspectives of commune councils and community people and the situation of access to information.

There was increased of efforts to support the passage of an access to information law. More than 90% of the 143 of national stakeholders representing 99 institutions participated

in the access to information workshops expressed their support of civil society to push for an access to information policy framework to ensure the need for transparency and the realisation of citizen's rights as spelled out in the Cambodian Constitution. And civil society organisations, private sector, political parties, local and national government and the Cambodian media group came together made significant efforts to support the passage of an access to information law within several remarkable events such the Press Day, Cambodian Constitution Day, Fishery Day, The Right to Know Day, Human Rights Day, by raising awareness about the challenges of the access to information as well as demanding the development of an access to information law and the free flow of information. The Ministry of National Assembly-Senate Relations and Inspection (MoNASRI) engaged with API along with the Freedom of (Access to) Information Working Group and UN agencies (UNDP, UNESCO and UNOHCHR) to discuss the future cooperation with MoNASRI to move forward on an access to information policy framework and/or law. They demonstrated the will to support and finalise the access to information policy framework. Members of parliament from controlling political party indicated their support to adopt access to information law which could have drafted by the executive branch of the government.

Members of parliament from opposition political party had proposed the access to information law, then three responsible commissions of the National Assembly and two Government Representatives from the Ministry of Information and Ministry of National Assembly, Senate Relations and Inspections reviewed and rejected the proposed law on access to information, however, 64 of 184 (35%) senators and Members of Parliament support the need for access to information legislation and the need for more information disclosure. Members of parliament who proposed the access to information law are committed to resubmitting the second proposed version after making improvements based on the recommendations from the National Assembly and Civil Society Access to Information Working Group. This is expected to mobilise more support and voices from members of parliament from different political parties who indicated their interest.

## **B.2. Agreements at the level of API outcome**

*Three target districts and 8 communes and Phnom Penh municipality implemented the good governance. Target final year 2013 is 24.*

***1a: Improved transparency and accountability and public participation in sub-national government, particularly district and commune council. Planned Yearly Result 2011:n/a and Actual Yearly Result was 8.***

### **Improved transparency:**

**At the commune level:** 80% of trained commune councils had performed their duties to request information from district and provincial levels regarding contracts on water supply, air pollution, road construction as well as alcohol addiction effects based on the needs of community people. The information was confirmed at District and Provincial levels and articulated to the public as soon as Commune councils received it. People were satisfied with the responses received from the Commune Councillors (CCs), especially, the action of the Commune Councils in demanding information from the provincial level regarding investment contracts and other relevant information to release to the public. These responses have built trust between citizens and their elected representative and contributed to an increase in the public's participation, livelihoods and people's access to education and health services. Illegal fishing and logging cases were significantly reduced.

6 target communes have improved information management systems and tools. They better manage documents, disclose information and to widely disseminating information among community members and villagers. And it's also a motivation for CBOs and the village chief to help the Commune Councillors in disseminating information to community people.

70% of commune councils in target communes have re-set and improved their filing systems. We found three information boards, three white boards, five information boxes, a computer and filing cabinets are daily used by the Farmers Community, village chief, and commune councils as well as displayed a list of available information in their communes. The commune financial reports and minutes are kept in a public cabinet, which is accessible anytime the commune hall is open. 100% of commune councils' note books for information flow in six communes are functional, the activities minutes were produced, the achievement of activities in 2010 and 2011 were documented and publicised. Most of the communes displayed commune services in their communes. The structure and roles among the commune councils and clerk to disclose information was taken into account. The clerk was assigned as the person who provides information to the public when needed. Commune Councillors keep disclosing administrative information regarding public services. There is increased public access, sharing and disclosure of public information related to both natural resource management and commune development at all villages in the all target communes.

**At the district level:** 61% of 36 of trained District councillors have played a key role in regularly participating in the commune council meetings and building capacity of the commune councillors. In support, the District Councillor took this opportunity to attend the meeting to advise and introduce the commune council to improve the meeting and reporting by following the government guideline. It was observed that, many issues have been heard and solved by the District Councillors. The district council urged the district administration director to take action on information disclosure to communities. We found that information disclosure and dissemination materials such as information boards, filing cabinets, folders, and publication are made available in target district for display at the front of the district office and in public places. Information on the boards usually show messages about commune election registration, access to information, other announcements including job announcements and other information related to development and administrative work of the district. Such activities had never been appeared before the intervention of API.

And at least one CBO who represent each commune regularly access district public information at district offices with the information related to meeting minutes, report and/or district development plan. In addition at least 1253 community people included 507 women directly accessed to important public information from District Councillors regarding district development plans, land law, forestry law, commune/village safety policy...etc. the information is very important for their livelihood.

**At provincial level:** While no access to information law exists, the government has a smattering of policies ostensibly governing access to information. Government has appointed spokesmen and information officers at all provinces to promote people access to information held by government at the provincial level.

***Improved accountability and public participation in sub-national government, particularly district and commune council.***

There was improved accountability and increased public participation in Commune Council activities. At least 90% of community representative participated in the regular commune council meetings. 49 CBOs representatives were given space to participate in regular target commune planning meetings, commune council monthly meetings, village disseminating meetings and commune public forums.

21 cases were raised regarding natural resources management and transparency issues. The interventions on 21 cases were taken into account at the commune and district council meetings. So far 12 cases have been solved particularly by the CCs in Prek Tnout commune who cooperated with relevant authorities and seized illegal logging materials. The CCs in Kirivoan commune negotiated with a company to take action to avoid pollution to residents living nearby. Please see more successful case studies at attached in annex1. It reflected the cooperation between CBOs, CCs and other relevant authorities at commune level increased. It was also identified that more and more people participated and contributed to commune development process. Budget contributions from the community increase due to a greater understanding of how the budget is allocated.

**There was improved accountability and increased public participation in District Council activities:**

It was found that 100% of 24 monthly district council meetings were regularly organised with 50% of the meetings participated by community representatives. District Councillors recognised the value of community participation. They were open for public participation. CBOs also claimed that, participation in meeting of district council is very important for CBOs to have the opportunity to make request and share concerns with district councils and governors. In total, 1,253 people (507 women) directly engaged with district councillors in addressing issues which could not be solved at the commune level. At least 20 critical cases were raised for the District Council's interventions. Four cases were discussed and jointly intervened by the government line offices, Commune Councillors, District Councillors and NGOs and CBOs with the support of API as attached with case studies in annex 2.

The target CBOs expressed their satisfaction with the district councillors and governors that are very supportive and accountable to address community issues. Community representatives recognised that because of their involvement, social and environmental issues have been raised and solved and their experiences have been shared with other communities at a district level which has contributed to an increase in more accountable local authorities. The trust and relationship between local authorities, CBOs and government line offices significantly increased which is indicated in the case studies.

***1b: Increased engagement and open dialogue between community members and (local) government on important of promoting access to information, human rights, democracy and developments issues.***

***2. Yearly Result 2011:3***

Engagement and open dialogue between community members and local government on important of promoting access to information, human rights, democracy and developments issues was seen more often and significantly increased at the district level among community members and district councillors. In the past, there was only dialogue between



community members and commune councillors and district governors and relevant line government offices. In 2011, it was the first open dialogues between commune members and district councillors since they were elected/established in 2009. Particularly, there were number of open dialogues, at least two dialogues at every target village, commune and district per year on promoting access to information, human rights, democracy and developments issues within and out of government existing mechanisms such as regular open meetings, public forum, village dissemination sessions and other outreach activities and campaigns conducted by the API project at both commune and district levels. A numbers of issues were solved succesfully at the district level such as air pollution and factory chemical substance.

### **C. A reflective analysis: success and failure**

All API's projects and contributions at sub national level were officially acknowledged by the provincial and district councils, governors and commune councillors in all target provinces. In addition, the district governors and councillors recognised the importance of civil society participation in improving the effectiveness of development work. API's projects were integrated into the district development plans, 2011-2015 in all target districts and communes. So, the project activity implemented well in closed cooperation with local authority and community based organisations with significant progress. At the national level, the Senate is strongly cooperative with the API in dialouges to making, passing and strengthening laws in Cambodia.

Meanwhile, the slow progress of access to information policy framework, two community activists received judicial intimidation or threathened by polices and local athority and serious flood in Cambodia were not possitive contribution to the project implementation as following.

A Law on Access to Information was proposed by Members of Parliament from the opposition political party and reviewed by National Assembly and Government, however it was rejected. And the National Assembly hardly made time available to meet with CSOs networks to discuss fishery and natural resource issue in the regular basis nor official mechanism.

Two fishery and forestry community activists who are members of API partner networks and one of the API staff who met senators in 2011 received judicial intimidation or threathened by polices and local athority for allegedly inciting community members against a private development projects or public order. A ctivists had conducted advocacy strategies on behalf of their afflicted community, including: collecting thumbprints from community members, submitting petitions to members of the National Assembly and Senators, rallying community members to protest, and appealing to the Prime Minister to address their concerns over the development projects.

It's obvious that the implications caused by the prolonged flooding has disturbed not only project plan activities agreed within September and October, but also progress on development of target districts and communes as a whole. Regarding the relevance of project, flooding has prevented community based organisations and commune councils to engage in activities at district level and the aftermath of the flood would has discouraged people from engaging with authority actions as they are too busy coping with their livelihood issues. Authorities put emergency relief a priority and somehow ignored other

project activities. However, API has worked well in partnership with district and commune authorities by conveying some resources for problem identification and dialogues with affected communities.

#### **D. The key lessons learned**

- b. Orientation of roles and responsibilities and the 3 and 5 year development plans of sub-national administration were held by the government for their officials only. CBO engagement at both a national and sub-national level is positively contributing to updating and aligning its field operation activities as well as dissemination of information about the government's progress so civil society organisations are aware and ready to have meaningful input and participate in the development process.
- c. Working in partnership with more civil society networks to engage policy makers provides more chance of success on policy dialogue.
- d. Meeting requests should be made to Members of Parliament of both the controlling and opposition political parties. Members of Parliament might respond more positively because of political interest and competitiveness when opportunities arise. For instance, the three meeting requests were made to H.E Son Chhay, opposition party and H.E Chheng Vun and H.E Mr. Pen Phangna, Chairmen of 5th and 6th Commissions of the National Assembly, controlling political party (CPP). After H.E. Mr. Son Chhay confirmed his acceptance to meet with civil society organisations on the proposed access to information law, shortly after that H.E Chheng Vun and H.E Mr. Pen Phangna also confirmed their acceptances of the meeting. API, the NGO Access to Information Working Group and Civil Society Lobby Group have been many opportunities to raise their issues, concerns and recommendations on A2I to the Members of Parliament of both houses and listen to their different positions and reactions to this access to information law development initiated by government or opposition party.
- e. It was found that access to information through open meetings effectively contributes to commune development processes. The local authorities were satisfied with the commune forums because they see it is one of the mechanisms to reduce and solve problems rather than increasing them. Particularly, the CCs in Kirivoan expressed: "the commune forum is a means for me to get updated information from the community. It can reduce rumours and help my community to understand the development processes". The CCs in Svay Rumpea commune stated that after the forums have taken place, more and more people participate and contribute resources in the commune development process. Budget contributions from the community for a school building increased as they learnt how the budget would be allocated.
- f. Good collaboration with specialised offices as well as an invitation to expert guest speakers to the commune forums is an effective way to respond to the needs of the people.
- g. There is no formal system or mechanism that exists for providing information at the sub-national and national levels. People are unaware of their rights, have a reluctance to request sensitive information which as a result has a negative effect on the preconditions for citizen participation in public discussions on local policies and practices.
- h. Public hearings on critical issues that affect the community gave a space for problem solving and brought the local government close to the people which built trust in the development process. The systematic and strategic interventions from the local government need to be in place and policy improved.

- i. Most Members of Parliament and the Government have limited knowledge and experience on an Access to Information law and are not-well informed of its status. It was great that civil society organisations met with Members of Parliament to update them about access to information in Cambodia. It would be beneficial if civil society organisations to analyse the existing policies/laws relevant to access to information, research the best practices and the need of access to information in Cambodia to prove that strong action will be taken on this.
- j. The commissions of National Assembly, Senate and the Members of Parliament showed their openness to consider recommendations from civil society and strong commitment to push for the A2I law if three qualifications are met: 1.) political will, 2.) having expert advice and 3.) having enough budgeted to ensure the law is addressed. Government and MPs expect and require financial and technical support from the Development Partners and/or civil society organisations to finalise policy framework or to propose an access to information laws with international standard. Throughout discussions with both the Parliament and government officials, API and the UN agencies viewed and acknowledged that the Minister of Information Ministry is a key to the advancement of the access to information law. The MoNASRI has limited knowledge on access to information and they only act because the government officially assigned them to do the job.
- k. An absence of legal framework for access to information means serious restrictions are placed on freedom of expression.

### **E. The cooperation with other local/stakeholders**

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 achievements in 2011 are due to ten highly committed and able staff with the effective support of the Board of Directors, volunteers, organisational advisors and short term local and international consultants and experts. API's work targets were carefully chosen and outputs were strengthened through the collaboration, partnership and support of six commune councils, two district council, five provincial organisation partners along with other key stakeholders such as the Secretariats of the National Assembly and Senate and API partner networks that are complimenting the work of the Advocacy and Policy Institute. They are API provincial organisation partners (the Village Support Group, the Cambodian Organisation for Women Support, the Provincial Association of Commune and the Sangkat, Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum and the Mlup Baitong) and six target commune councils (Commune Council of Prek Tanout, Ang Romeas, Sethei, Kokballaink, Svay Rompea and Kirivon) and two district councils (Sammaki Meanchey and Mongkolborie) for implementing the project at local level with clear roles and responsibilities signed by Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs). And at the national level partnership for project implementation are: The Access to Information Working Group; The Civil Society Lobby Group; The Access Initiative Coalition, Cambodia; Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency; The Coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability; Lobby Works International; The Working Group for Partnerships in Decentralisation (WGPD); The National Advocacy Conference Organising Committee for the annual conference; Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) including the Cambodian Coalition of Fishers; and The Community Peace Network (CPN).

API had a solid track record of using its networks, partners and even beneficiaries have achieved as much as they could with limited resources. The organisation has learned that it cannot do everything alone and appreciates the benefits of networking. API is the driving force pulling diverse groups together to accomplish common goals. API is essential to initiating networking for the benefit of organisations and society. API continues to maximise its resources and build on the support of its networks and partners to obtain the best outcomes.

## **F. Organisational performance and changes**

Some key planned activities in the first semester were delayed to be implemented in the second semester because full financial commitment for 2011 was confirmed during April and June 2011, however all planned activities in 2011 were implemented successfully.

**Staff and Management Committee Meeting:** Regular staff meetings and MC meetings took place at API's office as scheduled to discuss volunteer recruitment, the annual staff retreat, results of the financial audit, API's structure, 2011 staff's insurance, leave taking and time in lieu compensation, provident and retirement fund claims, payroll account creation for staff, partnership policy or guideline, monthly office stationary request and budget preparation, API's staff's ID card, board meeting, Incentive for Pchum Ben festival, the cooperation with other partners on project activity implementation, reflection on achievements, work to be completed, challenges and lesson learned, what needs to be done next, and API's monthly, quarterly, six monthly and annual work plan.

**Board of Director Meeting:** Two board meetings were held regularly in July and December to discuss and report on the six month's activities, the funding situation for 2011-2013 and the six month financial report, review fund raising strategy, and review and discuss on M&E policy and procedure, API BoD members and mandate of API director.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting:** As stated in the contracts, API had regularly submitted narrative and completion report, financial and audit and API evaluation reports to donors such as Danida, British Embassy, Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst-EED, The Asia Foundation-TAF, Thailand Environment Institute and Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation-ICCO, Board of Director as well as government and external stakeholders. Additionally, M&E monitoring policy and tools were drafted.

**Staffing:** API has ten full-time Cambodian staff members. In late 2011, unfortunately all three programme managers and the Admin and Finance Manager resigned. One received a scholarship to study in New Zealand, another left to run her own private school. One got a job with an international organisation and another to operate her family farm. All new programme managers were recruited and replaced accordingly. API organisational advisor, in December 2011, had interviewed two of them to get feedback for organisational improvement.

**Staff Capacity Building:** All API staff got additional on job trainings every year within and outside Cambodia such as organic law; district development plans; coaching for success and leadership effectiveness; effective report writing skill; good governance and decentralisation with gender perspective; human right, security and peace building at Sweden and three staff members are pursuing their Master.

**Organisations annual retreat and staff appraisal:** A staff retreat was held from 6-8 December at API's office to reflect annual achievements, challenges, lesson learnt, 2012 annual plan and annual budget and policy review. The staff retreat meeting was facilitated by API organisational advisor. Staff appraisals were conducted at the end of December 2011.

API has updated its policies and procedure to be more flexible in various situations including activity implementation. These policies have guided API's staff for their planning and implementation, financial and operational auditing, as well as the staff's and organisational performance evaluations.

### **G. Financial management: income and expenditure**

**Fund Raising & proposal:** API management staffs were oriented by ICCO and EED about its changes and alignment of the API strategies. During the 2011, API has developed four concept notes and four funding proposals.

- The British Embassy for enhancing the democratic space to enable civil society networks to hold the Cambodian Parliament and the Government more accountable. It was successful for the 10 months duration.
- A joint proposal with DanChurchAid to UNDEF for Strengthening People's Access to Public Information. It was successful for the duration of 24 months.
- In partnership with the local government (district councils) in the target provinces, two concept notes were jointly developed and submitted to Europe Union under the Local Authorities (LA) Call but were not successful.
- With the two-training workshop on EU funding proposal from ICCO, API in partnership with local (Mlub Baitong (MB), Village Support Group (VSG); Cambodian Organisation for Women Support (COWS); Fishery Action Coalitions Team (FACT); Khmer Buddhist Society in Cambodia (KBSC); and international partners ARTICLE 19 developed and submitted a proposal on 'Increasing Access to Public Information (IAPI) 'to the European Commission in August 2011. The announcement of the result was delayed to early of 2012.
- In between the September and November, API also developed and submitted a concept note and proposal to the Demand for Good Governance (DFGG) Project which is managed by the Asia Foundation (TAF). The Project is for 'People's Participation in One Window Services' in targeting three districts (Krong). The proposal was successful for the period of 12 months.

**Donors and funding:** Currently, API is funded by ICCO, Danida, EED, the British Embassy, The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) and The DanChurchAid/ChristanAid.

Bellow is API summarising the financial status from January to December 2011:

The budget plan for API in 2011 was US\$288,758 and was approved by the API Board on 21 August 2010.

With the funding agreements for 2011 from the Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation (ICCO), Danida, Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED), and the British Embassy, the total original budget plan was US\$288,758. It was increased upto US\$332,648 (which included British Embassy budget support from June to December 2011).

The total funds received from donors to date (December 2011) was USD423,793 including additional support from UNDEF started from November 2011. This is made up of Danida USD137,152; British Embassy USD49,122; ICCO USD62,145; EED USD76,200; TEI USD14,980; UNDEF USD55,000, VFI US\$11,500, UNESCO US\$920, LWD US\$300 and API USD16,474 (these amount are not included the API income generation and donors fund balance from the previous year).

Financial support from VFI/PST (ICCO), UNESCO, LWD and API income generation in year 2011 is detailed below:

API received financial support from PST Group work through VFI/PST (ICCO) with US\$8,500 for organising the Senate's Forum—Senate and its enhancing the D&D policy implementation and Gender in Battambang Province. UNESCO contributed US\$920 for the organising a workshop on Access to Information: the Need of Legal Framework and Public Information Disclosure. Life with Dignity (LWD) supported US\$300 for the parliamentary forum on strengthening of cooperation and understanding between the parliament, the royal government, civil society and the private sector. US\$3,000 was supported by the VFI/PST (ICCO) for writing concept note on civil society and the Cambodian parliamentary engagement.

From January to December 2011, API has generated total USD16,474 by providing advocacy training courses to Association of The Blind in Cambodia (ABC), Cambodian Resource Revenue Transparency (CRRT), Thailand Environmental Institute (TEI), PST (ICCO), NGOs on Education in Partnership (NEP) and Handicap International France (HIF). This amount includes the final payment and instalment from ABC USD1,405; Bank Interest USD196, CRRT USD6,981; TEI-Administrative/management fee USD967, PST Fee USD1,375, NEP USD1,200 and HIF fee US\$4,350.

API's total expenditure from January to December 2011 is USD333,321 (which includes the expenses of API's for own generate income).

Note: Fund balance 2010 of Danida has been returned.

**Organisational auditing:** API completed the 2010 Audit Report and its six months Audit Report from January to June 2011 with minor comments from the auditor. The July to December 2011 financial audit will be completed by early March 2012.

Mr. Sinthay Neb  
Director of the Advocacy and Policy Institute  
Phnom Penh

24 February 2012