



Newsletter

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About Youth For Peace and the Youth Participation Project

Youth for Peace (YFP) is a youth organization, that aims to bring about peace and social justice in Cambodia through the development of good role models and active citizenship of youth who understand and practice a culture of peace. YFP prepares young people for solidarity, leadership, and active citizenship by developing their capacity for decision-making, by building in them a sense of responsibility, and by empowering them to act. In workshops using a participatory methodology, supplemented by a variety of other methods, YFP challenges its students to discover their own iden-

tity and to develop analysis abilities. Through these trainings, youths develop the solidarity, trust, and confidence necessary to work together to find solutions for community problems.

Vision

We envision a peaceful, just and democratic society where people have equal access and active participation towards sustainable development and harmony.

Mission

Youth for Peace is a local peace NGO that works to encourage young people, especially high school youths, to become agents of social change through training, dialogue and advocacy.

The **Youth Participation Project** focuses on HR and Democracy, and aims to achieve more participation of youth in decision-making in their communities and in society. The project actually connects the most important formal local decision-making institutions, the Commune Councils, to the youth. This not only increases the skills and experiences of youth, but also enhances the awareness of the Commune Councils of the value of youth, and the importance and potential of the participation of youth in local decision-making processes.

First training conducted

On 13th November 2009 the YPP-Training Team held its first workshop about non-violence in Ek-Phnom district, Battambang province. 33 young and interested participants joined the workshop and shared their knowledge and experiences. They reported situations of violence in their daily

lives and analyzed their reasons. In different groups the participants discussed solutions for all people involved in a violent situation. Thereby they realized that violence does not only affect the individuals involved in a certain incident, but society as a whole.



*Left picture:
Explaining violence. Background information helped to understand violence*

*Right picture:
The roleplay was fun and build empathy with victims and committers*



Mobile Library



The Mobile Library is being established. In the period from November to December, the Training Team provided 5 times a mobile library in Ek-Phnom district. At a primary and a secondary school, as well as at a public place, about 350 young read the mixture of short-stories, educational publications, brochures and entertainment material.

In order to increase the number of permanent young readers YPP will help and advice schools to build up permanent libraries on their compounds. The mobile library will then be at different places in communities where a lot of people can reach it.

Violence in the Forum

Complying with a survey initially conducted by the entire Team which mentioned violence as an urgent topic the in the communities, the Advocacy Team organized a Forum on the subject. Under the focus topics “gangsters” and “domestic violence”, the vice-police chief of Battambang Province and the vice-director of the Department of Women’s Affairs, spoke to the 140 participants on both the legal and the de facto side of the issue. The number of questions was great and the participants showed very apt at answering questions posed by the facilitators – added by some remarks of the respective speaker.



*Above picture:
About 140 youth listened and asked
Below picture:
Representatives provided information*



International Human Rights Day



Ballons spread wishes

Recently, on 10th December 2009, which is the International Human Rights Day, YPP cooperated with YCC (Youth Council Cambodia), another NGO working on topics like human rights and good governance. Together they conducted a forum in Ek Phnom High school. There were a lot of youths joining the forum. A member of the district council, the commune chief, the military police and some teachers were invited.

After a short introduction, all the participants walked around the village holding up and sharing

posters about human rights to the people. Afterwards, the member of the district council hold a speech about human rights.

In order to spread wishes, more than 100 balloons were led into the air. From both organizations YPP and YCC three volunteers formed a group in order to debate about human rights. They pointed out that the International Human Rights Day is an important day. Everyone should know about the human rights to prevent discrimination, racism and violation of the rights. At the end of the forum, the moderator raised questions to the youths in order to remember the most important points that were mentioned during the day.

By celebrating the anniversary of the Human Rights Day, the participants could understand more about the topic and help together to create a better future.

The issues



To make YPP work in Ek Phnom as effective as possible, the Advocacy Team first set out to identify the issues the youth were most concerned about. A meeting was conducted at K’dangie Pagoda, to which youth from three communes were invited.

In several fruitful discussion groups, presentations and brainstorming, three subjects were identified as being the most grievous. According to the youth unemployment, drug abuse and lack of education formed the core of most problems faced by the communities.

Youth Network



The Advocacy Team aims to establish a network consisting of active youths from 3 communes in Ek Phnom District. This allows implementing the youths’ ideas on a local level, in cooperation with the commune councils, but also provides space for an exchange of ideas between youths from different communes. Although only a small number of very active youths joined the establishing meeting, there are great hopes for more to join in order to form a thriving network. YPP will help the youths in the establishing process and provide them with capacity buildings to further their skills at organizing and becoming active themselves.

■ Published by:
Youth For Peace
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■ Contact:
Phay Piseth
Project Officer
(855) 17 817 775
yfp_btb@yfpcambodia.org