



**Sopheak Tuot** is a year-four student at Royal University of Law and Economic, majoring is Laws. At the same time she had been working with an organization called Community Forestry International (CFI) as a trainer. CFI is an environmental organization that is funded by American people. CFI works to strengthen capacity and knowledge of communities about how to preserve environment and forest.

In this capacity, **Sopheak** has played an important role in providing training to community members about benefit of environment as well as the benefit of forest and how to use the forest products in a sustainable manner.

**Sopheak** joins an effort to connect youth to social activities and contribute to a better society. She is a member of Executive Committee of OYG-CAM. Before joining this group, **Sopheak** successfully passed a competition test to be a Youth Ambassador representing Cambodia in the 34<sup>th</sup> Ship for South East Asian Youth Program **SSEAYP** in six countries: Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan in late 2007 (from 21 October to 12 December). During this mission she earned a good knowledge of multi-cultures and how to express ideas in the different contexts in those cultures. She has gained much experience from both working and living as a team and as individual. She has made friends and established contacts with people from different countries from around the world.

Prior to joining **SSEAYP**, **Sopheak** worked as an Intern at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) where she got involved in various political development and election programs including assisting the team and election monitoring organizations to do election monitoring during the 2007 commune council elections in Cambodia in which she was also an election observer. In addition, she assisted the NDI team in organizing the candidate debates during the whole election campaign period. Experience with NDI has enabled her to gained political knowledge and awareness of issues around democratic development and elections in Cambodia.

**Sopheak** is the youngest daughter of a big family. Her mother died since she was 9 years old so she had to leave her father to live with her sister in order to relieve her father's shoulders. She was born to a poor family at a remote village in Banteaymeanchey province. While Sopheak is trying hard to struggle with her life to get education she has the best father who always encourages her to study hard in order to be a patriot who can help protect her motherland". Her father is Khmer Krom and he often says "nobody wants to lose their motherland, i am too painful to leave my motherland!" Sopheak carries with her these advices from her father.

**Sopheak** also enjoys strong supports from her brothers and sisters who always push her and empower her to work toward achieving her dreams.

*"It's time for us to do something for our country!"* Sopheak says.  
*"Life is a daring adventure or nothing at all!"*



Sopheak and two Japanese who were in charge of Cambodia Contingent, at Narita International Airport in Tokyo, Japan