

## **Press Conference on Ownership in Development Program**

With the aim to promote and build ownership in local stakeholders on the development process, the Cambodia Institute of Development Study (CIDS) in coordination with the Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC) with financial support from the Friedrich-Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNS), launched a new project on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009, called the Ownership in Development (OID) Program.

18 Representatives from Media companies including Newspapers, Radios, Televisions, Magazines and online news participated in a **Press Conference on Ownership in Development Program** at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh. The OID Program aims to:

- Share experience and insights on the situation of ownership in development at different levels of society and among different groups
- Find solutions to build ownership and promote participation in development
- Influence development policies and strategies through the program
- Work with the media to widely disseminate insights and ideas

During the press conference, many questions were raised by the journalists to Dr. Kang Chandarot, CIDS's director, Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC's president and Mr. Khim Sophanna, FNS's Program Manager in Cambodia.

Dr. Yang Saing Koma, explained the meaning of the word ownership which means to the general sector and level including family, community and national level. "Cambodia has received funding support from international donors for more than 18 years (1991-2009). We all have to think about how we could use that funding support effectively and move to the self-reliance or ownership", he said. "The OID Program will serve as a platform for discussing, analyzing and exchanging information, ideas and experiences on ownership in development", Dr. Yang Saing Koma added.

Dr. Kang Chandarot says that Local involvement is needed for sustainable development. It is the feeling of ownership that determines the quality of involvement and that will self-motivate locals to truly get involved in developing themselves, their communities and their country, he added. *Building ownership of local stakeholders is the most effective way to promote responsibility, transparency and accountability in development.*

