

Success of the Teacher Forum Association at Barphnom High School, Prey Veng Province

After attending the teacher forum organized by CEDAC in cooperation with The German Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF) in 2005 and early 2006, both school principles and teachers at Baphnom High School formed a Teacher Saving Association. 50 teachers agreed upon this initiative. The objectives of this initiative were to:

- Participate in an improvement in the living conditions of teachers
- Strengthen and increase sodality amongst all teachers
- Strengthen regularity of teachers' work

This association was created in May, 2006, during which, there were only 51 teachers amongst 105 who became member. Now, there are 87 members (33 are female) with 166 shares of 10,000 Riels each. The association has the total saving capital of 60 million Riels (15,000 USD).

Currently, with the initiative of the principle, Mr. Var Sarun, a *multi-school saving association* was created in April, 2008 with a membership of 115 teachers from all schools in the Barphnom district. The association is comprised of 126 shares in total which is equal to 1.2 million riels per month. Up to May, 2009, the association has 17 million riels as the capital. At present, there are 10 teacher saving associations and one multi-school saving association within 10 different schools in Barphnom district with 409 members (teachers) and 532 shares or equal to 5 million riels per month.

Amongst 800 teachers within the district, there are about 50 percent or 409 teachers who have become the member of the Teacher Saving Association.

"I wish to see all teachers, at all school through out Cambodia join to form a teacher saving association at every school which could lead to create a Teacher Bank in the near future," said Mr. Var Sarun.

Mr. Var Sarun, is now actively working to disseminate and share this good experience at the high school with other schools through the Development Dialogue and Teacher Forum throughout nine provinces of Cambodia including Prey Veng, Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Svay Rieng, Takeo, Kampot, Kampong Chhnang, Siem Reap, Pursat and Phnom Penh city.

