

Workshop on Leadership and Financial Management for Farmer Organization Networks

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A national workshop on leadership and financial management for FNN saving networks and young farmer leaders held on July 30-31, 2010, at Sotheavy hotel, Takeo province. The workshop was co-organized by CEDAC and FNN and co-sponsored by FNF and EED (both sponsors are German foundations). Farmer and young farmer representatives, SOSOR's network leaders from 6 provinces¹, representatives from FNN, CEDAC and two software experts were present in the workshop.

The workshop aims to strengthen and promote the awareness of the SOSOR's network leaders, to present about an advantage of the Prosperous Saving Community (SOSOR=Sahakom Sansom Rung Roerung), and also to develop the SOSOR's ability to build their own sustainability and self-governance after the CEDAC project on saving was finished.



Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC President and also FNN Advisor, addressed “we want our farmers’ saving networks and the rural young leaders have their own competence and strong point of view to change the mindset of dependency on donors or supporters to be more self-reliance and stand on their own ankles without donors”. He added "we want the farmers work even harder and efficiency to achieve the sustainable development in their community.

¹ . The six provinces are include Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Takeo, Kampot, Svay Rieng, and Pursat



To be noted that SOSOR is one of the CEDAC projects that has been set up to facilitate the farmers organizations to be able to save their own resources (both money and human) within their communities. SOSOR has expanded networks into nine provinces², 39 districts, 145 communes, and 421 villages, which consists of 537 groups, 65 SOSOR.

In this vital occasion, the SOSOR's representatives from the leading provinces – Kampong Speu, Takeo and Kampot – presented their communities' development and the process of SOSOR. Finally, the software experts presented an interesting accounting software system that will enable the farmers and the rural young farmers to easily access, insert, store and find the saving data in computer. In this regard, it has showed another advancing step for FNN members in good cooperation with CEDAC and other partners.

Furthermore, the expert, Mr. Deap Leng, also presented an interesting information with regard to saving and credit. He, then, presented about KIVA foundation³. According to him, the KIV foundation was established few years ago by an American couple who once visited Kenya, Africa, where they found an extreme poverty there. Based upon the visit they found a true root cause of the poverty that because of the lack of investment capital and have no access to credit services. So, they started collecting some small saving depositors in order to provide loan to those poor people under their slogan "credit for change of life".

Uploaded by Noy Kimhong, FNN reporter and writer



² . The nine provinces are Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Takeo, Pursat, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng.
³ . The KIVA foundation is an international credit loan that consists of approximately 750,000 depositors across the globe. The KIVA approach is to provide loan for change of life to MFI through internet evaluating and providing processes and then the loans are extended to individual borrower.