

## Concept Note

### **Virtual Policy Talk: Social Inclusion in Local Planning Process and Emerging Opportunities for New Social Media Uses**

Co-hosted by The Asia Foundation (the Foundation) and the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) Cambodia

**Thursday, 23 September 2021 @10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**ID: 927 5132 9951; Passcode: 104537**

**Link: <https://bit.ly/3A6BvHr>**

#### **Social Inclusion in Commune Investment Program (CIP)**

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has reformed local administration by transferring power and decision-making to the sub-national level - decentralization. Remarkably, the Commune/Sangkat administration has been given the ability to take autonomous decisions on Commune/Sangkat program planning, including Commune/Sangkat development and investment programs.

The guidelines on program planning requires increased citizen participation, especially women, youth, people with disabilities (PWDs), elders, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), private companies, and others. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure local people's representatives are included in the local government's decision-making process. Social inclusion in CIP is essential as it ensures that people's voices from various backgrounds, including the vulnerable groups, are heard and reflected in critical local development.

#### **About the Event**

With the support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through The Asia Foundation's Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogues for Development in Cambodia program, the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) conducted a study entitled "Social Inclusion in Local Planning Process." The objectives of the study are to identify critical socioeconomic and policy trends around social inclusion at the local level, assess the actual practice of social inclusion within the current local planning process, and suggest key areas for consideration, for instance, the use of social media to promote social inclusion. The study was conducted between February and December 2020 in three provinces in Cambodia, namely Rattanakiri, Siem Reap, and Takeo.

The Foundation and ANSA Cambodia are co-organizing a virtual Policy Talk on "Social Inclusion in Commune Investment Program (CIP) and Emerging Opportunities for New Social Media Uses" to disseminate key findings from the study. Drawing on insights from policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and ANSA's research findings, this panel will address several themes below:

- Key policies on social inclusion in local planning: What are the critical policies around social inclusion at Commune/Sangkat Investment Program (CIP) in Cambodia?
- The actual practices of social inclusion in CIP in Cambodia: Are the voices of women, youth, elders, minority groups, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups included in the CIP process? Are there any challenges in the implementation? What are the effects of COVID-19 on social inclusion in CIP?

- Recommendations to promote social inclusion in CIP: What are the suggested areas for consideration to promote social inclusion in CIP? Is the use of social media feasible for the promotion of social inclusion?

Taken together, the panel seeks to contribute to our understanding and the promotion of social inclusion in CIP in Cambodia.

### **Organizing Partners**

- Co-host: The Asia Foundation and The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA)
- Funding: Supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through The Asia Foundation's Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia program
- Type of Event: Virtual discussion and simultaneous interpretation (English-Khmer) will be provided.
- Speakers
  - A Representative from Ministry of Interior, Speaker
  - Mr. San Chey, Executive Director, ANSA, Speaker
  - Ms. Chet Charya, Executive Director, STAR Kampuchea, Speaker
  - Diya Nag, Governance and Legal Specialist, The Asia Foundation, Moderator
- Audience: Participants for the Policy Talk include independent researchers, lecturers, students, government officials, and stakeholders from think tanks, universities, and non-governmental organizations. All participants are invited to join virtually.

### **Format**

This Policy Talk will be organized virtually through an online platform as a moderated panel discussion with speakers from government institutions, research organizations, and co-hosting organizations. This Policy Talk will begin with a brief introduction and remarks followed by a panel discussion and questions and answers.

### **Technical Requirement**

Participants will be required to access the internet to join this virtual policy talk, which will be conducted through Zoom. Invite link to the event will be shared with participants in the virtual invitation letter. Participants are required to register before the event.

### **House Rules**

This Policy Talk is a non-media event to encourage open discussion and will be conducted under a non-attribution policy. The talk and remarks by the panelists and participants from the discussion shall not be quoted or published in any form. If any participant would like to do so, please individually approach the speakers following the discussion. It will be the speakers' own decision if they want to be interviewed and/or quoted.

### **Tentative Program (90 minutes)**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 09:45-10:00 | Zoom platform is open                                 |
| 10:00-10:05 | Opening by the moderator                              |
| 10:05-10:15 | Brief introduction of guest speakers by the moderator |
| 10:15-11:00 | Panel discussion                                      |
| 11:00-11:25 | Q&A   |
| 11:25-11:30 | Closing   |

## About Organizers

### *The Asia Foundation*

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region addresses five overarching goals—strengthen governance, empower women, expand economic opportunity, increase environmental resilience, and promote regional cooperation.

### *Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia*

In partnership with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Asia Foundation is implementing Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia—a three-year initiative (2019-2022)—to strengthen the capacity of knowledge sector institutions to undertake quality research that informs public policy analysis and dialogue in Cambodia.

### *The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) Cambodia,*

ANSA is known as a localized NGO from a regional NGO network based in Manila, Philippines, and registered at the Ministry of Interior on November 23, 2015. ANSA has envisioned a country where human rights and community welfare are respected and promoted. It has MISSION to coordinate and strengthen the citizen capacity in order to work constructively for enhancing accountability, transparency and sustainability in the use of public and natural resource for improving people's life, rights and public service deliveries. ANSA Cambodia works to empower women, youth and other marginalized groups of people by engaging all policy and decision-makers and stakeholders to have constructive dialogues and intervenes for the promotion of human rights respect, freedom of expression, community welfare, and poverty reduction.

### **Contact information**

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