



News Release

The *Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia* would like to take this opportunity to inform local and international media, radio, and television network partners, as well as local and international organizations (NGOs) that COMFREL will be conducting workshops on voter voice in 11 different Communes across Cambodia. The purpose of these workshops is to set local agendas (priority needs) that can be used for political platforms in remote and indigenous communities in these 11 different Communes. These workshops are a direct result of the financial support provided by the European Union (EU), OXFAM NOVIB, NPA and Forum Syd.

These workshops' aim is to increase voter's knowledge on their rights, role they can play in creating a democratic society and obligation in their commune. Each workshop will provide the opportunity for voters to create and discuss local agendas (priority needs) that will be used as political benchmarks in their respective communes. The local agendas (priority needs) created in each workshop directly by the participants will be accurately documented, filed and used as a benchmark for monitoring the implemented campaigns of commune councils. In addition, the documented local agendas (priority needs) for each commune will be forwarded to each major political party.

At each workshop, COMFREL will invite commune council members, political party representatives, civil society representatives and community based organization representatives to be guest speakers and express their local agendas (priority needs) which were directly raised by local citizens. These local agendas (priority needs) will be submitted to elected officers.

COMFREL would like to invite all interested individuals, organizations, political parties, and media outlets to attend and participate in a workshop that is convenient for you. Please see below a list of when and where each workshop will take place. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.

Date and Location of Workshops on Voter Voice

| No. | Date | Commune | District | Province | Contact Persons | Telephone |
|-----|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | 14/11/2011 | Lomtong | Anlongveng | Oudor Meanchey | Mr.Chao Vuthy | 012 563 598 |
| 2 | 15/11/2011 | Peam Chileang | Tboung Khmom | KampongCham | Mr.Nhek Sophy | 012 673 857 |
| 3 | 15/11/2011 | Kouk Romeat | Thmar Pouk | BanteayMeanchey | Mr.Yuth Thongdy | 012 765 305 |
| 4 | 15/11/2011 | Romonear | Sen Monorom | Mondulkiri | Ms. Keo Dere | 012 507 619 |
| 5 | 18/11/2011 | Po | Tbaeng Meanchey | Preah Vihear | Ms. Lun Sithan | 012 891 627 |

Vision: A democratic society that democratization in particular democratic elections are promoted and qualified to bring benefits to people.

ទស្សនៈវិស័យ ទំនើងឡើងការបោះឆ្នោតតាមវិធីសាស្ត្រប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ ដែលប្រកបដោយលទ្ធផលប្រយោជន៍ដល់ប្រជាជន។

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| 6 | 25/11/2011 | Pring Thom | Choim Khsan | | | |
| 7 | 19/11/2011 | Ni Pich | Kampong Svay | Kampong Thom | Ms. Ren Madina | 097 7 277 323 |
| 8 | 20/11/2011 | Sre Sambor | Siem Pang | Stung Treng | Mr. Sok Song | 092 590 686 |
| 9 | 20/11/2011 | Lung Khung | Keh Chong | Ratanakiri | Mr.Choun Phindara | 012 587 012 |
| 10 | 21/11/2011 | Pithnou | Snoul | Kratie | Ms. Im Many | 092 582 678 |
| 11 | 23/11/2011 | Tbaeng | Bontey Srey | Siem Reap | Mr. Phal Bunky | 092 676 981 |

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Phnom Penh, November 8th, 2011

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COMFRELs mission is to help create an informed and favorable climate 1)- *for free and fair elections* through lobbying and advocacy for a suitable legal framework, education to inform voters of their rights and monitoring activities that both discourage irregularities and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the election process, and 2)- *for meaningfulness of post elections* through education and public forums to encourage citizens to participate in politics and decision-making, advocacy/lobby for electoral reforms that increase accountability of elected officials and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the fulfillment of political platform and performance of elected officials.