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**CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS**

**April 27 – June 3, 2017**

**BURMA/MYANMAR**

**Ms. Tha Yar Pine**

**Program Coordinator, Mon Women’s Organization**

**Mawlamyine, Mon State**

Tha Yar Pine (given Mon name: Mi Sar Yar Poine) is on the forefront of advocating for and empowering the ethnic minority Mon women. The Mon Women’s Organization (MWO) was established in 1984 to support the needs of women in refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, with a focus on language and cultural preservation and advocating for greater autonomy. The organization has expanded its mission to support economic empowerment, women’s empowerment, and literacy programs. MWO currently runs programs in more than 30 Mon villages. Tha Yar Pine is active in MWO programs to develop networks and empower women. She has engaged in a range of activities, including women’s participation in the peace process, organizing a major peace march in the face of significant government sensitivities, and developing civil society forums. Tha Yar Pine would benefit from a fellowship that would foster her leadership skills so that she is better able to support her multidimensional work with women, peace, community building, and economic empowerment. She has a master’s degree in development studies from the Kimmage Development Studies Centre in Ireland. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Jen Euell, Women’s Foundation of Montana*

**Ms. Seng Moon Ja**

**Program Improvement Manager, Entrepreneurship Development Network Asia Myanmar**

**Yangon**

Seng Moon Ja’s interest is in grassroots empowerment training in the area of social entrepreneurship. In her daily work, she supports local entrepreneurship training, research, and networking. In 2012, she founded the Ring Chying Social Enterprise to provide life skills training to Kachin women living in a refugee camp. As member of the Kachin ethnic minority, she founded Kachin Heritage Guardians in 2015 to engage women and youth in volunteer projects to preserve Kachin heritage. She seeks a fellowship that would allow her to better support daily management of her organization; develop entrepreneurship training and data collection to support this training; and learn to better empower men as a critical aspect of empowering women. Seng Moon Ja earned bachelor degrees in computer science and business in Yangon. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Pamela Haxby-Cote, Butte Local Development Corporation*

**Ms. Htet Htet Aung**

**Program Officer, PACT Myanmar**

**Yangon**

A member of the Rakhine ethnic minority, Htet Htet Aung has a track record in working with civil society organizations and volunteerism. In her current work with PACT, she provides communities with training to better enable them to leverage existing systems and networks to develop health, livelihoods, local governance, and renewable energy. In 2014, she co-founded the Power of Community Organization to further her work to empower rural organizations, primarily working in rural areas in the Rakhine and Kachin states. Htet Htet Aung recognizes that civil society organizations in Myanmar lack capacity in organizational development and management. These organizations largely depend on international funding sources, and many of them are not capable of complying with the strict audit and management procedures required by these funders. She would like to work with a community development organization that will allow her to strengthen her skills in this area. Htet Htet Aung earned a degree in economics from Yangon Distance University and has completed training in New Zealand and Thailand. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Susan Hay Patrick, United Way of Missoula County*

***Alternates:***

**Ms. Khin Zarchi Latt**

**Creative Social Science Teacher, Theik Khar Myanmar Institute**

**Taunggyi, Shan State**

Khin Zarchi Latt is a teacher in an institute created to develop a younger generation of local and grassroots change-makers to undertake civic initiatives in their home communities. She works to provide practical skills to youth from diverse backgrounds through leadership and civic education through film, photography, and storytelling. The two primary classes she teaches are Photography for Social Change and Social Science through Film. Khin Zarchi Latt has just begun managing a local community center where young people can develop their creative skills to address critical issues such as refugees, drugs, and trafficking. In her spare time, she developed a photography program for homeless children to help them tell their stories. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Kia Liszak, Zootown Arts Community Center*

**Ms. Naw Paw Eh**

**Trainer, Youth Circle**

**Yangon**

Naw Paw Eh works to build trust and peace with people from diverse ethnicities and religions in a country that has confronted numerous conflicts, with a focus on youth. She works with youth to help them understand how to address issues of religion and ethnicity in a time and place where these are extremely sensitive issues. Having earned a master’s degree in divinity, and being a member of the Karen ethnic minority, she has conducted peace building training with faith-based communities, with a focus on Karen Christian areas. Naw Paw Eh has also volunteered as a facilitator in the National Level Political Dialogue in the Peace Process of Myanmar on behalf of the Karen National Union. She would like to learn how we in the U.S. discuss sensitive issues with different stakeholders and those with different interests. She would also like to learn how to empower youth to prevent being used by others promoting their own interests*. Proposed Fellowship Partner: Heidi Wallace, EmPower Montana*

**CAMBODIA**

**Mr. To Loeurt**

**Program Manager, Phare Punleu Selpak**

**Battambang**

Phare Ponleu Selpak (PPSA) or “The Brightness of the Arts” is a non-profit Cambodian association improving the lives of marginalized children, young adults, and their families with art schools, educational programs, and social support since 1994. Loeurt has been tasked with redefining organizational strategy to shift the organization’s financing and programs toward sustainability. In the time that he has been at PPSA, he has implemented monitoring and evaluation strategies and assessed program planning and design. He wants to strengthen his skills in organizational management at this critical time for PPSA. Loeurt has worked in community development and youth empowerment for international organizations and the Government of Cambodia since 2003, and earned a master’s degree in development studies from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Terri Elander, Missoula Community Theater*

**Ms. Loem Lida**

**Co-Founder and Head of Facilitators, SHE Investments**

**Phnom Penh**

Lida created SHE Investments with two partners after seeing the need for women in business. Her organization supports female entrepreneurs by providing business training, mentoring, and ongoing support to grow their businesses and thereby create economic and social impact. She currently oversees organizational growth as well as implementation of all programs and training and mentoring women. In addition to those who have attended their training and mentoring programs, SHE Investments has supported more than 50 women entrepreneurs and has a team of six paid staff plus volunteers. In 2011, Lida won Cambodia’s first Indradevie Hope Award for Young Achievers for her volunteer work as a co-founder of Volunteer for Community Development, which engages youth across villages in Siem Reap province to support community service work. Lida seeks to learn from women’s business development mentors to refine her program offerings. She has a bachelor’s degree in economic management from the Cambodia University for Specialties. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Pamela Haxby-Cote, Butte Local Development Corporation*

**Mr. Chhin Vanoeun**

**Senior Sales and Marketing Coordinator, Cambodian Living Arts**

**Phnom Penh**

Between 1975-1979, the Khmer Rouge were responsible for the deaths of an estimated two million Cambodians. Among the dead were 90% percent of Cambodia’s artists, who were specifically targeted for execution. Vanoeun is part of the leadership team of an organization designed to facilitate the transformation of Cambodia through the arts encourage the growth of artists and the arts community. His work to develop sales and marketing strategies are integral to developing the fiscal health of the organization as they work toward sustainability. This is a particularly critical time for the organization as they attempt to achieve profitability by 2020. Vanoeun has an established record of volunteerism for marginalized communities, especially women and youth. He received a scholarship to earn a bachelor’s in social work and political science at the University of Lucknow, India. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Terri Elander, Missoula Community Theater*

***Alternates:***

**Mr. Yeang Donal**

**REDD+ Technical Adviser, Wildlife Conservation Society**

**Phnom Penh**

Donal provides technical support for the development and implementation of the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary REDD+ Demonstration Project, in which carbon credits are sold to Walt Disney and Northern Plains REDD+ initiatives. He also provides technical support to design of the National REDD+ Strategy and to technical working groups comprised of a variety of stakeholders, including academic, international organizations, indigenous peoples, community-based organizations, community forest groups, and the private sector. A critical aspect of his work is engaging with populations affected by changes in wildlife areas. Donal wants to better understand integration of conservation and development concepts and bring innovative ideas to benefit conservation areas in Cambodia. He earned a master’s degree in forest and nature conservations policy at Wageningen University and a master’s degree in agriculture and forestry at the University of Eastern Finland. *Proposed Fellowship Partner: Scott Mills, University of Montana, Research for Global Change and Sustainability*

**Mr. Rim Rem**

**Project Coordinator, Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association**

**Phnom Penh**

Spending 90 percent of his time in the field working with indigenous groups, Rem promotes empowerment of indigenous youth in land management and human rights. A member of the Kui indigenous group from Kampong Thom province, he has experience in communication through media and film as a volunteer with the Support Children and Youth Organization and a journalist with Voice of Democracy Radio. He would like to learn from advocacy organization to refine his field strategies and training. Rem has a bachelor’s degree in English literature and education. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Heidi Wallace, EmPower Montana*

**LAOS**

**Mr. Athidxay Bouandaoheuang**

**Director, DOKLAO Media Center**

**Vientiane**

Through his work as a filmmaker, and now as a facilitator of media education in rural areas, Athidxay has come to value the power of independent media as a platform for education. Working primarily with youth, he places great emphasis on using what he calls "meaningful media" to give younger generations, rural communities and other underserved populations a voice. He is also working to bring environmental focus to his media endeavors. During his time studying documentary film production at Deer Park Institute in India, Athidxay created an educational film on waste management, and he has overseen the Vientiane science film festival since 2009. Now working directly with 20 Lao youth, he recognizes the need to incorporate more social media into their storytelling campaigns and owns that he needs help developing his skills in this area. The Professional Fellows Program will give Athidxay the opportunity to exchanged professional teaching techniques with independent media producers in the United States. He will also be able to learn more about social media use in campaigns for social and environmental change, and he will see its impact in a country where politics and the platform are becoming inextricably linked. Athidxay has a background in computer engineering, graphic design, radio broadcasting and filmmaking.*Proposed Fellowship Partner: Mike Steinberg, Roxy Theater*

**Ms. Bouavanh Manichanh**

**Trainer and advisor, CARE International**

**Meuang Khua, Phongsaly Province**

Going to school was never something Bouavanh's family imagined for their daughter, as education is not a priority for women in the Akha village where she grew up. But at the age of 13, Bouavanh convinced her family it was time to let her go to school. From there, she became one of the first women in her village to receive a high school education and then went on to receive a diploma in nursing from Luang Prabang's public health school. Now, while working primarily to improve women's and children's health across rural Laos--her passion remains in helping women advance themselves beyond the traditional roles of domestic work. She seeks to empower the women in her ethnic group by promoting education, women's voices, and attempting to decrease gender-based violence. Her organization, CARE, currently works with over 60 villages on various issues from health care and rural development, to climate change adaptation. Bouavanh's goal is to also begin working within each community to create a community space for women to share their thoughts and concerns, while also talking with men about promoting gender equality. She sees the empowerment of women as inextricably linked to all other issues CARE is tackling. Bouavanh wants to be a "model woman" in her work, showing other Akha women that they, too, can shape their own destiny. She wants to learn how organizations in the United States work to end cycles of oppression with minority groups and women, and how survivors of domestic violence are supported as they seek to redefine their lives. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Jen Euell, Women’s Foundation of Montana*

**Ms. Photsavang Latdamone**

**Analyst, Emerging Markets Consulting**

**Volunteer, Hmong Sisterhood**

**Vientiane**

Photsavang breaks the mold: she is a woman outside of the Hmong ethnic minority group--whose main concern is helping women within that group to advance themselves. Photsavang was raised in a village that is 50 percent Hmong and she remembers her parents telling her that she was lucky not to be born a woman in the minority group. As she grew up, she began to notice that her Hmong friends would never have time to play, as they were always overwhelmed with household chores and family duties. What she saw made a big impact and left her with the desire to do something to help the women around her lead better lives. Recently, Photsavang worked on a rural development project through Oxfam called VOICE of Laos, which focused on understanding the daily challenges faced by those with disabilities, members of the LGBTI community, women and minority groups. Now, Photsavang wants to work to empower Hmong women through education, business training and market support for traditional handicrafts. She seeks to learn techniques for serving marginalized populations, women's empowerment, management training, and the opportunity to network with other professionals working on similar empowerment projects in Southeast Asia. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Pamela Haxby-Cote, Butte Local Development Corporation*

***Alternates:***

**Mr. Chasy Somwhang**

**Project Education Officer, Save the Children International**

**Phonthong District, Luang Prabang Province**

Chasy knows that the sooner children are taught to love learning, the better chances they will have of success later in life--financially, in education, and in civic involvement. Currently, there are very few resources to support early childhood education in Luang Prabang and Chasy is concerned with raising the overall quality of and access to education for primary students. His approach is three-fold, focused on teacher development, parent engagement, and girls' empowerment. Teachers are often undertrained, and while Save the Children works to bring in outside experts from places like the United States, France and Britain, Chasy would like to develop a less-dependent model that will be sustainable for years to come. Additionally, he is working to help parents understand the value of education not only for all of their children, but especially for their girls. Women, he says, reinvest in their families, which ultimately leads to reinvesting in their communities. In his own ethnic group, the Hmong minority, Chasy sees very little access to education for girls and he links that to other hardships faced by his people. Chasy wants to learn training techniques for teachers and more project-management skills to help his organization have long-term viability. He will also learn techniques for parent engagement in early childhood education. He holds a bachelor's degree in English Teaching for Lower Secondary Students from the Teacher Training College in Luang Probang Province. *Proposed Fellowship Partner: Missoula County Public Schools*

**Ms. Bounyouang Oudomphone**

**Co-Director, A-House Project**

**Vientiane**

There is a distinct lack of support for the arts within Bounyouang's community, and that's why she helped found the A-House Project last year -- a space for artists to work, network, and interact with the community. The project pairs a health-conscious cafe with studio space that allows for artists to get a foothold and build their presence in Laos. The A-House Project also seeks to be a place of networking for local artists to support one another, along with offering trainings, market-testing and showcase opportunities. Bounyouang believes that when art is supported and allowed to thrive, it can play a big role in community development by offering a creative outlet for people to express opinions, to grow through shared experiences, and to build community pride. The project is still in its infancy and is in a critical period of needing management support. Bounyouang was to develop her organizational and promotional skills, learn more about supporting start-up artists and how to build her project into a successful social enterprise. She holds a bachelor's degree in Architecture from the National University of Laos, is trained in graphic design, and has attended several trainings on children's and women's rights. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Kia Liszak, Zootown Community Arts Center*

**THAILAND**

**Ms. Waritsara Rungthong**

**Development and ASEAN Focus Coordinator, Center for Asylum Protection**

**Bangkok**

Waritsara serves as a legal advisor providing services to urban refugees, including legal advice and training workshops. She is also involved in advocacy work related to refugee issues. Waritsara sees a problem of prevailing negative attitudes in Thai society toward refugees that make it difficult for them to prevail in the legal system as well as to obtain medical care. She is particularly interested in learning how to better inspire youth to become engaged human rights issues. Waritsara has a degree in law. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Eduardo Capulong, Alexander Blewett III School of Law*

**Ms. Rohanee Juenara**

**Editorial Staff, Deep South Watch**

**Pattani**

Rohanee runs an information center in a think tank attached to Prince Songkla University where she supports civil society organizations engaged in peace building in the deep south of Thailand. She also works to gain global attention for this conflict, in which more than 6,000 people have been killed and more than 12,000 injured over the past 12 years. Rohanee has been involved in the conflict for many years, starting with her volunteer work to support families who have experienced killed or disappeared family members. As a student activist at the Prince Songkla University in Pattani, she survived a situation where many students fled or were arrested. She is currently completing a master’s degree on conflict management and peace studies. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Innocence Project*

**Ms. Raweeporn Dokmai**

**Coordinator, Labor Law Clinic, Human Rights Development Foundation**

**Maesot**

Working on the border of Thailand and Myanmar, Raweeporn coordinates trainings to support organizations involved in migrant worker rights, with a focus on procuring documentation. She herself has received training in Democracy School and Good Governance, and has a strong commitment to the development of human rights. Her past volunteer work includes teaching English and Thai to migrant youth and women in refugee camps. Raweeporn earned a bachelor’s degree in Thai studies at Chiang Mai University. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Eduardo Capulong, Alexander Blewett III School of Law*

***Alternate:***

**Mr. Mongkon Duangkhiew**

**Director, Young Farmer Project, Alternative Agriculture Network**

**Chiang Mai**

Mongkon works to support young farmers – primarily in Thailand but in a growing network across ASEAN – to develop and protect their livelihoods through increasing use of social media and television news programming. He leads a team that provides technical advice on such issues as organic farming, food processing, and composting and planting, while also providing a network for mentoring and support. Mongkon has developed a demonstration project in his home community to inspire others with his proven results in organic farming. He also works with older farmers to eliminate pesticides and develop seed banks. He holds a degree in agriculture. *Proposed Fellowship Partner: Community Food and Agriculture Coalition*

**VIETNAM**

**Mr. Nguyen Hoang Viet**

**Founder and Director, DreamDo Education and Communications Company Limited**

**Hanoi**

Viet founded the startup company DreamDo Education and Communications with the goal of merging tourism and environmental education for youth in Vietnam. He believes that urban youth in particular are disengaged from the natural world and as a result are less concerned with environmental protection and conservation. By creating education-based trips for youth to nature sanctuaries, local parks and rural areas, Viet is providing hands-on opportunities for children and their families to learn about biodiversity, environmental protection, and traditional values through responsible tourism. The company, less than two years old, is built upon Viet’s successful volunteer program of five years, which brings libraries to rural areas, and his YSEALI Seed for the Future grant project, "iTeach", which focuses on increasing education opportunities for rural youth in the Philippines. Now that he has transitioned into the business sector, Viet recognizes his need to learn better management and organization skills. He seeks to learn how to successfully partner with national parks and local environmental organizations, while also building a sustainable business model. While he currently runs his business as a for-profit tourism company with a staff of 20, he is hoping to build up enough financial stability to expand his operation to include youth from poorer communities through scholarships--a model he hopes to learn more about with a U.S. partner. Mr. Nguyen has a bachelor’s degree in Mathematical Finance from the National Economics University. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Scott Pankratz, Ecology Project International*

**Ms. Ngo Thi Phuong Thao**

**Project Coordinator, Center for Development of Community Initiative and Environment**

**Hanoi**

Thao is actively working to make her vision of eco-living, where humans and nature live in harmony, a reality. Currently, Thao’s work with the Center for Development of Community Initiative and Environment (C&E) is focused on youth education in the field of environment. C&E works to engage local communities in environmental projects that are directly related to their everyday lives, supporting sustainable civil society development. Thao works specifically with youth through C&E, creating education opportunities in the field and building a network of environmentally-focused young leaders in Vietnam. Beyond her daily work, the self-described youth leader initiated a project in 2015 called Finding Eco, where she organized activities and conducted research to provide trainings on ecologically friendly lifestyles. The project has received international attention and inspired many spin-off projects in local communities. Thao’s main goal now is to work on long-term solutions that are specific to each community's needs as Vietnam moves into a middle-income classification and foreign funding decreases. Her goal is to foster self-sustaining projects to create more green, urban environments. To help with this goal, Thao wants hands-on experience with environmentally-focused community developers in the United States who can offer knowledge regarding community engagement, methods for long-term sustainability and more insight on how to develop a strong environmental network across borders. Ms. Ngo has a bachelor’s degree in Natural Resources Management and Biology. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Scott Pankratz,* *Ecology Project International*

**Mr. Le Nguyen Duy Hau**

**Co-Founder, The Independent Human Rights Advisors**

**Ho Chi Minh City**

Hau considers himself a human rights educator. With a bachelor’s in law and a master’s degree in finance law from Frankfurt, Germany, he gave up his practice in private law to co-found a local human rights NGO, the first in southern Vietnam. His organization focuses on educating the public about their rights and universal values for youth. In addition, Hau’s organization advises social activists on law and policy. He volunteers his time for the Human Rights Space, a network of human rights defenders and activists in Vietnam. Hau is new to advocacy work and would like to gain skills in management to strengthen his organization and advise similar NGOs in Vietnam. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Innocence Project*

**Ms. Nguyen Thị Thu Thao**

**Project Officer, Global Ventures, Inc.**

**Hanoi**

Making orphans feel confident, important and capable is what Thao does best. She has been working with Global Ventures, Inc. to facilitate music, photography, leadership and sexual health classes, among other life skills, for orphans in and around Hanoi. Thao’s passion and commitment is obvious, but she lacks the leadership skills she needs to progress beyond her role of logistics planning to effect more positive change. While her organization works closely with American experts on a monthly basis, the experts are focused on project development for the orphans and not as much on helping the staff foster their personal skills to lead, facilitate, and strengthen their organization. Thao looks forward for the opportunity to learn to not only how to foster her personal leadership and management skills, but to also develop the skills of her staff upon her return. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Susan Hay Patrick, United Way of Missoula County*

***Alternates:***

**Mr. Nguyen Khac Giang**

**Political Researcher, Vietnam Institute for Economic and Policy Research (VIEPR)**

**Hanoi**

To have successful advocacy, we must first have adequate knowledge on the issue at hand--so believes Giang, who recently transitioned out of full time journalism work to devote himself to political research. Giang and his organization walk a delicate line in Vietnam. As a researcher, Giang prides himself on being unbiased and fair to the facts, but must also find collaborative way to work with the government and media. He also wants to learn how to fund his work without compromising his organization’s independence and integrity. Giang wants to learn from an independent research organization to learn how they fundraise, maintain their integrity, and how they tackle sensitive topics within the community. Giang holds a master's degree in Journalism, Media and Globalization from the City University London and Aarhus University, UK and Denmark. *Proposed Fellowship Partner: University of Montana*

**Ms. Phan Tran Kieu Trang**

**Lecturer/Executive of Research and Development Department, Urban Designer, Danang Architecture University (DAU)**

**Da Nang**

In the three years she has been at Danang Architecture University, Trang has proved to be adept at getting her students out of the classroom and into the community. The lecturer and urban designer founded the "Kicodo--Architecture for Community" club in June 2015, which connects architecture and design students with their real-world clients in the community. In Danang, Trang and her students have so far designed and built 15 playgrounds, four organic gardens at local kindergarten and elementary schools, and three community parks. The club won second place in the Charlotte Peace Designer competition sponsored by UN Habitat and Lotte Department. Trang is looking for ways to develop more hands-on learning opportunities for the 5,000+ students who attend DAU, focused on sustainable civil society development and environmental awareness. She is eager for the opportunity to learn from the experiential education models employed by school systems in Montana, as well as more information on how to encourage and develop service-learning opportunities. Trang earned a master's in urban design from Queensland University of Technology in 2013. *Potential Fellowship Partner: Montana State University*