

PRESS RELEASE

Action Plan for promoting helmets in Cambodian schools to be focus of review workshop

18 May, 2016 – Phnom Penh, Cambodia

AIP Foundation, in collaboration with FIA Foundation and with support from the Ministry of Education of Cambodia, is organizing a workshop in order to review and preliminarily approve a draft Action Plan to promote helmet use among students and educators in Cambodia. The plan would propose helmets be made part of school uniforms in the country as well as include provisions aimed at developing teachers' capacity to convey material on road and helmet safety.

Representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior were in attendance at the workshop, as well as representatives from the National Police and the provincial Departments of Education, a representative from the American Intercon School, and other representatives from various development, NGO, and private sector partners.

The draft was developed prior to the workshop as a result of close cooperation between AIP Foundation and the Ministry of Education. The Action Plan breaks activities down into four main categories: (i) education and awareness, such as helmet-use posters at schools and daily reminders to students about helmet use; (ii) partnership and collaboration, encouraging schools to embark on work and regular communication with external road safety stakeholders; (iii) capacity-building of staff and students through such activities as study tours and competitions; (iv) and reporting and evaluation, which requires schools to produce documentation and progress reports on road safety activities from the provincial to the national level.

In order to see these aims realized, the workshop will include group strategy discussions on how to implement the activities of the plan at varying levels of government. The review workshop will be just the start of this discussion, with three corresponding workshops planned at the provincial level in Phnom Penh, Kandal, and Kampong Speu Provinces in order to incorporate sub-national stakeholders' views.

This workshop series comes as part of the "Agents for Change" project, also supported by FIA Foundation, which enables policymakers and journalists across three target provinces in Cambodia to encourage compliance with driver and passenger helmet laws among the public.

"This Action Plan could have far-reaching consequences for the rate of helmet use among children in Cambodia. The more that the public is aware of the importance of using quality helmets on the road, the easier it will be for the police to provide stringent, targeted enforcement for those who transgress the law," H.E. Ty Long, Deputy Director of the Department of Traffic Police and Public Order.

"If helmets are made a part of the official school uniform in Cambodia, our entire framework for thinking about helmets will shift towards the better, and we will start a nation-wide habit of putting our safety first. This is a cause that has a strong base of support within the education sector, as those who work with children understand the value that these types of changes can have for our younger generations," said Lokchumteav Kim Sethany, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport.

###

About AIP Foundation

AIP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low- and middle-income countries. Since 1999, AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit www.aip-foundation.org or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

For media contact:

Pagna Kim, MPA | Country Director, Cambodia | AIP Foundation
#18BEo, St. 348, Tuol Svay Prey I Commune, Chamka Morn District, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: (855)-12 424 234 or (855)-23 99 6519; Email: pagna.kim@aipf-cambodia.org