Mr. Ratha CHAN

(rathachan@hotmail.com)



Being born in the backwater of war-ravaged Cambodia and caught up in the zone of conflicts between the government's and Khmer Rouge's soldiers, I used to pray day and night that angels of peace would knock on the door of this warring country. With the arrival of United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cambodia in 1992–93 and the humanitarian intervention of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), peace was no longer just a dream and a wish.

With the blessings of peace, I was fortunate to have pursued my education abroad— B.A in International Politics and M.A in Diplomacy from Fudan University, M.A. in International Relations focusing on Development and Human Rights Studies from Waseda University, Japan, and Joint M.A in Public Management from École Nationale d'Administration (France) and Royal University of Law and Economics, Cambodia.

At the age of 29, I have been working for United Nations Development Programme in Cambodia as Young Professional Officer concentrating on climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity conservation, and as Human Development Officer concentrating on human capital, human development, and youth and women employment.

Throughout my walk of life, I have suffered from various personal and professional pressures and endured a lot of hardships. However, they are nothing compared to the sufferings of my people from poverty, diseases and illiteracy; just the thoughts of them would give me motivation and courage to continue my journey of peace and development promotion.

A chance to have participated in the Third Youth Peace Ambassador International Training Workshop reaffirmed my conviction that peace and development is within our reach if we treat everyone around us with love, compassion, tolerance, and understanding and treat every little thing with utmost care and positive attitude. May peace and prosperity fall upon mankind!!!!!!