From 17th to 20th February 2014, CDMD organized a training on “SHG Set Up” to 20 SHG leaders and SHG deputy leaders from Takeo and Kandal Provinces at CDMD Takeo Office. This training aims to provide knowledge on SHG set up; procedures and strategies; to improve understanding on the importance of SHG set up and improve capacity of SHG leaders to identify the needs of persons with disabilities and effective referral to services. During the whole training sessions, many topics were covered including community studies; setting up SHGs; communication and facilitation skills; leadership and effective report writing skills.

After this training, CDMD hopes that all participants will gain knowledge on SHG set up strategy; better management on financial, administrative and human resources of their groups; and persons with disabilities involve more in their community activities and better understanding of their own rights.

This training responds to strategies #3 and #4 which aim to empower persons with disabilities and Disabled Persons Organizations and to improve the livelihood of persons with disabilities and their families.
On 19-20th March 2014, CDMD organized training on “CBR and Ear Care and Deaf” at ABC training center. This training was facilitated by 03 trainers from Krousatmey and 03 trainers from Jesuit Service Cambodia with participation of 02 CBR managers, 10 CSs and 20 community volunteers in Takeo and Kandal Provinces. The objectives of the training are to strengthen the referral of clients with hearing difficulties and to increase the capacity of CSs and CVs to rehab clients with hearing difficulties in their communities.

It is trustworthy to note that CDMD is continuously building the capacity of its staff and stakeholders in order to comply with one of CDMD strategies to enable persons with disabilities access to all mainstream system services with national and sub-national levels.

This training also complies with health section of WHO CBR matrix (education, health, social, empowerment and livelihood) in which CDMD applies in its CBR program.

Training on “Barriers free Environment for Persons with Disabilities” was conducted on 24th March 2014 at Eden Park. The participants in this training were local trainers, local shops, universities and vocational training centers in Kandal and Takeo Provinces. This training aims to improve the knowledge of VTC, local trainers, local shops, universities and advocates of the laws on protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and to enforce the accessible facilities in order to provide easy access for persons with disabilities at their institutions.

This is the 2nd time that CDMD provided to the training to these stakeholders as the previous training was on “Disability and Inclusive Development” on 07th November 2013 at Phnom Penh Hotel.

These trainings were complied with CDMD strategy to increase public awareness and understanding about disability. After the training, CDMD hopes that the trainees understood challenges and difficulties of persons with disabilities in their daily lives living without appropriate accessibilities and understand their obligations and participation from all levels to build accessibilities in their institutions.
On 25th March 2014, Senior Technical Team of CDMD provided a training on “Effective Advocacy and Report Writing Skills” at CDMD Phnom Penh Office. Participants in this training were 10 advocates and 03 IE staff.

The objectives of the trainings were to strengthen the knowledge on advocacy methodology and advocacy plan with stakeholders; to gain knowledge on key elements of report and meeting minutes; and to understand strategies for writing summary and conclusion of the report.

CDMD has continuously provided trainings to 10 advocates because they are the key persons who play significant roles in the field of disability such as participation with CDMD to build capacity of stakeholders on Disability and Inclusive Development; involvement with CDMD advocacy activities and SHGs; and participation with stakeholders to disseminate and raise awareness on disability issues to the public.

After this training, we hope that our 10 advocates and 03 IE staff will improve knowledge on advocacy methodology and advocacy plan with stakeholders; understand the importance of report writing and gain knowledge on strategies for effective report and minute writings.

CDMD is a Cambodian NGO working towards an inclusive, barrier free, and right-based society for persons with disabilities. CDMD, formerly called Rehabilitation for Blind Cambodians- Community Based Rehabilitation (RBC-CBR) started its activities by Maryknoll NGO. In 2000, RBC was handed over to Caritas NGO until the end of 2006. RBR-CBR was localized under the name of “Cambodian Development Mission for Disability” so-called “CDMD”.

Vision of CDMD
“A Society for All where people with disabilities live with dignity and prosperity”

Mission of CDMD
“To coordinate and build capacity of people with disabilities, communities, and stakeholders to provide equal opportunity for people with disabilities to fully participate in all development efforts”

Goal of CDMD
“People with disabilities have equal rights and opportunities to participate fully in their communities”
Mr. Sot Roeurn, aged 48, is married and has 04 children living in Mern Ream Village, Tuol Prich Commune, Ang Suol District, Kandal Province. In 1988, his left hand was straight and unflexible and because he fell down from palm tree while he was climbing for collecting his palm juice. He used to experience discrimination such as teasing on his disability. He and his family lacked of opportunities to participate in his community activities and lacked of financial supports for his small business set up. His family also faced many challenges including lack of money to support their children’s education, health and much spending on buying water for this family’s daily consumption.

Nowadays, he has improved his living conditions through his hard work to produce palm sugar about 7 to 10 Kg per day and he can sell it for 3,000 Riel per kg. From this business, he can earn from 800,000 to 1,000,000 Riel per month (equivalent to 200$ to 250$) plus the additional income from his wife who works in the garment factory.

Finally, Mr. Roeurn expressed his interests that “Since I became a representative of persons with disabilities of CDMD, a lot of changes have happened to me. Now, I can get more knowledge and become more involved in my community activities. More local authorities are getting to know and welcome me to talk and share about disability issues in order to include disability into community investment plan. In future, I plan to run other businesses such as growing vegetable and raising hens in order to earn more incomes for my family.”

Other News:
- From 24-28th March 2014, Mr. Chhim Sereypong, C &A Coordinator attended training on “Governance, Professionalism, and Accountability (GPA)” organized by CCC at Sunway Hotel.
- On 10th January 2014, 3 (F:1) CDMD staff (01 IE Project Manager and 02 (F:01) IE Project Assistants) hosted donors from Caritas Czech Republic (CCR) to conduct a visit to 3 target primary schools (Prohuot Primary School in Bati district, KdeyTuntoem Primary School in Samrong district and Banluong Primary School in Prey Kabas district). This activity aims to visit target schools and taking photos of schools and children with disabilities.