



Hua HEANG

Hi my name is HEANG Hua. Now I'm 25 year old. I would love to tell you all about my life at university and my future plan. I will start with now. So at the moment am Year 3 of studying Architecture design at Norton University in Phnom Penh City. So the things that I really love more at my study is Architecture Design. This subject can make me know a lot about the Architecture and help me how to use AutoCAD SketchUp correctly and also know about Render using with V-ray and doing animation with Lumion. I am proud of my studies and my results. I have create many model and pass my Year 1 and Year 2 with very good results.

In the future I want to be the best Architect I can be and design great buildings in my country. I want to work hard and save some money to open my own team working in Architecture in Siem Reap so I can be close to my family, and I want help back to poor people in my country.

Something interesting about my past is when I was a kid I won a medal at the National Bokator (Cambodian Traditional Martial Art) Championships and I was also a stunt actor in Angelina Jolie film called First They Killed My Father. I am a founding member of youth humanitarian group Gecko Action who help give back to our community and help and care for poor people and our environment.

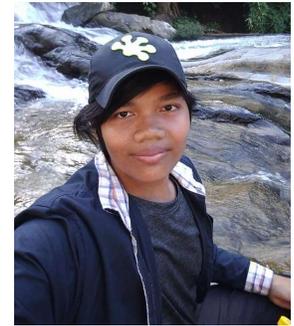
In my family I have 2 bothers and 1 sister and I am the second brother. I was born into a poor family, my father has died now but he was blind and my mother never had the opportunity for education. As a family we used to begging on the street to survive.

In 2006 all our lives change when we find Green Gecko NGO that help street kids and their families by give lots of love care and support. They grow me form a kid that don't know anything to a kid that can dream and think and make my own decisions. Gecko have taught me how to be a good role model and find solutions to any problem that come in our lives. They have taught me to be a strong person and to challenge myself and to be kind. They helped me though education by sending to a good school and good quality. I have been in Gecko for 16 years now .

If I don't have Gecko now I would not have the education and guidance to have this day. My family would still be begging on the street for money. I would not have met beautiful people like Trudy and Russell who have give me this amazing opportunity to travel and learn from high professional people in Australia.

I feel excited and I promise to study and learn more as I can so I can bring my knowledge back to my country Cambodia.

Thank you for reading my story.



So Khim CHRAI

My name is Chrai So Khim, you can call me Khim. I'm studying architecture at the Royal University of Fine Art in Phnom Penh where I won a Government scholarship because of my high grades at school. About this course I love how to create a new building with thought to the people inside them. I am really happy to one day be an architect that I can help other people to create the best and most comfortable home for them to live.

I enjoy my study and I get good scores and I will try to keep trying my best.

A little story about my life before I become member of Green Gecko family. In my birth family there are 6 siblings, I am second young one. My father leave my mum with small 6 children and no land to grow rice and no food and we can't go to school. No one in my family can read or write. My mum and siblings has to go out picked empty can on the rubbish mountain in Phnom Penh. This is where I have my bad accident that change my life. In that accident I completely lost my leg and my ability to go to the toilet like normal people.

I joined Green Gecko in 2005 but then my brother in law take me out and make me beg on the street from 1 pm to 3 am every days. I used to see Tania all the time at the coffee shop I beg at and she tell me Khim one day when you have enough you can tell me and we will do something about it. I used to pretend everything was ok but I was not. I was sad and so hot and shame. The time come one day that I call Tania out of the coffee shop and I say to her those words I HAVE ENOUGH. Then she do what she promise. From that day I not go back to my brother in law and I move in with Green Gecko.

Green Gecko help me stop begging and start school and she even take me to the hospital for an operation so now I toilet like normal people. I was so happy to go to finally go to school that I was always in the top 3 of every grade. I am proud of my self for finished school and be the first person in my family to finish National High School. To go to University was something I could only dream about before but now it is come true.

Gecko teach me that I can go forward and follow my dream. They always share some love and support and teach me to help other people. I am proud I be able to help community pick rubbish, share some love foods clothes to poor people's, teaching little kids in poor and old school. Gecko change me from beggar kid with no help and now I became an architect student can you believe it.

I am so thanking Trudy and Russell for invite me to Australia so I can see the International standards of Architecture. I am very excited about this opportunity and I will work hard to keep be the best I can be.