

NEWS ON TAP

Newletter of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights' Training and Advisory Programme

Volume 1 Issue 1

May 1994

Review of 1993-94

ACHR-TAP Programme

The Asian Coalition for Housing Rights' Training and Advisory Programme successfully completed five major workshops in its first year of operation. More than 100 participants from grassroots organizations, NGOs and government agencies from more than 12 different Asian countries attended the workshops.

One of Asia's most successful urban poor, community improvement programmes became a learning experience for participants at a workshop exposure to *The Kampung Improvement Programme* in Surabaya, Indonesia. CBOs and NGOs facing eviction threats shared their experiences and were exposed to alternatives at a workshop entitled *Land Sharing: Alternatives to Eviction*, held in Bangkok, in January 1994.

A Skills Based workshop entitled *Community Organizing: Strategies for the 90's* held in Baguio, Philippines, reflected on strategies used over the past decade and then developed new strategies for the realities of the coming decade.

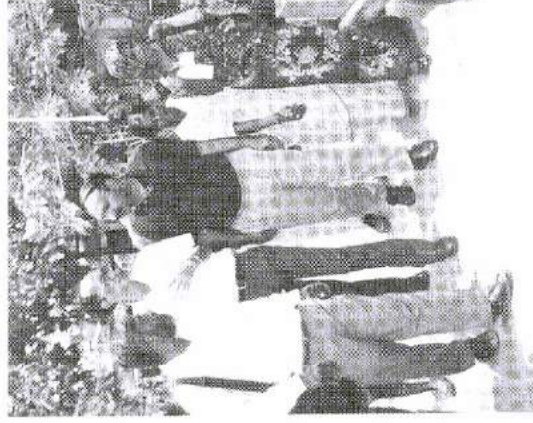
A workshop entitled *The Role of Young Professionals in Social Housing* was held in Manila and became the inaugural activity for the *Young Professionals* component which attempts to involve students and young professionals in community-based shelter processes.

Under its *New Initiatives* component ACHR -TAP was able to explore potential and then begin to implement community based improvement processes in Cambodia, a country in which it had previously had limited contact.

Participants at the workshops have so far planned 12 follow up workshops in their own countries in an attempt to spread what they have learnt to a wider network of communities. For more information on each of the workshops turn to pages 3 to 6 inside or to write to contacts listed on the back page.

CAMBODIA

Intiative in Phnom Penh



Exposure to Kampung Improvements Programme in Surabaya, Indonesia

Cambodia's Urban Sector Group [USG], ACHR and the City government of Phnom Penh hosted a city-wide workshop focussing on gaining a common understanding of the situation of urban poor people in Phnom Penh on February 28th and March 1st. The workshop was the culmination of the TAP - ACHR New Initiatives component for 1993-94 and the first meeting of an important combination of actors involved in urban poor issues. The combination comprised local and international NGOs, community leaders, ACHR regional resource persons, city and high level government officials. This first issue of the TAP newsletter will devote considerable space to describing the process leading up to the workshop and the potential and concrete results emerging from it. As with other community based improvement developments, the process involved was crucial in yielding the most productive results. ACHR-TAP, the local and international NGOs and community leaders in Phnom Penh look forward to continued cooperation with city and government officials.

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◆ Introduction To

ACHR

The Asian Coalition for Housing Rights was established in 1988 by non-government and community-based, grassroots organizations, professionals and individuals actively involved in housing concerns of the urban poor. It is a regional coalition with members in 12 Asian countries and is the Asia representative of the Habitat International Coalition. The Coalition is an action oriented organization primarily concerned with the shelter rights of the poor and those under threat of eviction or who have been displaced or dispossessed and are trying through various means to find a decent place to live. Over the years since its inauguration ACHR has established a network of experience and knowledge of successful Asian projects and processes relevant to low-income urban communities. Recently, in an attempt to extend this experience, it has initiated a program of sharing and learning for combinations of communities and concerned groups in Asia in order to broaden and strengthen their capacities in a stronger people-based housing process.

TAP

ACHR's **Training and Advisory Program** is a 3 year program (April 1993 - April 1996) which aims to improve the lives and living conditions of urban slum dwellers by developing new ideas and practices of community based organizations through sharing the experiences of similar organizations in other countries in the region. The process involves collective learning and exposure of combinations of grassroots organizers, NGOs, and professionals to successful urban poor processes and projects in Asia. In this way it also attempts to enhance the capacities of the host organizations to share their experiences with other organizations in the region, and in turn support participants in perpetuating the sharing of what they have learnt with a broader developing network. Such a network may also provide an effective political voice to lobby governments on a regional and international basis. The TAP programme also facilitates the introduction of community based processes into areas and countries where they need to be strengthened or do not exist.

Acknowledgment

ACHR TAP gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Overseas Development Administration, SEADD, United Kingdom, and particularly Ms Judy Walker of ODA for her advice and encouragement.

Publications**ACHR Publications:**

Housing by People Newsletter published approximately every six months.

Fact Finding Missions to Korea and Hong Kong, published in 1990 and 1991 respectively.

A Decent Place to Live by Denis Murphy 1991.

Housing the Poor - An Asian

Experience, by Fr Jorge Anzorena and Francisco Fernandez. 1993.

The Urban Poor - Land and Housing by Denis Murphy 1993

Directory of urban poor associated

organizations and contacts in Asia, Europe, the Americas and Africa. 1993.

Distribution of Habitat International Coalition [HIC] newsletter and publications.

ACHR Roles & Functions

1. As a pressure group and for crisis intervention in specific problems. Actions taken include fact finding missions and regional campaigns.
2. Information distribution. This happens at all levels from providing ideas for community organizations to sharing experiences at committee level to internalize members understanding of major forces affecting the urban poor.
3. Creating regional space for experience-sharing among groups, particularly the grassroots and NGOs and young professionals.
4. Providing professional consultation for groups in need.
5. Coordinating with related agencies, international or local, especially with regard to regional activities.
6. Reaching out and trying to involve as many active groups in the region as possible. Developing the work of local organizations as required and developing and strengthening links between them.
7. Trying to support the grassroots struggle for housing, helping to strengthen and develop their processes which enable people to develop their own capabilities in the housing process.
8. Researching and creating acceptable regional references on this work and issues for organizations and people in the region.

Workshops 1993-94

TAP: The First Year



The Kampung Improvement Programme Workshop, Surabaya, Indonesia 14th - 27th Oct 1993

Women participants from India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Japan pose in solidarity at the KIP workshop in Surabaya.



Professor Johan Silas

The principle facilitator was Professor Johan Silas who emphasized the workshop was an on-the-job training whereby the organizers would expose the participants to the processes, content and concrete realities of the Kampung Improvement Programme and leave it up to them to integrate the experience and knowledge into their own contexts in Vietnam, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Japan and the Philippines. From each of these countries came participants from an NGO, community organization and city government. This combination meant that the potential for activity in each of the cities when they returned was maximized as well reflecting the importance of active partnership amongst these levels in community based process exemplified by KIP.

The first days of the 10 day experience exposed participants to the historical, cultural and government contexts of KIP. Historically Indonesian decision making has had an important element of consensus building, an aspect that has been incorporated into KIP planning and implementation process. Unlike in many Asian cities the government of Surabaya gives recognition to the realities and contribution of the urban poor, facilitating their efficient systems while at the same time giving opportunities for economic advancement and entry into the formal system. Concrete illustration of this was provided by site visits and on site discussions at Dupak Rukun Market and with the Community Association of Becak Drivers. The governments commitment to the lowest income earners of the city was re-enforced by visits to Surabaya's Solid Waste Management systems sites: Processes in place emphasized city support for community-cooperative training schemes for the advancement of skills of garbage pickers as well as

carefully planned solid waste disposal methods involving cooperation between garbage-pickers cooperatives, the private sector and government. Two days took place in the countryside where the group was exposed to government and cooperatives' rural schemes recognizing the need for balance in rural-urban and whereby Surabaya has had considerable success in limiting rural migration to the city.

During the final half of the workshop participants learnt first hand of community improvements in low income neighborhoods in drainage, roads, footpaths, sanitary facilities and solid waste disposal. In the more densely populated neighborhoods walk-up flats had been constructed with cultural concepts incorporated into the design. Informed communities, incremental development, community involvement, environmental awareness are key principles in a carefully planned and integrated programme.

Since the workshop a number of follow-up activities are being implemented by the participants:

In **Naga City, Philippines**. A meeting by the participating group to evolve community based improvement programmes for the city; A meeting of 10 Mayors in the region to share the KIP experience hosted by the Mayor of Naga City who attended the KIP workshop; A request for a visit by Prof. Johan Silas to provide technical assistance and advice.

In **Colombo, Sri Lanka**. Translation of literature on KIP into local language and dissemination of materials through a National workshop of members of the Slum Dwellers Federation and NGOs.

In **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**. The Vice Chairman of District II has begun implementation of a number of KIP related community based improvement processes, including community savings activities.

Proposed Documents: KIP Manual and Slide & Sound Programme to be prepared by Prof. Johan Silas ITS University of Surabaya, Indonesia. This will be translated into regional languages.

TAP Workshop 2

Somsook Boonyabancha Co-Coordinator



Land-Sharing: Alternatives to Eviction Workshop, Bangkok 6th -17th Jan 1994.

Land-Sharing in Bangkok occurs when there is a plan to partition a plot of land, currently occupied by slum dwellers, into two parts. One part will be sold, leased or donated to the slum dwellers and the other left for the landowner to develop commercially to the best possible advantage. Over 40 participants from 8 different countries in Asia were invited to this workshop to share their experiences with eviction and develop strategies to implement alternative solutions. The Bangkok context provided a catalyst and concrete examples of some of the alternatives available.



Teams from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan discuss eviction issues with a community under threat from an expressway development in Bangkok.

To understand the historical and cultural context of Thai urbanization and solutions to land-sharing participants visited the ancient Thai capital of Ayudhaya. Here they also shared their experiences of eviction in their countries which included India, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines. Because each country had sent a team comprised of community worker, NGO and city government official, participants were able to get different perspectives on the problems of eviction throughout the region and later develop realistic understandings of solutions available in their countries. Another important element in the workshop was the participation of a large number of local Thais from CBOs, NGOs and government.

In Bangkok participants during on-site visits, were able to see and discuss eviction with a variety of communities: some under threat of eviction; some in the process of negotiating settlements and others who were incrementally developing their own communities after arriving at satisfactory alternative solutions to eviction. A variety of concrete solutions were dealt with including: a number where communities were compensated and able to buy an alternative site to develop their community; solutions involving private land-owners, government land-owner and those of the Crown Properties Department. Feedback from participants revealed that they were particularly impressed by a visit to the Urban Community Development Office. The UCDO uses

credit as a mechanism to strengthen community capabilities in dealing with their own development issues. A community needs to start their savings activities, with a clearly defined management structure, at least 3 months prior to being eligible for a loan. Initiating savings activities is seen as a first stage in a process of enabling the growth of self-determination and the beginning of a development process involving the efforts of the people themselves. Loans have been granted to communities under threat of eviction to enable them to buy an alternative site for their community.

The culmination of the workshop was a Symposium entitled "A Place to Live: Solutions to Eviction" which was jointly organized by ESCAP, CITYNET and ACHR. The symposium, held at the ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, reviewed the impact of evictions in the region and how they could be prevented through alternative solutions. Panelists included high level ESCAP officials, members of parliament and experts on eviction from the region. Workshop participants were able to deliver statements on current eviction realities throughout the region as well as corrective and preventative solutions.

Follow-up workshops are planned for Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Philippines, Korea, Cambodia, Bangladesh. Proposed documents: Manual and audio visual material in the form of video cassette and slide and sound programme. A report on the Symposium will be produced by ESCAP.

TAP Workshop 3

Dinky Soliman CO Coordinator



Community Organizing in Asia Workshop, Manila & Baguio, Philippines Nov 3-20, 1993.

Participants for this workshop were community leaders or organizers from India, Pakistan, Thailand, Hong Kong, South Korea and the Philippines. They met to reassess the past 20 plus years of community organizing in Asia and to suggest emphases for the 1990's. While coming from different countries and contexts, the participants found they possessed a remarkable consensus on basic principals and methods.

Quotes from the Workshop

"To leave the people is to betray oneself"

Korean participant.

"To be a community organizer or a leader is a very demanding task. pay is rarely sufficient, family life often suffers, there are many disappointments ... yet we have resolved to continue because we believe community organization is the best way we know to empower poor people ... to participate effectively in the decision making that affects their lives. We have found a great joy and satisfaction working with poor people, sharing their struggles and small victories."

"... the organizer is a facilitator and animator, but the local leaders are the decision makers."

"... women are at least 50% of the leadership in our urban poor communities. In some countries they are 80%. ... **Gender considerations must be part of every issue that the community takes up.**"

"... The long term success of community organizing depends on how well prepared are the leaders. CO must pay more attention to helping leaders learn skills and to develop a deep understanding of society's problems ..."

"Community organizers must also be more aware of environmental and sustainable development issues, the complexity of the land and housing issue and the value of income generating projects. In these matters, we should give first priority to the people's own initiatives and experiments."

"We are aware of the limits of community organization. Urban poor people in Asia, for example, are not important political actors although they are 50% of the population and community organization has tried for years to gain political influence for and with the poor. Still it is necessary to continue, and we must learn from our failures."

"**People learn best from acting**, especially when it is followed by reflection. This is also the best way to achieve results. We must avoid long periods wherein little action takes place. Action has to be repeated often and is the life blood of organizing."

"... Sometimes the problem is leaders have been in office too long and organizers have been around too long. There should be regular elections."

"There is a need to give both leaders and organizers continual training and to give them a chance to see other situations and to vary their work."

"COs have an agenda, but it is a transparent one, namely, to help empower people to transform their lives."

Extract from the Statement on Gender Awareness:

"Women comprise 50% of the population ... They own less than 1% of its property. They have little or no participation in decision making processes that affect their lives. Community organizing has been for the most part, gender blind. While the problem has been recognized, it has not been taken seriously."

There followed 26 recommendations for Community Organizations, NGOs and others to facilitate an awareness, recognition and actions to strengthen women as actors in community organizing processes.

Extract from the Statement on Land and Housing for the Poor: "We must try to solve the overall housing problem, not just provide a few houses or partial and limited solutions. Therefore, we want a solution for all, however humble, rather than a very good solution for a few. In order to do this, we have to get resources from government (land and funds) and to do this we need people's organizations and pressure."

In considering the issues of the 1990's the workshop participants produced statements on: Gender Aware Organizing; Land and Housing for the Poor; Guidelines on Income Generating and Livelihood Projects for Community organizers in Asia; and Guidelines for Community Organizing in Environmental Issues. Follow-up workshops will be held in the Philippines, Korea, Thailand and India. A manual on Community Organizing will be translated into regional languages. A regional network of community leaders and organizers is being formed. In the coming year a new themes based skills process component of Community Organizing will respond to needs of communities on demand.

TAP Young Professionals

Mayumi Kato Young Professionals Coordinator

Young Professionals & Social Housing Workshop, Manila, Philippines, Feb 18-25, 1994.



The component of the TAP project seeks to provide support and encouragement for students and young professionals to become involved in the issues of shelter which affect the urban poor. An inaugural workshop for YPs was held in Manila in February 1994. Previous to this a group of YPs had joined the KIP workshop in Surabaya. Discussions were held and an initial base established with young professionals from government and Architecture faculties in Cambodia.

Young Professionals and students from six countries in Asia and 25 locals from the Philippines comprised the participants at a workshop in Manila entitled The Role of Young Professionals in Social Housing. Its aim was to encourage initiatives and understanding in design, organization and financing processes in urban poor communities. YPs were exposed to innovative low income housing projects in Manila and were able to discuss with communities and regional experts ways in which YPs could facilitate community based improvements in urban poor communities. The participants were given opportunities to deepen their understanding of community processes and reflect on the role of Young Professionals as catalysts. The culmination of the workshop was a public forum held in cooperation with Private Sector Low Income Housing

Association (PRISLIHA), where 2 participant representatives shared their experiences and reflections during the seminar. Participants agreed that a mechanism should be created to sustain the linkage of YPs in the region.

Documentation of the workshop is nearing completion. There will also be follow up on the practicum process in the workshop and continuing local activity for the YPs group formed in the Philippines. YPs in the Philippines who wish to become involved should contact Ms. Arlene Lusterio of Panirahanan. YPs and students in other Asian countries can contact Mayumi Kato (both contact addresses - see the back page).

This year the YP's outreach programme will continue the formation of a regional network. A brochure is being prepared for wide regional circulation.

New Initiatives



The focus for implementation of new initiatives in community based development in 1993 was Phnom Penh, Cambodia - [pages 11-15]. An exploratory visit was made to Nepal and the resulting report entitled *An Introduction to the Urban Poor of Kathmandu* will

guide TAP activities to strengthen the city's community organizations in the coming year. There are few grassroots organizations dealing with urban poor issues in Kathmandu. Amongst those visited by ACHR was the Subahal Self Help Group. Comprised of about 16 enthusiastic young women and with the help of a local NGO, Urban Development Through Local Efforts, they have mobilized their community to participate in regular Health and Cleanliness campaigns. They are also helping in programmes involving private toilet construction and drainage installation. Although there are many international NGOs in Nepal most are concerned with rural development. Indigenous organizations are more often run voluntarily by local professionals and inadequately funded. There is very little advocacy for the rights of the poor and few attempts to raise the

Photos: ACHR contacts Lajana Manandhar in Nepal and Tran Minh Chau, Vietnam.



consciousness of the poor about such rights. In an attempt to strengthen community based processes in Kathmandu, ACHR-TAP will initiate an exchange programme for community leaders and organizers to expose groups to successful Asian models and processes.

Such exposure programmes have had good impacts on initiating community based processes in Vietnam. Participants from Ho Chi Minh City attended both the KIP workshop in Surabaya and the Land-Sharing workshop in Bangkok. The Vice Chairman of District II, a participant at the KIP workshop, has begun community based improvements in the district and a Savings Activities programme has been developed. In cooperation with ESCAP, ACHR is planning to extend such activity to other districts in the city and with the cooperation of the Land & Housing Department of HCM City has begun exploring the possibility of initiating a more extensive community based housing finance and credit system. Bangladesh will be the major focus for TAP's New Initiative component in this year. Denis Murphy will be the initial coordinator.

Activities to come.....

TAP Activities this year

Plans for this year include 2 major Project based workshops. The first in Pakistan: the Orangi Pilot Project; and the second, in response to demand from community organizations and NGOs is a repeat of the Kampung Improvement Programme workshop in Surabaya, Indonesia. A TAP process of transferring skills will start with the themes Savings & Credit; Community Organizing; and Participatory Research. The focus for the New Initiatives component this year will be Bangladesh. The Young Professionals programme will hold 2 workshops (in Pakistan: with the Orangi Pilot Project and in Indonesia with KIP) as well as continue its outreach and networking programme.

TAP Activities 1994 -1995

Project Based Workshops

Orangi Pilot Project
Kampung Improvement Programme

Skills Themes

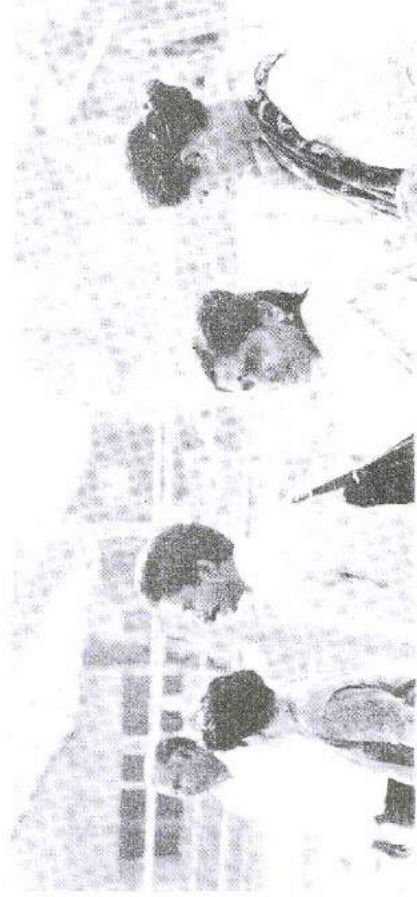
Community Organizing
Savings & Credit
Participatory Research

New Initiative

Bangladesh

Young Professionals

Workshops: OPP and KIP
Networking and Outreach



Jockin Arputham, Dinky Soliman, M. Shekar, Laxmi Naidu and Celine D'Cruz surveying a community of squatters in Phnom Penh. The Indian representatives from the United Slum Dwellers Federation, Mihala Milan (Women Together CBO) and SPARC (NGO), will be an important combination in sharing experiences in the Saving & Credit component of TAP this year. Dinky Soliman will coordinate the Community Organizing component.

1. Orangi Pilot Project

This is a large program in which provision of basic infrastructural services has been organized by NGOs and the people. The NGO working with these communities has developed ways to incrementally improve the services and has imparted the necessary skills to the people.

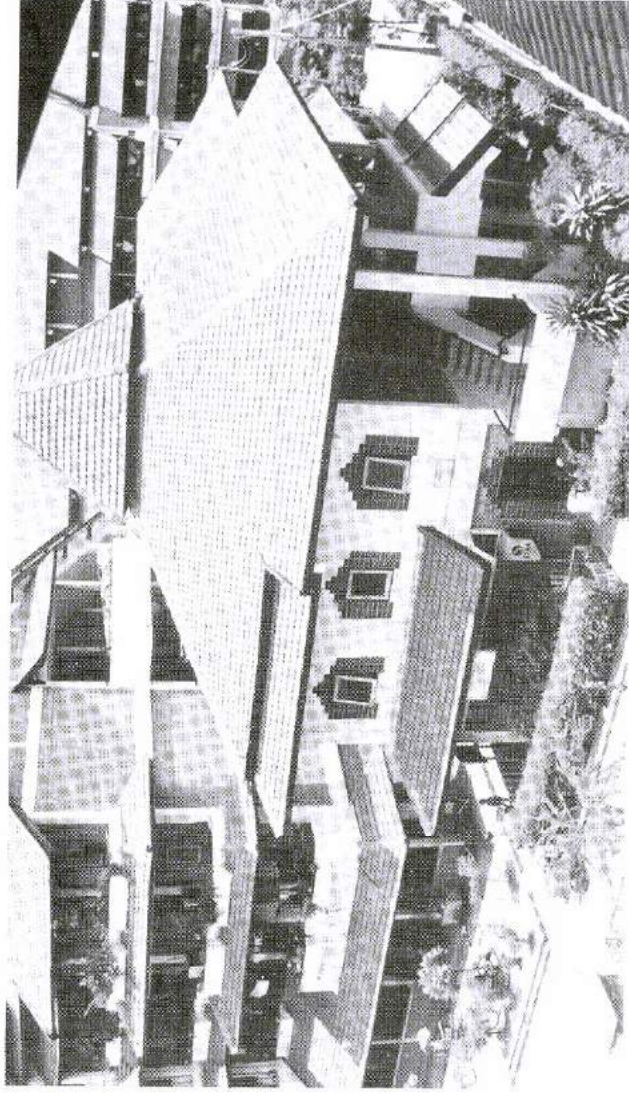
The Orangi Pilot Project has a number of programs; it works in a squatter settlement of about 1 million people. The program itself consists of mobilizing, organizing and giving technical advice so that people can finance, manage and implement underground sewerage systems. The NGO provides the necessary social, extension, technical research and tools. Other communities have replicated the program in their own context after having been exposed to OPP.

One has to understand the communities context to understand the project and its development. OPP offers 'exposure' programs of various lengths (3 days/ 1 week) for various groups (community activists, governments, professionals). In addition there is an interesting health education program built around the sanitation program which would be of interest. Its a large scale project which has served around 45 million people. The manner of OPP's working relationship with government and how it has evolved is an important aspect of the project. It has much to offer in the understanding of the process of community involvement.

OPP's professional development capacities have triggered their student's careers into people's processes in many countries. It was therefore decided to include Young Professionals activities in this workshop OPP and ACHR will also cooperate with CITYNET to involve NGOs, community organizations and city level government officials.

2. Kampung Improvement Programme

This is a comprehensive community improvement programme which not only creates improved living conditions for low income families but also, by involving the local community in the process, ensures a long term sustainability and on-going improvement. The improvements include roads and footpaths, drains, water supply, sanitary facilities and solid waste management.



In densely populated low income areas of Surabaya walk up flats have been carefully designed in consultation with the community to incorporate cultural aspects such as Muslim prayer rooms, open space on each floor for neighborly conversations and celebrations. Communal kitchens and no easy access for cars helps prevent gentrification of the areas.

There is a strong emphasis on an integrated approach in a process of partnership. The partnership is between the government, community and the private sector. The key elements of the integrated approach are: the physical and environmental improvement of the kampung; community participation and involvement; sustainability; the role of women and careful planning and monitoring.

3. Savings & Credit Processes

The emerging issue within the region now is Saving and Credit. Many former confrontative organizations have transformed to this new direction of community building developing concrete managerial capacity through the activity of community saving and credit schemes. Many communities in various countries have developed different types of savings groups over the past 3 to 5 years and have been strengthened through this community based experience. The need for operational skills, development, sharing of the information and strengthening of communities through the process was raised many times in the Land-Sharing and Community Organizing workshops. In various countries including Vietnam and Cambodia, while Saving and

Credit groups have been formed, the stress is more on credit delivery, so the skills and development of this emerging activity can assist this development. There are sufficient groups in the region to share in developing this skills transfer.

It is clear from this process that the role of women has been strengthened / enhanced within community organizations and in personal capacities. It has in many cases strengthened capacities and confidences of women enabling them to become more independent and strengthened in their abilities to direct policy change. From small savings groups, federations have grown through a natural people's process, rather than former methods stressing only CO's and

women's rights.

The major activity groups emerging in this area are located in Bangkok, India and Bangladesh. Others are beginning to emerge in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Korea, Cambodia etc.

The first stage of this activity will involve Vietnam and Cambodia. 1 or 2 national workshops will be organized after the first training process in India. The culmination towards the end of the year will be a Regional Action Workshop whereby 5 groups will go to India where each will be involved in an actual training process of community based surveying and Savings and Credit schemes in 5 separate communities. This will provide the seed for the 2nd year's activities.

Activities 1994-95 cont.....

5. New Initiatives

The target country in 1994-95 will be Bangladesh. Like Cambodia, Nepal and Vietnam this is a country with very few community-based initiatives operating in urban poor areas. It is reported to have the most rapid rate of urbanization in the region.

The first 3 months will involve a process of clarifying the urban poor situation in Dhaka. During this time the scale of the problems will be identified, along with local groups (NGOs and CBOs), and a local coordinator. This process will be similar to the beginning of the Cambodian initiative. A similar document will also be produced so that it becomes a regional learning process. Strategies will be identified to strengthen grassroots community based improvements and processes.

The second phase will involve the possible meeting of local groups identified in the first phase, the appointment of a local coordinator and the beginning of an action plan and strategies also identified in the first phase. A local workshop may be combined with the Savings and Credit and Young Professionals components.

Processes initiated may be concentrated towards a workshop which will be the culmination of the years activity.

6. Young Professionals

The Young Professionals component will build on the experiences of the first year with two workshops. The first in Pakistan coinciding with TAP's project based workshop and the second in Surabaya overlapping with TAP's second project based workshop, KIP 2.

In both cases the coordinators of the workshops have had considerable experience and involvement with young professionals over many years. The workshops were identified for their previous contributions to influencing young professionals in community based shelter and improvement processes as well as for the other learning opportunities their projects offer. Through the overlap with combined groups of NGOs, CBOs and government officials attending the workshop YP will gain from their own interaction and observations of interactions between the groups. It is also planned that the YPs will have separate pre and post workshop processes operating at each of the workshops. The 16 YP's involved will then form a solid core of YP's from which further activity and processes will emanate.

The appointment of a Young Professionals programme coordinator operating from Bangkok will facilitate the deepening and broadening of a network of YP's throughout the region. Funding has been allocated to follow-up on the Philippines workshop held in February 1994, as well as to follow-up on YP activity in Cambodia. Openings for YP's in the manner proposed in the first year's proposal will be allocated under this component.

As ACHR resource persons visit countries throughout the region to facilitate other TAP, ACHR and their own processes and projects the Young Professionals coordinator will combine these visits with various activities such as workshops, lectures and meetings with academic institutions and organizations of young professionals in an attempt to broaden the impact and increase the involvement and awareness of YP's in community based urban poor processes.

4. Participatory Resch.

Participatory research as a methodology to increase awareness and initiate and strengthen community based organizations is increasingly being practiced by various groups in the region. This process of collective learning and action ensures involvement of the poor in understanding the context and initiating appropriate actions. It also increases peoples access to information, development resources and equips them with necessary skills. This process sometimes results in partnerships among various actors in urban development.

Under the programme it is resolved to initiate the process of transfer of skills and networking among various groups in the region. The process is divided in following two phases.

Phase I - Preparatory process.
Phase II - Regional and national level workshops and exchange programme.

The Preparatory Process will involve firstly, the identification and listing of CBOs, NGOs practicing this methodology. May, 1994. Secondly, preparation of documentation and case study material on the work of selected 3/4 groups of the region. July 1994. Thirdly, regional consultation and preparing a detailed programme for the Phase II. August 1994.

Participants will be drawn from practicing groups and CBOs/NGOs interested in using the methodology. An active programme of skills transfer will be developed.

Additional information on each of the programmes will be distributed by ACHR-TAP in the coming months. Please contact ACHR-TAP if you wish to be added to the mailing list. Address, tele, fax see the back page.

TAP Young Professionals 1994-95

What are the fields concerned ?

The target fields are those related to human settlements. Up to now, the programme has focused on those in the architecture and civil engineering fields. But in the long-term, the intention is to extend its scope to social studies, law and medicine.

Who are "young professionals"?

Young professionals we aim to support are categorized into 3 groups;

- 1) Young students who are interested in grass-roots oriented work,
- 2) Young graduates and professionals who are seeking concrete life-time commitment in working for the poor,
- 3) Young professionals who have already had some years of working experience in grass-roots oriented work and who need back-up in deepening their commitment.

What kind of programmes are offered ?

The programme has just got off the ground and is designed based on the needs of each country. Basically the program itself has 4 components to offer;

- 1) Fellowship which is to extend financial support to young professionals to undergo sort of internship or practical experiences,
- 2) Local workshops and series of lectures in cooperation with local academic institutions,
- 3) Regional exchange programme based on the exposure and interaction,
- 4) Support programme for groups of young professionals to initiate the professional involvement in urban poor communities in collaboration with local support groups (CBO/NGOs).

Needs Assessment For Young Professionals

Upon initiating the programmes for young professionals, it will be important to grasp the needs for the programmes from the eyes of those involved and concerned on the formation of young professionals in the context of "people's housing process". For this purpose, we prepared a set of questions as outlined below.

Thus TAP-YP Programme would like to request you or related organizations to fill in the form and return it to the ACHR secretariat. Upon receipt of the form, the organization and personnel will be included in the programme mailing list for distribution of information on the on-going YP programmes.

Young Professionals Needs Assessment Form

Q.1. What type of programme do you feel the need for among those listed below ?
If you are interested indicate by checking in the box.

1.

Regional exchange programme based on exposure and interaction

Please raise any specific theme you want to suggest.

2.

Local exchange programme in collaboration with local academic institutions

Please raise any specific theme you want to suggest.

3.

Fellowship Programme (= Extending financial support to undergo sort of internship or practical experiences under the supervision of collaborating NGO/CBOs)

4.

Support programme for groups of young professionals to take initiatives in community-based works. Please raise any specific theme and audience you want to suggest.

Q.2. Is there any organization / institution / group / individual you want to recommend as future contacts for the Young Professional Programme?

Name: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Phone & Fax no. _____

What are the activities / involvement of this organization / person ? _____

Q.3. Please comment if you have any suggestion & request for the programme.

Please return by mail or fax to:

Ms. Mayumi Kato

TAP/Young Professional Programme

ACHR

P.O. Box 24-72 Klong Chan, Bangkok 10240

Bangkok, Thailand

Fax no. +66-2-539 9950

NEW INITIATIVES: Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA

The New initiatives component of TAP enables ACHR to explore and promote potentials for community based urban processes in Asian cities in

A Process of Initiating Community-Based Activities

which it has up until now had limited contact. In the first year under this component of the Training and Advisory Programme, ACHR had targeted explorations of potentials in Nepal, Cambodia and Vietnam. A report entitled An Introduction to the Urban Poor of Kathmandu details ACHR's first exploratory visit to Nepal. A second ACHR report, entitled An Introduction to the Urban Poor of Phnom Penh, resulted from an exploratory visit by ACHR in September of 1993. A brief summary of some of the findings is given below. Phnom Penh lacked financial and technical expertise at all levels of government; international NGOs had been restricted in the early stages in their contact and training of local inhabitants; and there was a marked lack of community organizations or local NGOs with grassroots support.

The initial stages of the process to initiate community based shelter improvements by the Phnom Penh urban poor, through their own community organizations began in September 1993. By February 1994, through the major efforts of the people of Phnom Penh, some international and emerging local NGOs, the ground work had been established for effective community improvement processes with the involvement of grassroots community-based organizations. The following pages outline the process of how this was achieved.

Meas Somaly and Someth Tuy, two leading members of the Cambodian team.



(extracts from) An introduction to the Urban Poor of Phnom Penh September 1993

- a marked lack of community based activity and the non-existence of community based organizations as exist in most other Asian cities. Some local NGOs are emerging along western models they have been exposed to; most in the field of Human Rights at this stage.
- a discussion of community based organizations indicated that in Cambodia, CBOs are still to be formed or recognized by the people as a major influential vehicles to use for getting their voices heard. The destruction caused by the Pol Pot time has also cut through the psyche of the people especially their sense of community and trust with one another.
- an expressed need amongst predominately international NGOs working with Urban Poor to learn of successful Asian experiences, and in particular, strategies which may promote grassroots based processes.
- while Asian experiences are more relevant to PP than western models there are recent historical reasons why the Cambodian situation is unique; interventions would require a sensitive understanding of this, including the influence of the Pol Pot regime in their misguided approach to collective or cooperative people's actions.
- Most people have a history of movement over the last 10 years with various histories of displacement: from 10 years in refugee camps in Thailand; traumatic experiences under the Pol Pot regime; demobilized from life in the army; fleeing rural areas under the threat of the Khmer Rouge or the dangers of land mines strewn throughout the countryside; evicted from squatter areas in Phnom Penh; migrating back and forth from the countryside and/or Vietnam.
- It was noticeable that many people interviewed had an expectation of direct aid being distributed. Most people were concerned about food on a day to day basis. Water and sanitation were major problems. Housing and education for their children were other major concerns.

NEW INITIATIVES: Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA continued ...

1. Understanding the local context. ACHR had made a brief exploratory visit in 1991. A more extensive visit, with the aim of gaining a general understanding of the urban poor situation, was enabled through ODA TAP funding in September of 1993. Extensive interviews were carried out in selected urban poor and squatter areas to gain a good understanding from the grassroots - the communities themselves. A meeting was held in which local and international NGOs working with the urban poor in Phnom Penh were invited to discuss the present situation and identify potential ways in which ACHR could help using its experience in Asia. At government level an interview with the vice mayor of Phnom Penh was arranged. A comprehensive report of the exploratory visit was written and distributed to relevant people in the region. It would be a guide to resource persons ACHR would bring in to Phnom Penh.

2. Establishing a Local Base and Acting on the known contexts:

The initial meeting of local and international NGOs resulted in the formation of an Urban Sector Group comprised of international and an increasing number of local NGOs concerned with Phnom Penh's urban poor.. Robert Deutsch (PADEK) and Barbara Ryan (CARE International) would facilitate monthly meetings of this group and liaise with ACHR in Bangkok on developments. Dinky Soliman (ACHR and CO-TRAIN Philip-pines) was appointed as TAP coordinator for Cambodia. The combination of these three persons was a crucial factor in the success of the process. Due to the unique history of Cambodia there was very few local NGOs resource persons, so there was no option but to co-opt international resource persons to initiate the local process. Each of the persons was able to facilitate an increased involvement of local NGOs and eventually make space for local



In Cambodia half of the population is under 16, 2/3's of adults are women.

coordinators who emerged from the newly formed NGOs.

3. Facilitating Local Needs and Processes: The monthly meetings of USG attracted increasing numbers of local NGOs, most of whom were inexperienced, based on western models, and very eager to begin a united action. The meetings were able to quickly identify common aims and strategy. Among the needs identified in the first meetings were: to influence government to make good policies for the poor; to access good information / data on the urban poor and squatters; and to develop strategies and techniques for organizing urban poor communities in Cambodia. The USG identified areas where ACHR could help: by facilitating a workshop with the above aims in mind; providing ACHR resource persons with successful Asian experiences to contribute ideas; and organizing visits outside of Cambodia to influence policy makers, NGOs and community organizers.

4. Enabling and Supporting local groups: With the establishment and strengthening of the local USG a local coordinator and 2 advisor were appointed and 2 committees were formed to a. Organize a survey of Phnom Penh squatters and b. Organize a workshop bringing together government, NGOs and community groups. ACHR's role was to assist the organizing committees, provide training for

the survey and assist financially and with resource persons for the workshop.

The strategy for the survey at this stage was to gather data on squatter communities using a participatory survey approach wherein as yet unidentified community leaders and members would gather data about their own population. This information would be presented as one component of the workshop to facilitate a common understanding of the urban poor situation in Phnom Penh.

As contacts with city government officials strengthened the USG and Municipality of Phnom Penh agreed to cooperate not only to carry out a survey together but to co-host the workshop with ACHR. To prepare for the combined survey on Urban Squatters a formal three day training on Survey Techniques was held for 32 representatives from local NGOs and 32 government district officials. The training was funded by ACHR and conducted by Mr. Men Savornnd, ILO/ACLEDA. The closing of the training was conducted by the Vice Mayor of Phnom Penh Mr. Kry Beng Hong.

A second survey process - a community based survey - was also agreed to by the USG. This was to be a community-based process using the experience of a combined team from India comprising an NGO (SPARC) and people's organizations (National Slum Dweller's Federation) and women's group (Mahila Milan)

NEW INITIATIVES: Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA continued

who would pass on information and experience on successful people's based surveys they had helped facilitate in a number of Asian cities and South African settlements. The strategy for this survey was to empower communities with information about their own lifestyles and strengthen their positions with a knowledge usually monopolized by professionals and outsiders. The process would hopefully have impacts on the initiation of community organizations and people's processes.

5. Action Orientated and Impacting Processes: By February 27 the initial surveys had been completed, information integrated and data prepared for the National Workshop on the Urban Poor Situation. The workshop was opened by the Minister of State Mr. Van Moly Vann and the Mayor of Phnom Penh Mr. Chhim Seak Leng. Presentations were made of: the survey experience and results; local and international NGO experiences with urban poor developments; the urban - rural balance. Later ACHR resource persons related successful community based processes from other Asian countries: Prof. Johan Silas from the Kampung Improvement Programme in Surabaya, Indonesia; Somsook Boonyabancha on Land Sharing in Bangkok as an alternative to Eviction; Mitsuhiro Hosaka talked of the Million Houses Programme in Sri Lanka. Mr. Anwar Fazal and Adnan Aliani spoke of successful regional processes and the work of ESCAP and UNDP, Asia Pacific 2000.

On the morning of the second day of the workshop smaller groups were formed to develop recommendations to present to especially invited guests who would attend the afternoon session. The recommendations are printed here as the SUDA Workshop Statement.

Gains and Insights...

The process in the new initiative has resulted in several key mechanisms and catalyzing experiences for the local and international NGOs in Cambodia.

1. It catalyzed the formation of the Urban Sector Group (USG).
2. Community based leaders emerged from out of the survey process.
3. The local NGOs had an opportunity to show their capabilities and gained more confidence as they continue to define their own roles in the development of Cambodia.
4. The international NGOs involved showed a process which had local NGOs taking the lead while they provided support and assistance to them.

This experience is indicative of the transition roles each has to play as more local NGOs emerge to engage in the development process in Cambodia.

5. There is a set of data that can be used for planning and further research on the urban poor situation in Cambodia.
6. Linkages between and among sectors (government, non-government citizenry) were achieved in the workshop proper.
7. New skills and housing technologies were introduced and will be tried by government and local and international NGOs.
8. Links were established with international and regional networks of development activists in the housing rights community.
9. A committed and dedicated core group of individuals from the local and international NGOs, officials and community based leaders emerged from out of the process and will continue to promote and protect the urban poor in Phnom Penh.

Next Steps ...

The USG has asked for a seat in the planning of policies for the urban poor communities, thus they are going to pursue this. They have also recognized the need for community mobilizations: they have asked for a community organization workshop. An immediate work is for the completion of the community based survey so they can use it as a basis for community organizing and prototyping of housing projects which they can show to the government as a basis for their policy formulation.

PART 2: *Initiating Community Based Processes - next issue.*

NEW INITIATIVES: Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA continued

SUDA WORKSHOP STATEMENT

The Urban Sector Group, Municipality of Phnom Penh and the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights co-sponsored a workshop on "Squatters and Urban Development Alternatives" on February 28th and march 1, 1994. It was attended by 168 registered participants including the Honorable Secretary of State, the Honorable Royal Delegate (Mayor) and Vice-delegate, Municipal and Sanak Officials, residents of the communities affected by the issue, and local and international NGOs.

The following are agreements drafted by the workshop reflect the general situation of squatters in the city today:

General

There is a problem with security in the city, and people are not respecting the law. Some soldiers with arms have taken over public and private land and occupied it.

The standard of living in urban areas is very low. There is a shortage of hospitals and medical supplies. There are insufficient employment opportunities with no public transport system.

Illiteracy is a major problem with many people having a low level of formal schooling. In addition, there are many widows with no outside support who face great difficulty supporting their children and themselves.

Housing is presently disordered with no zoning, and very weak infrastructure such as sanitation, water supply and electricity.

Because thousands of people have no other place to live, many are squatting on public and private land. Squatters sometimes pay for building their own house and later sell their investment. There is no clear law on land legal titles, and poor cannot afford the complicated process. This situation make legal land ownership difficult or impossible for most poor people.

Thousands of genuinely poor people are landless. People need land to build houses for their families. Any programme to provide land to these people should benefit only the genuinely poor families. Steps need to be taken to prevent land speculation, where rich people exploit poor people's need for housing, but steps must also be taken to make available affordable land for the needy.

For rural people who have lost their farm land, programmes should be undertaken to help their return to the rural areas.

The right a place to live and a roof over one's head is a basic human right as defined by the United Nations Human Rights Covenants. The problems sighted above indicate that there is still much work to be to be done so that the right to housing is recognized and respected in Cambodia.

The following recommendations were drafted by 13 small working groups which met during the workshop to consider the problems which affect urban poor people and squatters.

To the People:

We the squatters are poor but we can solve our own problems by first helping ourselves. We must help ourselves develop our own communities. It is important that we, the people, cooperate with each other to form a strong community and develop it.

Development can be done only if there is order and security. Therefore, each one of us must uphold law and order. All must comply with the law.

One step to self-help is to earn income and gain employment. The people must seek to be productive by using our present skills. We must decide and determine which other skills we need.

By relying on our own labour and strength we could establish credit schemes and other development activities in our communities.

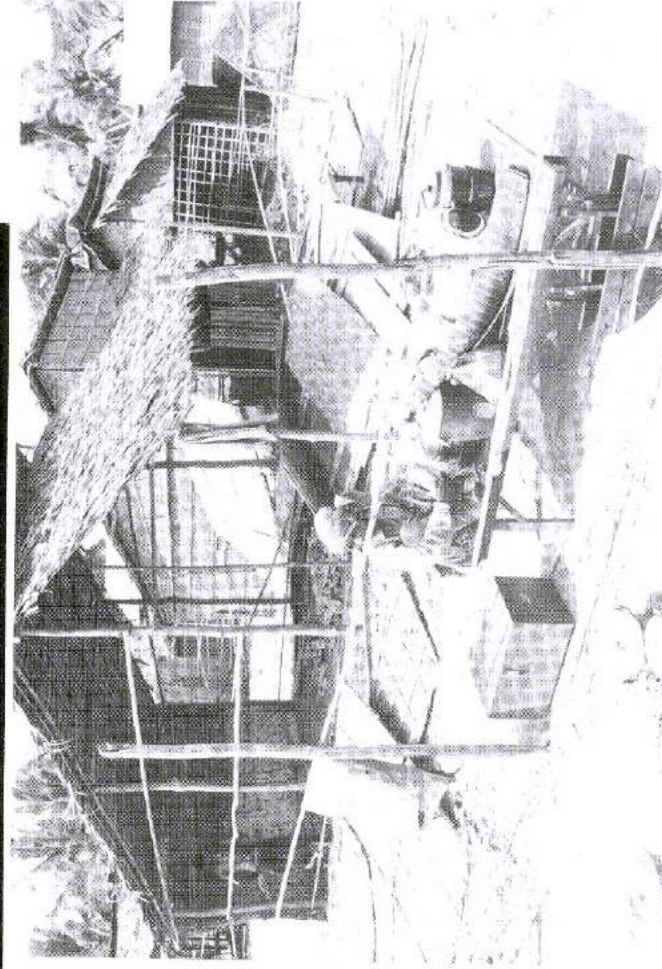
To the Government:

We suggest that legal rights to land ownership be defined; and that that this process be guided by a just, reasonable and democratic process. We recognize that the problem is complex and difficult.

We further suggest that:

1. We call upon the Royal government to cooperate in a peaceful and democratic way with poor people to solve squatting problems. We request dialogue and alternatives: not guns and force, so that poor people have a safe place to build their homes, raise their children and improves their living conditions. Recognizing that land speculation is the result of a shortage of affordable places to live, we call upon the Royal government to take measures to make available sufficient land for sale to poor people at affordable prices. To make land accessible to poor people, the government should develop a credit system so that poor people can pay for the land in small installments over a long period of time.
2. For those who have stayed long on land, which is not required by the government for public use, people should be given land ownership rights to the land. The government should support improvement of living conditions by providing clear plans for community development. People should be relocated only if the land is needed for public development. Suitable relocation sites should be found. The people and the city should agree on the location of the new site.
4. For those who are relocating, they should be given legal rights to the new land they will occupy, and that this land should not be too distant from their place of work and source of income. Before the relocation, the site should have physical infrastructure such as schools, roads, hospitals and economic activity so people can earn their income. The government should take action to stop groups who exploit the poor's need for a place to live by buying and selling land they do not own.
6. We call upon the government to to work towards a stable security situation.
7. We ask the government to take serious measures to make professional training available to the population so that people can start to improve their own situation.
8. We urge cooperation with the private sector, local and international NGOs, and international organizations to create more jobs for the poor, so that they can start to improve their own conditions.
9. To facilitate setting up credit systems to benefit the poor, we urge the government to foster good relationships between the private sector, and local and international organizations in the credit area.
10. We request that the government simplify official procedures, so that poor people can legalize their situation.
11. We request the government to cooperate with NGOs to support improvement of living conditions in squatter areas.
12. To implement the above activities, we strongly request the people and government set up a committee composed of government officials and planners, and USG representatives from local and international NGOs, and squatter community leaders, to study these issues and find concrete solutions.

NEW INITIATIVES: Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA continued



(Left photo) Robert Deutsch (from PADEK), Celine D'Cruz (SPARC, Bombay) and Luxmi Naidu (Mihala Milan, India) survey the site of a squatter demolition (photo right) which occurred prior to the SUDA workshop. The SUDA workshop brought together community leaders, NGOs and government officials with the aim of gaining a common understanding of the urban poor situation in Phnom Penh.

To Local NGOs:

In order to solve the problems of the urban poor, we the people, request local NGOs to do the following:

1. To establish communication and links with government so that the officials and decision-makers could truly understand the squatter situation and the problems confronting the poor.
2. To assist in conducting a survey and other field researches to improve understanding and analysis of squatter problems.
3. To start advocacy programmes for the drafting and legislation of appropriate and responsive laws for squatters and urban development. Also to help in the documentation of the experiences, problems, approaches, projects, legal guidelines, etc., directly related to the squatter situation. To help conduct information and popular education campaigns to encourage the squatters to promote and respect law and order.
4. To provide training and skills development programmes (especially vocational training) that will help the poor engage in income generating activities.
5. To establish contact with international NGOs including the UN and access financial, technical and other assistance from community development of the squatters.

Recommendations to the International Organizations and NGOs:

1. To start the process of finding solutions to urban problems, which meet the needs of all the people, we call upon the international organizations and NGOs to form a committee together with the Government and citizens' groups. The committee should address housing policy and laws to protect squatter rights and land owner rights and the needs of the public.
2. We call to international NGOs to develop systems of credit and inexpensive building materials so that poor people can improve their own housing. For this to work smoothly NGOs should provide technical assistance.

3. To improve living conditions we call upon NGOs to participate in the development of infrastructure such as schools, roads, markets, water and electricity.

4. To improve the family economy of poor people we ask the international NGOs to support vocational training so that people can improve their own lives.

5. To improve public order and social conditions we ask international NGOs to start civic education programmes.

6. We also call upon the international NGOs to continue to give opportunities to learn from experiences from other countries in the region.

7. For the poorest part of our society, we ask the NGOs to develop social assistance programmes and to publicize the problems of the poor.

8. And finally we ask for renewed support for rural development so that rural people do not feel the need to come to the cities.

We call upon the UN agencies to support the above activities, and also to support specific technical studies on housing and relocation policy, and programmes to support employment creation.

Comments from government to local NGOs

1. Please do not escalate the problem, which will create difficulties for the government.
2. Please try to solve the problem step by step.

The solution of this problem does not depend totally on the authorities.

*Participants of the SUDA Workshop
Conference Hall, Municipality Building, Phnom Penh.*

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