



CHES e-Newsletter

Winrock International is a nonprofit organization that works with people in the United States and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources. Winrock matches innovative approaches in agriculture, natural resources management, clean energy, and leadership development with the unique needs of its partners. By linking local individuals and communities with new ideas and technology, Winrock is increasing long-term productivity, equity, and responsible resource management to benefit the poor and disadvantaged of the world.

What is CHES?

Winrock is implementing Children's Empowerment through Education Services (CHES) project to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in agriculture through education services.

The 4-year project is funded by the United States Department of Labor under Cooperative Agreement IL-16567-07-75-K. CHES is being implemented in four provinces of Cambodia namely Pursat, Prey Veng, Siem Reap and Kampong Cham in close collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations at all levels.

The Launch of the Regulation of the International Children's Day and the World Day against Child Labor

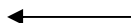


The Launch Presided over by H.E. Prak Chantha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training



Together We Can End Child Labor !

All related Ministries and Departments in CHES Target Provinces Attended the Launch



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The National Sub-committee on Child Labor (NSCCL), in collaboration with Winrock International and supported by the United States Department of Labor, organized the launch of the government regulation and message from the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia in honor of International Children's Day and World Day against Child Labor in Siem Reap province on 3rd June 2010. This event marked the first time that NSCCL and Winrock collaborated to disperse the regulation and message to the public at large.

CHES has influenced this launch as one part to reach its sustainability plan that stakeholders especially the Provincial Department of Labor and Vocational Training would have their own budget line to organize this event annually to raise awareness on child labor though without support from NGOs or donors and the regulation has informed the stakeholders to have pre- activities preparation for observing the event while media has the role to broadcast and publish the activities of the event. As well as, another objective is to make the National Sub-committee on Child Labor functioning well and keep their work going on to combat child labor.

Putting Ideas to Work

A Kingdom of Wonder- A Kingdom without Child Labor Campaign “Go for the Goal: End Child Labor”

Several i/NGOs and ministries from the Cambodian government, namely the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, joined forces to observe the World Day Against Child Labor (WDaCL) on June 12th. Events surrounding the WDaCL focused on raising awareness of the negative impacts of the worst forms of child labor (WFOCL) while also calling upon civil society for greater social mobilization around combating this social problem.

The theme of this year’s WDaCL was “Go for the Goal: End Child Labor” to reflect the Cambodian government’s commitment to end the worst forms of child labor by 2016 as global goal set by the International Labor Organization (ILO). It provided the opportunity for Winrock and the Cambodian government to renew their partnership in eliminating the WFOCL in agriculture and empowering children through education services. Since 2008, Winrock has been collaborating annually with other NGOs and government agencies to observe the event in Cambodia’s capital city, Phnom Penh, as well as in the organization’s target provinces (Pursat, Prey Veng, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap).

Winrock and its associates, Wathnakpheap and KAPE, conducted various activities to commemorate the WDaCL. For instance, phone-in radio discussion, poster to promote children’s mini marathon against child labor were displayed in key locations in Siem Reap. Winrock’s beneficiaries also participated in a children’s drawing contest under the theme, “Understanding Child Labor in Agriculture”. Clothing such as T-shirts clearly displaying the theme of this year’s WDaCL were distributed to organizational representatives in order to raise awareness of the prevalence of child labor and the importance of education for children. Lastly, a prominent comedy star team, Mr. Koy, was featured performing two, live role-plays revealing the downsides of child labor during a popular television program on Cambodia Television Network.

One role play was aired a week before the WDaCL and touched upon topics related to child labor exploitation with respect to farming, household chores, and pesticide spraying. The second installment was aired on the WDaCL about the comparison between the futures of a poor family who sent their children to school and a poor family who did not send their children to school. During program, some audience members cried because the role plays were so poignant while others became silently emotional.

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Guest Speakers in the Studio are Replying Questions to Callers



Children Drawing Contest under the Theme, “Understanding Child Labor in Agriculture”



All Photos by Winrock International

Role Play Lives on Cambodia Television Network to Raise Awareness on Child Labor

Putting Ideas to Work



All Photos by Winrock International

Within the Angkor Wat area of Siem Reap, Winrock collaborated with the PDoLVT, ILO-IPEC, the Provincial Governor's Office of Siem Reap, APSARA Authority, the Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sports, the Provincial Department of Tourism, the Employers' and Workers' Organizations, the Children's Committee, World Vision Cambodia, civil society groups, private companies and other NGOs to organize a Children's Mini Marathon Against Child Labor with the theme of "Go for the Goal: End the Worst Forms of Child Labor". Children participated in this 3K while adults in 5K run which was held on 05 June 2010.

According to a press release from ILO, approximately 1,700 participants (over 200 children and adult runners; 1500 participants/audience members) were invited to join in the WDaCL event which took place in front of Angkor Wat.

Each WDaCL event in the CHES target provinces were attended by government officials, i/NGOs, communities, parents, the Provincial Committees on Child Labor, the Child Labor Monitoring Committees, the Child Youth Clubs (CYC), teachers and children. To observe the event, some of these participants created their own awareness raising materials such as place cards and banners to carry during the rally. The CYC even performed role plays about the consequences of hazardous child labor in subsistence agriculture and fresh water fishing. More specifically, one role play depicted a story wherein a child drowns during working hours and, in another, a child became disabled after falling off of a palm tree.

A group of children who carried banners and posters for the event were extremely happy to have joined the event. They explained, "it is a good opportunity for all children to advocate our rights". They have stated that children have to study hard, self-study to get good scores, participate in awareness raising on the issues of child labor with their peers, and provide information on child working status to local authorities. They have expressed that they do not wish to see any child labor in their communities and that they have requested that teachers and parents give them an opportunity to get a good education.

Also, a representative of the children remarked that she has been happy to return school and thanks to the support from CHES. She thinks that only education can release her family from poverty. She affirmed that she has to come to school regularly, study hard and will not work in hazardous conditions.

Mr. Chea Kosal, the CHES Project Director, said that, "while we are observing this event, there are still many children working in hazardous conditions and they have not had chance yet to join with us here. However as of now, we do not know how many children are working in hazardous subsistence agriculture sector."

With appreciation to Winrock International and its associates, H.E. Prak Chantha, Secretary of State of the MoLVT provided a remarkable opening speech lauding the progress made and that the royal government of Cambodia has commitment toward achieving the national plan of action for eliminating the worst forms of child labor by 2016 and to reducing child labor to 8% by 2015.

Additionally, messages from the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia were given on the International Children's Day 1st June and WDaCL 12th June which strongly encouraged all levels of authority in eliminating the child labor.

Putting Ideas to Work

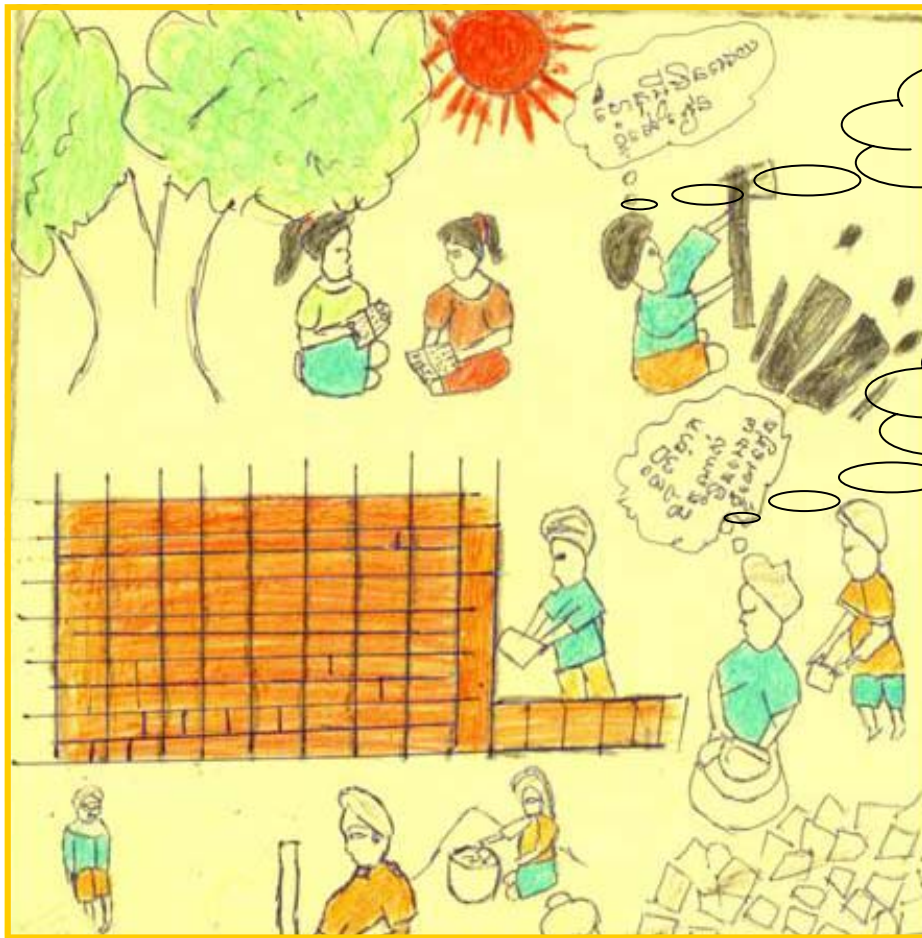
Government Awards Medal of Recognition to Winrock International in Cambodia



Cambodia's Stationed Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. MEN SAM AN, presented Winrock International in Cambodia, with a medal of honor to acknowledge the organization's contribution to preventing and withdrawing child labor in agriculture. Mr. Kosal Chea, Director of the CHES Project, accepted the award on behalf of Winrock International.

The award was presented during the closing ceremony of the annual Congress of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training which took place on 11-12 March 2010 in Phnom Penh city. The medal, known as the "*Monisaraphoin Thnak Asareth*", represents an organization's good performance and achievements toward the the Royal Government of Cambodia's national goal to eliminate the worst forms of child labor by 2016.

VOICES OF CHILDREN



Why do not you send me to school?

I am so sad if you do not send me to school?



I want to go to school.

I want to study.

VOICES OF CHILDREN



This child is transplanting seedlings.

This child is trapping fish.

This child is selling fish.



This publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply the endorsement by the United States Government.

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