



PRESS RELEASE

Youth and government convene dialogue on distracted driving; joint statement issued calling for action

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Today, AIP Foundation convened a forum between youth road safety ambassadors from the *Safety Delivered* program, local youth groups, and government and non-government stakeholders to discuss the issue of distracted driving and mobile phone use while driving in Cambodia. The convening also served as an opportunity for the youth ambassadors to present a Distracted Driving Joint Statement to three distinguished representatives from the National Road Safety Committee, the Cambodian National Police, and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports. The statement calls for action from government bodies and the broader community to implement effective measures that will reduce road crash deaths and injuries due to mobile phone distraction. *Safety Delivered*, which is supported by The UPS Foundation, works with young, inexperienced motorcycle drivers to improve their distracted driving behaviors while also working to increase child helmet use.

“The National Road Safety Committee supports the joint statement on distracted driving and calls on government institutions, civil society organizations, private sector, youth, and the public to take action and cooperate to reduce mobile phone use while driving, said Min Meanvy, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation and Secretary General of the National Road Safety Committee. “The NRSC will keep both the statement and the other ideas discussed today in mind when developing future implementation plans.”

In addition to H.E. Min Meany, H.E. Him Yan, and H.E. Lim Chek, more than 100 participants attended the dialogue, including representatives from private and civil sector organizations; partner universities, and *Safety Delivered* youth road safety ambassadors.

“The Cambodian National Police is in agreement with everything said here today and stands ready to support the *Safety Delivered* campaign in reducing road crashes caused by mobile phone use while driving,” said H.E. Him Yan, Deputy Commissioner General of the National Cambodian Police.

The event included panel discussions and interviews focused on how best to implement a workable action plan to address distracted driving. Themes of education and awareness, partnership and collaboration, and enforcement measures were among those discussed. The dialogue emphasized community engagement and collaboration with law enforcement as a proven pathway towards reducing the number of young lives lost due to distracted driving behaviors. Traffic police who participated discussed how enforcement best practices could be incorporated into the action plan and applied across Cambodia.

“After listening to today’s discussions and reviewing the joint statement, I am looking into spreading messaging on distracted driving to all ministry staff, teachers, and students,” said H.E. Lim Chek, Deputy Director General of Youth for the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports.

“Once there is a strategy in place, traffic police can cooperate under one unified approach. A combined effort from police and drivers to curb distracted driving behaviors will lead towards a positive result of reducing road crashes nationwide,” said Mr. Kim Pagna, AIP Foundation’s Cambodia Country Director.

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About Safety Delivered

Safety Delivered is supported by The UPS Foundation and implemented in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. It works with young, inexperienced motorcycle drivers to improve their distracted driving behaviors while also working to increase child helmet use. Over two years, it is estimated that *Safety Delivered's* activities will be able to save more than \$12 million USD through reductions of road crash injuries and fatalities.

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 or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

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