

# 1. I HAVE IMPROVED AND DEVELOPED THAN BEFORE

Miss **Khot Chanthoeun** is one of members of youth club for natural protection in Kampong Chhnang Province. She currently is the group leader in the village responsible for communicating with people and youth who attend any meeting in village meeting. In addition, she takes part in monthly and village development plan meeting. In the interview, she described herself as a farmer's child who had no job to do besides farming. She later joined the youth group. She has become more courageous and active. She was once asked by the chief village of Ah Chahn village to work as a staff member of the village. She first thought she was incompetent for this work. However, she encouraged herself and believed she could do it, so she decided to take this responsibility. She added, "I am very happy that I am able to participate in meetings as I have opportunities to make requests and suggestions for the youth club and villagers; particularly I am able to raise problems in the village in the meeting so as to request the village chief and commune chief to solve them hand to hand. In the past, there was not regular presence of youth in monthly meeting and village meeting, but recently youth have attended monthly meeting of the village regularly such as the presence of Mr. Sat who is the representative of the poor in the village and who is one of the members in my youth club. Despite the fact that not many youth have attended the meetings, we believe that youth's voices will increase in time. I have observed I have gained a lot of knowledge than before such as protesting against illegitimate decision, participating in meetings with adults, working in group, and being more courageous than before that I hardly spoke a word to someone. I am very glad that I have seen many changes in myself and that all of them are positive changes. I would like to advise other youth to better themselves as useful people and not to make themselves hated by others. I have also planned to develop myself and my team in order to contribute to roles of villagers—trying to make positive contribution to the village, ourselves, our families and our youth group."



Miss **Khot Chanthoeun**  
with district council officer.

## 2-Youth become representative of citizens...



A 30-year-old youth **Thou Sart**, a former farmer have always thought of only their family without concerning of problem occurred in his community. On August 24-25, 2010, youth group invited **Sart** to participate in youth club training program in Kompong Chhnang conducted by **KYSD** and sponsored by **Forum Syd**. The topic was to present the important role of youth in developing community; to protect community natural resources as well as their family. This encouraged **Sart** to participate in the training program since then, he also decided to be a member of the club.

**Sart** has always been active and tried to participate in protecting community natural resources; moreover, he has expressed his ideas with local authority by asking for help from them and permission to participate in commune and village development meeting. With youth's effort and attention, local authority allowed him to take part in village meeting to express his idea. His participations and efforts encouraged braveness and he decided to be a candidate in election for selecting poor people's representative in community to find a specific number of poor families so that the Royal Government of Cambodia and civil society organizations can support. And this election was conducted by Ministry of Planning in cooperate with Terk Phos and Krang Skar authority funded by **German Technique Cooperation** and **European Union in Australia**. The election was held at youth club office and merit school in Anchanh village on September 11, 2010. As a result of the election, there was a ballot of youth among the four elected young, there was **Sart**. **He** was so happy to get this volunteer work to improve people's living standard in the village and constant development. Even though it is an additional burden for **Sart** as a member and head of family, he still believes that he was exactly a beneficial youth for people in his village. **Sart said during the interviewing on October 28, 2010.**

### 3-The mind change and crimes of former gangsters in village...



A 28-year-old youth **Sim Siem** in Kdoul Village, Krang Skar Commune, Terk Phos District, Kompong Chhnang Province. He showed his interesting on problem happening in the community and the mind change and crimes by paying attention on natural resources, land and forest, rights and especially security in village. He expressed his previous thinking "Before I was a gangster and hatred in village. I had never concerned about environment, natural resources and human right in living standard because when there were problems between company and people, I always threaten people not to protest company. I did this because I was a guard of that company.

People often said I was puppet of that company, and I didn't care about that. The most important thing for me was the money I got. My mind has changed because teacher and youth in village invited me to participate in seminar about the organizing youth network conducted by **KYSD** with sponsored from **Forum Syd**. Participated in this course, make me reflect what occurred in the past through some questions by teacher and it reminded me what was wrong and destroyed to family, community and country. Teacher advised us to re-think of what I did could be beneficial to family or destroy family. If we think of that action, it will be real happiness. On the other hand, if what we did doesn't give our family the warmness, it is really wrong. So stop doing that, and try to do right thing to be a good man. About all these words, they encouraged me to think again, and I asked teacher and group members for advice. Lastly, teacher and group members encouraged and supported me to change my action punctually. I asked that Chinese company to resign my job and work with volunteer work for our security, rights, forest, land and community. I was so happy about my decision."

## ***4-Local authority continually support youth.....***

*20 youth club members and 14 female members participated in a whole morning meeting with Terk Phos council about "Finding the needs of people" in Kdoul Pagoda on September 17, 2010, and this meeting allowed youth from three villages to join. The purposes of the meeting were to talk directly with people and observe the previous community development so that there can be more needs of people. The meeting was conducted by village council with honorable head of Teok Phos District. Because youth proposed a number of youth in meeting, there were many young people in meeting. Especially, youth gathered thumb print to propose an irrigation canal.*



*About that proposition, youth raised it in the meeting with detail such as canals for three places in village including in front of village, middle of village, and in front of Kdoul School. Youth is so impressive when local authority allowed them to participate in the meeting and express their points of view. Furthermore, village councils paid attention on youth and continued their plan for youth participation in order to obtain new opinions from youth in community development.*