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Letter from a member of Board of Directors

Welcome to the first annual report that is written in English from Association Cooperation for Economic Development (ACED). Therefore a brief history on the projects and programs is included. The report is assigned to all people in ACED, donors, supporters, network members, and volunteers, which individually and in collaboration have worked in different programs, all reflecting ACED's fundamental values.

With the values in mind ACED has concentrated the knowledge, skills, and experience on providing help for the most vulnerable in form of monitoring self-help groups and credit schemes, providing loans without interest for starting up small scale businesses, providing scholarships, and free English lessons. Efforts have been put on good governance issues, land confliction and community forestry. Advocacy on women and children's rights, good governance, education, and empowerment of community members especially women have been carried out. Staff capacity building for ACED's own staff, community workers, and leaders has been conducted. Network with other NGOs and local authorities has been rewarding. In programs related to nature, environmental issues and impact on climate change have been taken into consideration.

The report also provides information about ACED's income and expenditure.

It has been a rewarding year and it can be stated that sustainable development is seen in many of the ongoing programs. I thank all donors, supporters, network members, and volunteers for your support that has improved the quality of life for local people including protection of their rights and environment they live in.



Britt Mari Björklund
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Introduction

Association Cooperation for Economic Development (ACED) is a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) established in 1996 in Bavel District, Battambang Province, Cambodia. It has received official recognition by local authorities and Ministry of the Interior. ACED has received International and National support from donors including Star Kampuchea, CIDSE (Development and Partnership Action), CWS Battambang, World Bank, and Generous individuals.

ACED has worked in Battambang province on a wide variety of programs aimed at improving the quality of life for local people including protection of their rights and environment they live in. The Integrated Community Development Program has been an integral feature of ACED's activities since 1998 and includes projects such as the self-help groups, credit schemes, health education, women' and children's right, good governance, women empowerment, poorest of the poor people, scholarship, advocacy, community forestry, agricultural development, network incorporation, and capacity-building training always with focus on educational equality and environmental issues.

With the collaboration of NGO's such as ADHOC, LICADHO, UN Center, LAC, Star Kampuchea and the Provincial Women's Affairs Office, ACED has worked to educate people and raise awareness about their Human Rights and the laws which govern them. The aims are to establish an understanding amongst the people about their rights and subsequently establish solidarity within the community.

In 2009 ACED got financial support/funds from Star Kampuchea and individuals. ACED is grateful to all these donors and gives in return commitment to accountability and transparency. The financial supports enabled ACED to continue work in the fields of good governance, advocacy, self-help groups and credit schemes, poorest of the poor people, scholarships, community forestry and land confliction, staff capacity building, and network incorporation. No funds were allocated for the women and children's rights project in 2009 but advocacy work was done.

ACED continuously evaluates the work cone trying to improve the working methods and programmes.

ACED has a Board of Directors (BOD) consisting of five members to govern and manage the organization. The staff comprises seven members and one volunteer. In addition volunteers from Europe worked one for two months, one for one month, and two for two weeks together with ACED's ordinary staff in 2009.



Good Governance

The project was set up in 2003 to improve communication between villagers and local authorities e.g. commune council, education office, women affair, social affair, health center, police, police of military, and district office. By working together for the development of the entire community, solidarity between villagers and leaders was built up. Reliability on good governance amongst villagers was increased.

In 2009 ACED has facilitated 16 meetings for village representatives and commune council members e.g. members of the committees for land-confliction and forestry. In addition ACED has ongoing lobbied and advocated for good governance.



Women Empowerment

The project was set up to enhance the proficiency and confidence of women in the commune councils. ACED provided training and coaching on project planning, report writing, meeting facilitation, gender equality issues, human rights, commune administration, and community development through monthly meetings. Two representatives from 6 communes, two persons from women affair, and one person from social affair in Bavel district were invited to discuss about participation in social changing during 2008.

Even if in 2009 ACED had no fund support for the project, the project continues of its own efforts. The impact can be seen in meetings where women's participation has increased and where women have the confidence to stand up and demand their rights in community development matters.



Self-Help Groups and Credit Scheme

This project began in 1998 in Bavel Commune, Bavel District and is continuous. Villagers form themselves into saving groups (self-help groups) and ACED facilitates in development of group policies and goals. In six months of combined savings, the groups are given credit. They have now the capital needed to start up or expand their income generating businesses and to break the cycle of poverty.

In 2009 no new groups were formed. To date, 286 members in 30 groups participate in the project. In March ACED provided credit of amount \$ 18,500.00 (eighteen thousand five hundred U.S. dollars) for the 30 groups. The credits are repaid in December 2009 or January 2010.

So far the repayment rate has been nearly 85 %. ACED continuously monitors the activities of the groups ensuring the rightful use of the credits.



Rice bank



Self Help Group Monthly Meeting

Poorest of the Poor People

This network (CIDSE, DPA, CWS, and BTB) project was set up in 2003 and is continuous. The goal is to provide emergency relief, food aid, and other supply as needed as well as capital for starting up small-scale businesses for a better livelihood. Besides funding also training and advice are provided. At start 50 families in Bavel commune were found to be the poorest of the poor and were supported.

In 2009 ACED supported 64 families with loans without interest rates of amount \$ 2,500.00 (two thousand five hundred U.S. dollars). Now the families have the capital needed for starting up small-scale businesses that means income for food, health care, and children's education e.g. a better living for the families.



Assist the poorest of the poor people for pig raising

Visiting the poorest of the poor people



Small business

Advocacy Activities

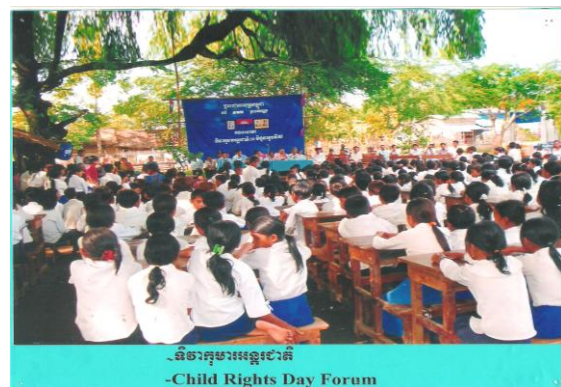
Advocacy seeks to address the structural and systemic causes of poverty by trying to change policies, systems, practices, and attitudes that perpetuate inequality by denying justice and human rights. The goal is to end discrimination and poverty which have an impact to all aspects of community development.

In 2009 ACED conducted advocacy work including good governance in the field of education and empowerment of community members. Development work in the communities was enhanced and awareness and understanding of the advocacy strategy was promoted.



Women's and Children's rights

The project was set up in 1998 and provided training in human rights and other relevant laws to villagers, members of the commune councils, and other local organizations. For the training courses in human rights ACED cooperated with other human rights institutions and consultants. For prevention of child abuse and child labor the Committee for Prevention of Children's Rights was formed. The committee works for protection against trafficking, abuse, rape, and women and children's exploitation. The committee is continuing the work with women and children's rights. In 2009 ACED had no funds for supporting the work but participated every three months in meetings.



Britt's Learning Center (BLC)

In 2009 BLC was founded for providing scholarships and free English lessons for poor children. 24 children from the poorest of the poor group were selected for support in Bavel commune, Bavel district, Battambang province. The children were supported with food, clothes, shoes, bags, learning materials, and transportation as needed. The support amounted \$ 1,150.00 (one thousand one hundred and fifty U.S. dollars). 130 children got free English lessons (1 hour 5 days a week) from March to December.



Community forestry and Land Confliction

In the years 2000-2006 ACED provided education and training in environmental issues that focused on organic farming, sustainable development, and recycling. ACED also instructed how to cultivate and maintain tree nurseries.

In 2009 ACED got fund support from Star Kampuchea for environmental projects. ACED formed a community forestry in Sphar Por II village, Bavel commune, by cooperation with the forestry office based in Bavel district. ACED set up rules for the community forestry together with the community and forestry office. In the project ACED facilitated 8 meetings.

In addition ACED facilitated 8 meetings on land confliction in Phnom Preok district consisted of village representatives and members from the commune council.



Staff Capacity Building

The project aims at improving the community development work through training staff and local people in community development concept and good governance. The community workers get knowledge of relevant laws and project management, and as a result understand the importance of working together with local people.

In 2009 ACED focused on the capacity building for staff, community workers and leaders. The focus was especially on advocacy issues, land laws, forestry law, civil and criminal law, domestic violence, and project management. This was done mainly through meetings, workshops, trainings, and visits.



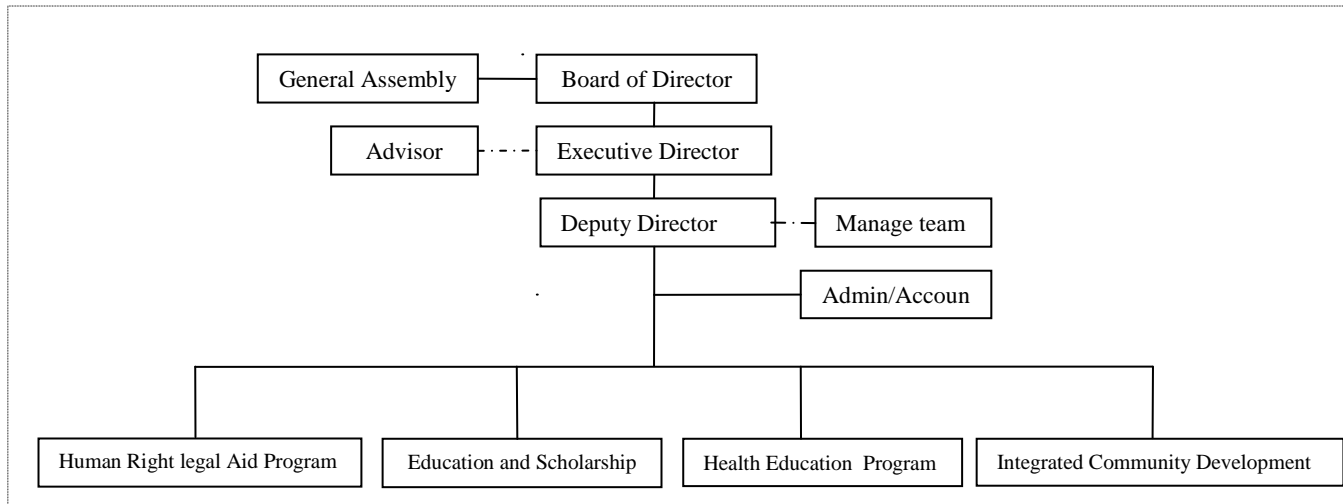
Network Incorporation

In 2009 ACED improved the good cooperation with other NGOs, networks and local authorities such as: Battambang Network to Support Decentralization and Deconcentration (BNSDD), NGOs Advocacy Network for Development (NAND), and Women and Children's Rights Protection Committee (WCRPC) in Bavel. On the other hand ACED has worked in the partnership with Star Kampuchea that works at national level to lobby with government concerning comments on laws.

Personnel

In 2009 an additional member was selected to the Board of Directors (BOD) that now has five members to govern and manage the organization. ACED's former advisor was elected to executive director in March and started his work in July. The staff consists of five members and one advisor; the same as in 2008. In addition ACED has one volunteer. Please, refer to attached chart.

Furthermore, volunteers from Europe worked one for two months, one for one month, and two for two weeks together with ACED's ordinary staff in 2009.



Financial Statement

N	Funding Sources	Income	Expenditure	Balance
1	Capital	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00
2	STAR KAMPUCHEA	\$ 6,058.00	\$ 6,058.00	\$ 0.00
3	Interest rate from Micro Credit	\$ 865.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 65.00
4	Generous people from Finland	\$ 3,150.00	650.00	\$ 2,500.00
5	Generous people from Germany	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.00
Grand Total		\$ 10,773.00	\$ 8,008.00	\$ 2,765.00

2009 performance has been on levels typical of expected year-on-year results. In 2009 ACED had an income of total 10,773.00 USD out of which 8,008.00 was spent on expenses for operations. At least 90 percent of total dollars spent went to program services.