



Celebrating 13/17 years of Social Change

KEY NOTES

⊕ Celebrating 13/17 years of Social Change



The year 2009 is the 30 year anniversary of Church World Service in Cambodia. Our bi-annual donor meeting celebrated CWS approaches to social change, through 17 years of direct services to the rural poor in 339 villages of Cambodia and 13 years of work with 43 local Cambodian partners. We met together 3 days (25-27 March) in Phnom Penh with 35 organization partners and our country representatives from Indonesia and Vietnam and donors from Australia and New Zealand.



Ms. Josephine Barbour, Cambodia Country Representative, opens the forum on 25th March, 2009

All the participants expressed appreciation for the capacity building through relationships with our network; showing and sharing ideas and experiences. We were grateful to have 87 participants 2 funding partners, governors and staff present.

The forum was not for speeches but to show our partners' work: gallery displays of our local 35 NGO partners were organized into 8 different groups including Buddhist, Christian, Peace Building, Indigenous Peoples, Children, Community Development, Implementing and Networking. CWS is proud to be significant to the work of our many local partners. We show again and again that professional Cambodian solutions are most effective to sustainable change.

The local partner participants expressed emotion when they saw their organization's work displayed on beautiful banners around the room. Ms Oudom Vansivon, Dhammayeatra Banteay Meanchey organization, expressed her pleasure in seeing the Dhammayeatra banner celebrating the monks' annual walk for peace.

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*Rob (left)
Janet and
Chantha
(right)
partners
on display
board*

In addition to building competence through capacity of Cambodian initiatives, engaging with local government is also a key tenant that makes our work fully successful. Choam Khsant is on the Cambodian-Thai border and currently has hundreds of IDP's from that conflict. Mr. Kao Lung, Choam Khsant district governor since 1999 expressed that "Speaking for the Choam Khsant local authority, we fully support the CWS mission and also collaborate to support their work. The justice and humanity mission is parallel with Cambodian government in reducing poverty, making CWS an important and unforgettable partner." He also shared that "Candidly speaking, CWS staff knows the village more detailed than we ourselves because they work and stay over night with the people". He hopes that CWS continues their mission in Choam Khsant with vulnerable and poor people.



Mr. Kao Lung and Mr. Mey Lun at the speech on the day of 26th March

What touched our hearts was that on the day of his presentation for our donors, he actually was to have received Medal of National Rehabilitation from the government. Instead, he came to meet our donors. CWS really appreciates his presence on that day.

Equally passionate Mr. Mey Lun, Director of Svay Rieng Provincial Department of Rural Development, "Changing from Integrated Community Development to water and sanitation in this last 3 years has resulted in improved hygiene and health in the well selected targets. Increasing 16% of latrine access in 2005 to 18% in 2009 is also big part of CWS's contribution. Provincial government offers profound thanks to CWS. Your collaboration with villagers is

trustable because you work and stay overnight in the community. We sincerely hope that CWS will be able to work in villages that have already been assessed." (with anticipated funds from UNCOR, we will)

CWS Country Representative opened and closed the donor forum with special thanks to Jonathan Lin who has volunteered his service to facilitate this forum and wishes for all: "We hope that it is also an opportunity for you all to spend sometime together and find out what your common successes are and what your common dreams for the future will also be. So for all of our partners, our local partners, our overseas partners, CWS wishes you all the blessings of this life, serenity, joy, happiness, relief of suffering and a very very Happy New Year."



Mr. Jonathan, facilitator, and Ms. Sothea, a translator