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INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION  
CAMBODIA

# International Cooperation Cambodia



**Our Vision:** We want to see the least served communities in Cambodia transformed by God's love to experience restored relationships, sustainable livelihoods, competence to make wise decisions and sustainable gospel witness,

**Our Mission:** Together we enable the least serve through enhancing knowledge, sharing skills and facilitating reflection.

# Annual Report 2013

## Highlights from 2013

The year of 2013 has been an encouraging one for ICC. Looking back at our development projects, a lot of good work has been done in 2013, and we are especially pleased to see how the beneficiaries are taking action themselves to change and to improve their lives. We have seen indigenous minorities coming together to claim their rights; farmers creating cooperatives and other groups to improve their livelihoods; communities bettering their lives by using their own resources; youth mobilising themselves to care for their own futures; and civil society organisations creating safe surroundings to protect their children and promote child rights. A very big thanks should be given to all ICC staff for the participatory methods used when working with the beneficiaries, in order to help them to help themselves. This is a work-approach that has likewise benefited all of us in ICC to better understand the needs and problems of our beneficiaries, so that we in collaboration can find the best solutions.

This work could not have been done without our faithful and committed supporting partners who do not only support us financially, but also offer professional expertise that has significantly contributed to our work. Furthermore, we deeply appreciate our long and close relationship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our line-ministries, with whom our collaboration is very valuable for our work.

One event we were very happy to celebrate in November was with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, and the partners and indigenous minorities in Ratanakiri; was the Non-Formal Education (NFE) achievement & Multilingual Resource Centre's (MRC) opening celebration. This was a true celebration of work achieved in the past and our joint energy to take on new challenges in the future.



Internally 2013 has been a positive year preparing for new interventions and strategic growth in the future. A Design Intervention Committee was created at the beginning of the year, which has started the design of various new interventions for the future. A Strategic Planning Committee was also created with the aim of having a new ICC Strategic Plan ready for implementation from mid 2014.

## Summary on outcome in ICC's strategic focus area

### Ethnic minorities

ICC-Projects have been providing mother-tongue literacy classes and other relevant community development initiatives in the region for many years, aiming to see the indigenous minorities making informed choices for their well being and development.

At the beginning of 2013 a new program was set into operation in remote areas in the provinces of Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri. This new program was necessary in order to engage ethnic minority communities in a culturally relevant development process that is owned by the local community.

At the centre of the program are Dialogue Teams who work closely with the community making sure to speak the indigenous minority language while using a gentle approach. This is important to fully explore the needs and real problems of the community. Further assistance is provided to help them prepare plans to solve their problems and to restore relationships. For example in Mondulakiri, the Program teams have worked closely with the Bunong Community Advisory Network, which grew out of ICC's prior projects. These very active community members and their leaders have met together at..[Continued on page 3](#)

Continued from page 2

### **Ethnic minorities ..**

least six times sharing the different experiences of their villages and have helped to support each other. At the beginning of the year, they were advocates for Mother Tongue Based-MultiLingual Education within their communities and met with government leaders to discuss how to integrate this into communal or education department plans. This year, land and forest issues have been a hot topic for discussion during the meetings. At the end of the year, the Network was able to access special funding for dealing with their forest concerns.

With the support of three technical teams; Community Wellbeing (CW), Culturally Relevant Education (CRE), and Improved Indigenous Livelihoods (IIL), the program is in a much better position to cooperate with NGOs and with the Government. The IIL team has been able to support the communities in their reflection on issues such as farming practices and the use and destruction of the forest. The teams have supported community action with the provision of seeds, followed on by providing training on

planting vegetables (home gardens), nutrition, and growing fruit trees. They have also helped by delivering various information in regards to agriculture, agriculture economics, and the use of chemicals.

Sustainability and a relationship of trust has been emphasised since the beginning of the project. This has occurred despite the fact that ICC provides only minimal service delivery to the community. And this has helped to unlock the communities potential and create a good environment for continued development.



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### **Family**

There is a saying that strong family produces strong society. Family consists of individual members who are like building blocks, and if one of them is falling apart, the whole family will likely suffer. ICC has always wanted to see families being lifted out of poverty, and to start living together in strong unity and dignity.

In 2013, ICC spent a great amount of time working with poor families living along the borders and in remote areas. ICC encountered many families who were lacking their basic needs and a social safety net. On realising these needs, ICC worked hard to increase the people's self-esteem and assist them to solve their problems using their own resources and innovation. ICC has built up relationships between families so that they can support and learn from one another through Self-Help Groups. As a result, the target families have the ability to help themselves and generate incomes for their living. Besides that, family members have greater understanding of their family roles and of how to care for each other's needs. Parents have also begun to

save money for their children's future education and marriage, the repayment of debts, while holding some in reserve for times of emergency.

In general, parents have gained a deeper knowledge of child rights, child development, and parenting skills. They understand that children are a gift and not a burden. Parents, who have gone through parenting skills training, have a changed attitude towards the appropriate ways of disciplining children. Some parents expressed that they want their children to have the best childhood experience possible and that they would see their children grow successfully into their adulthood.

ICC realises that it is very important to work with youths because in the future they will get married and become parents themselves. There has been a significant change among the youth in the community since they have joined the Youth Club. The Youth Club has provided an avenue for young people to be productive and not idle; if they are happy and occupied within [Continued on page 4](#)

Continued from page 3

**Families...**the group they will not be tempted to join a gang. Some youths are now motivated to save their money in order to contribute towards their studies. Others who are saving within their group now have some money for getting married. Youths are enthusiastic and active in development activities such as gardening, animal raising and are eager in their sports too. The youth are trained to be productive and this experience and training is invaluable in preparing them for their future jobs. ICC has further engaged young people in social work, encouraging them to communicate and learn from the older generation. ICC is very encouraged by the transformation stories of young

people and their families. ICC will continue to work alongside them in order to have a greater impact within the society.



## ICC-Cross Cutting Issues (CCI)

ICC-CCI places its focus on three main areas, Spiritual Impact, Environment and Gender Equality, which are implemented across the ICC organisation as a whole. ICC has developed internal policies of Environment and Gender Equality, which are adapted for use in all ICC projects. Each project has developed an internal action plan to implement the two policies.

The ICC-projects are promoting “Green Environment” by motivating the community to apply organic agriculture techniques and to start planting trees. The ICC projects themselves are also a good role model for the community to follow as they have green offices and organic home gardening facilities.

Related to Gender Equality, the ICC projects have raised awareness on gender issues among the community and staff. Both staff and community understand the roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives. Thus, men value and are willing to help their wives in terms of housework, etc. The projects also promote women’s roles in leadership positions both in project and community levels.

In terms of spiritual impact, ICC Head Office has from the beginning of 2013 started a “Lunch Dialogue” where staff can share their experiences and opinions on how to handle the difficulties of Christian life.

## Plans for 2014

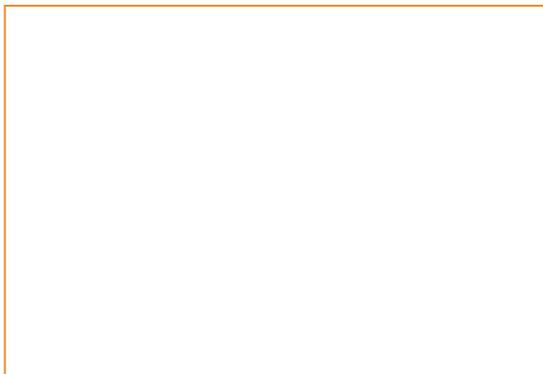
New interventions and new strategies require professional and financial support. The task for ICC in 2014 will be to secure the needed funding and expertise to implement new initiatives. We also seek to further strengthen the organisation to carry out these new strategies, and to be ready to meet new trends and challenges in society.

Furthermore, ICC will from 2014 start implementation of its organisational expansion to include External Relations, which creates opportunities for e.g. external partnerships and associate memberships.

## Acknowledgements

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**ICC Head Office**  
**#1C, Village Thnort Chrum, Street 26BT & 371,**  
**Sangkat Beong Tumpun, Khan Mean Chey,**  
**Phnom Penh, Cambodia**  
**Tel: (855) 92 469 934**  
**E-mail: [info@icc.org.kh](mailto:info@icc.org.kh),**  
**Website: [www.icc.org.kh](http://www.icc.org.kh)**