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ANNUAL REPORT
ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING
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I - INTRODUCTION:

Aide et Action – South East Asia (AeA SEA) works to promote education for all in the South East Asia as well as in the Greater Mekong sub-region. In Cambodia, AeA SEA works in partnership with National Institute of Education (NIE), Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, Friends/Mith Samlanh, Krousar Thmey and SIPAR. In Lao PDR, AeA works with the Ministry of Education, Friends International and the National Institute of Research in Education Sciences. In Vietnam we work with the local authorities in Khan Hoa and Phu Yen Provinces and we developed some researches with IRD (Institute de Recherche pour le Development), NIESAC and IER on quality of education. While four of Education/HIV/AIDS, Education and Gender, and Education and Migrant projects are implementing in China. In Myanmar we work with RDS (Rural Development Society) on minorities.

Advocacy and networking is crucial to support AeA SEA work to become a specialist in education in the region, hence, it plays the main role to involve and advocate diverse stakeholders and the concerned Government departments in the region to support the implementation of AeA SEA projects.

II - VISION:

The vision of AeA SEA is to allow the populations in the sub-region to make their own choices for their own future and for their society by using education as a way of development to promote education for all in the region particularly for those who were excluded, marginalized, and disadvantaged.

III - OBJECTIVES:

1. To maintain positive pressure to educative authorities to respect their promise to reach the goal of Education For All;
2. To build and strengthen the existing network with NGOs, donors, and stakeholders in the region;
3. To have a regional advocacy of Aide et Action in the Greater Mekong sub-region developed toward Education for All

IV - EXPECTED OUTPUTS:

1. Have a common advocacy strategy for education in the region;
2. Have a close link with the Government on Education Sector and other relevant institutions;
3. Have involved in the Global Education Network;
4. Have numerous partners in the region and recognized as a NGO working in education sector;

V - ACHIEVEMENTS

A) Events and network:

1. **Global Campaign for Education:**

Aide et Action was actively involved in the (GCE) Global Campaign for Education with other NGOs in the region. In 2007, Aide et Action in Cambodia and Vietnam actively collaborated with other NGOs and donors and with the Ministry of Education in the organization of the Global Action Week for education. The objective of the GCE event is to emphasize and present the causes and problems of education to the

Government and representatives from the relevant Government departments, international organizations and donors. It is also to pressure the Government on their promise toward Education for All by 2015.

During the Global Action Week it was good indication of the participation from the Government and other development partners.



Chairperson during the declaration of GCE results in 2007

2. **International Children's Day**

Aide et Action was involved in the event of International Children's Day through supporting NGO members of the Children Committee in printing T-shirt and cap for children in the event. The Regional Coordinator of Aide et Action Southeast Asia was also participated in the event. The objective of this involvement is to contribute to the needs and to promote the right to education of all children especially the marginalized and vulnerable groups. Aide et Action has also built link and network with the children's committee.

3. **Workshops (Inclusive policy for disabled children):**

Aide et Action has participated in the workshop on the development of policy for the education of disabled children with the Department of Special Education of the

Ministry of Education Youth and Sport. The objective of the workshop is to discuss issues related to inclusion and how the policy can be adopted for the inclusion of disabled children. After the workshops the policy was finally developed and awaiting for approval from the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport. Aide et Action was also involved in the workshop on Promoting Inclusion through Innovative Media and Materials for Children and Families organized by the World Bank and the Disability Action Council. During the workshop AeA SEA built links with the Department of Special Education of the Ministry of Education and other NGOs that are working in the field of education.



National TV team video the activities

We have also provide Contacted information about Aide et Action Southeast Asia to all participants during meetings, conferences and workshops in order to build network with relevant Government departments and development agencies in the region.

B) Regional Advocacy Workshop:

1. Of the Convention of Objective in the Laos PDR in 2006, Aide et Action has organized a Regional Advocacy Workshop in February 2007 to bring all concerned staffs in the region to discuss issues on advocacy in the region. The main objective of this workshop is to train relevant Aide et Action staff on the concept of advocacy, providing the principles of Aide et Action international advocacy strategy and to develop advocacy action plan by country and the region from 2008-2010. It was noted that there was a good discussion among the participants and there were much contribution from all for the development of advocacy strategy.

C) Advocacy Strategy:

2. Aide et Action Southeast has successfully developed the advocacy strategy for its operating country of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. The regional office has supported in the process for the development of the strategy in each country and also developed the regional strategy for the three countries. The main purpose of the strategy is to give direction to the country how advocacy activities in each

country can be implemented. On the other hand, it give a clear plan for each country when and how advocacy should be implemented and at what level could work best.

D) Advocacy Training Guideline:

Aide et Action has developed an Advocacy Training Guideline. The guideline was developed base on the report of Regional Advocacy Workshop and other references and documents. This guideline consists of two main parts which discussed more on advocacy and lobbying. The guideline provides basic information for the facilitators as well as trainer of what they should do during conducting an advocacy training workshop.

The purpose of this guideline is to provide guidance for all advocacy actors especially for facilitator or trainer before and during conducting an advocacy training workshop. Aide et Action Southeast Asia will use this guideline for its first pilot training for partners in 2008 in order to get feedback for the improvement of the guideline.

The guideline for the advocacy training was already developed as a final draft and will be reviewed step by step for the improvement.



Regional workshop on advocacy strategy development in February 2007

E) Preparation for Capitalization workshop (with KT):

Aide et Action has worked with Krousar Thmey (KT) on the preparation for the capitalization workshop planned in February 2008. The TOR for this workshop will be developed based on the principle of the discussion between KT and Aide et Action. The objective of this workshop is to share experiences and lesson learned for over ten years work with disabled people especially people in special needs in Cambodia. The workshop will bring relevant Government officials, public civil servants, donors, NGO staffs and others to listen and give feedbacks.

F) Other activities:

- Involved in the Global Quality Project members – written the Chapter of Partnership and Advocacy;
- Supported in the written up of international report – working through communication with Audrey and Elie in Paris;
- Developed a drafted document for Skills Exchange;
- Prepared Position Paper of Aide et Action Southeast Asia on the Global Campaign for Education in 2007 for Paris;
- Prepared thanks letter and sent to Deputy Prime Minister Tia Banh and Senior Minister of the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport regarding their participation in the GCE using Aide et Action contact and have received response from his advisor;
- Written article for AeA newsletter;
- Written GCE report for Audrey – Paris;

VI – IMPACTS

- ▶ Through the networking activities with many local and international organizations in Cambodia, Aide et Action is seen as an active NGO working in the field of education in Cambodia as well as in the region, for example a sign of good collaboration with the National Institute of Education and the networking with education network etc.
- ▶ Networking members (through Education committee and other group) The Government officials supported and recognized the activities of Aide et Action, for example: Government officials from various Ministries participated in the GCE and other events organized by Aide et Action and partners;
- ▶ Over 60 Local and International NGOs working on education know AeA SEA through meetings (CCC, NEP, MEICAM, GCE, NGO network in Laos, etc.);
- ▶ Good link with all partner organizations and NGOs working in the field of education, for example, NGOs of the GCE members and children committee members know Aide et Action well;
- ▶ Government recognized the work of Aide et Action and have invited Aide et Action to participate in the event/meeting/workshop organized by Government; for example invitation to the workshop of the development of policy for disabled children and the Education Congress etc.
- ▶ Aide et Action Southeast Asia commit to implement the pilot advocacy strategy developed by each country and the region;

VI - CONCLUSION:

There is a good sign of advocacy and networking activities with the Government and NGOs working in the field of education in the region. It is noted that Aide et Action in each country was able to implement project related to education and has also good opportunity to accomplish the work.

Aide et Action is also able to participate in the event, training and workshop organized by the Government and NGO partners. Aide et Action has a good collaboration with the Government – Ministry of Education such as World Teacher Day and the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) etc. Most of the NGOs working in the field of education recognized the works of education for example, NGOs often inform and coordinated with Aide et Action of some events and campaigns for education.