



1- Self-introduction

Hello! My name is Thun Bunthoeun. I am 32 years old. I graduated from the Royal School of Administration (RSA) and the Faculty of Law and Economics (which is now named Royal University of Law and Economics - RULE) in 2003, and I've been working for the Council for Administrative Reform (CAR), which is under the supervision of the Office of the Council of Ministers, since 2004.

In 2007, I was awarded a scholarship (Australian Development Scholarship - ADS) to pursue a two-year Master's degree in Public Policy in Australia. After completing my studies in late 2010, I returned to my position at the Council for Administrative Reform.

2- My motivation as a public official in Cambodia

Working as public official in Cambodia was my number one choice after graduating, because I would really like to contribute to providing better public services with people for the better living of people and the development of Cambodia.

There are several reasons for this. First, working as a public official is a career for life. In other words, it is a stable job in which one can work until retirement age. Second, being a public official in Cambodia is prestigious. Cambodian social culture greatly values and respects public official status. Third, though a public official's salary is low compared to those in the private sector, the public sector is still attractive given the financial incentives offered by the government and development partner projects, and there are other incentives, such as promotion, study tours, and training. In the meantime, I hope that the salary of public officials will become competitive with the private sector as economic growth and oil resource revenues accumulate.

3- Expectations from the project

As a public official, I hope to see many projects offered by our development partner countries (such as Japan in the case of SPF), dealing in particular with capacity development, including both short-term training (such as workshops, study tours) and long-term training (such as graduate and postgraduate degrees) both inside and outside the country. Such capacity development will lead to long term development for Cambodia, especially in terms of creating a competitive public administration which can better serve the people.

4- My Dream

I dream that one day Cambodia will not only become developed and glorious once more, but will also integrate competitively into the international arena and catch up with other developed countries. A competent and competitive Cambodian public administration that

responsibly upheld four values – a culture of service, professionalism, loyalty, and motivation – would have great potential to make this dream a reality.

5- Acknowledgements

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) and its management and staff, for their close cooperation with CAR in supporting the three-year project (2010-2012) on “Capacity Development for Civil Servants in Cambodia”. The mandate of this project is to assist CAR in enhancing the capacity of Cambodian civil servants and their services, thereby improving the quality and delivery of public services in Cambodia, which in turn has the potential to strengthen development. The project enhances the capacities of civil servants through training workshops, distance learning assessment, study tours, and some outreach projects for human resource development. So far, we have completed the first-year project workshops, which were attended by around 120 participants.

I hope that the Sasakawa Peace Foundation will continue to provide its valued support to CAR in order to further enhance the capacity of civil servants and promote development in Cambodia.