ANNUAL REPORT
2012
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1. Foreword from CCIM’s Director

Dear friends and partners,

The Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM) is committed to a professional, independent, multi-platform approach to improving democracy and good governance in Cambodia. In 2012, this has been achieved through dissemination of information and the encouragement of a participative culture as well as through cooperation with many organisations with similar goals.

During the past year, we were able to expand Voice of Democracy’s (VOD) reach through media alliances signing MoUs with various radio stations, and through cooperation with NGOs in other provinces. We fostered the professionalism and independence of citizens and journalists through workshops. We promoted dialogue between commune authorities and its members in commune administration and development. We provided extensive coverage of the commune electoral process receiving recognition for our unbiased reportage.

The efficacy of these projects among many others, and our continued production of public service orientated programming, was only possible thanks to our staff and supporters. Our clients and partners are not only important for keeping us independent from external forces but also provide the knowledge and skills necessary for us to reach our common goals. What sets CCIM apart from other media entities is not just its independence and commitment to bettering the lives of Cambodians but also their diligence in helping others to join in this mission through networking, collaboration and support. While carrying out such a challenging task, creating a pluralistic and independent media environment in Cambodia, we are always encouraged by the tireless efforts of CCIM’s staff, and the support and cooperation from all our partners.

We faced many challenges of censorship and blackmail during 2012 but are proud of our unwavering integrity. In 2012, freedom of expression in Cambodia was threatened and often breached. Last year saw the unjust prosecution of many journalists and human rights activists and the threat to access to information with a circular to close internet cafes. Let us not forget Hang Serei Oudom who lost his life and the many other media workers, worldwide, who were also killed.

The pressures we faced last year have reminded us of the need for more projects and more effort. In 2013 we are working harder to bridge the gap between citizens and the local media encouraging participation in talk shows and workshops and developing citizen journalists. CCIM will provide citizen journalists with smart phones so that they can better access information in their provinces and report to the media on local issues as they happen. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the future. We know that through the capabilities of our staff and partners, with more funding we have the potential to continue to create positive change for Cambodia.

Best Regards,

Pa Nguon Teang, Executive Director, CCIM.
2. Background

There is only a small space for independent media in Cambodia. Moreover, its press freedom ranking dropped for a sixth consecutive year in 2012, and remained “not free”, according to independent experts. Television stations are controlled or influenced by the government as are the majority of radio stations and newspapers. As such, self-censorship is the daily reality for most Cambodian journalists. Moreover, political figures are immune from criticism as the 2010 Penal Code allows criminal prosecutions for defamation and contempt for peaceful expression of views "affecting the dignity" of individuals, public officials and government institutions.

Led by the Cambodia People’s Party (CPP), the development of Cambodia has been boosted in recent years through investment from Asian and Western companies, evident in the recent construction of a number of new skyscrapers in Phnom Penh. However, this short term economic boost comes at the expense of the interests and human rights of many ordinary Cambodians. While poverty has officially decreased, human rights violations continue and have increased in many areas. The conviction of 15 Boeung Kak community protesters, the shooting of 14 year old girl Heng Chantha, the killing of environmental activist Chut Wutty in Koh Kong as well as journalist Heng Serei Oudom in Ratanakiri, all demonstrate that economic progress is being achieved whilst moral and democratic values are being eroded.

Since its inception in 2007, CCIM has worked to provide independent and unbiased news, a voice to vulnerable groups, to advocate for human rights and fight injustice and corruption. VOD is CCIM’s radio program production house. VOD airs on Sarika FM which is the radio broadcasting network that CCIM operates. VODhotnews.com provides news, analysis, investigatory reports and archives in English and Khmer.

CCIM Timeline
3. Executive Summary

This report provides information on the activities and achievements of CCIM during 2012 as well as challenges faced. It details CCIM’s role as a pioneer of change and a model of independent media and professionalism. Through donor-funding and income generated independently by its business marketing division, CCIM continues to better the lives of Cambodian people through the dissemination of information, the encouragement of media literacy and through its projects for good governance and dialogue at the commune level.

CCIM’s mission involves promoting democratic governance, transparency and freedom of expression through unbiased news and other media, while providing a voice to disadvantaged groups and aiding the development of independent, sustainable and professional media institutions. This is achieved through its multi-platform approach and interactivity with its audience and the wider community.

CCIM operates Voice of Democracy, the first and only independent radio station in Cambodia providing live news reports whilst not being sponsored by political parties. In 2012, CCIM provided public service orientated programming including specialised programmes targeting women and youths and covering social issues. Through VOD, CCIM provided unbiased reporting of the 2012 Commune Elections and ASEAN Grassroots People’s Assembly. CCIM also advocated for the release of prisoners of conscience and lobbied for the better protection of the environment. CCIM encouraged commune member involvement in the administration and development of their communes by providing a platform for dialogue during commune forums it organised. Furthermore, CCIM fostered independence and professionalism by abiding by and actively promoting the Journalism Code of Ethics and by providing network support to other media institutions and training for citizens and journalists alike.

During 2012, the international community focused increasing attention on Cambodia due to the increasing levels of foreign investment, the hosting of the Twenty-first ASEAN Summit, and international media attention on a number of high profile national issues such as the imprisonment of radio station owner Mom Sonando. This attention helped communities and civil society groups highlight repression of freedom of expression and other human rights abuses. During 2013, national elections will be held and which provide CCIM with another opportunity to demonstrate its independence and ability to provide extensive, unbiased news coverage. CCIM plans to acquire its own radio license and transmitting equipment which will further enhance its independence. It also plans to work more closely with citizen journalists from around the country which will help ensure that news from all corners of Cambodia is heard.

Article 41 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia declares that “Khmer citizens shall have freedom of expression, press, publication and assembly.” Despite this, citizens, journalists and media organisations continue to face restrictions on freedom of expression which include censorship, prosecution and violent attacks on those speaking out.

In Reporters Without Borders’ (RSF) World Press Freedom Index, Cambodia’s ranking fell to 143 in early 2013 due to ‘increasing censorship and authoritarianism’ throughout 2012. An example of this was when the public had their access to information threatened by a Circular in November 2012 which called for the closure of internet cafes located within 500m of public schools. The Circular suggests that the censorship of television and radio may be extended to the internet. VOD itself suffered censorship when they received a ban on providing radio coverage during the commune council elections in July 2012. CCIM also faced a threat to its independence when the monthly rent for Sarika FM was increased after CCIM refused to produce and broadcast a party promotion at the request of the station owner.

CCIM is fortunate in that it suffers fewer restrictions on broadcasting than many other journalists and institutions. CCIM would like to pay tribute to the following individuals who faced spurious legal charges, threats and physical violence whilst reporting during 2012.

In December 2012, Mr Trang Try, a journalist for the New Decade Newspaper and member of the Khmer Democratic Journalist Association, was arrested by order from Kratie Provincial Court on a charge of extortion. He was arrested after he reported illegal logging to the police.

Mr Vichey Anon, a Radio Free Asia (RFA) journalist, was found unconscious the day after reporting Mr Try’s arrest. He was found on the road connecting Kratie and Stung Treng provinces. His condition was attributed to a traffic collision. He remains in a coma.

In October 2012, RFA reporter Sok Ratha was summoned by Ratanakiri Provincial Court for questioning on charges of incitement to commit a crime. The allegations related to incitement of members of an ethnic minority to engage in violent protests against D.M. Group corporation in 2009.

On August 9th 2012, Chan Soveth, a Senior investigator at the human rights organisation ADHOC, was summoned by Phnom Penh municipal court for allegedly “providing assistance to the perpetrator” of a crime whilst working with land rights activists in Kratie province.

In September 2012, Mam Sonando, owner of Beehive Radio, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for allegedly assisting a secessionist movement in Kratie Province. His arrest on July 15, 2012 came shortly after a news report aired on Beehive Radio detailing a complaint lodged with the International Criminal Court accusing the Cambodian government of committing crimes against humanity. Many international groups and leaders campaigned for his release. Following his appeal in

March 2013, his sentence was reduced to 5 years and suspended. He was subsequently released after serving 8 months in prison.

Lastly, on September 11 2012, Hang Serei Oudom’s body was found in the trunk of his abandoned car near a cashew nut plantation in Ratanakiri province. Oudom covered environmental issues for Vorakchun Khmer Daily. Human rights groups including ADHOC were not satisfied with the investigation, which was twice closed by the investigating judge at Ratanakiri Provincial Court despite strong evidence linking King Seanglau, a local military police official, who was implicated in one of Oudom’s articles detailing illegal logging published a few days before the murder occurred. According to research commissioned by the UN, illegal logging has resulted in a decrease of Cambodia’s forest coverage from 73% in 1990 to 57% in 2010\(^3\).

Mr Sovannatith, Reporter Team Leader and Assistant to the Vorakchun Khmer Daily’s editor-in-chief, told VOD staff that Mr Oudom was very happy with his work and aware of the risks involved. Mr Sovannatith is sorry for the loss of his colleague but said he is not afraid to continue reporting about illegal logging in Ratanakiri.

2012 has been recognised worldwide as the ‘deadliest’ year on record for media workers. RSF figures reveal that 88 journalists were killed in connection to their work worldwide\(^4\).

The oppression of freedom of expression experienced throughout Cambodia in 2012 has galvanized CCIM’s objectives for 2013.

In order to protect its independence, CCIM is in the process of purchasing a new radio antenna and transmitter. CCIM also plans to produce feature programmes on the issue of access to information and will provide extensive coverage of the national elections in July 2013. CCIM will train citizen journalists and is providing them with smartphones to help improve their ability to report on local issues. These activities are designed to help fulfil CCIM’s goal of bridging the gap between the public and local media. CCIM is also working to reduce potential harm to journalists through trainings and workshops on journalist ethics and professionalism using the CJCE code of ethics.

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5. CCIM’s Impact in 2012

CCIM strives to make a real impact on Cambodian society through its radio programming and community projects. CCIM provides a voice to disadvantaged groups and aids the development of independent, sustainable and professional organisations and individuals. CCIM’s VOD radio is highly respected as a model of independent media in Cambodia and for its public service orientated programming as well as for its professional, ethical and responsible broadcasting and reporting.

In March 2012, CCIM performed a feedback survey of 1,522 respondents from four provinces within its coverage area. 78.5% of respondents felt that CCIM produced high quality and independent radio programming. Furthermore, 76% considered VOD the most professional media broadcaster in Cambodia. In May of 2012, the Chairman of the Commission on Economic, Finance, Banking and Audit, Mr Cheam Yeab, sent CCIM a letter of appreciation to CCIM describing CCIM as “important and relevant” in building the capacity of local officers to establish effective government.

“CCIM plays a crucial part in raising awareness about corruption and mobilising people to fight against it. Through CCIM we can reach out to more than eight million Cambodians in many provinces including young people, many of whom will take part in our social movement against corruption.”- Mr Preap Kol, Executive Director, Transparency International Cambodia.

CCIM 2012 in Numbers

- 2,380,000 the number of listeners of VOD/Sarika Fm
- 14 the number of provinces Sarika reaches
- 8.5 million the number of people in Sarika’s coverage area
- 16.5 the number of hours or airplay per day
- 9,258 the number of reports focusing on human rights and good governance
- 732 the number of guest speakers on VOD programs
- 1,487 the number of community member participants in forums (612 female, 875 male)
- 11 the number of targeted communities to participate
- 51,034 the number of unique visitors to VODhotnews.com (174,036 total visits)
- 960 the number of radio reports converted to print for CCIM’s two print partners, Khmer Machas Srok and Cambodia Today

Commitment to Public Service Orientated Programming

CCIM is committed to providing programming that benefits its audience. This is why VOD dedicates nine hours of its air time per day to programmes related to good governance, freedom of expression and other social issues. Through the dissemination of information and by encouraging media literacy and participation, CCIM helps educate and empower its listeners. Throughout 2012, VOD produced and broadcast programmes to help youths deal with social issues such as encouraging pregnant and breastfeeding women to focus on the nutritional value of their diets. CCIM also broadcast extensive
reports on the electoral voting process and the national election campaign in order to provide listeners with information about the choices faced and to encourage them to participate.

**Youth Radio Drama 2012**

CCIM’s one-hour radio drama “High School Friends” aired throughout 2012 on Saturdays and Sundays at 9pm. The radio show is aimed at teens and was created to encourage youths to participate in the show and to improve their media literacy. The show also raised awareness of issues faced by high school students in their daily life and introduced them to the concept of education for all. After each drama programme aired, the host of the show would pick two important points raised during the show to discuss further. Listeners were encouraged to call in and answer questions in order to win prizes or request songs.

**Radio Spots and Radio Magazines for Child and Mother Health March- August 2012**

CCIM has been working with Better Factories Cambodia (BFC) as part of the UN Millennium Development Goals Program for Children, Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia (MDG-F) since 2010. This program involves the development, production and broadcasting of educational radio dramas, radio magazine shows and talk shows.

The programme intends to improve maternal and child health in Cambodia. The programme focuses on the provinces of Svay Rieng and Kampong Speu. The aim is to contribute to the achievement of three MDG Goals: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. CCIM helped to raise awareness and instigate behavioural change of women and the wider community.

Between March and August 2012, VOD broadcasted six radio drama spots a total of 420 times. The spots were: Child Survives Because of Mother’s Breast Milk, Three Plus One for Nutrition for My Child and Grandchild, Following the Rules Make Child Healthy, Missing Period Go to Health Centre, Three Bodyguard Groups, and Eating Safely at the Workplace. VOD also broadcast three 30 minute
radio magazine shows which were repeated three times each. The magazine shows were entitled: Missing Period Go to Health Centre, Three Bodyguard Groups, and Eating at Clean Workplace. In addition to the broadcasts, CCIM and BFC played the material produced by VOD through the sound systems at a number of factories in Cambodia.

Commune Election coverage May- June 2012

CCIM provided the public with the information and skills necessary to vote during the June 2012 commune elections. Furthermore, they did so in an unbiased way, providing air time to all parties involved.

Between the 18th of May and the 1st of June 2012, VOD aired the show “Process Towards Election” which was broadcast twice a day at noon and 6pm. The daily show provided updates on the development of the elections and information about the electoral process.

42 spots were aired in cooperation with the Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections (NECFEC), to educate listeners on the voting process. 15 political debate forums were aired in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and VOD also produced a roundtable of independent experts on the electoral process who provided information on the scope and development of national politics. Interviews with senior officers from all five parties involved in the election were conducted and aired. These included: the Cambodian Peoples’ Party, the Sam Rainsy Party, the Human Rights Party, the Norodom Ranariddh Party and the Funcinpec Party. NGOs involved in the electoral process such as the Provincial Election Committee (PEC) and the National Election Committee (NEC) were also interviewed. CCIM’s aim was to present all parties’ views in an unbiased way as well as to provide expert analysis so that the listeners could make an informed decision on who to vote for.

With correspondents set up in provincial locations, VOD had a five hour election special planned for Election Day. However, VOD received a ban on broadcasting by the Ministry of Information after only one and a half hours (7:30am-9am). The show recommenced at 3pm, finishing at 6:30pm.

According to the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (Comfrel), VOD was the only national broadcaster providing truly independent coverage of the 2012 Commune Elections.

Pioneering Change

CCIM promotes and encourages audience participation and media literacy, emphasising to its audience the importance of staying informed about events. Throughout 2012, CCIM focused on improving good governance in provincial communities through its community forums. The forums promoted dialogue between community members and leaders and emboldened citizens to engage in commune level planning and to push for change. CCIM produced investigative reports drawing the
public’s attention towards social issues affecting Cambodians. CCIM also mitigated justice and environmental protection through radio campaigns and cooperative work with NGOs.

**Enhancing Freedom of Information April 2012**

Through quantitative and qualitative research, CCIM measured the Cambodian public’s opinion on access to information. CCIM collected data via a survey and aired a talk show on the topic of access to information. It provided the public with the opportunity to discuss the issue and brought their concerns to the government’s attention.

The talk show’s guest speakers included 8 Parliamentarians and 11 representatives from various NGOs. The shows received 44 callers. The research survey sample size was 1,522 national respondents. More than 80% of respondents believed that they had the right to access information and that the government should provide information on national budgets, national expenditures and the salaries of public figures. Of the respondents who sought information about national statistics, commune budgets and expenditures, and the cost of civil registration, 32.5% of respondents claimed that they faced difficulties.

This report (survey on public opinion on access to information) is an example of how CCIM creates public acknowledgement of social issues and current affairs through research and investigations.

**Community forums: Improving Local Governance through Public Dialogue January 2011 – December 2012**

The project’s objective was to increase community participation in commune administration and commune development through the dissemination of information and through discussion. Community forums were held in 11 target communities in Kandal, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap provinces. Forums were undertaken to improve dialogue between community members and authorities in order to encourage community member participation in commune administration and development.

Participation in the forums increased by 6% of commune council members from 2011, and approximately one third of council members from each target commune participated in the 2012 forums. CCIM’s evaluation survey recorded an 18% improvement in the satisfaction of respondents in the way that that local authorities worked to resolve problems. Participation in commune development increased by 4%, and the number of citizens who thought that commune budget spending is transparent also increased (2%). The contribution by community members to commune investment and development plans increased by 11.5% and the number of citizens who reported facing difficulty contacting local service providers decreased.

As a result of the forums, the Koh Kach Tonlea commune people’s request for a health centre to be constructed was approved. Additionally, Kampong Thom province’s commune chief committed to providing information on the availability of emergency funds to cover urgent needs of community members.
Community Scorecard Focus Group Discussion - July 2012

The objective of this project was to improve dialogue between community members and councillors in areas affected by mining through a community scorecard focus group discussion (FGD).

Since 2009, land near the village of Pu Rang has been used by foreign companies for mining. The mining activity in the area has destroyed the water supply to the village and threatened the forests and minerals on which community members depend. Inaction by councillors has led to distrust between community members and authorities. The FGD held in Pu Rang involved community members rating the councillors on various criteria. The councillors also rated themselves. The results were then discussed among councillors and community members.

Fifteen community members participated in the first session rating councillors. Four councillors and the current and previous commune chiefs rated their own performances. After the scorecard discussions, Pu Rang community members understood that their councillors were not responsible for the mining activity in the area and that they too were victims of decisions made by national authorities. Following discussions, authorities resolved to build a new community information board as per the community members’ requests.

Investigative Journalism August 2012 – February 2013

In August 2012, VOD’s English News Editor and investigative journalist Heather Stilwell investigated the fainting of 200 workers at a garment factory which produces Nike products. Heather’s investigation revealed that there were many factors contributing to the mass-faintings, and this made it easier for Nike to absolve responsibility. The doctor at the emergency room where Heather visited the affected women, explained the concept of “mass psychogenic illness” or “mass-hysteria”, where only a few women actually faint and the others collapse in shock. The cause of the fainting could be attributed to poor ventilation, excessive work, product fumes and low nutrition (their minimum wage does not allow them the best diets).

The improvement of conditions for workers and the raise in wages as well as secure long term contracts are necessary to improve the quality of life for workers, however local factory owners are reluctant to lose business by raising output costs.

Heather and the news team continued their investigations of garment factory working conditions in 2013. They produced a video on the Kingsland factory strike initiated when factory owners closed the factory without paying workers for the month of December 2012 and without compensation for jobs lost. The video campaign called for H&M and Wal-Mart, who sourced their garments from Kingsland, to take responsibility. As a result, H&M and Wal-Mart agreed to provide the salary and other benefits to workers.

Heather’s work with VOD not only achieved international acknowledgement of the issues faced by garment workers but also resulted in real change for victims.
Advocating for activists June 2012

CCIM successfully advocated for the release of the Boeung Kak land activists known as the ‘Boeung Kak 13’. The female activists were arrested following a protest over forced evictions after the Boeung Kak lake area was sold to a local developer Shukaku Inc., a company owned by Lao Meng Khin, a senator for the ruling Cambodian People’s Party.

The campaign involved the production of 70 radio spots each aired daily, 13 talk shows and 7 radio profiles, providing continuous coverage of their imprisonment and urging for their release. They were released on June 27 2012.

CCIM engaged in a comprehensive advocacy campaign during 2012 targeting the release of Mr Mam Sonando, the owner of Beehive radio station who was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for allegedly leading a secessionist plot in Kratie province. Sonando was recognised by Amnesty International as a ‘prisoner of conscience’.

VOD provided daily radio reports updating listeners on his situation and counting the number of days Sonando had spent in jail. CCIM also cooperated with NGOs, the UN and various embassies in campaigning for his release. CCIM provided partner organisations with airtime and also co-produced press releases with Reporter’s Without Borders (RSF). At his appeal in March 2013, Sonando was released with a suspended sentence of 5 years imprisonment, excluding the 8 months already served.

Advocating for the Environment 2012

CCIM is actively involved in giving a voice to vulnerable indigenous communities who live in symbiosis with the environment. CCIM is also regularly engaged with the NGO Cambodian Climate Change Network (CCCN).

In order to draw attention to the importance of Prey Lang forest as a protected area which supports a number of indigenous communities, CCIM cooperated with the Community Peace Network (CPN) and the Prey Lang community to produce community talk shows and news reports. Prey Lang is Cambodia’s largest area of forest in Cambodia and Southeast Asia at approximately 3,600 km². The 339 villages (200,000 people) based in and around the forest rely on its resources for sustenance and income. Since 2002, illegal logging and the granting of a thousand hectares of land to private companies has led to significant areas of forest being clearing. Sustained campaigning by CPN and community members with the assistance of CCIM throughout 2012 resulted in the issuing of a Sub-Decree which established Prey Lang Forestry Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Area.
In 2012, CCIM also worked with Extractive Industries Social and Environmental Impacts (EISEI), and Cambodia for Resource Revenue Transparency to advocate for an Environmental Impact Assessment Law, a Mineral Policy Framework, and a Petroleum Law through radio talk shows and network activities.

**Building Media Independence**

The proper functioning of a modern participatory democracy requires that the media be free from political interference or undue external pressure. Of the 160 radio stations registered in Cambodia in 2012 and international radio programs in Khmer, CCIM’s radio program Voice of Democracy (VOD) - aired via Sarika FM - is one of the only independent broadcasters, alongside VOA, RFA and Beehive radio stations, working on human rights in Cambodia. Throughout 2012, CCIM worked to help bring independence and self-sustainability to other radio stations through the Media Promotion (MePro) alliance. In recent years, journalists have had to face a number of lawsuits or jail terms for defamation. Independent media organisations also continue to suffer from accusations that they are politically bias and often struggle to engage with Government representatives and institutions. This is why CCIM strives to encourage and support other independent organisations across all forms of media in Cambodia. CCIM provides impartial coverage of all political parties and provides independently produced news without political bias.

**ASEAN Grassroots People’s Assembly coverage November 2012**

Shortly before the 2012 ASEAN Summit, human rights activists from across the region gathered for the ASEAN Grassroots People’s Assembly (AGPA). The AGPA brought together 2000 Cambodian activists as well as over 200 from other ASEAN countries for four days of cultural exchanges, workshops and plenaries. The goal of the AGPA is to draw attention to some of the negative impacts and harmful consequences of development in ASEAN states in an attempt to place pressure on duty bearers to respect human rights.

Organisers faced difficulties in finding a venue to host the event as several hotels in Phnom Penh which had originally agreed to host withdrew due to alleged threats the hotel owners received from authorities. Media reports of the ASEAN Summit were dominated by coverage of Hun Sen and Barrack Obama meeting. As a result, the AGPA was given less public attention. VOD took on the responsibility of providing coverage of the event and covered AGPA conferences, meetings and press conferences as well as inviting special guests to join debates on themes related to issues raised by AGPA delegates.

**Independence through self-regulation and self-promotion: MePro and CJCE**

In 2012, CCIM established the Media Promotion Alliance (MePro). The alliance aims to help various media organisations improve their sustainability and independence. This would allow them to
produce unbiased and more ethical news which will ultimately improve good governance in Cambodia.

Many news organisations are afraid to promote freedom of expression due to the fact that they rely on the government and the private sector for funding and advertising so do not want to risk damaging these relationships. In order to counter this, MePro acts as an advertising agency connecting media organisations with NGOs, sponsors and other companies.

In 2012, MePro focused on creating the first national network of radio stations and is the first media network in Cambodia. Still in its early stages, MePro is already providing benefits such as joint advertising contracts for its members. In 2012, CCIM signed Memorandums of Understanding’s (MoUs) with four provincial radio stations including FM 98 in Kratie, FM 90.25 in Battambang, FM 90.25 in Oddor Meachey and FM 99 in Preah Vihear. In addition, two radio stations, Soreng Sen FM 88.5 in Kompong Thom and FM 90.25 in Oddor Meancheay, agreed to broadcast VOD’s breaking news and weekend news bulletins. This has helped to extend CCIM/VOD’s national reach.

The Cambodian Journalists Code of Ethics (CJCE) was established in 2010 by a group of media professionals (including CCIM’s Director Mr Pa Ngounteang) to create a mechanism for the monitoring of ethical journalism. The concept behind its creation is that if the media does not regulate itself then the government may fill the void and begin doing so more vigorously. This would threaten the independence of media organisations across the country. CCIM continues to promote good journalistic practices and independent media through the work of the CJCE.

A Network that Matters

CCIM endorses interconnectivity among media organisations as a means of sharing resources and skill sets. The creation of such networks allows for the mutually beneficial advancement of a group or cause. This is why CCIM continues to work with such a diverse range of NGOs, media organisations and civil society groups. CCIM was able to share their expertise and experiences in disseminating information advocating for freedom of expression, the respect and protection of human rights and free and independent media.

NGO relationships in 2012

CCIM has approximately 30 partner NGOs which include Licadho, Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) and the Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC). It is a member of 12 NGO media networks including the Working Group on Freedom of Information (FOI WG), the Cambodian Cooperation Committee (CCC), and NGO Forum. CCIM was recognised as a voice of the media within the networks providing information for the majority of NGOs working in the human rights sector. CCIM was invited to cooperate in network media campaigns and devising strategic and media plans. CCIM co-produced 45 programs with 45 NGOs in 2012. CCIM Director Mr Pa Nguon Teang serves on the Board of Directors of three NGO networks: the Cambodian Climate Change Network, the Environmental and Social Impact of the Extractive Industry, and Cambodian Journalist Council for Ethics. As a result, CCIM is able to reach more people in more provinces through these NGO networks.
“VOD allows voiceless people to be heard. Press and information is an important power of check and balance and CCIM is playing that role by providence non-bias, accuracy and independent news to public. That makes CCIM a trusted media channel in the Cambodia.” – Mr Nget Moses, CLEC.

International Networks

CCIM continued working with its existing international networks including Asia Calling, Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA), the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA EAP), and G-media. CCIM also worked with Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in 2012 as an exclusive partner organisation to produce joint press releases on issues such as the sentencing of Beehive Radio owner Mam Sonando.

“CCIM plays the role of mainstreaming and applying Social Accountability in the media sector. VOD is known as the channel for every social activist to voice politics, governance and other social issues affecting citizens. Many changes were made through VOD as it is one of the independent media in Cambodia.” – Mr San Chey, ANSA-EAP

Clients 2012

CCIM is proud to announce that it is now 46% funded by self-generated income. This is important for CCIM’s sustainability and independence. CCIM plans to continue to increase this figure but only works with socially responsible clients.

CCIM’s long term client, CC Natural, is providing sponsorship of shows on Sarika FM including on air promotions by MCs. CC Natural contact person, Mr Dy, had this to say about working with Sarika FM:

“It was a really good investment for me to work with Sarika. I’m satisfied with what I’ve done and commit to make it even better. I wanted to work with Sarika radio because it broadcasts a lot of good and diverse information, with quality sound, for people of different ages, including social issues, youth education and health issues. Sarika Radio has the important role of contributing to Khmer social development through broadcasting news and information.”

CCIM’s NGO partners:

- ACILS
- AGPA
- AnSA
- API
- Asia Calling
- Cambow
- CARAM
- CCHR
- CDPO
- CEDAC
- CEDAW
- CHEMS
- CITA
- CLC
- CLEC
Comfrel • CRRT • CSC • CWCC • DPA • FLD • FNF • FNN • GADC • HACC

HRTF • ICSO • IDEA • ILO • KYA • Lichado • Medicam • NBP • NDI • NSSF

NEFEC • NEP • OHCHR • SILAKA • SISHA • Star Kampuchea • Vigiilence • YCC

CCIM’s Clients 2012:

- 88 Japanese Furniture shop
- A4S
- AIS
- Angkor Chom
- ARP
- BBC
- Beeline
- Brand (Draft)
- Cambodia University for Speacities (CUS)
- Coke
- Doung Chhiv (PP+SR)
- draft (Draft)
- EMA (Addon)
- Every textile Garment
- Film Guard
- Giloba
- Golden gate American school
- Hello
- KMB skin care
- Legend Cinema
- Ly Hor salon
- Mfone (Addon)
- Motor Image (Solidous)
- M’Pig
- New optic
- New World
- Nokia (Riverorchid)
- NSSF
- Ovantine (Draft)
- PH care (SR)
- PPM (PP+SR)
- Reak PC
- Red Bull (AddOn)
- Samsung (Solidous)
- SBC (Publicity)
- S-Cool
- Seima Samangkar
- Smart (Draft) SR
- Spean Meas (KIS)
- Sponsor (AddOn)
- Standford american school
- Team Novou
- UNFPA
- Wing (River)
- World Exim
- Zenya (Draft)
- EBC
- CC Natural

The VOD News Team

Tat Oudom:

“When I was a kid I was a newspaper boy, and journalism has been my dream ever since. I decided to become a photojournalist because I enjoy capturing images of interesting people and I love to combine writing and reporting the news with the gift of photography. I started out by taking my phone everywhere and snapping random photos of interesting objects, people or
community events. I like to take my photos and describe what has happened and share my writing on Facebook. I also love the challenge of keeping up with technology such as the internet, social media, and digital tools to share images. I practice often with my camera and am determined to learn from my partner who has enough ability to share and help to build my skills. Choosing photography has opened good opportunities for me.”

**Issues covered in 2012 for VOD**

- Garment Industry
- Feature about former King Sihanouk
- Land issues and protests

**Chanthorn Ing**

“I wanted to become a reporter because I like this job and it can help social development through democracy. A journalist can pressure a country for rule of law. Personally speaking, this position means I am well-informed on a lot of social issues.”

**Issues you covered in 2012 for VOD**

- Analysis: Pro and Cons of creating an internet law in Cambodia
- Complaints against KRT defence team sent to bar associations
- Commune council election results suggest CPP support may

**Chorn Sreynoch**

“Reporting is my favourite field of work since it helps me to understand more about events happening in Cambodia. It bridges the gap between citizens and their issues and helps to highlight their causes. And it will help me develop my skills in public service.”

**Issues Covered 2012 for VOD**

- Prey Long Suffer Abuse from Foreign Company
- Road in Cambodia Repairs a lot, only Quantity but no Quality
- Women’s Rights in Cambodia are abused
**Taing Vida**

“I wanted to be a reporter because it’s a chance to be involved in social development. In other words, it is an opportunity to provide information and make changes for society. It’s being a link to provide people with information and knowledge in order to reduce poverty. Furthermore, reporting plays an important role in spreading positive information about Cambodian to the world.”

**Issues covered in 2012 for VOD**

- Police arrested a nobleman, Mr Tan Senghak and his partners in illegal drug case
- Minority group had reaction on the word Punong, using by CPP representative
- Civil society and factory workers gathered for 10th December

**Nhim Sokhorn**

“I wanted to be a reporter because news is the 4th power to take part in national development. News is the sound to inform people about what is happening in society. News is the knowledge source for people.”

**Issues covered in 2012 for VOD**

- Authorities capture 13 land activists for detention again
- Prime Minister order authorities to captured Kratie TTY company’s securities
- Morm sonongdo supporters criticize Justice System in Cambodia that is not independent

**Opportunities for Experience**

During 2012 CCIM took on 22 local volunteers and 10 foreign volunteers. The volunteers gained experience in the various departments within CCIM. The employment of volunteers by CCIM is one of the ways it nurtures professionalism throughout the community. Three volunteers received full-time positions within CCIM. Many volunteers have stayed on and those who resigned went on to successfully acquire paid work.

**Journalist training workshops December 2012**

Educating professionals and citizen journalists on reportage provides them with the skills to report professionally and contribute to local media at a grassroots level. The aim of the workshops was to bridge the gap between the public and the media encouraging the public to get involved with
reporting on local social issues. As well as, promoting the importance of media literacy and developing professional skills among the community.

The workshops for citizen journalists provide an overview of the context of the media in Cambodia, basic news reporting training, interview techniques and the benefits of networking. Three workshops were held in Preah village and Mondulriki with help from UNESCO and OHCHR. There were 69 community people involved including youths.

One session was also held in Kompong Som for station managers which focused on the role of community media and methods for media sustainability. This session promoted the concept of independent media to the media professionals. 13 station managers and representatives participated.

The pre-test results showed the understanding of 20 participants. Three received a score of four or more out of six. The post-test results revealed 15 of the participants received four or more out of six. Further evidence of the success of the program can be seen in the promise from participants to write and send news to the media including Sarika FM.

**CCIM code of ethics**

CCIM believes in a foundation of ethics for practising professional journalism. The low level of training among Cambodian media workers means that in the past there was no formal recognition of a Code of Ethics. The result of a democratic and multiparty system means that different media sectors have formed to serve different purposes. CCIM endeavours to uphold independence as their mission and believes ethical journalism is a big part of this. Ethical journalism improves the confidence of the general public as the media is shown to serve them with seriousness and honesty.

Cambodian Journalists Code of Ethics (CJCE) was established in late 2010 by a national conference of journalists under CCIM’s EU and UK-funded project to enhance independent media. The CJCE is comprised of 15 nominated council members including CCIM’s Director, Mr Pa Nguonteang. The steering committee, which meets every second weekend, is responsible for providing guidance to journalists and strengthening, monitoring and enforcing the Code of Ethics. The role of CJCE is to monitor and evaluate publications on compliance with the Code, receive reports on violations and propose disciplinary actions and conduct training for journalists on compliance.

CJCE cultivates professionalism through the promotion of ethics and responsibility for media practitioners. Ensuring ethical practice and responsibility reduces potential harm to journalists. In 2012, CJCE approached three TV shows and five radio stations to discuss media ethics. They also organised World Press Freedom Day events on May 3rd 2012 and three training workshops on the Code of Ethics for provincial journalists.

**6. CCIM Board**

CCIM employs 50 staff, 15 of which are female, including 28 journalists.

**Organizational Chart:**
Board of Directors

Ms Ratanak Houth  
*TI Cambodia, Radio Kampuchea Demand for Good Governance, Gender and Development for Cambodia, Cambodian Working Group*

“I wanted to be on the Board because I want to see CCIM grow and take part in promoting democracy and human rights in Cambodia. CCIM’s role in society is keeping professional as an independent media, giving voice to vulnerable groups, helping people who face injustice, and promoting access to information.”

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Mr Yang Saing Koma  
*Centre d’Etude et Developpement Agricole Cambogien (CEDAC) and recipient of the 2012 Ramon Magsaysay Award*

“I appreciate the VOD program of CCIM, and the contribution of CCIM in providing opportunities to young people to develop their professional careers in the media sector.”

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Mr Yeng Virak  
*Community Legal Education Center (CLEC)*

“I accepted to serve on the Board of CCIM because I share its vision and mission. It is a privilege for me to render my support and contribution to its development and function, especially in areas of enhancing the governance of the organisation. As CCIM is a unique organisation- a local media broadcaster in Cambodia- it provides a voice to the voiceless, promoting democratic governance, transparency and freedom of expression through unbiased news”.

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Mr Sreang Heng  
*Panhastra University*

“I joined CCIM/VOD with the purpose of contributing my talent and knowledge, of democracy and social and political environments both in the country and the world, to the reconstruction of Cambodia. Social education through media, democratic education through the news, reports and analysis are some of my primary missions to improve people's awareness of what has been going on in the society in which they live - particularly liberty rights, and their freedom of expression. Democratization will not be possible without independent media. And I think that CCIM/VOD has been independent when it disseminates news to the general public in Cambodia. The role that it plays is worthwhile for this nation.”
7. Financial Report

2012 Income

- Donor Income: 54%
- Self-generated Income: 46%

Self-generated Income by Source

March 2012 - February 2013

- Airtime rental: 33%
- Ads 106.5, Phnom Penh: 22%
- Ads 95.5, Siem Reap: 6%
- Ads Online: 1%
- Productions: 26%
- Commission: 1%
8. Stay Tuned

CCIM’s future objectives include:

- Increase media networks through MePro
- Have regular communication with citizen journalists via training workshops and provision of smartphones
- Improve independence and sound quality through the acquisition of a radio licence and new transmitter
- Continue to improve self-sustainability through client relationships
- Improve interactivity and multi-media approach by incorporating podcasts on CCIM websites
- Support free and fair elections by providing unbiased coverage of the National Elections
- Encourage ethics in journalism and self-monitoring by supporting CJCE institutional development
- Create more relevant programming and improve our reach by performing Monitoring and Evaluation activities including feedback surveys and events
- Promote media social accountability and ethics by creating yearly media monitoring reports
CCIM’s Donors in 2012:

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

diakonia

The Asia Foundation

OHCHR

Freedom House

14 A, St. 392, Sangkat Boeung Keng Kang I, Khan Chamkamorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: 855-23 726 842 | Fax: 855-23 726 843


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