VUFO-NGO Resource Centre

**Corporate Engagement Working Group**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes July, 7th , 2015

The sixth meeting of the Corporate Engagement Working Group took place on 7th of July 2015 at 2:00pm at the office of AFAP Vietnam, No. 30, Lane 12, Dang Thai Mai Street, Tay Ho District, Hanoi

**Participants**

**1. Introduction**

Fillip Graovac from Asia Foundation welcomed the working group members and gave a brief overview of meeting’s proceeding. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

**2***.    Reflection on previous meeting and update from members (Including an update on AMNEP Forum in Bangkok Tuan as well as Disaster Preparedness Forum Reto)*

* Filip Graovac review the content of previous meeting and mentioned the follow up action has been done.

Ta Van Tuan, Country Director of AFAP, updated the Australia-Mekong NGO Engagement Platform (AMNEP) forum was held in Bangkok on 2-3 June, the topic of the forum was particularly relevant to the discussions on: ‘Inclusive Business – Mekong Women in Agricultural Value Chains’. The Forum included a full day training for all participants organized by DFAT and CSR Asia on Inclusive Business and Share Value. The main focus was on the partnership model between the private sector and the community plus INGOs while realizing that it is important for business to get profit when engaging – sustainability factor. The 2nd day of Forum included a number of presentations by INGOs partnering with the private sector (share value).

* AMNEP is a platform for promoting engagement between Aust government and NGOs such as Care, Oxfam, SC, Plan... fund from DFID. AMNEP coordinate activity of VN, Cambodia, Lao. Mr. Tuan is representative member from VN.
  + AMNEP organise meeting twice a year and invite different stakeholders. The fourth forum will also be held in Bangkok and the topic will be policy engagement for women, economic empowerment.
  + Mr. Tuan works closely with AMNEP coordinator and he is also willing to work with the CEWG and provide some input from our side to AMNEP as they are working on organizing their next forum later this year (TBC) and provide the group with materials from the past forum once they become available. CEWG may contribute the group ‘s initiative for the Network in term of clear definition of CSR or private sector engagement, to narrow down for women economic empowerment, Agriculture include value change (fishery, farming, child labour. The voice of private sector, profit component.
* Reto shared some points on the third Forum on Disaster Preparedness, co-organised by CSR Asia and Prudence Foundation. Which was focused on creating value through strategic partnership. Some of the key findings from this Forum are the following: there is a need to accept differences (private sector and CSOs); need for share value and shared vision; evaluation of effectiveness; and need for sustainability, replicability and scalability. This event is partnering with the business sector for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. During the forum they share the showcase mainly on the disaster happened in Philippine, case study from Japan and share a lots of project/program which cooperated with private sector. It tried to convince the companies to add value. There was a panel discussion on the role of business in community disaster preparedness and the need for strategic partnerships.

Two sub workshops had been held separately. The first one is on understanding the business sector and corporate community investment in disaster preparedness. This will build understanding of the business drivers for contributing to and engaging in efforts that help meet community needs related to natural disaster. It clarify key concepts including CSR, community investment and shared value. The second workshop focused on understanding the humanitarian system and avenues for business engagement. The workshop introduced the humanitarian response system and key organisations and business platform from international to local level. Participant discussed effective ways for businesses to help address priority needs and how to create an enabling environment for effective cross –sector collaboration. Reto and Gareth presented their joint project focused on heath stress in Da Nang.

* Outi from ASSIST Asia talked about a recent AMCHAM meeting in HCMS focused on CSR-HR management (collaboration with NGOs was a big topic of the discussion). We should work with AMCHAM to organize a similar meeting in Hanoi as well.

**3. CSR, Value Chains and GRAISEA**

* Ha from Oxfam presented their project GRAISEA (support to 6 countries and value chain – part of CSR) and discussed possible partnership with the CEWG in advocacy and policy. The project’s outcome is impact investment.
* Vietnam focuses on National CSR, Agriculture. Demonstrate CSR in women economic empowerment
* Project site: Mekong delta river region
* The project focuses on woman empowerment, SEDP and CBDRM program. There was a long discussion about the work of this project in certification and CSR standards and compliance.

**4. Quick exercise Who is working on what? Issues of duplication**

All participants did the exercise and classified 6 themes:

* Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs support/Social Impact Funds and Social enterprises): Oxfam, CSIP, VCCI
* Rights/Legislation/Policy development/advocacy: UNIDO, VCCI,
* CSR/ Social Responsible Business: Awareness raising, education and Partnerships: UNIDO, VCCI
* Value Chain Development: OXFAM, SNV etc
* Direct Financial Support / Philanthropy: resource mobilization from PACCOM’s list of potential enterprises?
* International Trade Policies and practices – World Trade Organization, Trans-Pacific Partnership--- VCCI & others?

It’s concluded that no group/network is really working on value chains (comment was raised that Sustainable Agriculture WG is working on agriculture value chains and they should be included in the discussion and mapping).

Steps to take for the group:

1. Do the mapping of work done by CEWG member organization related to value chains (work with NGORC and Sustainable Agriculture WG)

2. Organize capacity building focused on the most appropriate/common value chain/s (based on the mapping) – work together on creating an expert database which can provide “training” during CEWG meetings. Invite via skype/video conferencing members from our organizations in other countries specialized in value chains and learn from their models and experience. Oxfam is planning to engage CSR Asia to do a training for their staff and partners on value chain and share value (more information will be shared by Ha later)

3. Include development agencies working in the value chains in the discussion and learn from their local, regional and global experience

4. Invite CSIRO which is organizing inclusive roundtable on agribusiness (more information from Outi and Reto)

5. Conduct joint research on the appropriate/common value chain (together with Oxfam) and join efforts in advocacy and policy dialogue (there might be a chance to organize a joint workshop to present some of our joint research and findings – work with Oxfam on this)

The meeting was closed with discussion about more direct engagement in organizing meetings and coordination from all members and we need to send an email around inviting others to get more involved in the real work of the CEWG (apart from Gareth and a few others) – there was interest to contribute more expressed by a few members.

Next meeting: August 18, 2015 at 2pm

Venue: TBD (AFAP offered to host it again)

**4:30pm meeting closed.**