I. Introduction

During mid-November, a three day ‘Workshop on Development of Self-Help Group Network on Intellectual Disability in Cambodia’ was organized by KPF, with technical support provided by Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The workshop was presided over by the Minister of Social Affairs along with representatives from JICA, APCD and the Thai Ambassador.

Young people with intellectual disability and their parents from Thailand, Myanmar, Japan and the Philippines provided important input and resource, with in-country participants including; parents of children with Intellectual disability, children and young adults with intellectual disability and staff from partner NGOs. The event was featured by local newspapers including Phnom Penh Post, Cambodia Daily, Rasmey Kampuchea and Deum Ampil. It was an extremely productive and enjoyable event, especially for the parents, who were excited to learn more about disability issues and to meet and share experiences with other parents and children with disability.

II. Global Campaign on Rights to Decide

In general, disability movement has been growing since adopted Cambodian Disability Legislation and committed ratified on UNCRPD, but complex disability like intellectual disability, learning difficulty and those are down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy etc... are not yet fully recognized and pushed. KPF is one of more than 40 NGOs working in disability has played vital role to support promotion of rights of persons with intellectual disability in the last few years.
The event of ROSE group members and their Parent Empowerment

ROSE ID group members to attend National and International of Persons with Disability on 10 December 2013 in Phnom Penh
2.2. ROSE ID group at Kampot Province

Meeting of ROSE ID group at Kampot Province:

ROSE ID group at Kampot Province attend the event of National and International Days of Persons with Disability in Chheur Teal Chrum Primary School, Chhouk of Kampot Province.
III. Case study:

CAST STUDY OF MR. PON SOVANN OF THE RIGHT TO DECIDE

Mr. Pon Sovann was born on 11 April 1992 in Phnom Penh and he lives with his family. When he was 2 years old, he had difficulty to speak and understand, his mother and father were not sure about causes of problem.

Sovann went to school at 6 years old and he spent times to learn grade 1 around 6 years with normal students, during that time parent sent him to Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CCAMH) where he received service from doctors as well as providing counseling to his parent and set activities for him to do at daily. Sovann left school at grade1 because his teacher had no skill to teach and he had no enough time to pay attention, as he could not learn with his friend in normal class, after that he stays at home without any goal or direction. Also he faced discrimination at his way of speaking and behavior from many people living in his community including his neighbors, his parents felt not happy and did not want to bring Sovann to outside world.

A few months later his parent decided to send him to Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health where they received good support in terms of counseling and relationship with other parents who are from other organization. His parents had changed their thinking by sending Sovann to join many events related disability activities. During that time Special Olympic Organization had selected him from CCAMH to become a Special member for sport activities, Sovann and his parent was so happy with this, a few months after Sovann was selected by Special Olympic Committee to go on oversea that was very good opportunities for him. Sovann was happy and decided to go with his friends those are with intellectual disability and Sovann decided to be ROSE group member at the beginning of 2013 and the group had selected Sovann as the chairperson by Mekong Sub-region of ID.

Sovann decided to do many activities with his friends and to participate with other social events both national and international which he was happy to show his ability or talent as he like music show, sport activities and to become a strong leader in the future which he was proud of by his friends and community members.
THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY:

SOVANN attended sport event “Stung Pursat River Run” with many of Young Adult with Intellectual Disability and People with Physical disability at Pursat province that organize by DDSP Organization on Nov, 2012.

SOVANN he attend “Leadership CAMP” on July 20, 2013 that has many activities like plan fruit tree with his friend at “National Borei Infant and Children” and the other activities with his friend at Amper Phnom National Part Kampong Speu Province at the way to learn how to set their dream in the future by drawing pictures, how to lead people in the group to do activities, how to be good team work and friendship with others.

SOVANN joined in online meeting with ID Mekong sub-region with other self-advocate groups from Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam that focus on updating activities in country and share to Mekong ID Network along with talking about future plan.
SOVANN joined in event of “France Volunteer Day in Cambodia” at BOPHANA CENTRE Phnom Penh on 9 Jan 2014 with his friends & parents which a part of social activities and with this event he and friends were aware of different cultures and activities.

SOVANN, joined in International Child’s Right Day on 1st June 2013, with his friends in Phnom Penh
SOVANN’S OVERSEA ACTIVITIES

In 2007, SOVANN joined in Olympic World Summer “Healthy Athletes Program Sheang Hai.

In 2011, SOVANN joined Special Olympic in Thailand.

In 2012, SOVANN joined in Special Olympic in Myanmar.

In 2013, SOVANN joined in Special Music in Korea Inchoen city.
IV. Challenges:

- Limited knowledge and experience in supporting persons with complex disability
- Intellectual disability has not been paid much attention by potential INGOs and government
- Limited cooperation between government and government of Mekong ID Network Group

In 2013, Workshop on Self-Advocates with Intellectual Disability in the Greater Mekong Sub-region on September 4, 5, 6, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand

November 2013, SOVANN joined in Special Olympic in Australia

SOVANN has built relationship in and outside of Cambodia by gaining medals in representing young person with intellectual disability and at the same time, he gained more knowledge through communication with others.
IV. Recommendation

- Improve knowledge and experience of supporters to self-advocate group of intellectual disability
- Exchange program with Mekong ID Network like Myanmar
- Social activities
- Organize meeting of ROSE
- Involve with social / Art activities
- Communicate with the other supporters

Phnom Penh, 12 March 2014