

Joint hands for implementing Commune Alcohol Notification {CAN}



Nokor Thom Sangkat Council Meeting to discuss on CAN Implementation on April 11, 2017

Nokor Thom is a Sangkat Sangkat located in the Angkor area in Siem Reap Municipality, Siem Reap province. During 2014, when CAN was adopted, the commune still faced problem caused by alcohol drinkers such as violence, gangsters, disorder etc. In 2014 all villages in the Sangkat had many families brewing local wine, for example Anhchanh village had 6 families, Arak Svay village had 4 families, Kravann village had 4 families etc. In 2014 and 2015 heavy drinkers were mixed between men and women. The number of

women drinkers increased during these two years. This according to Ms. Tan Kunthea¹ community leader's report. Ms. Tan Kunthea mentioned that "Sangkat Nokor Thom before the CAN was adopted the police and authority could not sleep well, they often get phone call at nighttime to intervening in cases caused by alcohol consumers". Ms. Tan Kunthea affirmed that "we will not be successful if commune do it alone. Alcohol related harm need cooperation from relevant institutions. Currently, Nokor Thom Sangkat is cooperating with health center, police post, district governor and provincial prosecutor." Ms. Kunthea added, "alcohol and health, the health center intervenes in alcohol related health problems and the police takes action against alcohol related violence. the Sangkat administration has asked for cooperation from the police to bring cases to court when the drinkers caused problem and rejected to pay the fine or committed serious violence in the family or community."

¹ Ms. Tan Kunthea has two positions as community leader and commune counselor



Ms. Tan Kunthea, Community Leader

As result of the CAN implantation, there is rarely any alcohol related violence. The remaining cases are mainly verbal conflicts in the community or family as the community uses strategy, woman educates woman and man educates man on alcohol negative impacts and encourage them to reduce, said by Tan Kunthea. She hinted that “the community has cooperated at least 6 time in 2016 with the Sangkat council and village chiefs to raise awareness to people in different villages, but we always talk about negative impact of alcohol during the program of Committee for Women and Children.” In 2017 there only remains

5 families brewing local wine in Nokor Thom Sangkat, 4 in Anhchanh village and 1 in Arak Svay Village. The families are still brewing local wine because they raise pigs and the leftovers from brewing can be used as food for pigs. Currently, the people depend on alcohol reduced from 6 to one or two persons per village. The people drink occasionally when they have other ceremonies in the villages, such as wedding, Khmer New Year, celebrating new house...etc.

To increase the effectiveness of CAN implementation, the Sangkat is using cross-sector cooperation. As example some of relevant institutions has been told as bellow:



Ms. Theng Yav, Health Center Chief

Ms. Then Yav, Chief of Health Center often advised her patients that “pregnant women shouldn’t drink alcohol it may cause spontaneous miscarriage of baby or increase the risk for premature birth. As for women who has already given birth, they are absolutely prohibited from drinking alcohol or use alcohol mixed with herb because it will affect the health of mother and baby, especially the brain of baby.

Ms. Vann Lay, an assistant of the village chief raised about her works to reduce alcohol related harm, “I always mainstream it in Buddhist theory by telling people to reduce alcohol consumption to improve their health.”

Mr. Khu Bras, Chief of Police Post, stated about his involvement in CAN implementation that “I raise awareness to people together with village/commune safety policy. In case when people

drive under the influence of alcohol they will be fined in accordance with the traffic law. Alcohol drinkers who causes violence, like minor beatings, are asked to make a written pledge to stop violence and reduce alcohol drinking.



Nga Chong, Sangkat Chief

Mr. Nga Chong, Nokor Thom Sangkat Chief said “the Sangkat council decided to put alcohol issues in Sangkat investment plan (CIP) for 2016-2017 and the Sangkat will start the project implementation in early May 2017. This will be implemented together with the project of Committee for Women and Children (CWC) that has allocated a separate budget.” Mr. Chong added that “Sangkat council members often have meetings to plan awareness raising and discuss about effective methods to reduce alcohol related harm. The Sangkat has restricted alcohol marketing and advertisement in the community and it’s forbidden to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 years old. After then CAN was adopted and announced to the public, all alcohol selling near Buddhist pagoda and schools have stopped..”

He affirmed that “his colleagues wanted to see restrictions on alcohol advertisement and marketing on TV or Radios, but this is beyond the Sangkat council’s capacity.”

Talking about his plan for the future to increase the effectiveness of CAN implementation, Mr. Nga Chong said that “After the Sangkat administration invited drinkers who caused problems a first and second time to take pledges to reduce their drinking, if they caused problem a third time the Sangkat administration will fine him/her triple by including all times (first and second times) of CAN’s violations.

By Yong Kim Eng, PDP-Center, Cambodia

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