

# PURPLE BRICS

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KHANA'S MONTHLY BULLETIN

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## Regional Meeting on HIV/AIDS in Phnom Penh 10-Year Anniversary of KHANA

Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance (KHANA) is hosting the UK-based International HIV/AIDS Alliance's annual meeting in Phnom Penh for the first time to provide a chance for the Alliance's regional partners to discuss their common concerns and responses to HIV/AIDS. The one week gathering called "Blue Sky Week" is scheduled for 10-August.

According to Siobhan O'Dowd, the Alliance's Programme Officer for East Asia, the key participants will come from Country Offices (Cos) and Linking Organisations (LOs). She said they will meet staff from the Secretariat of the Asia and Eastern Europe department and representatives from the Technical Support Team, Policy, Planning, Analysis Learning (PPAL) team and SMT to discuss common issues such as global and regional strategic planning, cross-cutting issues, policy and advocacy, sharing best practice and strengthening alliance between

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## ASIAN BROADCASTERS, PRODUCERS, JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA EXECUTIVES DISCUSS STRATEGIES TOWARDS AIDS



Speakers from the world media organizations talked about media strategies to help combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

**Kuala Lumpur:** Recognizing the importance and power of mass media in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, experts, researchers and policy makers from around Asia and the world met in Malaysia in late May to discuss media strategies towards HIV/AIDS. After a series of preliminary sessions, they held a conference called 'Global Media Strategies on AIDS' on 28 May. The conference participants pledged to step up their response to AIDS and form the Asia Pacific Media AIDS initiative to ensure increased and improved media coverage of AIDS issues in the region.

The conference was organised as part of the 4th Asia Media Summit (29-31 May, 2007) and those attending discussed strategies to help outreach information on AIDS issues in

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# REFRESHING NGO PARTNERS'

## M&E AND REPORTING SYSTEMS

In the past month, KHANA has focussed on building the capacity and systems for more effective monitoring and reporting of its programmes. New forms for data collection and monitoring were developed and introduced to KHANA staff and to partners through training workshops. KHANA is focussing in developing systems that can meet the requirements of its different donors and still focus on both qualitative and quantitative monitoring.

The three separate workshops were conducted on 28-31 May with 11 KHANA Team Leaders and Programme Officers and some 78 staff members from 35 NGO partners at KHANA's office. The workshops tried to find out NGO

partners' challenges in the fields of data collection tools, data process collection, reporting flow in data collection, and how to achieve capacity building.

During their working group, the participants discussed three main issues: data collection tools, process of data collection, reporting flow in data collection, and capacity building to partners and POs.

Related to M&E and Reporting, Dr. Leng Kuoy, Director of KHANA's Strategic Information Department, presents a plan for capacity building in Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting system to KHANA's NGO partners.



*Dr. Leng Kuoy, Director of KHANA's Strategic Information Department, presents a plan for capacity building in Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting system to KHANA's NGO partners.*

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the region. It focused on several issues, including: "Has the media kept pace with the response of the International agencies and scientists?", "Can the media put an end to discrimination against HIV positive people by encouraging social inclusiveness and replace the fear and the denial of HIV and AIDS?", "How can media professionals respond to the challenge of HIV?", and "How can we best contribute to reducing the rate of infection to half its present rate?"

In her opening session, Ms Bai Bagasao -- Manager of the Asia Pacific Leadership Forum on AIDS and Development, UNAIDS Regional Support Team, Bangkok -- said "I understand that we are all waiting for a breakthrough, a vaccine, a cure or something dramatic-but the reality is that on a daily basis we are still talking about thousands lost to AIDS and thousands

newly infected with HIV. Why then is AIDS dropping off the media agenda?"

Addressing at the conference, Malaysia's Health Ministry Director-General, Tan Sri Dr Mohd Ismail Merican, said the media must understand, be dedicated and creative. "The media is an essential partner in fighting HIV and AIDS. Without the media all our efforts cannot be successful. In fact, the media is such a powerful tool that it has the ability to reverse the HIV/Aids scenario globally," he said.

Delegates agreed that the media has responsibility for raising awareness of HIV and of safe sex and reproductive health, education, bringing accurate information and messages to the public without sensationalism, bringing the untold stories, promoting women rights and empowerment.

Advocate Dali Mpofu, CEO, South African Broadcasting Corporation and Chair of the Global Media AIDS Initiative, said solving the crisis is not for only doctors, physicians, GO and NGO workers. The media can also successfully be involved in these fields. He said media can give powerful messages with facts and quality to the public to change their attitudes regarding HIV/AIDS and that media must never say the word "cure" for HIV/AIDS in the world. "AIDS is a global crisis of major proportions that knows no boundaries. There is no question that the media is one of the most powerful tools for changing the epidemic and it is severely underutilized. The media need to step up action, spreading information faster than the epidemic," he said in the keynote address.

However, media participants expressed their concerns over some government's pressure on a free press and strict cultural and national taboos. These problems are still the main obstacles for media to bring the facts to their audiences.

More than 500 media, government officials, policymakers, academics and senior government representatives attended. There were more than 40 speakers, from development institutions of over 60 countries in Asia-Pacific, Africa, America and Europe participated in the media summit. KHANA's Communication Coordinator and a group of officials from the Cambodian Ministry of Information were among those attending this crucial event organized by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), UNAIDS, and other partners.



*Cambodian delegates participate in the media summit in Kuala Lumpur. From left: Minister of Information Khieu Kanharith and Kem Gunawadh Director General of National Television on Kampuchea.*

Story and pictures by Chhay Sopal

# STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR PROJECT GRANTEEES

After getting new grant from donors, KHANA conducted a workshop on financial management for its NGO partners to strengthen their financial systems to reach donors' requirements. The two-day workshop was held on June 14-15 at KHANA's office.

The workshop focused on preparing NGO partners' financial reports, strengthening their capacity on preparing accounting document, and introducing donors compliance. 16 out of 63 KHANA's NGO partners joined the workshop and the selected participants from NGO

partners in several provinces are those whose needs are still greatest for financial technical support.

"It is very important workshop to strengthen capacity building of KHANA's NGO partners whose financial management is limited. The workshop also gives an opportunity for them to raise their concerns on the financial system so that we can introduce them the right track for the field," said Ros Sokheng, KHANA's Grant Management official.



*Andrew Vickery, Technical Support Officer of KHANA's Finance and Administration Department, makes his opening remarks at the workshop on financial management.*

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the members. The 37 participants are from the regional COs/LOs in Bangladesh, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Ukraine and up to 19 people from the UK-based Secretariat.



*KHANA's Senior Management Consultative Committee holds monthly meeting to discuss a series of issues, including the preparation for Regional Meeting on HIV/AIDS and KHANA's 10-Year Anniversary.*

The Blue Sky Week will be held at the time when KHANA is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its work on HIV/AIDS. At the end of the meeting, KHANA is organising a photo exhibition to present its achievements in collaboration with its NGO partners from the establishment of the organisation to the present.

KHANA and the Alliance have worked in partnership for 10 years. KHANA was established as a project of the Alliance in 1997 and it registered as a local NGO in 1999. Since then, KHANA has continually received financial and technical support from the Alliance. KHANA has also gained support from other donors such as USAID, the Global Fund, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Union, and the World Food Programme.

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of drug use, experience in giving up and issues of stigma and discrimination. They also provided their suggestions and recommendations to reach out to drug users as part of KHANA's prevention efforts.

With financial support from the Global Fund, USAID, and the EC, KHANA has worked with seven NGO partners – three in Phnom Penh capital and four others in five provinces – Battambang, Banteay Mean Chey, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, and Prey Veng.

Last October, KHANA also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to fight against HIV/AIDS through drug use with the National Authority Combating Drugs of the Ministry of Interior. The MoU, with the financial support from USAID, aimed at setting up the approach of HIV education programs, peer outreach and support, and referral services for drug abusers as well as education programs for general public and supporting drug and HIV prevention work.

Up to the first quarter of 2007, KHANA has reached up to 2,247 drug users through its programme, mostly yama and ice (smokeable forms of amphetamines) users but also some injecting drug users in Phnom Penh. Injecting drug users face direct risk of HIV transmission through the sharing of needles in addition to the risk engaging in unsafe sex. KHANA also reached 4,157 vulnerable non-drug users through its outreach activities to try to help prevent some young people from taking up drugs. According to the Ministry of the Interior, there were some 6,500 drug users in 2006.

In a related issue, NACD in collaboration with KHANA and several local and international agencies such as UNODC-Cambodia, WHO, and JICA on 26 June organised an event to mark the International Day against Drugs and Illicit Trafficking in Battambang. The main slogans of the event are "Do drugs control your life?" and "Your life. Your community. No place for drugs."

# WORKING WITH DRUG USERS TO REDUCE HARM



People involved in drugs joined the four-day workshop "Working with Drug Users" conducted by KHANA in Battambang province on June 5-8.

Drug use can really harm health and can increase the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. KHANA conducted a workshop with drug users and people working with drug users to improve the quality of the outreach and peer education activities that it supports through NGOs. The focus was on how to work with drug users, and use their skills and experience to improve the projects. The four-day meeting was held on June 5-8 in Battambang Province.

The meeting titled "Working with Drug Users" was attended by twenty participants from KHANA's NGO partners -- OEC, KDFO, SFODA, CCASVA, MHSS, KBA and Korsang, including several current and former drug users.

During the discussion, all participants paid strong attention and shared their experiences

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## KHANA'S STAFF CORNER

### Congratulation to Mrs. Lonh Sophal

KHANA Administration and Stock Management Assistant, who gave a birth to girl baby on 27th May. The mother and the daughter are in good health condition. KHANA wish her and the baby to have good rest during her maternity leave for 3 months started from 28th May to 28th August, 2007.



### *KHANA also welcomes three new volunteers.*

#### **Pech Piseth**

Started work for KHANA in June, 2007. Piseth works as a volunteer financial assistant in the grant management unit of the Finance and Administration Department. Piseth finished Business Accounting. "I decide to be a volunteer for KHANA because I want to upgrade my skills and knowledge on financial management procedures and system. I am willing to learn more about the experience regarding the field from KHANA and I hope that during my work I will perform well with the help from KHANA staff."



#### **Pheap Siphah**

started work for KHANA on 25 June, 2007. He works as a volunteer financial assistant in the grant management unit of the Financial and Administration Department. Siphah obtained his BBA in Phnom Penh. "I am really happy to work for KHANA as a volunteer and I like to work after my fresh under-graduation. After KHANA, I believe that I will gain lots of experiences and if I wish, I want to be one of KHANA staff members in the future."



#### **Dan Besant**

KHANA's International Volunteer. Dan started working for KHANA on 21 May, 2007. He is working as a volunteer, helping KHANA develop a booklet of Partner Profiles. Dan has a background working in drug rehabilitation and harm minimization in the UK. He has been working as an English Teacher and editor for the last eight years in Cambodia.