

Our first Clean Water for Healthy Communities in Cambodia Scholarships Granted

Through a generous donation from the Still Point Foundation in the United States, up to ten civil society practitioners working in and with communities in Cambodia on access to clean drinking water will receive substantial scholarships for participation in the Collective Leadership Institute’s Art of Stakeholder Collaboration 1 course in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 11-14 October 2017. By building stakeholder dialogue and collaboration capacity among scholarship recipients, the aim is to improve the health of children and families, making for a better quality of community life.

We are pleased to profile two of our first scholarship recipients, while emphasizing that three scholarships remain. [Applications are being considered in the order they are received.](#)

Sarong Vit-Kory and Mai Sieng, who work with WaterSHED Cambodia, were among our first scholarship recipients. The organization’s mission is to “...engage local enterprises and government in the development of sustainable market-based approaches that empower households to be active and informed consumers of water, sanitation, and hygiene products and services.” Regarding past successes, Sarong writes that the “...159 active local sanitation enterprises that are supported by our Sanitation Marketing Program [in Cambodia]... have sold over 100,000 toilets — reaching beyond our goal for improving clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.” Mai adds that “...our social enterprises [also] sell Ceramic Water Purifiers for drinking water, as well as our unique hand-washing station, to rural Cambodians.”



On 22 June 2017 Sarong Vit-Kory (left picture) and Mai Sieng (right) conducted a workshop on “Cambodia’s Rural Sanitation and Hygiene sub-sector Convening for Collective Action”

In terms of emerging work, Sarong informs us that WaterSHED recently secured funding for an initiative that will support Cambodia in reaching its national plan of improving WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) services by 2025. This initiative requires “cross-sector collaboration from governments, organizations, and private sector businesses to realize a new agenda...” Regarding anticipated benefits from participation in CLI’s Art of Stakeholder Collaboration 1 course, Sarong says that “Our team at WaterSHED is keen on understanding how the Dialogic Change Model and other

#SDGs :  
(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)



tools for fostering better engagement can be of use to our new initiative and the overall WASH endeavour. As we are tasked to bring various key players in the sector together, we are intrigued to explore new strategies and methodologies to forge successful collaborations.”

Mai is WaterSHED’s Project Coordinator for its Women’s Empowerment Program, which aims “to get more women engaged in the WASH market as business leaders, educators, and informed consumers.” She states that “Less than 1/3 of promotional agents for WASH products are women, even though women, as primary caregivers, are often responsible for household WASH activities.” Mai also coordinates the “WEwork Collective,” a skills training and mentorship program made up of 300 rural women to improve their productivity and decision-making power. The program helps build a female sales force for products like the Ceramic Water Purifiers.

Regarding anticipated benefits from the course, Mai says that: “The course could support the development and implementation of my project because we can learn more how collective intelligence, commitment, and ownership can emerge and how we can develop new engagement strategies and a methodology to create sustainable partnerships.”

CLI is very much looking forward to having Sarong and Mai, as well as all scholarship recipients and their partners, in our upcoming course. In the months following the course, be sure to read our newsletters to hear from Sarong, Mai, and others about how they applied learned methodologies and approaches to stakeholder challenges on the ground for improving access to clean water for healthy communities in Cambodia!

Finally, we encourage those with means to make a donation to CLI to design similar scholarship programs and/or partnerships for building capacity for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Please contact Dominic Stucker dominic.stucker@collectiveleadership.com to discuss this further and read this IISD article by CLI founder Petra Kuenkel on [Collaboration in Action: From Supporting Projects to Funding Partnerships](#).



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Learn more and apply for our scholarship: <http://www.collectiveleadership.de/apex/cli/building-competence/courses-programmes/open-courses/the-art-of-stakeholder-collaboration-1/a-scholarship-for-supporting-clean-water-for-healthy-communities-in-cambodia/>