

Kien Khleang

Vocational Training for Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Survivors in Cambodia

The Association for Aid and Relief Vocational Training for the Disabled (AAR VTD), a Cambodian NGO, began as a project of a Japanese NGO which operated a vocational training centre in Phnom Penh and trained people with disabilities. In October 2006, AAR VTD became nationally operated and is now fully managed by Cambodian staff. The mission of AAR VTD is to empower persons with disabilities so that they can fully participate in society.

Since 1993, more than 700 persons with disabilities including landmine survivors have been trained. More than 85% of the graduates are employed by commercial companies, NGOs or self-employed with their own workshops. Through sewing courses, motorbike repair courses and electronics repair courses, students learn technical skills that support their future employment and income generation. These skills are also taught by persons with disabilities including landmine survivors who are AAR VTD graduates.





Hello!

My name is Tith Chenda, I am 22 years old. I come from a very poor family in Svay Rieng province. My right hand is lack of some fingers because of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) when I was 12 years old, and my left hand has no wrist from my birth. I am very happy with my sewing course; I study hard to obtain the skill that I dreamed for long time. I believe that I can support myself with the skill acquired from the center.

I feel thankful and grateful to United Nations, who provides a valuable skill to me as well as other Cambodian disabled people. Finally, I would like to say some words to International Day on Mine Action, please continue to support landmine and UXO survivors.



Hi!

I am pleased to introduce myself, my name's Bov Met, 33 years old. I come from Kampong Speu province. My homeland is famous for its sugar from palm fruits. I am left leg amputee in 1997 when I went to collect fired wood at the forest 3km from my house. The training brings me hope and I am very pleased with the sewing course. My dream is to become an excellent bag maker in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to UNMAS, without its support I would be miserable for life, and also my deep thank to International Day on Mine Action for its activities to make people understand about mine.



Hello!

My name's Toch Sreykot, 24 years old. I come from Kampong Cham province. It is the most populated area in Cambodia. I am amputee in both leg since 2000. The cause of this disability: I stepped on a landmine when I was herding cattle in my village. I enjoyed so much the course and the life in dormitory. It is the first time for me to access school. After the graduation, first of all, I would like to work for a company or NGO. When I have some capital from my saving, I will run a workshop by my own.



I have today because of the support from UNMAS, and I would like to wish UNMAS all the best and peace. I strongly request International Day on Mine Action to make all the countries understand about the negative impact of producing mine because mine is very cruel, it damaged the world seriously.

Hello!

My name is Keo Sokchea, 20 years old. I come from Svay Rieng province. I am deformity of the right leg since 2005. by burning an unexploded ordnance, which was hidden inside a pile of garbage.

I enjoyed so much the school life in the center. I met many friends, and we stayed, learnt and shared everything together. My dream is to work for an NGO, and I try to skill up my ability until I become a shop owner some day.

To sum up, I would like to say million and million thanks to UNMAS for its support. Thank you International Day on Mine Action for your important activities on landmine and UXO survivors Assistance and Awareness.



Hi!

My name is Chou Lay In. I am 24 years old. I come from Battambang province. I am right leg amputees in 1999. My accident was happened when I went to the field 5 kilometers from my house with my sister to clean the land. During my study at AAR VTD's center, I enjoyed learning literacy and sewing course the most because I know how to write and read Khmer language and how to make cloth and bags. My dream is to form a group of sewing graduates and make business by ourselves. I want to show the ability of persons with disabilities to the public to change their attitude toward persons with disabilities.

One thing that I can not forget is UNMAS support, I would like to express my heartfelt thank to UNMAS and Kubo san who provide a necessary skill to landmine and UXO survivors for their living. I believe everyone understand well about mine and its impact and want to help landmine survivors through International Day on Mine Action. Thank you.



Hello!

My name is Yorn Thon. I am 18 years old. I come from , Kampong Chhnang province. It is the fishing area in Cambodia. I am right leg amputee in 2005. I stepped on mine when I was herding cattle in my village.

The training center provided me a lot of hope, I was really happy to meet the other persons with disabilities that before I felt alone. I try to work hard because I want to become a shop owner.

UNMAS do the right thing that provide the necessary need to landmine and UXO survivors to promote their participation into society. Thank you UNMAS for your contribution. I hope that the International Day on Mine Action is the day that provides new life to landmine and UXO survivors, thank you for its policy.

