

## High Level Meeting with MoH and Professional Organizations

With funding support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in collaboration with PATH and the Pharmacists Association of Cambodia (PAC) the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) in Cambodia conducted a High Level meeting on TB PPM DOTS entitled ***Involving Professional Organizations in TB Control***. The meeting was conducted on May 11 2009 at the Cambodia Hotel in Phnom Penh. Participants included the General Director of MoH, the MoH Advisor, Cambodia Medical Chamber (CMC), Municipal Medical Chamber, Cambodia Medical Association, (CMA) the Pharmacy Association of Cambodia, (PAC) Municipal Health Department, (MHD) Human Resource Department, Hospital Department of MoH, the National Pediatric Hospital (NPH), and the Malaria Program. Participants from partner organizations came from WHO, JICA, CRS, US CDC. Representatives from CENAT and USAID were also present to open and contribute to the meeting. Thirty one participants attended the meeting.

The objectives of the meeting were to (1) increase awareness on TB and the national TB PPM strategy (2) explore opportunities for coordination, collaboration, and synergies among partners, and (3) define a role the Cambodia Medical Association and the Cambodia Medical Chamber can plan in TB PPM.

The meeting agenda included short presentations by representatives from the NTP, PAC, and PATH. Significant time was allocated for group discussions and extensive analysis of current constraints encountered in capturing the involvement and contributions of the private sector, primarily by the lack of participation of the professional organizations on the TB PPM. Lack of participation of professional organizations, specifically of the Cambodia Medical Association, was a key finding of the recent PPM evaluation.

The meeting was facilitated by His Excellency Ph. Yim Yann MoH Advisor and former President of the Pharmacists Association of Cambodia and co-facilitated by Dr. Team Bak khim Deputy Director of NTP. The meeting achieved its goal; to have all key players in one room and provide them with updated information and data. Moreover it highlighted the urgent need for professional organizations to take a leading role in order for the PPM to be more effective and thus increase its contributions to TB control in Cambodia. Most importantly, as one participant commented *we are the health professionals and we should follow our professional ethics, we need to step up, take a leading role and be accountable. If not TB and MDR-TB will continue to be a big problem in our country.* The Cambodia Medical Chamber is a strong partner and we will continue to engage them and work with them to better define their role and TOR. We will continue the efforts to work with the Cambodia Medical Association as we felt that they are still reluctant to be involved in the PPM.

Next steps planned:

- Further discussions with Dr. Thir Kry from the Cambodia Medical Chambers, H.E Ph. Yim Yann and NTP and PATH on the TOR
- Develop first draft and share with partners
- Organize smaller meeting to review and finalize TOR and develop action plan



**Participants from CMA; NPH; NTP; CMC and USAID discussing the issues, while H.E Ph. Yim Yan is listening in.**



Updates  
Cambodia CENAT, PATH and PAC 2009



**Participants from WHO; NT; the Russian Hospital; MHD; and CMC deep in discussion trying to identify appropriate solutions**



Updates from the High Level Meeting for Professional Organizations  
Cambodia CENAT, PATH and PAC 2009



**Plenary discussions and group consensus led by MOH; NTP and PAC**