

Application for Freedom – Our Responsibility Conference as Young Future Leader



A. Personal Details

1. Name: **Virak** Surname: **Dok**
2. Age: **35 years**
3. Nationality: **Cambodian**
4. Address: **#293A, Phum Chongthnal Khanglech, Sangkat Teuk Thla, Khan Sen Sok, Phnom Penh City, Cambodia.**
5. Application as
 International Leader

B. Background, Motivation, Vision

1. Background

Education: Bachelor's Degree of Sociology at Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2007

Work Experience and Community Involvement

I am now working full time for an NGO as a Morality Teacher. I have volunteered at Initiatives of Change Association (ICA), in other words lofC Cambodia, for almost 9 years. During my voluntary services at lofC, I usually attended the team meetings and helped do the team strategic planning. Secondly, I helped organizing the cross-border dialogue with the neighboring countries, Vietnam and Thailand. Since I was an organizing member, I was the facilitator in morning quiet time and family group and family workshop. I helped organize the third and fourth Cambodia Vietnam Dialogues in 2007 and 2008. I also assisted in organizing the first Cambodian Thai Exchange Program in 2011. Moreover, I conducted fortnightly meeting for old and new lofC members, basically spreading the concepts of the four moral values of lofC and life story sharing. Additionally, I attended some lofC international events and I became the representative of the Cambodian team for

the Asia Pacific Coordination Gathering correspondent. Last but not least, I became the Vice-President of Cambodia lofC in 2011. My term finished and I still keep involving myself with Cambodia lofC.

2. Motivation and Vision

I am now a Morality Teacher for an NGO. The NGO provides free basic vocational skills and morality education and free health check up to poor people. I understood that what I have learned from lofC events are really important tools to change my student's attitudes and behaviors positively. I am willing to learn more new things of lofC from different perspectives, especially from inspiring participants and speakers. I am really curious about Forgiveness and Conciliation on the first day program because our Cambodia Thai Exchange Program is still in the process and I as well as other organizers really want to learn more tools so that we can apply in our cross border programs. I would also love to understand about Peace after Civil War, which I will be able to learn it on the second day of the conference, because Cambodia went into civil war for almost 30 years and I also went through that era. More importantly, Cambodia has just finished the civil war in 1998. Other sessions that attract me are Empowerment and Healing History, which I will be able to learn on the third day of the conference. On the other hand, I am also willing to share my lofC work experience with other participants, especially the healing process I have with my neighboring people, Vietnamese and Thais. All of these are my motivation to attend the conference because they will be able to really help me with my NGO work and my lofC work as well as my future community services.

I have strong commitment to work on healing, the healing between Cambodian people and Cambodian people; the healing between Cambodian people and Vietnamese People and the healing between Cambodian people and Thai people. My vision is to reduce and/or abolish prejudices and discrimination among people of different background and races. I am also expecting to set up a morality and healing center where people can come and have family relationship healing and share their life stories and get morality guidance.

3. How have you showed

.... the ability to excel and to move beyond challenging circumstances

.... any exemplary services to your community,

which are evidence of your potential to effect positive and lasting change?

Recently, I have provided an MBTI (Personality Types) course for Morality to 89 high school students in Prey Veng Province, 91 km far from Phnom Penh, the Capital City. And I am being asked by another high school in that province to provide the same morality course. I have been working with poor people, especially those who live in the slum areas of the suburb of Phnom Penh. They are poor and always rely on assistances from NGOs and development agencies. With the financial supports from the NGOs, I brought them to their slum area and built a wooden house with zinc roof for three very poor families. They started to realize that even if they are poor, they are still able to help the others. I was teaching a Morality and the lesson was "Honesty". In the lesson, I shared my embarrassing story of "how I cheated my former boss in terms of money and how I put it right". After the lesson, two students called home to say sorry and asked for forgiveness; one of them said sorry to his mother and the other said sorry to his grandmother. Both of them stole the money. My continuing voluntary services at IofC Cambodia and my role as a morality teacher in my NGO are other examples for my ability to excel and move beyond challenging circumstances and the exemplary services to the community.

4. What do you expect from the conference as relevant to your current needs?

I expect to equip myself with IofC knowledge from different parts of the world, particularly from the Africans, which I can share then to the people who I am working with and to my friends and family. I also hope to apply them in my daily life and in the IofC work in Cambodia, especially the healing projects we are having with our neighboring countries, Vietnam and Thailand. I believe I will get more inspiration from the speakers and other participants.

5. How do you anticipate nature, scope and impact of your vision over the next 10 years?

In the next ten years, I hope I will have better practical IofC skills and knowledge and I can apply them in my daily life and work – Morality and Healing. I am now undertaking the healing projects with my neighboring countries and I expect that more and more Cambodian people and Vietnamese people as well as Thai people will have more understanding toward each other and will reduce or abolish hatred and prejudice towards each other.