Building civil society voices on climate change

Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2014

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Rationale

♦ The community has their own way of adapting with the local climate changes, but limited understanding about how their life is affected by the global CC.
♦ Adaption was based primarily on new agricultural techniques, including irrigation, and upon disaster preparedness.
♦ Most adaptation projects are done through extension of agricultural techniques, but had lost connection to CC.
♦ Technical programs also sometimes distract people from the underlying issues.
♦ Agricultural sector related to CC appears to receive more technical inputs from the agro business, which encourage for more chemical fertilizer and spray use.
The strategy

- A well-informed and empowered population with a collective voice to address climate change issues so that environmental sustainability is increased and marginalised people have stronger control over their lives and livelihoods.
Knowledge

- Awareness raising for civil society is an important factor for civil society on climate change, its impacts and adaptation measures.

- Capacity building to empower local community to be able to raise their concerns and demand addressing climate change and other livelihood related issues.

- Institutional/organizational building of local community’s groups, as well as local NGOs, have seen a better approach for sustainable and long term empowerment.
Research

- Research provides evidence-based information and data,
  - linking the local and indigenous knowledge and scientific findings
  - revealing the truth about what is happening at the ground
  - Showcasing options or alternatives for better adaptation
  - convincing policymakers and decision makers
Sharing

- Knowledge sharing/transfer within civil society’s groups, which:
  - helps to raise awareness and improve knowledge for better decision at grassroots level and policy level
  - maintains continuous and sustainable human capital within community and the country
  - creates platform for discussion and exchange of knowledge, expertise, experience and practice in local and countrywide adaptation with different stakeholders
  - building networks and alliance among communities’ themselves
Policy engagement

- Policy engagement provides opportunity for local community to:
  - send their message across levels
  - interact with external communities to convey their demand and concern, including NGOs, academics, private sectors, development partners and policy/decision makers
  - contribute to the development of policy and planning
  - exercise their roles in local good governance
An example

- **Joint Principles for Adaptation (JPA)**, under the coordination of **Southern Voices Programme** of Care Denmark ([www.southernvoices.net](http://www.southernvoices.net)), include:
  - Participatory and inclusive planning
  - Public funds for adaptation
  - Responsibilities and appropriate resources of all government sectors and levels of administration
  - Local adaptation plans - through community-based approaches are a core element
  - The resilience of women and men
  - Balance between the investment in physical infrastructure and the building of skills and capacities
  - Plans respond to evidence of the current and future impacts of climate change
Summary

Well-informed and empowered population with collective voices to address climate change
Thank you!

Live and Learn Cambodia
House #40, St. 568, Phnom Penh
12152, Cambodia
P.O. Box 91
T: +855 23 88 55 02
E: cambodia@livelearn.org

The Cambodia Climate Change Network
House #6, St. 570, Phnom Penh
12152, Cambodia
P.O. Box: 2032 Phnom Penh 3
E: coordinator@cccn.org.kh