

How to Strengthen CBOs for Working Effectively and Sustainably

May 6, 2010

Within the framework of CSPPM (Civil Society and Pro-Poor Market), CRS (Catholic Relief Services) organized its monthly NGO partner meeting in Kompot Municipality. CEDAC President, Dr. Yang Saing Koma was a key speaker for the meeting. 22 NGO staff participated in the meeting; those are the staff from CEDAC, SCW, WOSO, PNKS, FLD, ARD, FACT, SK, MB and CRS. The purpose of the meeting was to share and discuss about the results, challenges and lessons-learned related to project implementation as well as to build up the knowledge and capacity of partner NGOs' staff. During the meeting, Dr. Yang Saing Koma facilitated and discussed with the participants on how to strengthen CBOs (Community Based Organizations) to enable them to work effectively and sustainably.

Cambodia development trends from 1980-2020, CBOs and their linkages to other development agencies (such as NGOs, government institutions, private sector, etc.) were also raised for a detailed discussion. Development policy in terms of a democratic development approach, flow of development funds, development growth of the private sector, etc. were also covered. Moreover, the discussion on development perspective in 2010-2020 was strongly emphasized. On the other hand, the participants also talked actively about what will CBOs do? What will NGOs do? Elements to enhance sustainability of CBOs included self-decision making, capacity in terms of practical management and leadership, etc. At the end of the plenary discussion on aspects of future development, a diagram of linkages and roles of CBOs, NGOs, government institutions, and other development agencies was developed and discussed.

Through the organization of this meeting, the partner NGO staff could understand clearly how to support CBOs for increasing sustainability and self-reliance. In conclusion, the meeting was very useful for the participants to gain knowledge and capacity in providing support to CBOs regarding the future development trends.