

Learning about advocacy strategies and strengthening local education civil society networks

15-20 August 2016, Manila, Philippines



The aim of the international learning exchange was for participants to gain experience and share good practices on strengthening national and local education civil society networks to advocate for access to education and quality education.

Participants from the Provincial Education Sector Working Group (P-ESWG) and NGO Education Partnership (NEP) Cambodia participated in an international learning exchange to the Philippines. The aim of the learning exchange was for participants to gain experience and share good practices on strengthening national and local education civil society networks to advocate for access to education and quality education. The learning exchange was supported by the European Union and The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany.

The learning exchange comprised of presentations and meetings with local state and non-state actors and a field visit. Through these, participants learnt about the education system in the Philippines and the new education reforms aimed at equipping Filipino adults with better educational and learning tools. Participants also had the opportunity to

learn more about E-Net Philippines, the national education work in the country.

The field visit with local NGOs enabled participants to learn about advocacy strategies to engage with the government to improve education services at the local and national levels. Participants visited community pre-schools and a school drop-out centre. Some key experiences from this learning exchange reflected by participants were –

- E-Net Philippines and its member organisations have effectively engaged with local school boards and the local government for advocacy on budget allocation to education service delivery. Increased education financing has been successful through the utilization of a special education fund built from property tax collections.
- Key actors of the community have become leaders of people's organisations or community based organisations. This has been a crucial factor in the sustainability of local activities and successful advocacy.
- Mass media has contributed to strengthening advocacy activities.
- The people of the Philippines are well aware of their rights and obligations as stated in the Constitution of the Philippines, which helps in advocating their right for quality education.



The learning exchange enabled participants to strengthen capacities in national network management, local CSO development, and grassroots advocacy.

The learning exchange enabled participants to strengthen their capacities in national network management, local civil society development, coordination, and cooperation, and grassroots advocacy. The outcomes of the learning exchange were shared with representatives of all 25 Provincial Education Sector Working Groups (P-ESWG) during the quarterly P-ESWG meeting on 23 August 2016 in the

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office of NEP Cambodia. Representatives of P-ESWGs will share their experiences of the learning exchange with NGOs in their respective provinces.

The learning exchange was jointly hosted and organised by ASPBAE and E-Net Philippines.

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