

**YOUTH ACTION**  
**CAP IN SOUTH EAST ASIA**

**PRESENTATION BY CAP COUNTRY MEMBERS**

**May 2004**



## ***INTRODUCTION***

This is the report of youth projects in South-east Asia which mainly focus on capacity building, research and advocacy work. With different methodologies and serious issues in each country, we are working to prevent Violence Against Young people in the communities.

What do we mean by Violence Against Young people? Acts that violate basic human rights of young people, taking into consideration the special rights of children, which are physical or psychological in nature and done at a personal or structural level.

Through the working scope, NY Forum (Thai-Burma Border) was set up the group of Burmese young people as peace builder team for the future of Burma. For CAMP (Cambodia), there are 2 projects 1/- Children in Rape Prevention; 2/- The Peaceful Family by cooperated with CYP (Children and Youth for Peace Network). CLASP (Philippines); there also have two main activities; 1/- Set up the Children's Advocate Theatre Group based in Davao-Mindanao; 2/-The Nation Youth Forum on the Effect of War on Child Labour Peace in coordination with the Visayan Forum Foundation and Union of Catholic Student Councils (UCSC).

## WHY ARE WE, YOUNG PEOPLE, HERE TOGETHER?

### Burma-Thai Border

Due to the ruling military junta discriminate power inhumanly, in the whole of Burma, people have been abusing of human rights, discrimination among the indigenous peoples. The civil war was taken by those minority peoples in Burma up to now.

The civil war is affecting so many innocent people especially children and women. High schools and universities are closed down often and young people could not properly access to their study.

All opposition groups, political parties and social welfare groups, most of them were forced to flee from the military dictatorship to living along the bordering country of Thailand, India and Bangladesh. So many people were living as “illegal migrants”, undocumented and unrecognised.

Young Burmese refugees, some are living as migrant workers, some are trafficked and some are working in sex industries. Especially some teenager girls were raped by military and were sold to nightclubs, bars, restaurants and houses.

Life as refugee is truly hard and really difficult. But they have to stay as refugees in order to save their life and demand for their freedom. Those people are living in changing situation from day to day.



## CAMBODIA

We can hear about peace for a long time in Cambodia but the peace in human mind is still irresolvable underway. If we read magazines, newspapers and other media we will see lot of cases related domestic violence, sexual violence against children, physical and mental that happen almost everyday.

Furthermore, looking into the real society, women always have less value than men. Women are facing with unresolved problems of their own families. They cannot speak, openly discuss or directly give any ideas to their husbands or neighbours. However, they sometime can kill her husbands or themselves.

It is account for dropping down of human mind, which resulted of living in long war and poor condition. This leads to many different cases of abuse and violence that issue very often in the newspapers. Especially in newly case, which has not been heard and happened before a long time, father uses violence to rape his daughter. Rape is considered as the serious crime, which has been occurred with many different cases and different forms in Cambodia.

For the time being, people has included that children are easily accessible to get in touch for pornography. It happens to sexually attract people and totally make them commit the crime of rape. Most of the children are in low level of awareness and not realized how much trouble it has caused yet. They do not really know even though the tricks and how to effectively protect themselves in those difficult circumstances.



## PHILIPPINE

In the Philippines today, there is an on-going political, social and economic crisis because of the current conflict in the south. Terrorists, rebels, separatist groups and religious fundamentalists continue to threaten the state of peace in the country. Tourists, wealthy citizens and even common people are kidnapped and held for ransom by terrorist groups in the country. Recent reports have linked local terrorist groups with the international terrorist network, Al Qaeda.

Children and youth are the primary victims. They are displaced from schooling because schools become evacuation centres during rebel encounters. Some children are even bought at the forefront of the battle because they are recruited as child soldiers.

However, majority is still apathetic to the issues and concerns that have threatened the peace in the country. There are those that believe that the problem is confined to the south and is never going to reach other parts of the Philippines. This mindset has been proven wrong by the subsequent spate of bombings happening in Manila. Trains, buses and malls have been the primary targets. The threat is real and the problem is concrete. This message needs to be relayed to the people, especially children and youth.



# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

## PEACEFUL FAMILY CAMP, CAMBODIA

The Peaceful Family project is working mainly on the domestic violence issue in Takeo province. The main target group is adults.

CAMP cooperated with children and youth groups conducted workshop on “How to build a peaceful family” with 58 participants who are parents and representative from 58 families of 7 villages. The workshop was well going and fully of participation of sharing and showing each other experiences and problems. Moreover, they were discussing on changing attitude in order to be a modelling families for their community and others.

### MODELING FAMILY

#### GOOD ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TO CHILDREN

- Be good example for children
- Encourage children
- Love and care
- Living in the warmly family
- Give advises

#### GOOD ATTITUDE OF CHILDREN TO PARENTS

- Try heard for study
- Help parents do some house work
- Look after them when they are old
- Respect and listen to parent’s advises

#### GOOD ATTITUDE OF CITIZEN TO COMMUNITY AND THE WHOLE SOCIETY

- Help each other
- Solidarity among each other
- Non discrimination
- Non-violence
- Morality of living

## WORKING WITH OLD GENERATION



### The 4 Types of Violence

- 1- Violence on physical
- 2- Violence on mental
- 3- Violence on wealth
- 4- Violence on sexual

### THE CAUSES OF HAVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Hold power and family members have in control
- No confident to each other
- Jealous
- Gambling, alcohol, new lover

### THE EFFECTED OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Bad model to children
- Lost of income
- Shameful
- Lost of family value

## WOMEN IDEA

### WHY THE WOMEN BE PATIENT EVEN SHE GOT SUCH SERIOUSLY VIOLENCE?

- Because of children future
- Khmer culture, only one husband for life that is a good lady
- Looking down from the relative or neighbouring

### HOW TO BUILD A PEACEFUL OR HAPPINESS FAMILY?

- Respect to husband
- Understand each other
- Be a good wife
- Forgiveness
- Confident with each other
- Peace ways of solving problem
- Honest answer

## MEN IDEA

### WHY THE MEN ALWAYS USE VIOLENCE?

- Drank
- Wife talk about her husband behind his back
- Husband have power in the family
- Not respect him
- Too much talking

### HOW TO BUILD A PEACEFUL OR HAPPINESS FAMILY?

- Trying heard for family
- Give value to wife
- Be gentle and patient
- Consult to each other
- Tolerate
- Reasonable to solving the problem
- Listen to each other
- Stop use violence



## CAP CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PEACE BUILDERS NY FORUM, THAI – BURMA BORDER

### WORKING WITH NEW GENERATION

#### Idea on Gender and Sex

- 1- Gender
  - It is about male and female
  - It's nature
  - Can change
  - Finding the differences between male and female
  - Differences
  - Mentally existing

Conclusion: Can change and differentiate.

- 2- Sex
  - Happy, enjoy
  - People make
  - Comes from nature
  - Male and female
  - The differences of sex organ
  - Sperm

Conclusion: Can not change.

Young Burmese sharing their life experiences

When I was here for working in the opposition organization, my colleagues misunderstood that I was a spy for SPDC. They decide to kill me. But I work for the organization until today and I want to prove that I am not what they think to be. Even in the time for trust building for each other, there is misunderstanding amongst colleagues.

Once, I was working on my own business in Mae Hong Son, the police arrested me and asked for money. They asked to pay 5,000 Baht, but later I paid 2,000 Baht. How the law can judge the police? My family is poor. I feel that how do we claim that kind of unfair with us. I am so upset.



I lived separately from my family since I was young. I had to feed my family even when I was a young student. I missed tenth standard examination. Later, when I was here for fighting the SPDC, I missed to meet my parent. All the people who involved are may be feeling the same as me. The country if the military dictatorship is still in his power, there, this kind of sorrows will be still happening with us. But I am sure that there will be victory one day.

# YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT PEACE

- Peace in my life means the time I am living with my parents.
- As a nun or maybe living in a shadow of Buddha, says peace for me.
- Peace come when Jesus takes Baptist with John then the time that dove brings an olive, that's what the Bible says.
- When we make compromising between side and side, there we can find peace.
- There are so many things in the society, which make feeling and us upset bad. Then I feel far a ways from the people and the society. I see birds are living in peace as I though I am.
- The meaning of peace for dictators, regimes might be changing the weapons, arms.
- We can find peace in children but the others have loads of anxious and worries.
- Peace, we can find this from our heart first.
- Peace, it is a rose, meaning that we have to be fully endowed with things that need for a person or for one's life.
- Genuine peace, just depend on the religious that we believe in.
- Peace, it sometime is a tree has to grow up. But in Burma when a tree becomes grow up it is demolished.
- Peace needs truth.

Peace means people who living in the society fulfil with respecting, understanding, negotiation, helping and recognition each other as they respect the principles of justice, equality, freedom and non-discrimination.

## SYMBOLIC VIOLENCE

### Violence:

- Using arms or weapons, which can destroy or damage or kill
- Assaulting others with physically or abuse by words
- Using power onto someone for the things he/she wants
- It can be in physically and mentally
- It's also comes from competition in something
- Having sex by force



**Domestic Violence** defines as intentionally or purposely that hurt or harm a person in family through mentally or practically means, which cause by serious emotion of misunderstanding that comes from the concern politic, economic, social, health, education and believes background.

Living together issues

- To have sexual relation or intercourse
- Working together and stay together
- Living together for satisfied desire
- For sex only
- Living under the same roof
- Looking each other before marriage
- To understand more each other
- Only for having sex
- To start a family life
- Both want to live together
- Natural of sweetheart
- Having sex and living together because they hope to marriage in the future
- Living together for a certain reason
- Examining each other for kindness, tolerance and adoration
- Fulfilling desire for both

***Why does it happen in domestic?***

- Misunderstanding each other
- Worrying, jealous, misjudging on someone
- Unsatisfied for something in family, disagreement
- Too much control
- Want to take leading role in family, repressively
- Feel frustrated
- Character, love, take caring, Gene
- Dissimilar type in dress up, social
- Strong mental in cultural
- Drug abuse, gambling
- Lack of knowledge
- No respecting each other
- Raising himself or herself too much in dignity or fame
- Betrayed someone
- Pretty-minded, Narrow-minded
- Power
- Different background of culture
- Living in bad environment

## CASE STUDY

*The government sent me to the prison for one month when I was 18 years old. The government accuse me that I have connection with the rebels and have weapons. They bit and tortured me while in prison. Later, I was free because there is no evidence for prosecution. I joined the opposition group to revenge.*

*My uncle was a drunkard and once he aimed gun to me, strike with a knife. I fears until today about that.*

*Source: Workshop on Capacity Building for Peace builders on March 01-05, 2004.*

## CHILDREN IN RAPE PREVENTION CAMP, CAMBODIA

The “Children Consultation on Rape Situation” was conducted in Battambang province with 30 children which representative from different backgrounds and situations. The workshop had focus on UNCRC, Rape issue and law against sex abuse.

### WHY WAS RAPE HAPPENING ON CHILDREN?

- They want to know and test in sexual intercourse
- They use drug/alcohol
- Vindictiveness
- Rape children because of being afraid of diseases
- Lush person
- Pornography (video, magazine or picture)

### IMPACT OF RAPE TO CHILDREN

- Children become easy to get angry and dejected
- Lost confident
- Suicides
- Become pregnant
- Feel lonely
- Discrimination from relatives, community, society
- Children live in constant fears

### SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Omit the video, magazine or picture of sex both watching and import
- Strengthen the effective practice of law
- Every children and people have to know the children’s rights
- Spread out the law protect and prevent children to the public
- Training to children on the how to prevent and protect themselves on rape.

## WORKING WITH NEW GENERATION



*Rape Prevention Team*

### CASE STUDY

Old man, 55 years old, raped a girl, 12 years old in Rattanak Mondul, Battambang Province. He feigned illness and asked a little girl to help him by promises to give 5,000 riels. When she tries to help him, he took the opportunity to rape that pity girl.

A baby was raped since she is just 4 years old. At 3 pm on 3rd of January 2004, the mother allowed a neighbour, 16 years old boy, to carry her daughter. The boy carried the baby goes behind the house about 10 metres. He threw the little baby on brushwood and raped her. The perpetrator was arrested and sent to police station.

*Source: “Child Rape Issue” workshop, 11-13 February 2004*

## THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE THEATRE GROUP CLASP, PHILIPPINES

Theatro Tinubdan is a group of male and female young workers and professional talented in dancing, singing and creative body movements. This group is formed to show the essential quality and physical existence of the situation of the children and the circumstances of their society in contemporary time. The group serves as a means to spread and cultivate new seeds of talents that will serve as role models to show the capacity of every individual to illuminate and develop one's self.

The Theatro Tinubdan stands as a shield, a weapon, and a weighing scale in every struggle towards different discernments. It creates a venue for young people to express ideas and scrutinize issues related to the welfare of children.

As a group of performers, the aim of group is continue to promote the idea that children are partners in the development of our country; to shatter the century-old silence of young workers; to regain the deprived dignity and the respect of the sector that helps in national development.

It is the theatre's design to structure that scattered question, memories, problems and dreams of children and youth. In line with this is the effort and quest in each and every member to become constituents in the trek as an advocate; strong, broadminded, energetic, true and worthy as a catalyst in achieving the dream of every child and pursuing the vision of seeing the shining rays of the new dawn of the free and empowered marginalized children.

## WORKING WITH NEW GENERATION



CLASP in coordination with the Visayan Forum Foundation and Union of Catholic Student Councils (UCSC), will be conducting a National Youth Forum on the Effect of War on Child Labour. CLASP would also be supporting and encouraging advocacy efforts initiated by children, such as the formation of the Theatro Tinubdan Children's Advocacy Theatre Group based in Mindanao.

The Advocacy Theatre Group in Mindanao was formed with 18 members, 10 Female and 8 male, and 1 coordinator/ director from CLASP. During the birth stage of the Theatre Group, it has been receiving invitations from NGOs and Government side to present. Until now, The Theatre Group was present 6 times already with 250 persons 100 male and 150 Female including 100 children and 150 adults.