

PURPLE BRICS

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KHANA'S MONTHLY BULLETIN



CAMBODIANS JOIN UNAIDS MEETING IN AFRICA

At the invitation of UNAIDS, three Cambodian HIV/AIDS officials participated in the 19th meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board held in Lusaka, Zambia, on December 6-8th. The officials were H.E Dr. Teng Kunthy, Secretary General of the National AIDS Authority, Dr. Oum Sopheap, KHANA Executive Director, and Dr. Ngim Lina, NAA Chief of Policy Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation.

The meeting focused on "Programme in the Implementation and Coordination of the National Response". Out of four thematic groups, H.E Dr. Kunthy and Dr. Sopheap presented the meeting their country's national target-setting for Universal Access and lessons learnt. According to UNAIDS, this presentation aimed to "create a better understanding of how lack of harmonization affects target setting and follow-up" and also reflected on "the commitment by partners to jointly address the obstacles to scaling-up".

Chhay Sophal



Tach Phanny, a 12-year-old breadwinner whose parents died of AIDS six years ago, lives with her two younger siblings in a village about 4 km from the Vietnamese border.

LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE WHO MATTER

In order to mark World AIDS Day, and its theme of Accountability, KHANA organized its first discussion forum that brought together representatives of groups living with HIV/AIDS and representatives of the donor community in Cambodia. The forum, entitled, "Voices from the Communities: Listening to the People who Matter", heard the stories of PLHA, sex workers, ex-drug users, OVC, MSM and carers. They shared their stories and expressed their concerns, their needs, and their hopes for the future.

Speaking in his welcome remarks, Dr. Oum Sopheap, KHANA Executive Director, said the forum was an opportunity for those who mattered to speak out about their real lives so that the NGO community, the government, donors and Cambodian society could be made aware of their concerns and wishes.

Continued on page 3

Inside

- Asia-Pacific Media Visitto Cambodia.....2
- MMM Building Opened for Villagers.....2
- Reviewing and Re-planning Meeting.....2
- Thai AIDS Foundation visits KHANA.....3
- First Ceremony to mark the International Day of Migration in Cambodia.....4
- KHANA Launches "Purple Award" for Print Media.....4



ASIA-PACIFIC MEDIA VISIT TO CAMBODIA

A group of journalists from the Asia-Pacific region visited Cambodia in December to learn if the royal governmental and non-governmental institutions in Cambodia, which received funds from the Geneva-based Global Fund are on the right track in combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Oren Ginzburg, a Fund Portfolio Manager from the Global Fund, who accompanied the journalists from Australia, Japan and the United States, said that the five-day tour was aimed at raising awareness of the Global Fund projects among the world's media community. "Journalists from the Asia-Pacific region will find out if the governmental; and non-governmental organisations in Cambodia getting funds from the Global Fund have achieved anything while working on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria," he said. Ginzburg added that the journalists will have direct



Dr. Kong Sopheap, KHANA Programme Team Leader, led a group of foreign journalists to meet an HIV/AIDS positive widow and her daughters, assisted by the Indradevi Association.

contact with field workers who spend so much of their time working with and for the people affected by these diseases in Cambodia.

During their visit, the journalists visited two of KHANA's partners in Kandal and Takeo provinces, Partners for Compassion and the Indradevi Association, which are both active in providing services to PLHA and OVC.

William Bowtell, a news writer and director of the HIV/AIDS project of the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, said he was really impressed with what KHANA and its partners are doing in HIV/AIDS home-based care and prevention and that the "Global Fund has done the right thing in supporting organizations who implement home based care." However he did add that it was also important for Cambodia to focus on prevention.

Cambodia is the last destination of the journalists' study tour after Vietnam and Thailand.

Story and picture by Chhay Sophal

MMM BUILDING OPENED FOR VILLAGERS



Dr. Oum Sopheap gave his welcome remarks at the ceremony chaired by H.E Mom Bun Heng.

With support from KHANA, the Kampong Chhnang provincial health authority inaugurated its Mondul Mit Chuoi Mit or Friends Helps Friends Health Center on December 14. The center was funded by the Global Fund through the National Center of HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STIs (NCHADS). The inauguration ceremony was chaired by H.E Mom Bun Heng, Secretary of State for Health.

KHANA Executive Director Dr. Oum Sopheap said the center is very important for people in the province because it will provide consultations, health care services and knowledge about HIV/AIDS prevention to local people. The ceremony was attended by more than 200 PLHA, vulnerable people, and health care providers.

Story and picture by Chhay Sophal

REVIEWING AND RE-PLANNING MEETING

On 21-22 December 2006, KHANA held a meeting to review its results and challenges during 2006 in order to improve the quality of its work for 2007. The two-day meeting was attended by all staff members to share experiences and lessons learnt so that they can re-plan their work and budgets for the upcoming year activities.

Story and picture by Chhay Sophal



KHANA Financial Director Ms. Pen Monorom (left) discussed budget planning for 2007 at the meeting with Ms. Siobhan O' Dowd, Programme Office, from the British-based Alliance.

THAI AIDS FOUNDATION VISITS KHANA

A group of officials of the Thai National AIDS Foundation visited KHANA on December 8 to get some experiences and lessons learnt from KHANA. The officials were led by Ms. Yenjit Samphon, TNAF manager.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr Tith Khimuy- KHANA Programme Director -- briefed the delegates on KHANA's programmes and its vision and mission. He said KHANA works in cooperation with 68 governmental and non-governmental partners and networks nationwide.

In her remarks, Yenjit Samphon expressed how impressed she was with what KHANA has done. She also shared her TNAF experiences and lessons learned, including the challenges experienced in Thailand.

The two sides exchanged their experiences with each other so that they can improve the quality of their work in HIV/AIDS prevention and home based care.



Dr. Tith Khimuy, KHANA programme Director (left), explained KHANA strategies to the Thai delegates while Yenjit Samphon, TNAF Manager, looks on.

The day before, TNAF held a one and a half day workshop on the CORE Initiative Project in Phnom Penh on December 7- 8. A KHANA Project Officer was invited to present KHANA's experiences in the project to the workshop. The CORE Initiative was implemented in Asia from 2004 until 2006.

Story and picture by Chhay Sophal

Continued from page 1: Listening to the People...



Delegates attended the forum. From right to left: Dr. Oum Sopheap, Dr. Hor Bun Leng, Ms. Jane Batte, Ms. Katherine Crawford, the interpreter, and Ms. Elizabeth Smith, from DFID.

Group on HIV/AIDS in Cambodia, expressed their emotion and appreciation for the affected people who were brave enough to talk about their lives in front of such a large and diverse audience. They also pledged their commitment to continue their efforts against HIV/AIDS in Cambodia.

Dr. Hor Bun Leng, Deputy Secretary General of the National AIDS Authority, and Ms. Elizabeth Smith, from DFID, also attended the survey, along with numerous international and national journalists and representatives from many of KHANA's local partners.

KHANA also co-organized a ceremony to mark World AIDS Day in central Phnom Penh. The ceremony, which had the theme "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise" was chaired by His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Keo Put Reksmei and Her Excellency Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Red Cross. Hundreds of students and civil servants participated.

Story by Chhay Sophal, pictures by Heng Sinith

Tach Phanny, a 12-year-old girl whose parents died of AIDS six years ago, explained how hard it was to live as an orphan. Phanny, who looks after her eight year old sister and six-year-olds brother, live in a hut in Kampot province's Koh Krisna village, about 4 km from the Vietnamese border. "I miss my father and mother. I sometimes cry when I think about them and when I see other children playing with their parents." Phanny is so busy earning money to buy food for her siblings, she never attends school. "I don't want to go to school because when I go, nobody cooks for my younger siblings and there is no money to buy food to eat," she said with a firm face. "Since our parents' deaths, we never have pork and beef to eat. We eat small fish and crabs everyday," she added.

Ms. Pil Chan Thol, a 38 year-old HIV/AIDS positive widow, said life is really hard for her and her two children. Chan Thol, whose husband died in 2001, strongly appealed to all people to help stop AIDS. She also urged people to get a blood test because once their HIV status is known, they can get ART and live longer and more fulfilling lives.

After listening to each group, Ms. Kate Crawford, Director of the USAID's Office of Public Health in Cambodia, and Ms. Jane Batte, Representative of the UN Theme



Ms. Pil Chan Thol, a 38-year-old HIV/AIDS positive widow, spoke at the discussion forum.

FIRST CEREMONY TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MIGRATION IN CAMBODIA

In cooperation with government agencies and with the support of national and international donors, a local NGO, Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM) organized the first rally on 18th December to mark the 16th International Day of Migration.

Mr. Ya Navuth, Executive Director of CARAM, said the ceremony was carried out in cooperation with the National AIDS Authority and enjoyed "financial support from UNIFEM, UNFPA and USAID through KHANA."

KHANA Executive Director Dr. Oum Sopheap said that "vulnerable migrants, such as women and youth, see mobility as a way of helping to improve their economic situation, but will often lead to them being cheated and abused."

To improve the migrants' quality of life, Dr. Sopheap explained that access to information and health services are very important and that these could be reached through partnerships with the government, civil society, and the private sector.

Story and picture by Chhay Sophal



Dr. Oum Sopheap gave his welcome remarks at the first-ever ceremony in Cambodia to mark the 16th International Day of Migration.

KHANA LAUNCHES "PURPLE AWARD" FOR PRINT MEDIA



Newspersons and HIV/AIDS experts attended the "Purple Award" launch.

On November 30, 2006 KHANA launched the "Purple Award" for Excellence in Reporting on HIV/AIDS in the Cambodian Print Media. This Award will honour outstanding media responses to the HIV and AIDS epidemic in the country.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of the award at KHANA offices, at which more than 30 senior journalists attended, Dr. Oum Sopheap, KHANA's Executive Director, said the prize was aimed at encouraging journalists to actively participate in reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS through their news articles, by raising awareness, helping to reduce stigma and discrimination and promoting policy and advocacy.

Applications are invited from journalists with published articles on HIV/AIDS in the Cambodia PRINT media. The awards will go to individuals whose journalistic effort

on HIV and AIDS truly qualifies as outstanding. Entries can be investigative articles, interviews or research-based news stories. The judges will look for stories that can serve as models for the direction the media can provide in confronting public health challenges and increasing the depth and quality of public discourse on the epidemic.

Entries can address any issues relating to HIV/AIDS in Cambodia. However, they will be judged according to three categories of increasing awareness and information about HIV/AIDS, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting advocacy and policy for HIV/AIDS issues.

All entries must be published in the Cambodia print media between December 1, 2006 and October 31, 2007. The deadline for entries is October 31st 2007. The Awards ceremony will be held on December 01, 2007.

Prize-winners will be chosen on the basis of journalistic excellence in terms of promoting a wider understanding of HIV/AIDS in Cambodia. One winner for each of the three categories will be selected by an independent jury -- a KHANA representative, a representative of the National AIDS Authority and an independent media professional. Each winner will receive a Purple Award certificate and a cash prize of US\$1,000.

Story and picture by Chhay Sophal

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