



World Interfaith Harmony Week Report

“Harmony among people, Harmony with nature”
31st January 2014

Anchanh Commune, Boribo district, Kampong Chhnang province



Supported by:



Background:

We are a group of individuals and NGOs who are working on Peacebuilding from ACT, CMYCC, Parable Cambodia, CEPA, ICF, PBO, WGP, and YRDP co-operate to organize for World Interfaith Harmony Week compound from Buddhist, Christian and Muslim based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia was gathered in solidarity with people to celebrate the World Interfaith Harmony Week which object to engage the value of interfaith cooperation.

The theme of our event is "Harmony among people, Harmony with nature". This year, the team was decided to celebrate the World Interfaith Harmony Week on 31st of January, 2015 which was take place in Ksach Sar, Boribo district, Kampong Chhnang province with 181 participated with 88 ladies from diverse faiths from Buddhist, Christian, and Muslim as they are religious leaders, lay leader, lecturers, students, NGOs worker, villagers, and communities activist people from Kampot, Kampong Chhnang, Battambang, Siem Reap, Oddormeanchey, Kratie, Pursat, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, and Phnom Penh.



Agendas and processes:

After a long travelling by buses from Phnom Penh to Anchanh village, we then continued from the village byTale Thorng (Ploughing machine) to the community forest where we celebrated the World Interfaith Harmony Week. The event started from 1:30pm to 2:55pm. It's a short period of time for this event. However, it was a great dialogue between participants and speakers and vice versa. We had a great time listen to the community shared their concern and experience related to forestry issue. Following the agenda, we would like to present below:

We started the event by welcome speech from a representative officer from Vice president of Department of Cults and Religion Mr. Chum Sam Ang had shared his experience in the last few years about planting the trees here which organized by ACT interfaith community network. With a friendly conversation, he encouraged and thank to all participants who join this event and would recommend for all of us support such of this event like this to push the interest of more people to turn to the environment.

The open speech by Mr. Sokha Nop which he proclaimed that World Interfaith Harmony Week under the theme of "Love your neighbor" was recognized by United Nation under the request from religious leaders from different faiths and decided to have World Interfaith Harmony Week on the first week of February. We are the people of Cambodia who love peace had initiative this event to benefit to people from different faith especially people in the community. He continued, "We have different faith but we are the people of Cambodia and we are the same human live in one earth. All religions are taught us to love and connect with nature peacefully and harmoniously."

Mrs. Peng Ath, a representative from forestry community leader in Kampong Chhnang province was invited to share the history of the forestry and suggestion toward the Ministry of Forestry to join hand to protect their forest. She noticed with sadness that this forest was cut down completely and now it just grown better than before¹, if compare to other previous years you all will be surprise as no tree at all. Our current forest is 1459.59 hector which approved by department of forestry in the province. She requested to the officer of forestry and other relevant people to help and support her community so that their forest will recognize by the government.

With a short conversation, Mr. Keo Narith, a representative of Department of Forestry appreciated so much to people in the community in term of their hardworking to protecting and re-planting this forest. Religion and forest is very important to all people from different faiths if all faiths people love forest please join hand to protect our forest and support this forest communities and hope next few year when you visit us again you will see more tree in this forest communities.

Each religious leader from Buddhist, Islam and Christian shared their practical message related to interfaith for peace and nature was take turn with: Venerable Both Salouth gave a short speak according to his actual work related to Buddhism and forest from Oddormeanchey province. The forest under his protection is 18,261 hector. My forest was recognized by the Ministry of Forestry in 2008. It's hard to make this possible if there is no participation from people and monks. "It is a blessing for the community where it has a forest. Having forest it could protect us from disaster, famine, and other diseases and people can



¹ She mention that because most of the participants was suppressing why the forest has less tall tree and not look like forest it seem like the dessert. And some of ACT network who are from other provinces who had been visit Rukawan forest of Ven. Bun Salouth at Oddormeanchey province also mention the differences of the forest in Kampong Chhnang compare to the forest at Oddormeanchey it totally difference.

make more benefit from the forest to survive people life. To have this forest happy all of us need to devote our strength and life to protect the forest for our community and country. We need to start from today to protect our forest, if we don't have a forest we don't have harmony either.

Pastor Prey Sokun, Christian leader from Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia mentioned about peace and harmony which related to nature and human being. "Eden" garden is a place of hope and peace between God and human being, man and woman, man and nature. God is the actor to reconcile the world with His love and peace. He most focused on peace between people with people in term of not take revenge, and forgives one another. We might think in this way. Why this person treats me in this way? What happened to him? If we could explore the root causes we will understand the problem well. It started from us to bring a peaceful mind to your world.

Toun Ahmad, the present of Islam association from Kampot province shared about his faith and his practical through Quran. There are three main religions in the world. Hence, the number of follower is not count which one is bad or good. Islam doesn't live far away from nature and peace but Quran tells us that Muslim is giving peace to the world. Why the world project Islam as terrorist? We don't count them as followers. Each religious follower has good and bad believer. Those who obey their scripture would do a good deed. Meanwhile, he mentioned that Islam is a peace religion.

Through this panel we discovered that all religious scriptures are the same teaching, but different practical one. Practical is depending on the culture and context of the people. To make their religion alive is depending on their practical. Wording is quite easy to express while hardly to apply in the real world. Imagine if every single people who obey their own religious teaching how beautiful the world we are. In contradiction, people from different seem very boast about their scripture and fight for the best one. Rarely, we see people ignored with what they have learnt from their leaders. Sadly, some people use religion as a tool for violent, oppression, to earn their power and control the world.

Reflection and evaluation: 1) Have you ever joint such interfaith event before?
2) How religious (interfaith) teachings contribute to protection of natural resources and sustainable community development? Through these questions, they encouraged participants to think critically about their own faith and practical that connected to peace and harmony. We found that people quite interesting in this event. They mentioned it is a good event that organized for them to listen, learn and meet directly



with the people in the community. They experienced of a real adventure in forest. Moreover, they appreciated how to pack our snacks and meals. All food was packed by banana leaves. It really encouraged them to see this environment conservative example. It's a great lesson learnt in the real field, from other participants and religious speakers. This event open a space for all follower connect with each other. We learnt how to build a peaceful mind and act according to our own faith and other religious teaching. We are come from different religion but we can come together as one to protect our nature and bring a harmony among the people. They committed to bring what they have learnt and experienced here to share with their friends, families, colleagues and organization partners.

The reflection evaluation was done among the participants at the end of the activities:

Challenges:

- Time for celebrate the event short and did a long travel, limited timeframe of the event that need to be skipped some agenda
- Miscommunication among the communities forest that need time to gather as too many people in the event.



Successes:

- Bring a closeness and good relationship with divers religious, the community, and other participants
- Motivate and encourage local people to strive and protect their forest
- Direct experience in the field
- Appreciation from the participants
- Each NGOs partner was very good in cooperation among each other to make the event happened
- High in responsibilities among the team and enjoy by all

Recommendation:

- Should organize to promote such activities for more in other forestry areas and more participants.

Name list:

N	Name	Sex	Role	Institute	E-mail	Phone
1	Chin Sithun	M	PC	Danmission	sithuanchin@danmission.kh	017 805 522
2	Long Douen	M	PM	PNKS	longdouen@gmail.com	017 458 358
3	Own Sophal	F				092 923 150
4	Phun Krisna	M	Trainer	PBO		092 953 460
5	Prum Mayim	M	PC	PNKS	prum.maiyim@yahoo.com	012 562 911
6	Khang Saban	F	Freelance	Freelance	keangsaren@gmail.com	077 751 418
7	Sok Narien	M	Academic	CIA first		089 373 110
8	Seng Menghun	M	Admin	Khmer new	menghun60@gmail.com	078 322 322
9	Ry Songha	M	Monk	wat saraone	sangha.r91@gmail.com	010 741 793
10	Eap Srey	F	Assistant	PBO	eap_srey@yahoo.com	012 310 547
11	Kert Chhunly	F	Facilitator/CPIP		chhunly@gmail.com	012 900 874
12	Bing Art	F	Chief of community	Community		017 329 282
13	Net Phang	M	Participant	Community		012 320 983
14	Sorn Lorm	M	Monk			092 142 636
15	Yurn Kunthea	M	Student			
16	Bun Saluth	M	Monk	Chief Community	bunsaluth@gmail.com	012 315 753
17	Chum Sam ang	M	Network	ACT/network		089 789 365
18	Kop Chansart	M	Network	ACT/network		097 567 7308
19	Sok Piset	M	student	Master		069 990 187
20	Keo Sreynang	F	Student	YRDP		070 549 159
21	Roth Sreynang	F	Student	YRDP		087 242 595
22	Muoy Piseth	M	staff	PUC	muoypiseth@puc.cdu.kh	086 598 287

23	Phal Sina	F	Volunteer	YRDP	phalsina888@gmail.com	070 336 917
24	Am Sokly	M	Staff	YRDP	sokly@yrdp.org	010 956 646
25	Ny Sanafy	M	Student	NU	sanafyny69@gmail.com	093 287 574
26	Roun Sreylak	F	Student	NU	sreylak98b@gmail.com	096 223 6006
27	Thet Theavy	F	Student	MII	theavythet@gmail.com	010 657 125
28	Touch Sreylis	F	Student	MII		086 234 542
29	Leang Kong Chaivy	M	Student	MII		097288 6062
30	Bun nary	F	Staff	Mii		012 943 994
31	Moun thearit	M	Student	Mli		096 894 0576
32	Chen Synourn	F	student	Mii		086 532 668
33	Lorn Chhanikim	F	Volunteer	ACT		077 858387
34	Min Sorn	F	Member community			012 835308
35	An Soklim	M	Member community			
36	Lorn Seolork	M	student	Muslim		
37	Vorn Sopha	M	Student	Muslim		
38	Sung Sim	F	Leader of community			
39	Ean Sophorn	M	Volunteer	CDLC	Ean.sophorn@gmail.com	012 657 203
40	Lorn Khuntea	M	Volunteer	CDLC		
41	Cheok Selin	F	Student	CDLC		
42	Broem Sarun	F	Volunteer	CDLC		
43	Lay Changly	F	student	CDLC		
44	Yoeng Thida	F	Student	CDLC		
45	Thor Seonat	S	Volunteer	CLDC		
46	Lorn Ban	F	youth	CDLC		

47	Ear Phally	F	youth	CDLC		
48	Kim Seng	M	Leader Radio VOC	CLDC	cldcks@gmail.com	0979 777 216
49	Mit Vanny	F	youth	Community		
50	Pong Sokchan	F	student	Community		
51	Soueng Soknang	F	student	CDLC		097 3107 913
52	Ear Rosart rohal	F	student	CMYCC		010 289 091
53	Pearim Asisas	F	student	CMYCC		096 387 9057
54	Al Yusas	M	Student	CMYCC		087 261094
55	Al Norin	M	student	CMYCC		096 296 4282
56	Mann Asihis	F	Student	CMYCC		070 477 546
57	Ki Mary	F	Staff	CMYCC		016 343 843
58	Ly Rozart	M	Leader	CMYCC	sozar.lyllt@gmail.com	078 548 222
59	Ny Eisart	M	Student	CMYCC		096 293 7116
60	Ma art ngibngollors	M	student	CMYCC		0938 36 508
61	Khan Sophy	F	staff	ACT	po01@act.org.kh	092 771 446
62	Keo Darith	M	staff	Admin forestry	kdarith.fa@yahoo.com	011 299 312
63	Sin Savuth	M	officer	Admin forestry		012 2147 930
64	Phum Mang	M	Admin foresry officer	Admin forestry		012 261 497
65	Chheo Savouen	F	Deputy community	Community		077 895 612
66	Thun hunn	F	member	Community		
67	Thoem Chanthy	F	Member	Community		
68	Ream Many	F	student	Community		
69	Yeb Pinsey	F	Student	Community		
70	Haiy Senghang	F	student	Community		
71	Min Chanrern	F	Member	Community		
72	Chheang Rithy	M	Staff	WGP	chheangrithy168@gmail.com	086 272 790

73	Sam Chantrea	F	Volunteer	NISA	samchantreanisa@gmail.com	096 3 410 785
74	Phor Sovann	F	Volunteer	NISA	dadulike2014@gmail.com	096 461 7415
75	Nhoel Bannha	F	Volunteer	NVM		096 868 2899
76	Ny Chetra	M	Student	Setec		098 838 089
77	Seng Kuntea	F	Student	RULE	sengsokunthea@gmail.com	010 380 992
78	Huy hunny	F	student	RULE		093 947 431
79	Rorn Makara	M	Student	PUC	makara_muc@yahoo.com	098 669 646
80	Sokchea Sokcheat	M	Student	NVM		010 596 880
81	Ork Sereirath	F	Student	YRDP	orksereirath@yahoo.com	077 878 677
82	Keo Rathana	F	student	BS	hru.keoratana@gmail.com	077 797 763
83	Kong dalin	F	student	NIC	sophounly@gmail.com	077 719 596
84	Khean Doss	M	student	MIZ		015 998 862
85	Ham Kimhun	M	Founder	Parable Cambodia		017 575 009
86	Seam Rina	F	student	RUPP		088 895 5527
87	Sin Samrong	M	staff	ITC		069 593809
88	Khoch Chheatey	F	student	USS		016 760 702
89	Chhoem Malan	F	staff	PUL		087 280 105
90	Keo Vichet	M	Staff	ACT	vichetkeo@yahoo.com	012 886 275
91	Sor Boramy	F	Teacher	RUPP	boramyson@gmail.com	017 819 781
92	Nob Sokha	M	staff	PBO	sokha@peacebride.kh	012 739 780
93	Surn Ranny	M	Student	Mii		096 6551 991
94	Hieng Siengmey	F	Student	Mii	hiengsiengmey@gmail.com	016 985 759
95	Ho Vichet	F	Student	NIE	vithetho@gmail.com	078 388386
96	Ry Hareyann	M	student	CMYCC		098 824 484
97	Him zerkim	M	student	IT	himzerkim@gmail.com	096 986 1393
98	Phorn Sokry	M	Student	IT		098 332 600
99	Sit naseat	M	student		naseat@gmail.com	087 360 984
100	Muha mat	M	Student	CMYCC		015 567 602

101	San Assnavy	M	Research Assistant	Rain water Cambodia	snavysan@gmail.com	098 284 414
102	Sman Bostahva	M	Student			086 500 654
103	Choem Sarorn	M	student	CMYCC		096 713 1161
104	Kang Sokry	M			krycoco2@gmail.com	098 814 484
105	Sman Hanahvy	M	student			098 454 682
106	Him Azizah	M	Student	CMYCC		010 657 484
107	Chouen Mesda	M	Sudent	PBO		012 900 784
108	Mey Chandara	M	youth	CMYCC	chandara13918@gmail.com	088 221 6161
109	Aum Mealy	F	coordinator	PBO	mealy@peacebrodges.net	012 548 976
110	Him Slamiyany	F	coordinator	CMYCC	slamiyanyhim@yahoo.com	012 682 275
111	Khan Dorn	M	Network/Kampot	ACT		012 337 530
112	Ly Asmat	M	Network/Kampot	ACT		012 937466
113	Lunny	F	Network/Kratie	ACT		012 292790
114	Ven. Rouen Vannak	M	Network/Kampong Cham	ACT	vannak_009@hotmail.com	010 992 889
115	Ven. Yors Sheyha	M	Network/Kratie	ACT		097 891 5555
116	Chhang Sros	M	Student	Kampong Cham	chheangsros@gmail.com	069 262 328
117	Kat Saraen	M	Student	Kampong Spue		086 966 656
118	Sek Darorng	M	Network/Kampong Cham	ACT		011 336 052
119	Yim Mean	M	Teacher	PP	yim.mean@yahoo.com	012 521 032
120	Heang sarith	M	Teacher	PP	heangsharith@gmail.com	093 394267
121	Chhit Ban	M	Network	PNKS-PV	beanchhit@yahoo.com	012 362 992
122	Chan Tino	M	Facilitator	PNKS-PV	ChantinoPV@gamil.com	012 204 569
123	Hor Hean	M	Facilitator	ICF		077 556 676
124	Surn Keo Mony	M	Student	Mii	monykeo.107@gmail.com	096 468 5366
125	Lornh Rathana	F	Student	Mii		096 338 7043

126	Aum Chanthu	F	Student	Mii		096 681 7727
127	Rony Pisey	F	Student	Mii		086 503 548
128	Kum Navy	F	Student	Mii		098 250 2677
129	Ven Ang	F	Student	Mii		090 260 427
130	Kom Seng Ang	F	Student	Mii		096 011 4831
131	Kong Rasmey	M	Student	Master		098 28 5833
132	Bun Saburn	M	Student	Mii		096 5080 984
133	Chhin Synoun	F	Student	Mii		086 532668
134	Porng Srey Sros	F	Student	Mii		096 2443112
135	Heng Malon	F	Student	Mii		096 4659688
136	Ro Ka	M	Student	Master		070 877 289
137	Lang Vuthy	M	Student	Master		096 645 7856
138	Yurn Kimmang	M	Student	Master		096 9096 668
139	Srey Sotheavy	F	ED	ACT		017 990 371
140	Brey Sokhan	M	Paster	EFC	sokoinorey@yahoo.com	012 989 418
141	Sngam Kroem	M	Student	RUPP	Snagakroem@gmail.com	010 636 921
142	Sun Sovann	F	Student	RUPP	saunnsong99@gmail.com	086 622 2382
143	Hean Hak	M	Staff	ACT		077 762 466
144	Sem Chanthea	F	Staff	ACT	schanthea@gmail.com	095 807 371
145	Kha Vann	M	Student			
146	Phoueng Hun	F	Youth	Community		071 6462 466
147	Lorn Seolok	M	youth	Community		
148	Chet Chantrae	M	youth	Community		
149	An Chun	M	youth	Community		
150	Nhaem Cheng	M	member	Community		
151	Chhun Aoknha	M	youth	Community		
152	Yan Ry	M	youth	Community		
153	Bun Seory	M	youth	Community		
154	Hung Sohoun	M	youth	Community		
155	Har Han	M	youth	Community		

156	Sung Sam Ang	M	youth	Community		
157	Moub Phan	M	member	Community		
158	Sung Nun	M	member	Community		
159	Nhoet Houen	M	Member	Community		
160	Nhaem Thea	F	member	Community		
161	Un Solim	F	Member	Community		
162	Pong Mom	F	member	Community		
163	Yoem Pisey	F	member	Community		
164	Aer Phally	F	member	Community		
165	Har Sitheng	F	Member	Community		
166	Youen Nytha	F	member	Community		
167	Chork Seylin	F	Member	Community		
168	Roem Many	F	Member	Community		
169	March Vanny	F	youth	Community		
170	Thur Seonat	F	youth	Community		
171	Thoem Sochea	F	youth	Community		
172	Pong Phich	F	youth	Community		
173	Nang Sann	F	Member	Community		
174	Chhay Yie	F	Member	Community		
175	Kang Phalla	F	Member	Community		
176	Chhut Sover	F	Member	Community		
177	Vann Soek	F	Member	Community		
178	Aear Cher	F	Member	Community		
179	Sung Pheap	M	Member	Community		
180	Pouneng Hon	F	youth	Community		
181	Lorn Seoloek	M	youth	Community		

Total

181 people
88 Ladies