



Veterans International Cambodia

A Project of The International Center

VIC MONTHLY UPDATES FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OCTOBER 2011

I. Program Updates:

- Song Sit received support from Abilympics Organizing Committee to attend the 8th International Abilympics in Seoul, Korea, held from September 23, 2011 through October 01, 2011. In this opportunity, Song Sit gained new knowledge and experiences regarding the facilitation of international event and enhanced international communication with officers from different countries who are working in the same field.
- **Cost Recovery Model:** Following the recommendation of HE Sem Sokha, VIC submitted a letter to the Minister of MoSVY to ask for permission to try the pilot implementation of sliding fee in Kien Khleang center. To date, MoSVY has not answered in writing yet. However, the head of the Department of PWDs Welfare unofficially informed VIC that MoSVY may not approve this proposal because of many reasons, including political issues.
- Mr. Robert Schiffer was present in Cambodia between the 11th and 12th of October.
 - On October 11th, Bob and Tokyo had a conference call with Mr. Kevin O'Brien from Worldwide Support for Development. Bob sought support from Kevin in looking for the possibility of applying for funding to establish a private rehabilitation center. Kevin is happy to discuss the idea with his management team. Both agreed to continue more discussion when they both are present in Cambodia in November 2011.
 - On October 12th, Bob and Tokyo had a meeting with Dr. Gerlinda, the new director of Center of Hope. At the meeting, Bob explained the recent changes at VIC regarding; nationalization, status of funding support of VIC, planning for transformation to be a local NGO in the future and the intention of IC-VIC to make progress in these changes. IC-VIC is looking for partnership with Center of Hope in establishing a private rehabilitation center. Bob discussed the recognition of the quality of rehabilitation services provided by VIC. Dr. Gerlinda is positive about the partnership query. However, she mentioned that this decision should be made by her Country Director, Dr. Gary Jacques. Dr. Gerlinda said that after the resignation of Kevin, his job had been split into two jobs. The strategic planning and business parts of job are with a different person and she only has the administration and managing the staff and hospital only. Dr. Gerlinda suggested that Bob should prepare a short concept paper and she will send it to Dr. Gary Jacques for perusal. Also, Tokyo asked Dr. Gerlinda whether a new VIC counselor would be able to go over to the Community Medical Center of Center of Hope, to learn from her counselors on how to conduct the interview and negotiation with clients.
 - In the afternoon, Bob and Tokyo had a meeting with Mr. Flynn Fuller, USAID Mission Director and his colleagues at USA Embassy in Phnom Penh. At the meeting, Bob and Tokyo explained the progress of VIC regarding nationalization and plans for sliding fee implementation. Bob and Tokyo mentioned that the request to the MoSVY to ask for permission to try sliding fee at Kien Khleang seems to have been rejected due to political reasons. Mr. Fuller said he would be willing to call the secretary of state who said he supported the sliding scale and move this if it is still being held up by the person under this person. Also, Mr. Fuller said he would support helping to get a 20% cost share from Cambodia. At the meeting they also discussed the plans for the disability awareness campaign, which will be held on November 18, 2011 at Prey Veng province.

- In the afternoon of October 21st, Rithy, Men Meas, Mara and Tokyo attended a meeting at the office of Persons with Disabilities Foundation with a number of delegates from MoSVY. HE Sem Sokha was the chair at the meeting. They were discussing and preparing for the side-event of the 11th MSP at Kien Khleang National Rehabilitation Center, which will be held on November 27, 2011. After the meeting, Rithy and Tokyo approached HE Sem Sokha to seek his support about the plan for sliding fee. Since there are positive and negative ideas from different angles, HE Sem Sokha advised that VIC should look for the possibility of starting the private clinic. He added that the idea of involving ICRC, HIB and HIF to try the sliding fee would be a good idea.
- On October 27th, Tokyo attended a consultative workshop on “the future of the physical rehabilitation sector” participated by CBM, AusAID, HIF, HIB, CT, ICRC, MoSVY, POSVY, DAC and PWDs Foundation. The main objective of this workshop was to allow all rehabilitation sector stakeholders to share their respective views and strategic orientations and thus to better understand the current challenges and directions regarding the rehabilitation sector in Cambodia. At the meeting, Tokyo made a presentation about VIC program and shared the possible future plan of VIC. HI France and HI Belgium officially informed that they will merge the 2 NGOs soon to have one NGO, so called Handicap International Federation (HIF). HIF will continue to support Siem Reap and Kampong Cham centers but they will completely hand over the Takeo center to MoSVY. HIF, HIB and VIC expressed their interest to try sliding fee model in their centers, but MoSVY (Mr. Lao Veng) opposed that sliding fee should not be practiced in the current centers. He added that sliding fee can be implemented in a pure private rehabilitation center where the quality of devices/services is superior.
- From October 24 to 26, VIC had strategic planning workshop. The workshop has the following objectives: 1) to have a common understanding about cost recovery implementation; 2) to look for possibilities for new funding and new programs; 3) to have a good understanding of the different options to be able to develop VIC strategies; 4) to have short- and long-term strategic plan (2012 and 2012-2016); 5) to have common understanding about VIC policy and to shape it to fit with the current situation; 6) to smoothen the line of communication among VIC staff; 7) to look for possibility of more work efficiency; 8) to sustain and improve the quality of care in the centers and the community based work for persons with disabilities and their families.
- On October 28th, Tokyo, Ull Meng Hour and Seihaneath were invited to participate in a meeting organized by MoSVY and PoSVY officers at PoSVY Prey Veng office. The meeting was conducted so that the MoSVY officers can have consultation with Tokyo in promoting Mr. Khut Chhunly, who is the current deputy center manager, to be the manager of Prey Veng Provincial Physical Rehabilitation Center. Since Mr. Ull Meng Hour, the current VIC Prey Veng center manager, is on a one-year probation period to be PoSVY civil servant, Tokyo suggested that MoSVY and POSVY should delay this appointment until MoSVY officially accept Meng Hour as the civil servant. He also suggested that MoSVY should appoint Meng Hour to be the center manager for effective and efficient management. After long discussion, MoSVY and POSVY officers accepted the suggestion about the delay of the appointment.

II. Plan for November:

- November 09-11, 2011: Public Holiday (Water Festival)
- November 18, 2011: Disability Awareness Campaign session to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of USAID and the 20th Anniversary of VIC.
- November 25, 2011: VIC install the exhibition booth at the Peace Palace in the occasion of the 11th Meeting of State Parties (11th MSP) of the Ottawa Ban Landmine Convention
- November 27, 2011: ~100 senior delegates from the 11th MSP visit Kien Khleang center
- November 28-30, 2011: VIC has exhibition booth at CMAC
- November 30, 2011: ~30 senior delegates from Mine Action Authorities visit the Self-help group/federation and small grant project of VIC in Ksach Kandal district, Kandal province.
- November 29 - Dec 1, 2011: Channa, Hour and Rithy participate in the 2nd CBR Congress in Manila, Philippines, with the support from AusAID and CBM.