



DAC NEWSLETTER

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#28, St. 184, Sangkat Chey Chum Neas, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA

PO Box: 115, Tel: +855-(0)23-215341, 218797; Fax: +855-(0)23-214722

Email: dac@bigpond.com.kh Visit DAC website @ <http://www.dac.org.kh/>

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The Disability Action Council would like to gratefully acknowledge United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Leahy War Victim's Fund (LWVF) for their core funding support from 1998 to 2005.

General Information of the DAC Secretariat

By Ouk Sisovann & Ngy San

❖ Following the directions of the Disability Action Council (DAC) Strategic Plan for 2002-2005 and beyond, the DAC is now in the process of its restructuring, especially the transformation of the current DAC Executive Board to a new DAC Governing Board. However, this will be finalized and implemented based on the outcomes of work conducted by the Organizational Development Consultant who is expected to be in place in the near future.

❖ The Staff Policies Reviewing Committee of the DAC Secretariat has been established to assist the Executive Director and his Deputy in the areas of resolving internal staff conflict, staff appraisal and reviewing staff policy. TOR of this committee are being discussed. This has been directed by the current DAC Personnel Policies. This committee has 3 members (two members have been elected by staff and one member has been appointed by the Executive Director.)

❖ The DAC Semi-Annual General Meeting was reconvened,
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DAC Executive Board and Advisory Committee

By Ouk Sisovann & Ngy San

From July to September 2002, two separate meetings of the DAC Advisory Committee (AC) and Executive Board (EB) were held to discuss these issues and the main outputs achieved during this period include the following:

◆ In cooperation with the DAC, the Royal Government of Cambodia has confirmed its position to support the extension of the new ESCAP Decade for Disabled Persons, 2003-2012. The top government official and DAC representative are prepared to participate in the official conclusion of the current ESCAP Decade and declaration of the new decade, to be held in October 2002, Japan.

◆ Brief updates of DAC progress from April-June 2002

◆ Report of 4th session of the Thematic Working Group on Disability-related Concerns and Expert Group meeting, held from 24-28 June 2002, Bangkok

◆ OSAKA Forum, 21-23 October 2002, Osaka, Japan

◆ Preparation for High Level Inter-Governmental Meeting of the
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Alternative Care Project: Are Children Bed ?

By Rachel Smith

Ms. Smith is seconded from Maryknoll to work with the DAC since October 02, 2000 to provide technical support for children and people with intellectual disability.

In March 2002, Ms. Rachel Smith trained teachers from the Rabbit School in behavior management for the classroom. The Rabbit School is based in the Nutrition Center (NC) Orphanage, which is operated by the government to care for 60 children with disabilities and the Rabbit School

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Women with Disability Committee

By Korm Chanthan

The draft of Regional Review Paper on the Evaluation of Achievements of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002 showed that the women with disability issues were not mentioned. Therefore, the concerns and the development of women with disabilities should form a central part of future framework for action in the region.

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Disability Database Working Group (DDWG)

By Men Sinoeun

Socio-Economic/Demographic and Service Accessible Disability Database Survey Project (July-September 2002)

Six data entries clerks selected with the support of MOSALVY, DOSALVY's Kampong Speu, DAC Secretariat, JSC and SSC had received on job training about data entry and entering data collected during the survey on Socio-Economic/Demographic/Service Accessible Disability Database Survey in the

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The Children with Disability Committee

By Dave Jones & Kong Vichetra

The committee arranges meetings every month to share information, and discuss issues concerning children with disabilities. The committee is delighted to announce that its proposal to the British Embassy for school building funds has been successful. The British Embassy's Small Grants Fund had given \$13,284 to finish construction of 7 classrooms at K'Cheay Primary School and 5 classrooms at Krawsang Chrum Primary School in Svay Rieng Province. The community itself has already completed about 50% of the building work using their own money and labour. This project will help reduce the current overcrowding at K'Cheay and Krawsang Chrum Primary Schools and enable these schools to meet future increased student enrolment.

The DAC has been providing a small amount of financial support to the cluster to cover the expenses of a local implementation team comprising representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation, the provincial and district education offices and the Cambodia Disabled Peoples' Organisation (CDPO). The team for surgery and assistive devices also refers disabled children at the schools for treatment.

The focus of the DAC has been on improving educational opportunities for children with disabilities. Under the framework of inclusive education we are transforming the school culture and environment to make it more welcoming and responsive to the needs of all children, particularly the most vulnerable. Improvements to the school facilities at K'Cheay and Krawsang Chrum will help children with disabilities in particular. We are very grateful to the Embassy for this funding and will be providing regular updates on progress.

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aiming at exchanging and sharing information on 1) Evaluation of the achievements of implementation of the UN-ESCAP Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002) at national and regional levels; 2) The proposed extension and priority areas for action of the new ESCAP Decade (2003-2012); 3) Identifying priority areas for action in Cambodian context for the development of 5-year National Plan of Action for the Disability Sector in Cambodia.

❖ A meeting with DAC affiliated members in August 28, 2002 was conducted to make some necessary preparations including the establishment of the relevant Working Groups for the organization of the **International Day for Disabled Persons to be held on 03 December 2002**. The DAC would like to inform that the DAC Secretariat has been requested to coordinate the organization of the above important event. Participation and support financially or in kind are warmly welcomed and highly appreciated.

❖ Resources and assistance have been provided to maintain the momentum of minimum transitional activities of CDPO and assist the CDPO Reforming Committee towards the organization of the Extra-ordinary

General Assembly of CDPO in order to elect appropriate members of the new Management Board, which is expected to take place in December 2002.

❖ Ms. So Chamroeun has been engaged with the DAC Secretariat as part time volunteer for 6 months starting from August 2002 to assist and learn in the area of women with disabilities.

❖ H.E. Prak Chantha, DAC Chairperson, and Mr. Ouk Sisovann, Executive Director were part of the Cambodian Delegation attended 4th Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, 16-20 September 2002, Geneva. Copies of the Report are available at the DAC Secretariat.

❖ Ms. Punya Droz, Public Relations and Information Officer attended the training course on proposal development for fund raising from 12-23 August 2002, organized by VBNK.

❖ The Royal Government of Cambodia has offered the Highest Government Award to Ms. Helen Pitt, former DAC Executive Director and Advisor through its Sub-Decree, No. 401 ANK dated August 12, 2002 signed by the Prime Minister for her outstanding contributions and efforts to assist people with disabilities in Cambodia. The official ceremony for presenting this award is scheduled to take place in November 2002.

... Continue from Page 1 DAC Executive Board ...

Asian and Pacific region, 25-28 October 2002, Otsu City, Shiga, Japan.

◆ Terms of Reference (TOR) of a new staff member to be recruited to take responsibilities on victim assistance under funding from HI-France.

◆ Consensus reached among all key players to engage experienced Consultant(s) to assist the DAC in the areas of Organizational Development and Capacity Building for the DAC 2nd cycle. A Recruiting Panel for selecting appropriate candidate(s) for the consultancy position mentioned above was established. The development and consultation with key players re TOR and qualifications/criteria for selecting potential consultants, consultancy job announcement, collecting and screening the received applications, and interviewing the 3 short listed candidates were taking place.

◆ Initial draft Concept Paper, TOR

and proposed composition for the new DAC-GB were produced and circulated for further discussion and consideration.

◆ An Adhoc Committee including H.E. Prak Chantha (MOSALVY), Mr. Sok Sophorn (HI) and Mr. Ouk Sisovann (DAC Secretariat) was established to supervise the proposed activities and procedures on transforming the current EB to the GB.

◆ Draft TOR for the current DAC Advisory Committee was developed and circulated for further discussion and consideration.

◆ As based on the DAC Statutes, Prakas of MOSALVY and guided by the DAC Strategic Plan, the proposed composition of the new DAC-GB members was agreed as following:

A) Government representatives:

H.E. Prak Chantha, Secretary of State of Ministry of Social Affairs Labour Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSALVY) would remain as DAC Chairperson; Mr. Keo Soeun (Head of Rehab Department/

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Inclusive Education Project for Children with Disabilities

By Dave Jones & Kong Vichetra

The last few months have been very busy for all of us working to improve the education of children with disabilities in Cambodia. Training of teachers is taking place in the new Inclusive Education Pilot Programs in 5 new Provinces, the Education Sector Review has happened and we have continued with our work with local the Ministry, schools and groups.

The new Inclusive Education Pilot Programs are forging ahead. The new project sites and partners are Kompong Spue with NCDP and Unicef CNSP, Sihanoukville with the Cambodia Trust, Kompong Thom with Handicap International and Unicef CNSP, Battambang with OEB and Unicef CNSP, Prey Veng with Veterans International and Unicef CNSP and finally Svay Rieng with Unicef Education. We are very pleased to be working closely with all the organizations involved in this exciting project and we greatly appreciate their help and enthusiasm.

Training is going well and teachers who attend are reported to be very keen and are enjoying the course. When they have completed the course they will be able to identify and teach children with disabilities and show their colleagues new techniques for use in the classroom. The training courses should have all been completed by early October. Lessons learned from these pilot sites will be fed back to MoEYS to inform their future policies when thinking about working with children with disabilities.

We are also pleased to be able to work closely with the Ministry to choose and later train a Special Educational Needs Advisor for the Ministry. This will be a key post in future educational planning and policymaking involving children with disabilities.

The ESSP Review 2002 has now finished. The education of children with disabilities was an integral part of many of the discussions and we believe that lots of progress was made. Certainly many people who attended expressed support for improving the education of these children. Hopefully that support will produce results in the coming year. However, there is still a lot of work to be done, especially in the fields of teacher education and training and physical access for children who are in wheelchairs or find walking difficult. The coming year promises to be as exciting as last year with the consolidation of old projects and the start of new ones.

The Final Report on "The Project to Develop Education Opportunities to Meet the Specific Needs of Children with Disabilities in Cambodia 1999-2002" has now been produced and copies are now available at the DAC Office. We are very grateful to everyone who worked so hard to complete the report but especially to Philippa Thomas without whom the project would not have happened. If anybody interested to have a copy of this report, please contact DAC Sec.

Vocational Training, Job Placement, and Income Generation (VT/JP/IG) Committee, and Proposal Assessment Team (PAT)

By Chhay Phally

Two VT/JP/IG Committee meetings were conducted to discuss the development of Standard Training Curriculum and Certificate Setting Concept Paper. The Standard Training Curriculum and Certificate Setting Concept Paper is re-drafted based on the inputs/feedback during the last meeting on August 7, 2002.

The concept paper will be translated into Khmer language and distributed to all members for the last comment/feedback and finalized at the next meeting scheduled for Monday 14th October 2002.

The development of a proposal for conducting research among relevant VTC's MOEYS, MOSAVY and the 9 vocational training and skill providers for developing Standard Training Curriculum and Certificate Setting is in the process of consultation with some key members for feedback. An appropriate researcher for this project is being identified.

A Proposal Assessment Team of the DAC Secretariat was established to take the role and responsibilities in assisting reviewing and supporting the appropriate funding proposals submitted by the DAC affiliated members. This effort and contribution are being made toward an objective of mobilizing and diversifying funds for the disability sector. TOR of this team, proposal selection criteria and process are being developed and will be applied in the near future. This working group has 5 members who are DAC Secretariat staff.

... Continue from Page 2 DAC Executive Board ...

MOSALVY); Dr. Prak Piseth Reangsey (Head of Preventive Medicine Department/MOH); Mrs. Sieng Sorvathana (Head of Pre-School and Primary School Education Department/MOEYS); Mrs. Ma Vanny (Head of Family and Economic Development Department/MOWVA); and Mr. Khuon Pheng (Head of Victim Assistance Department /CMAA). These members are to be appointed.

B) People with Disabilities representatives:

Three important/outstanding

people with disabilities who will be representing organizations/local NGOs or associations of persons with disabilities or individual capacity on the new DAC GB to be voted by their groups. The Consultant will determine the criteria and process.

C) Representatives from International NGOs and Int. Non-NGOs Organizations:

One representative from Int. NGOs and one representative from Int. Non-NGOs Organizations will be voted by their groups. The Consultant will determine the criteria and process.

◆ It is our pleasure to inform all DAC affiliated members that the

following updated donors' guidelines and policies are available at the DAC Sec. Office. Please contact DAC for more information.

Australian Embassy (Direct Aids Programme and AusIAD/Community Development Fund); **British Embassy** (DFID/Civil Society Challenge Fund and DIFID/Small Grants Scheme); **Canadian Cooperation Office/CIDA Fund** (Civil Society Governance Initiatives Fund, Health and Nutrition Initiatives Fund; and Canada Fund for Local Initiatives); **German Embassy** (Micro Scale Projects); Social Fund of the Kingdom of Cambodia (SFKC) and The Nippon Foundation.

Medical / Rehab Services

By Liz Cross

Despite various other travel commitments by the group, the final report has been written by Dr Phok Chan Sorphea and was presented to WHO and DAC, concerning the collaboration between the MOH and MOSALVY regarding services for people with disabilities in the provinces.

There is already collaboration by the MOH and MOSALVY regarding liaison between services but due to financial constraints on both ministries a more in depth preparation of program development has been difficult to establish.

Referral services are already established in many of the provinces they visited but it was also found to be very dependant on services provided by NGO's when it came to rehabilitation services. This in time would hope to be improved.

Our group continues to be involved in many of the subcommittees. They have found it a valuable means of networking and information gathering as well as sharing information regarding the experience and work of the MOH.

Plans have been made to re-establish the Medical/Rehabilitation Committee but careful consideration is being given to how this can be put to the most affective use and an appropriate way to continue to develop a clear plan of involvement with other Ministries. The first meeting is aiming to be scheduled for early October.

The MOH have published their 5-year plan for all sectors of Medical Services and it is available from the MOH.

Other Matters

Exciting new initiatives are being developed with hospitals, NGO's and the relevant ministries to develop services in areas of medical care especially in the area of Ear Care and Surgery and Orthopedics. There will be several visitors/medical teams and programs planned for these areas of service starting from this month. More details as the plans develop.

With regards to new project proposals. Six projects submitted proposals to CBM via Liz Cross for consideration for the 2003 Budget.

... Continue from Page 1 Women with ...

Therefore, the Women with Disabilities Committee (WWDC) of DAC has developed their plans to include a number of activities to fit the needs of women with disabilities. This plan focuses on some areas of works such as integration of women with disabilities into development programs, advocacy to protect the rights of women with disabilities and to reduce discrimination against them.

The WWDC has been working closely with the Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs (MOWVA). The committee has nominated their representatives to meet H.E Mu Sochua in July 2nd, 2002 in order to learn about the policy of MOWVA concerning disability especially disabled women and children.

The representatives have also mentioned issues about the following:

- ◆ Women with disabilities should be the one of the target groups of Neary Rattanak planning (5 year planning of MOWVA) in the areas of health care services, economic development, and education, etc.

- ◆ Legal protection for women

should consider women with disabilities as the most vulnerable group.

- ◆ Promote opportunities for women with disabilities to be involved at provincial level in all special events in Cambodia such as Women's International Day

- ◆ The Annual Report of MOWVA should show the participation of women with disabilities.

August 15, 2002 WWDC cooperated with MOWVA to organize a forum to disseminate and discuss the draft legislation "Domestic Violence and Victims Protection" at MWVA. It was presided over by H.E Mu Sochua, Minister of MOWVA. There were 75 participants from government departments and relevant NGOs.

H.E Mu Sochua's interests:

Integration of women with disabilities into the existing activities of Neary Rattanak planning as well as Annual Report of MWVA. The consideration to involve women with disabilities at the provincial level in all special events in Cambodia. She also addressed and explained the draft legislation "Domestic Violence and Victim Protection" to women with disabilities.



Women with Disabilities Forum on the Draft of Legislation "Domestic Violence and Victims Protection"; Presided over by H.E. Mrs. Mua Sochua, Minister of MWVA, August 15, 2002. (DAC Photo).

Legislation Working Group

By Ngy San

A concept paper, describing the reasons and benefits of the Cambodian Disability Law, has been developed for the Minister of MOSALVY to sign, to support the adoption of the law at various levels. Please see the chart of legislation process.

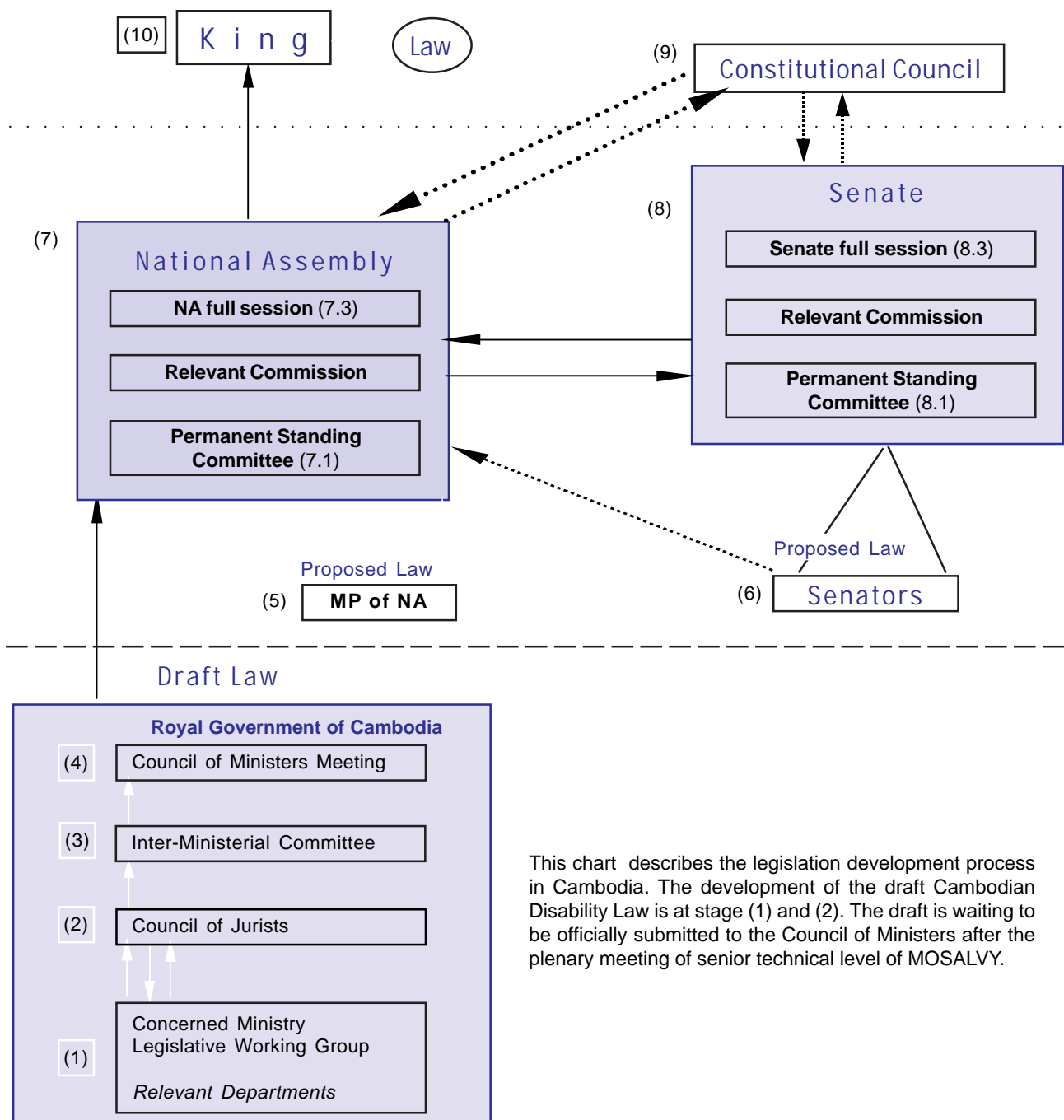
The concept paper stated that the main goal of development of the draft law is to contribute to the development of the rules of law and law enforcement and promote the socio-

economic development plan of the Royal Government of Cambodia. It also contributes to poverty reduction by promoting the participation of all sectors towards the integration of people with disabilities into socio-economic and political activities democratically.

It was also mentioned that the Draft Cambodian Disability Law plays an essential role in the rehabilitation and development of Cambodia after long

distraction by war and the genocidal regime. The law will help Cambodia to gain a reputation in the international arena, assisting the government in implementation of policy guidelines as well as providing benefits and opportunities to people with disabilities to participate in the national development and to promote well being for themselves, their families, and communities.

CHART OF LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



This chart describes the legislation development process in Cambodia. The development of the draft Cambodian Disability Law is at stage (1) and (2). The draft is waiting to be officially submitted to the Council of Ministers after the plenary meeting of senior technical level of MOSALVY.

Community Work with Disabled People (CWDP)

By Pen Mony

There were three meetings of CWDP during July to September. The main topic of discussion during these three months was the annual plan for the committee and the update of information. The main activities in the plan are information about CBR in Cambodia, capacity building for the members of the committee and field visit/study tour.

A new Association of disabled people called Save the Cambodian Disabled People Association (SCDA) is working in the field of agriculture. It is a new member of the committee. It is a movement of disabled people at the grass-root level who are doing agricultural work by growing rice, vegetables, fruit-trees and raising animals such as chickens, cows and pigs. There are one hundred and forty five disabled people families living there. They established a community of disabled persons by building up the infrastructure of the village such as roads, bridges, a school, health centre, toilet, wells, market, pagoda etc. SCDA is located in Veal Thom village, Trengtra-yeng commune, Phnom Srouch district and Kampong Speu province. Mr. Touch Soeurly, Director of SCDA has appealed for financial support from individuals, other donors, NGOs as well as government.

Three representatives of the committee have been selected as the candidates to apply for an International Workshop on "Empowering People with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism" through community approach. The workshop will be held from 02-20 December 2002. Number of participants will be 15 (5 from Cambodia and 10 from other Countries). For further information please contact Dr. Bhoomi Kumar at Centre for Child Mental Health, Chey Chumnes Hospital, Takhau, Kandal province. TEL: (855) 023 300 534 FAX: (855) 023 216 258 E-mail: caritas@forum.org.kh

The next meeting will be held on Friday 27 September 2002 at 8:00 AM at DAC Office. The main topic of discussion will be the one-year plan of the committee.

Physical Rehab Committee

By Oung Tivea

The PRC members expressed support for the initiative of MOSALVY to organise regular monitoring of the centres. However they would like to acknowledge that a complete assessment of all Cambodian Physical Rehabilitation Centres was conducted in close co-operation with the Rehabilitation Department of MOSALVY in 2001. That evaluation was funded totally by the responsible members of the rehabilitation sector and the third phase "Data Analysis and Recommendations" of this study is still ongoing.

P&O Sub-Committee: The sub committee continues to work on the P&O standards of practice. The date of the P/O congress has been set as 5/6 December 2002. The abbreviation of the Cambodian Association of Prosthetists & Orthotists was changed from "CAPO" to "KHAPO" (Khmer Association for P & O) in order to avoid duplication with the Canadian Association for P&O. The recognition by the Ministry of Interior of KHAPO was delayed due to the absence of the Minister. KHAPO registration forms will be sent to all P/Os as soon as the Association is acknowledged.

PT Sub-Committee: The discussion paper on physiotherapy standards of practice in Rehab Centres was confirmed finished and the final document will be presented to the next PRC meeting, on 11 October

2002. The final draft will be sent to the Chairman for distribution to the PRC members.

Wheelchair Sub-Committee: Revision of Physical Rehabilitation Centre's competency level is finalised. The next step will be to describe the different competency levels.

No wheelchair school exists in Cambodia, but training is needed at all levels, so on-the-job training should be the best solution.

The DAC-PRC will recognise standards of wheelchair provision and certificates will be issued to physical rehabilitation centres that meet the standards competency levels established.

Others:

◆ The ISPO Polio Conference took place in July 2002 and was attended by Doctors PTs, OTs and P/Os from MOSALVY, MOH and the various organisations working in Cambodia. Individuals from Vietnam and Laos also attended.

◆ The Technical School for Medical Care plans to upgrade the PT courses to a bachelor degree, but the main problem will be to get qualified teachers. Examination of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd (final) year PT students took place.

◆ The National Centre of Physiotherapy was transferred in July 2002 from MOSALVY to the Ministry of Women and Veterans Affairs.

... Continue from Page 1 Disability Database ...

month of June 2002 in Kampong Speu province. The database specialist also gave an instruction on how data should be cleaned before processing, including checking errors and consistency from question to question. This enabled the data entry clerks who are also surveyors to have a comprehensive understanding of what should be included in the questionnaires in the field before bringing them to headquarter for entering.

A meeting to present key preliminary findings took place on Friday 13th September 2002 with the purpose to reach a general consensus on the types of disability and any feedback, criticism and suggestion on the results of the survey before compiling the report. This meeting was held among members

of DAC Secretariat's Disability Database Working Group. A draft report is still confidential. A general workshop for affiliated members of the DAC Secretariat will accordingly be organized to publicize the final results of the survey and the future of the project.

Household Socio-Economic Survey (HSES) 2002-2003, MOP/NIS

◆ The Household Socio-Economic Survey, which is supported by UNDP, has been delayed beyond October 2002, probably year 2003 due to a number of reasons.

◆ The liaison with MOP/NIS for integration of Disability Database Questionnaires into the Household Socio-Economic Survey 2002-2003 is in the process of exchanging ideas. A particular meeting to discuss and comment to the draft HSES questionnaires was held on Tuesday 10th September 2002.

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provides education to children with multiple disabilities living in this Center.

In an effort to better care for the children with disabilities, 2 training was conducted on 12 September 2002 and again on 13 September 2002 to approximately 24 staff at NC, regarding behavior management. Mr. Hun Touch, who is the head teacher of the Rabbit School, conducted the training with the assistance from Ms. Rachel Smith.

Behavior management involves

Alternative Care Project:

using a wide variety of techniques in order to change problem behaviors. Children with disabilities sometimes find it difficult to communicate their needs and so people may think the children are "bad". Staff of the Nutrition Center was encouraged to see that children with disabilities are "good" but rather it is their behavior that can be "bad".

Materials for teachers are available at the Disability Action Council regarding behavior management in the classroom.



Training on Behavior Management at Nutrition Center 12-13/09/02

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◆ Comments/suggestions were compiled and further discussion with MOP/NIS is going on.

◆ The parallel stream of data collection on people with disabilities

Disability Database ...

(DAC/MOSALVY and MOP/NIS) will significantly benefit the development of projects to integrate and assist people with disabilities in Cambodia.



July 02, 6 data entry clerks computerizing data collected during survey in the month of June 02 in Kampong Speu Province at the Central based Phnom Penh. (DAC Photo)

The Deaf Development Program in Cambodia

The Deaf Development Program was established in 1996 under the auspices of the Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation to provide a support program to the Cambodian deaf community. In 1999, the Deaf Development Program received funding support from the Finnish Association of the Deaf and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland. The overall goal of the Deaf Development Program is to activate deaf people in Cambodia to take action towards increased self-reliance by:

1. *By training of organisational and financial skills for the Deaf Development Program Administration staff members.*

2. *By training of Khmer Sign Language and Literacy teachers.*

3. *By training of Khmer Sign Language interpreters.*

4. *By training the Khmer Sign Language Development Team.*

5. *Through the development of the Khmer Sign Language and compiling booklets.*

6. *Creating opportunities for the promotion of Khmer Sign Language.*

7. *Strengthening the core group of deaf people in Cambodia by providing Deaf Leadership Training to lead to the establishment of a national association.*

8. *By organising training in Deaf Awareness*

As of the 1st August 2002, the Deaf Development Program has become an official Maryknoll project. Maryknoll has assumed overall responsibility for the Deaf Development Program administration and program activities.

Maryknoll works in co-operation with the Finnish Association of the Deaf, the primary funder, to implement the program activities of the Deaf Development Program in Phnom Penh. In addition, the Deaf Development Program received additional funding support from the Canada International Development Agency to provide a Khmer Sign Language Literacy and Teaching Program in the Provinces of Svay Rieng, Kompong Speu, Kampot and Banteay Meanchey.

The Deaf Development Program Office is located on the corner of Streets 304 and 113 (2 blocks north of Tuol Sleng) in Boeung Keng Kong II.

The postal address is PO Box 2469, Phnom Penh 3.

The telephone number is (023) 987-931.

The e-mail address is DDPGeneral@bigpond.com.kh

News from DAC Affiliated Members

*Translated and edited
By Punya Droz*

*This is a brief summary of the successful case study of a **landmine victim in Battambang**. It was compiled by Mr. **Pin Bunthan**, Project Manager of the Agriculture Unit and Vocational Rehabilitation Project for Disabled of World Vision Organization in Battambang province, Cambodia. (For a completed study case, please contact DAC Secretariat or Mr. **Pin Bunthan**, Project Manager WVI/BTB).*

A BIT LOAN FOR BIG CHANGE/ CASE STUDY

Sao Rouen and her family suffered from war, conflict and poverty. Rouen's life was in danger when a Chinese-made, anti-personnel land mine explosion in late 1988 blew one of her legs off. She recalls that it was the most terrible day of her life. "My neighbors and I went to collect firewood. We were aware of the mined area, but we had to take risks because we had no choice. I heard a horrific sound blast beneath my right foot, I felt dizzy seeing blood coming from my foot. I regained consciousness in hospital after having my leg amputated. I wanted to die. I attempted to commit suicide." These suicidal feelings diminished when her husband and relatives consoled her and encouraged her to survive.

The most miserable and heart broken when, pregnant with her sixth child, her husband left her and the children for a new lover. The poverty and starvation forced her children to give up school and in order to survive they had to fight for life with hard labour.

Sao Rouen's household was one of the poorest families among many other families, which World Vision Cambodia's projects involved by re-integrating people with disability into their community and transforming lives of those people. Roen successfully raised chickens, pigs and two sows lent by the project. She earned about US\$200 each time from raising these animals and her plantation. The Project loaned her US\$100 and with her earnings she started a pineapple farm on a half hectare of land which now produces yield up to around \$270 per year.

Sao Rouen has a strong will and commitment. She and her family have overcome poverty and starvation. Her children have continued their education. Finally she and her husband were reunited after 7 years separation.

Khmer Sign Language Committee

By Punya Droz & Charles Dittmeier

After a 3-month break, the Khmer Sign Language Committee had its first meeting and the main agenda was to discuss the issues from the workshop and Terms of Reference of the committee.

The results of the meeting indicated the following important issues:

- ❖ Revise Term of Reference of the Khmer Sign Language Committee.

- ❖ Appoint Dr. James Woodward as a Sign Language Linguist Advisor.

- ❖ Considered both Signing and Sign Language shall be use in the education system for the deaf.

- ❖ It is necessary to have an equal number of deaf and hearing members on the committee.

- ❖ It is necessary to appoint deaf people from the Cambodian deaf community to assist in the research of Khmer Sign Language.

- ❖ Mr. Long Ladin and Mr. Heang Samart completed a course on an Introduction to Sign Language Research conducted by Dr. James Woodward. In November 2002, they will go to Viet Nam for two months to

attend the training on sign language analysis.

- ❖ It was unanimously agreed that the committee prepares a proposal to hold a national workshop on the Deaf Education for Children.

A two days workshop on "**What is Sign Language?**" was organised by DAC Secretariat at National Institute of Public Health on 05 and 06 September 2002. There were 43 participants from 16 institutions, represented by government ministries, IOs and NGOs. The workshop presided by Ms. Sieng Sorvathana, Director of Primary and Pre-school and by Mr. Ouk Sisovann, DAC Executive Director. The workshop was conducted by Dr. James Woodward, Doctorate in Linguistics and is currently Project Director for the Opening Education for Deaf people in Viet Nam.

The DAC would like to take this opportunity to express a deep sincere thanks to ADD, Maryknoll, NCDP and DDP for their financial support and consideration to the workshop as well as all the participation, consideration with great interest.



*Workshop on what is "Sign Language" 05-06/09/02
at the National Institute of Public Health*

The purpose of the workshop was to deepen the understanding of what is sign language to all participants and relevant stakeholders who are currently working with deaf people and deaf communities in Cambodia. All participants learned during the two days workshop:

- ❖ Sign Language: Signing the meaning of the sentence
- ❖ Signing: Signing word by word as the written language
- ❖ Sign Language is different from region to region in each country.
- ❖ There are 2 different perspectives on Deafness, the cultural perspective and the medical perspective. The cultural perspective is where Deaf people consider themselves a linguistic minority as instead of a disabled group. The medical perspective is about helping or curing deaf people for example deaf people should learn how to speak. And
- ❖ Suggestion for the next workshop should be on deaf education!