

## Strengthening local development partners capacity through an exchange visit

On 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2010, CEDAC and CHEC hosted an exchange visit for its development partners in Baphnom, Kampong Trabek, and Preah Sdech district of Prey Veng province with the participation of 23 visitors (3women) from CHEC, SCC, Marynoll, and LWF. The main objectives of this exchange visit is to

- Provide an opportunity to the local development partners to learn from each other about the ownership in development
- Strengthen the cooperation among the EED partners in Cambodia

During the exchange visit, Mr.Hour Sreng, a project coordinator, presented the background, goal, objectives, activities, results, outcome of the project to the participants. Then there were more questions and answers concerning habits and changes, and especially self-reliance development of the People Living with HIV/AIDS and most vulnerable people. In order to make participants understand more in-depth, all participants went to visit 6 PLHAs families who grow vegetable, raising fish, raising chicken, making compost, planting fruit trees, saving, as well as a micro-business at home. All participants were very interested in a positive change of their livelihoods and how to cooperate and help each other among PLHAs member of the group.

In the dinner time, Dr.Yang Saing Koma, a CEDAC president, warmly welcomed and had a speech about the initiative idea of this exchange visit and long term vision of sustainable development as well as ownership in development in Cambodia.

At the end, CEDAC and CHEC wrapped up its meeting at CHEC' s office in Preah Sdech district. Some key idea and questions were proposed as follows:

- This exchange visit is very useful and helpful for participants. Who will be the host for the next exchange visit?
- Formal or informal meeting among the EED partners should organized twice a year in order to learn more from each other?
- Links responses to help PLHAs is a win-win strategy and very effective (The link between livelihood, health care, psychological support, network building).

Hosting an exchange visit  
for a positive change

