

SIEK THUON FROM AN ORDINARY MAN TO A MAN WHO ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Siek Thuon a man who was selfish and never cared about others; he never cared about society and people. He changed when he became a member of the association.

Siek Thuon is 35. He is married with two children, a girl, named Son Lyly. She is five years old and studying grade 1. The second son is 2 years old. Siek Thuon lives in Sangke Leak village, Svay Chocheb commune, Kampong Speu. He was born in a poor family with eight brothers and sisters. He is the 6th child. He failed grade 12 exam and because of poverty he decided to stop school and find job in the city. Life in the city was not as easy as life in the countryside. I made \$60 per month. I loved motorbike so much that I worked hard and saved enough to buy one motorcycle that costed me \$450. It was not a new motorcycle

but I loved it so much.

He got married in 2009 and they both moved to Phnom Penh to look for opportunity. They were hoping to work hard, to save and get rich. Unfortunately, his often got sick. They did not save much decided to come home with only 500,000 riel (USD 125). They used this money to start pig raising for the living.

Siek Thuon shared his story with us how he started with the association as follow. In 2014, I visited Mrs. Oun Pheap. She was a member of the village development association committee. Mrs. Pheap asked me to join the association for travel opportunity. I agreed. I was elected as Village Development Association treasurer because I was one of the person who studied grade 12. I did not know what the job of the treasurer was. I felt hesitated and nervous. What I was hoping was to travel with PNKS. As expected I was attending exposure trip, training, workshop with PNKS and I learnt many things useful for myself and others. I learnt from agriculture to health care and from human rights to gender equality. These are very beneficial for our family and community. I learnt to care for others, especially the poor. I spent time visiting the poor in my community and help them with agriculture and health care. I have never seen and done such things before in my community. I encouraged those who were to come to the meeting and encourage those who were not yet members to be members. Besides helping our association, at home I took care of my kids while my wife out to work in the garment factory. At home I run a small grocery store and keep some pigs, chicken and ducks.



In 2016 PNKS set up Commune Development Association, I was elected to be the head of the Commune Development Association (CDA). There were more jobs for me. I do not just work for my village but others too. In this new job I had to be responsible for four villages. I travel from village to village to visit the VDA in order to support the VDA management, leadership, their saving and recording. In addition I had a role with other CDA to approve their Community Initiative proposal to PNKS. Every three months I have to attend meeting with the commune council. I am happy to share what I learnt from the ground to the meeting and I am also happy to hear what others say too.

This new job requires a lot of my time, energy and commitment. In return, I get to know more people and friends and having good relationship with others. This job also made me feel confident, strong and I learnt a lot from it. I am proud to take part in development of our community and society.

I would like to like to see people have better health care and living standard; they have better skills and knowledge they need in their lives, especially financial literacy which it could help people manage their income wisely. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank PNKS and her supporters that made this possible.

*Interviewed and written by
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He is auditing VDA saving and visiting farmer.



Some activities when he joining trainings and meetings.



