

**THE 10<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FARMER AND NATURE NET  
Cambodian-Japanese Cooperation Centre (CJCC),  
Phnom Penh, Mar 26-26, 2014**

By: FNN Secretariat:

Since the inception, founded by CEDAC and FNF in 2003, the Farmer and Nature Net (FNN) has gradually improved and developed itself from totally dependency to be more independent and self-reliant farmer organizations network in Cambodia. From year to year CEDAC has minimized its leadership and administration from FNN and maximized the self-governed and self-reliant to FNN. Since 2009, FNN has administered, facilitated, organized and governed by the Board of Directors, who all are farmers with technical assistances of hired secretariat staff.

The 10<sup>th</sup> GA was held on March 25-26, 2014, at CJCC, where 200 FNN's representatives (whom 63 were female) from 59 district networks of FNN in 16 target provinces.

Main purposes of the GA to (1) present a brief report of activities and finance of FNN in 2012-2013 and development report by each province; (2) elect new provincial leaders, new members of BoD and national leaders; and (4) strategize for 2013-2015 and approve on new membership fee for 2013-2014.

The purposes were achieved through the following results:

- Brief activities and financial expenditures of the FNN were reported to the GA.



- New and update activities of respective provincial networks, which generally related to development of self-help saving groups, application of new agricultural and farming techniques, good cooperation with the government authorities and relevant stakeholders, were discussed and reported.

- Update of CEDAC's enterprise was reported. According to report of CEDAC's enterprise, in 2013, the enterprise purchased rice paddy 1,144 tons from 637 FNN's organic rice producers in Takeo, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Battambang, and Kampot provinces. Total capital of purchasing the rice paddy was US\$510,509. Total income was

US\$690,138 and US\$23,282. Meanwhile, the producers got US\$9,673 from Fair Trade.

- Update of Rice-Mill Cooperatives was reported. Development of RMC up to February 2014 as of follows:
  - ✓ Membership: 8,113 members in individual and 197 members in associations;
  - ✓ Total investment cost: 1,410,832,350 riels (or about US\$352,708) and 53 tons in rice paddy;
  - ✓ Target: 1,192 villages, 303 communes, 60 districts in 13 provinces.
- Meanwhile, update report from national saving federation there are 1,531 self-help groups with 62,906 members in 16 provinces, 59 districts, 266 communes and 1,080 villages. Total amount of saving capital is around US\$10 million.

National Saving Federation and FNN's Community Bank	
Federation	Community bank
• Members: 75 associations	• Members: 36 associations
• Annual due collected in 2014 is 16 million riels	• Shares collected are 50,100,000 million riels
	• Number of shares: 1,252 shares
	• Reserve fund are 21,000,000 million riels

- Update of CAFACA project, cooperation of CEDAC and CAFACA, was also reported to the GA.
- Update status of a pilot project of Food Security and Nutrition.
- Sixteen provincial network leaders were elected and re-elected. The 16 provincial network leaders automatically become members of Board of Directors of FNN at the national level.
- New FNN national leaders were also democratically elected. The processes were smooth with free and fair elections. Mr. Seu Rany, provincial network leader of Takeo, has been elected as a new FNN's chairperson for 2013-2016. Meanwhile, Mr. Uon Sophal, former FNN's president, who finished his mandate as chairpersonship after two terms of president, has been appointed by the new president as a senior advisor of FNN. Ms. Khuon Sey, FNN's vice-chairperson, has been elected as a new representative of national women network. She is also still being the vice-president of FNN. Meanwhile, Ms. Sam Kanha is still FNN's treasurer. ***It is important to note that the gender balance is positively promoted...***
- New membership fee for the 2013–2014 was approved with at least 100,000 riels (or 25US\$ per year per association) must be paid and deposited into bank account of FNN. But, the fee will be used by and for FNN district network meetings and other purposes.
- During the GA, Dr. Koma mentioned about the relationship and cooperation of CEDAC and FNN and services support to FNN's members. He also gave great inputs to encourage farmers to become a rural millionaires (Sethei Srok Sre) by applying five following changes (1) change from a short-sight to a far-sight; (2) change from doing big farm with less yields to be a small farm with higher yields/prices; (3) change from selling rice-paddy (raw materials) to sell milled-rice; (4) change from spending first to be saving first; and (5) change from working alone to be working in group/network. He also encourages farmers to generate more collective funds and shares for RMC and National Saving Federation. He maintained that the organic rice-mill cooperative at central (Chunlung Mlu in Phnom Penh) had been in process and will be installed as soon as by late 2014 or early 2015. He finally stated about linking organic products of farming members to CEDAC's shop and oversea export. He also added that in order to develop and sustain our communities we need to gain profit. If not, there will be



no sustainability.

- Sharing great successes and solid development of self-help saving groups as of follows:
  1. Mr. Ung Touch, Chairperson of Russey Sanh Sambo Phal Saving Association of Sithor Kandal district, Prey Veng province: His saving association was established in 2006. Up to date, his association has saving capital around 1,600,000,000 riles (about US\$400,000).
  2. Mrs. Vong Sithorn, Chairperson of Porieng Saving Association of Porieng district, Prey Veng province: Her saving association was established in 2009. Up to date, his association has saving capital around 2,000,000,000 riles (about US\$500,000) and collective fund around 70,000,000 riels (about US\$17,5000).
  3. Mr. Seu Rany, Chairperson of Trapaing Sdok Saving Association of Prey Kabas district, Takeo province: His saving association was established in 2009. Up to date, his association has saving capital around 2,000,000,000 riles (about US\$500,000) and collective fund around 70,000,000 riels (about US\$17,5000).

Then, Mr. Uon Sophal, former FNN's chairperson, gave some advices to all members particularly the new chairperson, Mr. Seu Rany, as follows:

1. Be able to collect ideas from all sides, but do wisely base on our own principles;
2. Be clear on our goal, missions and do with strong commitment;
3. Be centralist, no prejudice;
4. Be transparency and accountability;

After that, Mr. Seu Rany, new chairperson, thanks all participants from 59 districts who believed in him and vote for him to be a new chairperson of FNN. He has strongly determined to serve and lead FNN to be success and straight forward. He has also appealed to all participants to be more cooperative and solidarity in order to make success together.

Meanwhile, Mr. Khuon Sey, Vice Chairperson/Women Network, also strongly determined to represent the women toward better gender balance.



In general, the 10<sup>th</sup> GA of FNN was highly evaluated by and participants as success.