

A Great Success of a Community Professional

Mr. Kim Chroeung

By Yun Sinang

Mr. Kim Chroeung is one of the seven Community Professionals selected and trained by RCEDO in the project :Empowerment of Civil Society in OddarMeanchey Province (CISOM). Thanks to his good performances and dedication to the tasks, Mr. Chroeung has now been promoted to be a permanent staff, Community Facilitator, with a higher and fixed salary and other benefits such as accommodation and transportation.

Life has not been easy for Kim Chroeung before and this is a great achievement for him to become a full time employee in a local NGO.

Kim Chroeung was an ordinary farmer with little hope for a change. He thought he could do nothing besides going into the jungle and earned his money from logging. The income from logging actually wasn't enough to improve his family's income. That's why later on, he decided to migrate illegally to Thailand and worked as the fisherman on a Thai boat. Being an illegal migrant on a Thai boat is known as one of the modern form of slavery, and Kim believed he would never managed to come back home alive. Fortunate circumstances however helped him to come back and he decided to join CISOM project.

By joining CISOM project, Mr. Chroeung was trained on many subjects such as agricultural techniques, chicken raising, advocacy, basic law and human rights. While his capacity strengthened, he used his knowledge to boost his family economic and also to share it to the other farmers in his community. Villagers started to call Mr. Chroeung“ Lok Kru”or “Teacher”. In Cambodian culture, the word “teacher” is a title used by the people to show high respect.



Mr. Kim Chroeung said: “Thanks to CISOM project, my life changed, from a hopeless person I became a good person in the society”.

In order to fulfill his interests in helping farmers, Mr. Kim Chroeung, is still working with the farmer as a Community Facilitator. He's building further his knowledge and gain greater experiences, and in his current job, Mr. Chroeung can help more famers in a wider range of topics. He is even employed on short-term by other NGOs to train other communities, which adds extra-money in the household's budget.

Finally, Mr.Chroeung expressed his satisfactions with his improvement. "I'm very glad and thankful to CISOM to help me with such resultstoday. CISOM does not only help me but it helps both my family and my community as whole, especially to change the mindset of poor farmers including helping them increasing their knowledge to boost their incomes."