Advocacy and Policy Institute

Programme Progress Report
1 January to 31 December 2013

Submitted to
ICCO &Kerk in Actie
JIn.Tukad Batanghari IX No.8
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Submitted by
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Phnom Penh, 26February 2014

Contents

Acronyms (A-Z)

A2I WG	Access to Information Working Group
ACSC	ASEAN Civil Society Conference
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APF	ASEAN Peoples' Forum
API	Advocacy and Policy Institute
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AusAID	Australian Aid
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CC	Commune Council
CCF	Cambodian Coalition of the Fishers
CCIM	Cambodia Center for Independent Media
CISA	The Coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability
CPN	Cambodian Peace Building Network
CRRT	Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
D&D	De-centralisation and De-concentration
Danida	Danish Cooperation for International Development
DC	District Councils
DO	District Ombudsman office
DPA	Development and Partnership in Action
EED	EvangelischerEntwicklungsdienst
EFN	Environment Forum Network
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment Law,
EISEI	Extractive Industry Social Environmental Impact
FACT	Fishery Action Coalition Team
GDCC	The Government Development Partner Coordinating Committee
GIZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency
GRSP	Global Road Safety Partnership
HIF	Handicap International Federation
HRTF	Housing Rights Task Force
ICCO	Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation
IEC	Information Educational and Communication
LDD	The Local Democratic Development Programme
LWD	Life with Dignity
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MoNASRI	Ministry of National Assembly, Senate Relation and Inspections
NACOC	National Advocacy Conference Organisation Committee
NCDD	National Committee for Sub-national Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OD	District Ombudsmen Office
OWSO	One Window Service Offices
PRN-C	Cambodia Pesticide Reduction Network
R4D	Result for Development
RCC	River Cambodian Coalition

REDD+	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (Plus)
SCS	Supporting Civil Society
SIDA	Swedish Cooperation Agency for International Development
SNA	Sub-National Administration
TAI	The Access Initiative
TEI	Thailand Environment Institute
UNDEF	The United Nations Democracy Fund
WGPD	The Working Group for Partnerships in Decentralization

A. Introduction and overview of API and API'sprogrammes

In 2010, the Advocacy and Policy Institute (API) developed a second three-year strategic plan for 2011-2013. The plan, approved by the Board of Directors in August 2010, is being carried to meet programme goals.

This plan focuses on three main programmes:
1. **The Local Democratic Development (LDD) Programme** promotes transparency and accountability within the de-centralization and de-concentration framework in Cambodia.
2. **The Access to Information (A2I) Programme** promotes access to information by supporting the legislative process leading to the passage of 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 second annual report. The report demonstrates that API has made considerable progress in achieving the outputs, outcomes, goal and programme objectives, contributing to Cambodia's long-term democratic and social development.

Key summary of results

B. A summary of the progress made of the project

B.1. Output level of API described in the contract

1. Increased capacity of the Commune and District Councils and CBOs in the target areas to work for the benefits 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.

1. a: Milestones: Twotraining manuals and one social accountability tool, three handbooks and eleven advocacy training courses. Planned yearly result 2013 is three;

Actual yearly result is two trainings and one social accountability tool.

Improved the capacity of 91 participants (Commune councils, district councils, district governors, district government line officers, commune clerks and Community based Organisation representatives) including 26 females on access to information, information management, advocacy on access to information, and computer administration skillsin the three target districts (SamakiMeanchey and MongkolBorei and PrsatBalangk).

After a series of trainings, all three target districts had improved their public serviceseffectiveness and functioning with better increased support for access to and disclosure of public information. District and commune annual development plans as local Governments have promoted civic engagement and more public consultation from local people and line departments. Local councils increased their efforts and coordination among vertical and horizontal Government agencies and CBOs to address community issues, these improvements in three target districts have been recognised by the provincial Government. The provincial and National Government have acknowledged API's contribution in strengthening local councillors' capacity.

1b: Milestones:16 public forums and 36 dialogue meetings on NRM issues at district level
Planned yearly result 2013:10 forums
Actualyearly result 2013:10 forums and public meetings

As results of three forums, 514 participants (277 females) in the three target districts (Kampong Chhnag, BanteayMeachey, and Kampong Thom province) gained more knowledge on Access to Information on fishery resource management, forestry and roles and responsibilities of local authorities in public information disclosure. Citizens raised issues related to education, fishery, forestry issues, public service fees, election information, road safety, civic registration, land issues, environmental issues, gangs, safe migration, domestic violence on women and children, local natural resources and logging cases. The responses have built trust between citizens and local authorities and contributed to an increase in the public's participation in communities.

Four partnership meetings were conducted with CBO line offices and the private sector at district level with 206 citizens including 65 females attending. They raised issues related to illegal fishing, chemical fertilizer, pollution environment, domestic violence, low and unstable rice prices, disadvantages and impact of immigration, unavailable birth certificates and marriage certificates in place, increasing of outdoor students due to their parents immigrated, gangsters and illegal drug, traffic accident, and dissemination the Cambodian traffic law to the people especially to taxi drivers.

2. Commune councils and CBOs 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 trainings on access to information advocacy
   - Planned yearly result 2013: two
   - Actual yearly result 2013: two

   Two series of TOT sessions on access to information,information management,and AA2I were conducted with 35 participants (15 females) from five partnership organisations.The training workshop was designed to develop a pool of master trainers to train local councils at provincial level with understanding and ability in the following areas: Provision of awareness and understanding of the concept of A2I and its importance in public services and livelihoods, Reflecting the roles and duties of local authorities and citizens to promote access to information, Facilitating their involvement at commune level and Improving the strategies of effective information gathering and dissemination, and Information management for communes. The participants wereable to describe the various situations of Access to Information among ASEAN counties and the need for a

Cambodian A2I law; know how to conduct echo training local councils on A2I, legal frameworks supporting A2I; seek more supporting documents related to A2I and current development of legal framework of A2I; explain the obligation of local authoritiesand citizens to promote access to information; gather legal public information for effective dissemination from various sources; understand how to employ information systems for local needs at the sub-national level, particularly information dissemination for local people; apply the tools, techniques and methods for advocacy activities for promotion of access to information; use the training methodologies and know how to prepare and conduct the trainings on the A2I, IM and AA2I for the local councillors at the target communes and districts; and train and assist local councils to prepare and implement information system at communes.

2b: Milestones:30 training-workshops on access to information and 68 public forums on NRM and good governance issues;

Planed yearly result 2013: two workshops on A2I and 20 public forums;

Actual yearly result 2013: three National workshops on A2I and 11 public forums

Three multi-stakeholder workshops were organised with 495 participants during the National conference on "Access to Information", "Decentralisation, De-concentration and Access to Information"; and a National Workshop on 'Access to information in Cambodia': A step forward for development of an access to information law. Participants included 16 senators, 60 parliament members, political party representatives, NGOs, UN agencies, CBOs, and networks. The workshops aimed to engender dialogue among relevant Government ministries, civil society, and development partners about the issues and challenges involved in passing an international-standard Access to Information law in Cambodia, and to learn from regional and international experts about drafting, passing and implementing the law. As a result nine workshop comments were agreed and informed to public as well as Cambodian government: These included: (1) The new government mandate should draft and pass the law by no later than 2014-2015, with consultative meetings with relevant ministries, CSOs and national authorities to ensure that the law on access to information meets international standards. (2) The government should establish a committee of inter-ministries and draft the law on 'Access to information' with participation from various parties, including ministries, institutions, civil society organisations, media and stakeholders according to the decision of the Prime Minister of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia decided at the plenary session of the Council of Ministers on 8 November 2013. (3)The government should accept ideas from all stakeholders, particularly input from CSOs, sub-national government and the communities, for the process of drafting a law on 'Access to Information.' (4) The draft law on access to information should be comprehensively discussed as many times as possible by means of workshops and forums. (5) Ministry of Information should prepare a draft law in a detail and comprehensive manner, with clear definition of information management approach and budget management to ensure the implementation of the law. The content of law should protect the applicants and informants of information. Also, there should be a clear definition on the exception of confidential information which is allowed to be disclosed to the public and the public information to be disclosed. The law should state the code of conduct to penalise those who provide false information, and to put an end to the culture of asking for fees from the information requesters. (6) The law on 'access to information' should be adopted and implemented as soon as possible because access to information is vital for promoting good governance and development processes in all sectors. Furthermore there have been arrangements of relevant documents on similar laws, a model law from civil society, a draft law proposed by the opposing political party and other related supporting documents prepared and compiled by CSOs, particularly the Advocacy and Policy Institute (API). (7) While the law on Access to Information is not available, the government should make information available at

government institutions for citizens to access and view. (8) Representatives from the two major parties should debate in the National Assembly about the law on Access to information. (9) The process of drafting laws and policies should be disclosed to the public so that people know about them and consider the impact of the law on the livelihoods of their own families and the interests of their communities.

Eleven public community forums and a role play were organised in a target communes with 1,712 participants, including 808 women. These foras allowed local people to raise and discuss several community issues includingNRM, good governance issues, commune investment plan, yearly commune achievements, factory issues, safe migration, preventing violence on women and children, local natural resources, environmental and public services. At least 132 questions were asked by participants to their local authority.

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: Ten trainings on advocacy on NRM and D&D policy training;

Planned Yearly Result 2013: two trainings

Actual Yearly Result 2013: two trainings

Two trainings courses on Access to Information, and Advocacy in Climate Change Policy were conducted with 62 participants (10 women) WGPD members and environmental networks: EFN, PRN-C, RCC, and REDD+. Access to information principals, importance of access to information and the roles and responsibilities of commune councils in public information disclosure were oriented. The participant's knowledge of access to information increased 118%. The participants' knowledge of advocacy in climate change increased 20.66%. The participants discussed advocacy strategies and an action plan for 2014-2016 including increasing awareness on international and national legal frameworks, scaling-up the mechanism of the regional and international connection, monitoring national and international institutes in the implementation of the recommendations and orders, strengthening well-found advocacy, initiating to create a space for national discussions to share knowledge and issues in international and national context.

3b: Milestones: Support 15 advocacy campaigns of 15 CBOs/CSOs networks in dialogue with the parliament, the government and the development partners; 15 Civil Society Lobby Group meetings; 30 Lobby Group meetings with the Parliament.
Planned Yearly Result 2013:Six dialogue meetingswith 15 CBOs/CSOs networks and the Parliament.
Actual Yearly Result 2013:Seven Lobby Group meetings with the Parliament and government

API collaborated with Community Peace Network (CPN) and Housing Right Task Force (HRTF) community representatives to conduct a dialogue meeting with the Government on five critical issues: Economic and Land Reform; the Environment, Forestry and Climate Change; Social and Human Development; and Rule of Law, Good Governance and Access to Information, Extractive Industry, Indigenous Rights and Land Legislation. Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and the 35 senior Government officials from the Office of The Council of Minister, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning

and Construction, Ministry of Environment, Officials from the sub-national level participated in the dialogues on above issues.

- API withthe Access to Information Working Group (A2IWG), the Community Peace Network (CPN), Housing Right Task Force (HRTF), Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) and WGPD representatives has engaged with the Parliaments through a political platform in the national conference on Access to Information, H.E. Mr. Cheam Yeap, Representative of Cambodia People's Party (CPP), and H.E. Mr. Son Chhay, Representative of Cambodian National Rescue Party acknowledged the importance of A2I which has positively contributed to all sectors of development and human rights recognised by the Cambodia Constitution and Press Law and Organic law and Universal Human Rights Declaration. However, some information considered as confidential related to public security, individual, health, legal process, and commercial secrets…. etc.

- API withthe A2IWG, CRRT, CISA and FACT representatives dialogued with the Parliament through a national workshop on Access to Information: Toward Developing and Adopting Access to Information. H.E. Mr. Son Chhay, Representative of Cambodian National Rescue Party and H.E. Mr. Chheang Vun , Representative of Cambodia People's Party (CPP) announced support and fostered the progress of the Access to Information law. The model law which established by CSOs and the proposed law which established by H.E. Son Chay were introduced to the audience.

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 campaigns**

4a:Milestones: Facilitate 40 access to information campaigns by commune councillors and CBOs and 60 A2IWG meetings;

Planned yearly result 2013:12 A2IWG meeting and 18 dissemination campaigns and

Actual yearly result 2013:12 times working group meeting, 28 A2I dissemination campaigns and outreach activities.

Regular working group monthly meetings and an annual project review meeting were conducted to review progress and challenges. The following were also reviewed; A2IWG work plan, strategy to release and draft A2I model, second draft A2I law, regional review on A2I, input and comments on A2I strategies and approaches, update A2I law campaign focusing on progress and challenges, report on A2I in Cambodia, media campaign & Successful story to promote A2I, Conference/National workshop,mainstreaming A2I concept in Environment Impact Assessment Law (EIA), CSO/NGO perspective on the Aspect of the NSDP 2014-2018, A2I website and social media (Facebook), UPR report, and joint statement and position papers on A2I.

19 information disseminators directly reached 18,894 citizens including 8,625 women door to door in 40 villages. Local people who participated gained more knowledge on access to information related key education messages quoted from relevant laws related to fishery law, forestry issues, public service of health centre and commune, rights of access to information, road traffic law, role of citizen in promoting information election information, safety road, election, civic registration, report of land issues addressed, emergency contacts and environmental issues.

4b: Milestones: Work with UN agencies and Government ministries on Access to Information Law development with ten joint initiatives;

Planned yearly result 2013: Two joint initiatives with UN agencies and government ministries

Actualyearly result 2013: Three joint initiatives with UN agencies and government ministries

An A2I model law was drafted with input from UN agencies, NGOs, legal experts, and the A2IWG members. The model law was shared with all relevant stakeholders including parliamentarians, senators, politicians, UN agencies, government ministries, NGOs, and Networks during two national workshops on Access to Information.

A regional legal review on access to information and successful civil society engagement in supporting A2I legislation was produced withcritical input from UN agencies as well as the A2IWG members. The regional review report also recommends the Cambodian Government to pass an access to information law which follows international standards.

The A2IWG lead by API has presented the current situation of A2I in Cambodia to the Ministry of Information at a meeting on 12 November 2013. Seven representatives from MoIn and ten from the A2IWG actively discussed the lack of public information,strategies to promote A2I Law, commitment of MoIn to include CSO in the law development committee, and sharing all A2I documents both in soft and hard copies.

B.2. Agreements at the level of API outcome

Three target districts,eight communes and Phnom Penh municipality are implementing good governance. The number of provinces and cities in the target final year 2013:24

1a: **Improved transparency and accountability and public participation in sub-national government, particularly district and commune councils.**

Planned Yearly Result 2013: Three target districts, eight communes and Phnom Penh municipality

Actual Yearly Result: Ten target districts, 55 communes and Phnom Penh municipality.

For the purposes of this progress report an assessment was carried out in all 49 target communes with citizens and local authorities who took part in the project. 996 citizens completed the confidential individual citizen feedback cards. The feedback card was also used by 1,223 local authorities who are directly involved in the project. Following are the results of the analysis.

Community members were more active in preserving their local natural resources by good coordination with the commune chief, commune councillors and other local authorities especially with regard to forestry and preventing illegal fishing. Many cases regarding fisheries, land conflicts, air pollution, and prevention were solved by commune chiefs and district governors.

By the commune records an average of ten community members accessed information at the Commune Hall directly each day. They looked for information on forestry issues, land issues, fisheries and environmental issues, civic registration, election registration and water usages. Based on the commune boxes, 71% of respondents confirmed they requested commune information verbally and around 79% of received some information while half received full

information. 63.4% reported of having access to public information despite their low level of education. The majority did not even complete primary schools and over 20% were illiterate with only one of the sample group had completed grade 12.

Among the eight areas of good governance it was found that good governance in the project's target 49 communes has improved in all eight criteria. There has been an increase in the number of citizens participating in local council affairs as well as more positive responses by sub-national administration.

50% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the performance of their local councils in 2012. This increased to 87% in 2013.

Mechanisms for information disclosure are in place at sub-national government, particularly total target communes. People and organisations are using these to access information as shown in the increase from 50% in 2012 to 90.6% in 2013. 76.3 % of citizens (equally men and women) requesting information received it.

People in the project target areas received information regarding content of development plans and budgets from elected councils. This increased from 40% in 2012 to 44.5 % in 2013.

In 2012, none of the target communes had free flow of information or easily accessible public access to specific information. In 2013, 79.9 % of respondents confirmed the need for information at commune level. The project supported 29 Communes to make 279 requests to demand for greater information disclosure at higher levels of governance in 2013.

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

Yearly Result 2013: Three target districts, eight communes and Phnom Penh municipality and

Actual Yearly Result: Ten target districts, 55 communes and Phnom Penh municipality.

70.71% local citizen (43,600) and 24 of 29 CBOs (83%) in the target communities directly participated in project information dissemination activities and gained more knowledge on the rights of access to information and role of citizen in promoting commune election information, environmental issues and other various sectorial issues.

100% (All) 55 target communes have integrated access to information into their annual work plans especially information regarding public services where free flow of information and public access to disclosure of specific information is easy accessible. They are professionally managing commune documents including filing systems, contents and displays via Information Board for public access to information. Public people accessed 558 subjects of comprehensive written information such as Government plans, decisions, sub-degree and laws.

80% of commune councillors, clerks and CBOs have increased their capacity to systematically disclose public information, particularly on access to information, information management on five key sectors in the sub-national development plan, and on local councillor's roles and responsibilities.

44 (89.7 %) of 49 target communes disclosed official fees for public services in 2013, this is an increase from 35.62% in 2012.

In 2013, 82.8% of respondents stated they have a right to know about development activities of the commune, almost equal proportion of male and female know about their rights on development activities in their commune in 2013.

The total number of people living in the target 49 communes (covering 600 villages) actively accessing public information for their own, their family or/and their community's use increased from 50.20% in 2012 to 75% in 2013.

Target communes using the citizen feedback mechanism and tools to express their satisfaction with the elected councillors increased from 29.12% in 2012 to 100% in 2013.

In 2013, 42.61% of respondents enhanced their skills and are advocating for access to information and disclosure of public information.

Issues and input from civil society related to access to information are integrated into target commune council action plans for improving access to information and information disclosure increased. This action has increased from 39.81% in 2012 to 100% in 2013.

There has also been an increase in support from key stakeholders. 98 % of 547 of key stakeholders; including eight senators, 42 new elected CNRP parliament members (nine females), six leading members of the Cambodian's People Party confirmed their support for an Access to Information Law. Finally on 8 November 2013, Prime Minister Hun Sen urged the Ministry of Information, a leading ministry for process, to work with relevant partners towards developing a draft law on Access to Information, which will be passed in the near future.

C. Reflective Analysis:success and failure

In 2013, API hired a consultant to review its progress. Existing project reports combined with a project reflection workshop, fieldwork focus-group discussion and a semi-structured interview were analysed. **Fieldwork** was conducted in all target communes through focus group discussions with commune chiefs, commune council members, village chiefs and community leaders. In total 118 participants (15 were females) were interviewed to gain their reflections on outcomes. An **interview survey** was conducted to hear reflections on outcome two with a sample of 132 villagers, with over 20 persons in each commune, roughly 55% females and 45% were males with an average age of 42.7 years. An individual assessment form was conducted with 597 key national and sub-national stakeholders.

A case study was also conducted to gain deeper understanding and personal reflections on the project's outcomes. The progress in API's projects in 2013 was identified as following:

1. Access to information (A2I) law is a main topic for discussion of six political parties during the Cambodian National Election campaign and it is also defined as the first priority law after 5th Government formed. During this campaign Cambodian A2I law was often discussed on at least three radio channels including national and international programs. During the 10 December Human Right Day, an Access to Information Law was one of the CSOs' recommendations. They identified an A2I law as the first key priority in the NGO position papers and recommend the Royal Government of Cambodia pass it.

2. On 8 November 2013, the Prime Minister Hun Sen urged the Ministry of Information, a leading ministry for process, to work with relevant partners towards developing a draft law on Access to Information, which will be passed in the near future. With a high appreciation for the RGC's commitment for having the law, Civil Society Organisations strongly suggested the Government take comments from the draft law

to ensure real benefits to citizens. At the same time, the Prime Minister reminded the sub-national Government and relevant public institutions to exercise Inter-minister Prakas on the establishment of information officers and spokesmen, signed by HE Sor Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Ministry of Interior and HE Khiev Kanharith, Minister of Information, issued on 26 July 2012.

3. MPs and government officials, development partners and embassies received copies of a CSOs' Model Law on A2I and its Campaign Strategy on "A2I Law" and other key relevant findings and analysis of A2I over the last ten years. These documents were an accumulation of work by the A2IWG and Local and International Experts led by API in consultation with local authorities, CSOs, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Rights Office in Cambodia – Office of The High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and A2IWG. This information was supplied to members of parliament and government executive branches to further develop an access to information law.

4. API has mobilised the support of 64 of 184 senators and Members of Parliament; six from the controlling political party (Cambodian People Party) and 50 MPs and eight Senators from the opposition political party (National Cambodian Rescue Party). All have confirmed their support for access to information legislation and the need for more information disclosure. Members of Parliament have acknowledged the importance and the necessity of A2I; they understand Access to Information will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and have a good understanding of the provision of Cambodian laws related to access of information. MPs and the Government accepted CSOs' key recommendations for the possible content of the draft policy framework/law based on nine principles and experience challenges; accepted the Roles of the Cambodian Parliament based on Access to Information and Parliament Assessment findings.

5. This change has created a better situation for achieving projects such as an A2I law. Young people have courage to discuss the law, legislation and involve the political environment.

6. Community members are more active in preventing their local natural resources by good coordination with the commune chief, commune councillors and other local authorities especially maintain community forestry and preventing illegal fishing. Commune chiefs and district governors solved many cases regarding fisheries, land conflicts and air pollution and prevention.

7. Commune records show an average of ten community members accessed information at the Commune Hall directly each day. They looked for information on forestry, land, fisheries and environmental issues, civic registration, election registration and water usages. Based on the commune boxes, 71% of respondents confirmed they requested commune information and most of them request it verbally. 79% stated they received the information requested however only half of them received full information. 63.4% of villagers reported having access to public information despite their low education level. The majority did not even complete primary schools and over 20% of them were not literate and only one of the sample group completed grade 12. Thus, an effective method to disclose public information and interactive participation is the weekly village-level meeting/forum.[1]

8. 70.71% local citizen (43,600) and 24 CBOs (83%) in target communities directly participated in the project's information dissemination activities and gained more knowledge on the rights of access to information and role of citizen in promoting commune election information, environmental issues and other various sectorial issues. 100% of all target communes have integrated access to information into their annual work plans especially information regarding public services where free flow

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[1] Project Reflections Report – October 2013

of information and public access to disclosure of specific information is easy accessible. They are professionally managing commune documents including filing systems, contents and displays via Information Boards for public access to information. Public people accessed 558 subjects of comprehensive written information such as Government plans, decisions, sub-degree and laws.

API has strengthened the advocacy capacity of civil society networks. API and its network partners provided input on the process of law development on Oil and Gas Management; draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Law; and The National Social Accountability Framework. API's advocacy activities resulted in influencing top policy makers in addressing natural resource management issues at both local and national levels. Government has strengthened law enforcement, particularly Organic Law; Sub-Decree on Environment Impact Assessment Process; Sub-decree on Procedures of Registration of Land of Indigenous Communities, Sub-Decree for Economic Land Concession; and National Policy on Land Title Distribution.

API's networking with other civil society organisations and networks is stronger and more active. Membership of civil society networks enables API to take on more facilitation roles in the provinces, further support advocacy skills, promote access to information and contribute to civil society collaboration with the Government. API's improved networking and increased membership of civil society networks contributed to the organisation's leading reputation. API has come to choose its networks with care, ensuring that their partners have the same standards of political neutrality as API does. This is essential to preserving API's good working relationships with the Government.

D. Thekey lessons learned

1. Working in partnership between non-state and state actors to improve good governance is effective. However, more time was spent implementing project activities, particularly on communication, co-ordination and consultation.
2. Using monitoring and social accountability tools in deep consultation between non-state and state actors under a partnership project, the findings and citizens' feedback to improve government services are highly recognised and accepted. Organising reflection meetings among public service providers and other relevant public institutions improved public service performance. Clients/community voices gathered during public forums, reflection meetings, and citizen feedback assessments. These are seen as positive contributions to national policy makers to improve policy performance.
3. Improve the capacity of public institution, public service officials and outreach activities with practical information to increase citizen demands and access to public service in order to promote transparency and accountability. Outreach activities with factual information (official prices and procedures) are very effective. They help built closer relationships between local authorities, public services providers and clients.
4. API works to promote CSOs/networks engagement with Parliament and Government. Collaborating with the Parliament and national Government requires patience and determination in Cambodia as meetings are difficult to obtain and frequently postponed. With this condition, official mechanisms for meaningful participation/engagement should be considered to develop and practice to hold the Government institutes accountable.

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's achievements in 2013 are due to its team of 14 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 is strengthened through the collaboration, partnership and support of six commune councils, three district council, three municipality council and additional 49 extra communes, 10 districts that supported API's existing projects, 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 API. API's provincial organisation partners (the Village Support Group, the Cambodian Organisation for Women Support, the Provincial Association of Commune and the Sangkat, the MlupBaitong, Fisheries Actions Coalitions Team, Khmer Buddhist Society Association, Article 19) and 55 target commune councils for implementing the projects at local level with clear roles and responsibilities signed by Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with all target provinces.

At the national level partnership for project implementation include; the Access to Information Working Group, Civil Society Lobby Group, Access Initiative Coalition-Cambodia; Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency, Coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability, Working Group for Partnerships in Decentralisation (WGPD),National Advocacy Conference Organising Committee for the annual conference, Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) and Community Peace Network (CPN), Extractive Industry Social Environmental Impact (EISEI),Community Peace Network (CPN), Housing Rights Task Force (HRTF), Coalition of Cambodian Fisher (CCF), Environment Forum Network (EFN), Cambodia Pesticide Reduction Network (PRN-C), River Cambodian Coalition (RCC), Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (Plus) (REDD+), and NGO Forum on Cambodia.

API had a solid track record of its networks, partners and even beneficiaries achieving as much as they can with limited resources. API has learned that it is impossible to accomplish anything without cooperation and networking. API is a driving force pulling diverse groups together to accomplish common goals. API is essential to initiating networking for the benefit of organisations and people in the nation as a whole. 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

In order to effectively achieve the strategic priorities it is essential to have proper support, strategic plans, and quality human resources in place.

Principles of good governance: API continues to be bound by clear lines of accountability and transparency in API's actions and procedures to ensure effective management of the organisation and its resources.

   a. The report of finance audits conducted twice a year had no comments on finance management.
   b. Regular staff and management meetings were held in 2013.
   c. The BoD meeting approved the work plan and budget for 2013 and API's new strategic plan 2014-2018.

Funding: To ensure adequate funding for strategic priorities to be delivered effectively and provide value for money, API submitted funding concept notes and proposals to several donors including: British Embassy (BE), Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), The Asia Foundation (TAF) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

API donors include; Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation (ICCO), EvangelischerEntwicklungsdienst (EED), Result for Development (R4D), Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), DanChurchAid (DCA) and Commission of the European Communities (EU)
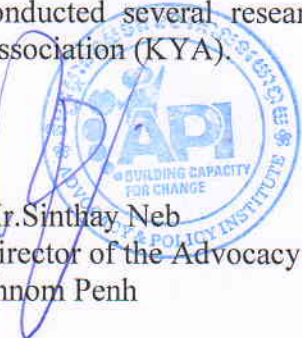
Please see attached API financial report 2013.

Human resources: API has a total of 14 local full time employees, one international advisor, two part time team members, one part time financial advisor and one international communication advisor who was recruited for the "Increasing Access to Public Information Project" supported by EU.

API has recently recruited four young graduate volunteers to build their capacities and exposure to social development work and to support project activity implementation in all target communes and municipalities.

Strategies and procedures: The API's by-laws, financial policies and administration procedures were well practiced in accordance with current donor requirements and revised policies.

Regular bi-monthly staff meetings, 12 programme operation meetings and five Management Committee meetings took place at the API office.

Research: API provided consultancy services to; HelpAge International on building strategic relationship with service providers and grassroots advocacy, The Associate of the Blind in Cambodia (ABC) on the advance advocacy training, Burma Centrum Nederland (BCN), Danmission on advocacy and right base approach, Gender and Development for Cambodia (GAD/C) on role and advocacy approach, International Cooperation Cambodia (ICC) on the right based approach and advocacy training, Ministry of Interior (MoIn) on NGO to assist in the preparation and delivery of the good governance knowledge and learning program and conducted several research studies on action research in community level toKhmer Youth Association (KYA).

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25February 2014