



Mrs. Pen Bopha is currently working as **Program coordinator** at Khmer Youth Association (KYA), a branch based in Prey Veng Province, Cambodia. KYA is a non government organization whose vision is to be potential youth, working with youth and for youth, for social positive change. In addition, **Bopha** coordinates a group of partner organizations comprising of 14 NGO partners of Pact Cambodia in Local Administration and Reform program (LAAR) to promote effectiveness and sustainable engagement between local communities and their elected commune councils. Women, youth, and traditionally under-represented groups, natural resource management, good governance are the cross-cutting themes of the program.

Before becoming the Program Coordinator, **Bopha** served as **Provincial Coordinator** in Khmer Youth Association for 2 years from March 2005 till March 2007 during which period she had led and managed the branch office to ensure the three programs in the branch run smoothly and reach their goals and objectives to which accomplishment she had to be accountable to the result of work and the benefit of the target groups especially the for youth. Through her work and coordination with all the relevant stakeholders, she has gained strong support from the provincial authority, the line departments and the NGO community.

While serving as the provincial coordinator, she was also a **Civic Education Trainer** from March 2005 to March 2007 during which period she helped promote youth participation in local governance through providing capacity building, promoting citizen and youth engagement and empowering them through advocacy activities. She organized many meetings and workshops for youth and some government departments to enable youth to voice their concerns and recommendations for the government to be more accountable to the young people. She also participated in advocacy on National Youth Policy.

Prior to joining KYA, **Bopha** was a **Secondary School Teacher** in Mesang district, Prey Veng province where she taught Mathematics, Physics and English for one and half year from 2003-2004. At the same time she also worked as an English teacher in a private school in Prey Veng town while she was studying at the university and she worked as volunteer in the university as Receptionist and translator.

Bopha earned a degree in *Management and Accounting* from Maharishi Vedic University and a certificate of Pedagogy from Prey Veng Pedagogic Center. She is currently studying a Master degree. In addition, she has attended many training courses in Cambodia and in other countries such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India.

Bopha was born in a poor family in Prey Veng. She started earning to support her life and her family while she was studying at high school since she was 16 years old. All this experience has made her more confident and independent with her struggle in life, and she really appreciate the youth who are active in engagement themselves in the social activities.



Bopha was invited to speak about Youth and Employment in Cambodia in World Bank-CSO East Asia Pacific Regional Workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia

Bopha has engaged herself in many types of activities especially to promote youth involvement in social development for positive change. She has also volunteered her personal time to coordinate NGO network in Prey Veng province. Currently she has joined the Outstanding Youth Group of Cambodia (OYG-CAM) as member of the Advisory Board.