

## **Travel Report**

### **Trip to Jakarta to participate in Regional Consultation Workshop, Indonesia**

**May 22-May 28, 2015**

**By: Sam Seun**

#### **Introduction:**

SILAKA organization is the leading capacity building institution with the very long experience in providing training to government officers and non-governmental organizations in Cambodia. SILAKA implements projects that cover women empowerment and good governance.. SILAKA also has one permanent training unit that is the most significant unit in the organization. Besides the projects that have been implementing inside the country, SILAKA also has national and regional network with regional organizations in ASEAN community with partners in ASEAN countries, such as Indonesia, Brunei, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippine, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Lao. Give a little of back ground as described in the concept note with the schedule of the submissions.



**Figure 1** Group picture after the first session of the first day finished.

On May 12, 2015 SILAKA in partnership with WEAVE and Human Rights Working Group in Indonesia, organized the Cambodia Country Consultation Workshop with the Cambodian Civil Society Working Group on ASEAN, CCWA, on Civil Society's Inputs for ASEAN post 2015 at the Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

On May 23 –May 27, 2015 SILAKA joined the regional meeting facilitated by HRWG in Regional Consultation on Civil Society's Inputs to the ASEAN Visions 2025 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Jakarta, under the support of ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (ASEAN-U.S. PROGRESS). Mr. Sam Seun, good governance officer of SILAKA participated in the regional meeting represented SILAKA in this regional discussion in the program, which consisted of several meeting and events..

There were 50 Participants coming from civil society groups working in different issues in ten ASEAN countries and regional organizations participated in the consultation from 24-27 May 2015. The main purpose of organizing the event is to consolidate the recommendations coming from ten ASEAN countries.

### **Activities:**

There were many activities that I participated during the program such as:

1. Preparatory Meeting among HRWG and WEAVE members to prepare the civil society inputs to ASEAN Vision 2025 from ten countries. (May 23, 2015)
2. Worked as the moderator during the first session of the program, during the first day of discussion( May 24, 2015)
3. Regional Consultation on Civil Society's Inputs to ASEAN Vision 2025 to verify and finalize the inputs from ten ASEAN countries collectively.(May 24-25, 2015)
4. Civil Society's Dialogue with HLTF members of Indonesia to provide an avenue between civil society and HLTF to discuss and present the people's inputs to the ASEAN Vision 2025 ( May 26, 2015)
5. Civil Society's Dialogue with CPR on ASEAN Visions 2025 to provide an avenue between civil society and CPR to discuss and present the people's inputs to the ASEAN Vision 2025 (May 27, 2015).

## Outcomes:

During the trip to Jakarta to participate in the regional consultation workshop, there were significant outcomes and good things for Cambodia and for Cambodian CSOs in the following:

1. Finalize inputs from civil societies in ASEAN community for ASEAN Vision 2025 although there was a little bit tough controversy and Cambodia representatives have expressed concerns and recommendations in the name of Cambodia CSOs.
2. I have learned new skill as the regional moderator because during the first session of the first day I was requested to be the moderator.
3. I have built relationship and network with ASEAN people, especially among people who work for human rights and non-governmental organizations.
4. I understand more and more about ASEAN community, especially about the three pillars; political security, social cultural and economy.
5. I have met with ASEAN secretary at the ASEAN secretariat in Jakarta and I mentioned about NGOs law in Cambodia because ASEAN secretary mentioned that “governments in ASEAN countries cannot work alone without support from non-governmental organizations and government of Cambodia said that they do not want NGOs to interfere their works as parliamentarians. I asked him “what is the difference for this point? What are the strategies that ASEAN community could do for the ASEAN Member States that restrict freedom of NGOs in their country? He said that NGOs be realistic, know what they want to do and walk on the right track of their plans.
6. I met with Indonesian High Level Task Force during the program in the second day. The Indonesian High Level Task Force (HLTF) inspired NGOs to work more effectively in their countries. And he mentioned about the significance of NGOs in each country, and he also answered various questions from the participants.
7. The Indonesian High Level Task Force promised to help facilitate works of NGOs in ASEAN community and he promised to bring ideas and recommendation that emerged from the CSOs regional consultation to other HLTF in ASEAN community.
8. All participants in the regional consultation requested to cancel Non-interference policy of ASEAN community, for instance, when there is human violation in each country of ASEAN community, other member states should be able to intervene or to stop human rights violation that country, and we mentioned about that thing to ASEAN secretary but he said that “we cannot cancel this policy at this time since ASEAN needs to struggle with many challenges”.
9. Participation in the CSOs regional consultation in Indonesia so far means a lot to Cambodia, because we need to have Cambodian people to represent Cambodia either in regional or international program.

10. Cambodian representatives in the program were very important since we need to insert ideas or recommendation that we found during the country consultation on May 12, 2015 at Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
11. Cambodian representatives in the program could protest against ideas or comments that raised by other participants if those ideas or comments are considered to be harmful for Cambodia. For example, when there are participants from other countries mention about Cambodia and what they mention is wrong or unreal about Cambodia, the representative of Cambodia could reject that idea or that comment.
12. High Level Task Force just can promise to mention recommendations of ASEAN CSOs but they could not guarantee whether how many sentences or phrases that all HLTF will accept recommendation of COSs since they need to have consensus among all ASEAN leaders before they can pass each item of ASEAN vision.



Figure 2 Mr. Sam Seun from SILAKA organization performed as the session moderator



Figure 4 participants work in group to discuss on the three pillars



Figure 3 Group picture at ASEAN secretariat on May 27, 2015

**Attachment:**

- The final inputs of CSOs in ASEAN community
- The adjusted agenda of the program
- Pictures during the program.