



# ប្រជុំបណ្តាញអភិវឌ្ឍន៍សង្គម

## THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### CSD's Report to Open Society Institute (OSI)

From September to December, 2010

During this period, the Center for Social Development (CSD) has accomplished the following activities:

#### **1. Conference and meeting**

- As the permanent member of the Coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability (CISA), the Center for Social Development cooperated with other CISA's members in organizing the Anti-Corruption Days on December 9, 2010 at the Square of Democracy in Phnom Penh city. Over 300 people including citizens, students, Buddhist monks attended the ceremony. In this occasion, the participants actively express their concern on the rampant of corruption in Cambodia and request the Government to deal with this social phenomenon.
- The CSD's staffs were invited as speaker on the process of Parliamentary Watch, election, promoting awareness of fair trial and governance at Voice of Democracy Radio and at the COMFREL studio.

#### **2. Research**

During this period, the Center for Social Development and JETRO in Bangkok has finalized the final report of the, the Center for Social Development of the survey on Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

#### **3. Radio Talk**

Based on the spirit of the Fair Trial Book, the Center for Social Development (CSD) in cooperation with Cambodian Center for Independence Media (CCIM) has conducted six radio talks on "Promoting Citizens' Awareness on the Fair Trial" from November to December 2010. It could be noted that the CSD has planned to conduct only three radio talks, but the CCIM has contributed three radio talks in plus). The speakers who are mainly judges and lawyers from governmental and non-governmental institutions speak about the fair trial and court procedures during the trial, the role and the duty of court officials such as judicial police, investigating judge, lawyer and the rights of the suspect, charged persons and civilly responsible persons etc. The audiences from different provinces and locations call-in to question discuss

and express their needs and concerns about the current court and legal system of Cambodia to the speakers. They complain about the lack of independency of the court system in assuring the fair trial for the vulnerable and poor people because the legal and court system in Cambodia is always beside the rich and powerful people. Some people from Kandal province said that they are ignored about the new adopted criminal and civil codes. She wants a large dissemination of those laws. A ten thousand of audiences can get awareness from each radio talk.

It could be noted that the citizens through their calling-in request CSD and CCIM to continue this kind of radio talk and provide legal education to the citizens in rural areas such as the training on the newly adopted civil and penal laws, land law and also corruption law.

#### **4. CSD's Need**

According to the request of the audiences of the radio talks and the speakers, the Center for Social Development wishes to:

- Continue the conducting and to expand the radio talk related to “Promoting of the Citizens’ Awareness on the Fair Trial”.
- Conduct the legal education on Penal and Civil laws, land law and also Corruption law to citizens in the areas where located the courts monitored by CSD (Phnom Penh, Kandal, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Sihanouk Ville, Kampot and Battambang provinces).
- Those trainees, after the training, will visit and observe several trial processes of the court in their areas.
- After court visit, the CSD will conduct the caucus group discussion to hear about the opinion of the participants on the trial process they observed. In the caucus group discussion, the CSD will invite also the court officials to attend and to discuss the concerned issues with the citizens to find out the acceptable solution.

For this reason, the Center for Social Development (CSD) would like to express the deepest and warmest thank to the Open Society Institute (OSI) for its kind support to CSD in conducting the radio talk on “Promoting Citizens’ Awareness on Fair Trail” as well as CSD’s Court Watch Program and CSD’s administrative cost in the critical situation that CSD is confronting. And, also, the CSD would like to request the kind consideration of OSI to continue the funding support to CSD to conduct the four mentioned above activities in order to enhance the social justice in the Cambodian society through providing legal awareness to citizens, mainly to vulnerable and marginalized and poor people and women.