



Keynote Address: Citizenship & Rights

Speaker: Thida Khus, Executive Director of SILAKA



Thida Khus is the Executive Director of SILAKA, an intermediate agency that works to empower the management and administrative capacity of local and public organizations in Cambodia to become viable organizations in the newly formed democratic society. She links organizations and concerned citizens in the movement to campaign against non-violence prior to the 1998 elections in Cambodia. Under her leadership, SILAKA is moving to build local grassroots communities in 2 provinces by strengthening the ability to respond to conflict situations such as destruction of the environment and domestic violence.

She is also an advocate on women issues in the political arena in Phnom Penh. She is coordinator for the Gender and Millennium Development Goals in Cambodia, a project of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Since 1997, she has been active in the field of peace and non-violence in Cambodia. She worked in conjunction with the Dhammyetra Peace Walk started in 1993, when she facilitated group of concerned citizens to advocate for the writing and passing of the most liberal constitution in Asia.

She currently serves as a Board member of 3 local organizations, The Open Forum, Youth For Peace, and Youth Star. She has been appointed as the adviser to the Cambodian National Council of Cambodia in 2005. She was a member of the NGO delegation to the United Nations, when Cambodia presented the country CEDAW report to the CEDAW committee in New York in January 2006.