



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **AIP Foundation gathers stakeholders from across Cambodia to discuss passenger helmet enforcement**

*29 September, 2015 – Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Today, AIP Foundation held its second nationwide stakeholder workshop as part of the “Head Safe. Helmet On.”(HSHO) project. HSHO is a two-year project supported by the United States Agency for International Development, Development Innovation Ventures ([USAID-DIV](#)) and others, aimed to increase helmet use in Cambodia. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss actions to support the enforcement of the passenger helmet law scheduled to begin January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

The workshop gathered approximately 30 participants from government institutions, development partners, and the private sector. Among the attendees were representatives of the General Secretariat of the National Road Safety Committee and of the Department of Traffic and Public Order, Ministry of Interior. At the event, AIP Foundation presented information on the project’s recent progress, challenges faced thus far, and recommendations for the second year of the initiative.

“The HSHO project is making great progress in benefiting Cambodians, children in particular, through the distribution of over 35,000 quality helmets. Through our road safety education programs and behavior change communications campaigns, AIP Foundation has helped to encourage helmet use. However, we firmly believe law enforcement is critical to promoting a healthy road safety environment. Including children in the helmet law will save many lives.” said Mr. Pagna Kim, Cambodia Country Director of AIP Foundation.

Group discussions focused on possible support to motorcycle passenger helmet use campaigns, including child helmet use and the law and its sub-decree that mandates penalties for un-helmeted passengers, and the importance of including children in enforcement of the law. Also discussed were the national- and district-level passenger helmet enforcement action plans, which are currently in their draft phase.

“All citizens have the right to be safe, on and off our roads. It is our duty to protect the safety of our citizens and we believe that enforcing the law through the action plans will do just that. We are committed to enforcing the passenger helmet law, and expect that through this initiative we can protect lives,” said H.E Major General Ty Long of the Traffic and Public Order Department, General Commissariat of National Police.

According to the National Road Safety Committee’s 2014 Summary Report, road injury is Cambodia’s most serious non-communicable health epidemic. From 2005 to 2014, registered vehicles, mostly motorcycles, in Cambodia doubled and road deaths increased by 100%. In 2014, road crashes caused 13,089 reported injuries and 2,226 reported fatalities, costing the nation one hundred million USD.

“In order for this law to be most effective, enforcement will require both local and high level support. Cooperation from all stakeholders will produce the best results,” said H.E Poeu Maly, Secretary General of the National Road Safety Committee. “Only through working together can we reduce fatalities and injuries from road crashes.”

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#### **About AIP Foundation**

AIP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low- and middle-income countries. For more than 16 years AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit [www.aip-foundation.org](http://www.aip-foundation.org) or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

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