

Introducing Select Alumni from Cambodia



13 representatives of the Classes 2006-2018

Total 93 Alumni: 1999-2021

IUJ

International University of Japan
国際大学



Dr. Vannarith Chheang
2006



Dr. Channary Khun
2006



Mr. Rotha Chan
2009



Mr. Sok Heng Lay
2009



Mr. Fadane Khim
2012



Mr. SophaLang
2012



Mr. Raksmeay Uch
2012



Mr. Bith Chankhan
2013



Mr. Potheary Lim
2016



Mr. Kumpina Suos
2017



Ms. Sopha Che
2017



Ms. Lark Kong
2018



Dr. Vannarith Chheang President, Asian Vision Institute



Class of 2006
MA, International Relations
Thesis: Cambodia, From Killing Fields to a Court of Justice: Challenges Ahead

“IUJ is the place for self-transformation.”

What are you doing now?

I am a think tanker and policy communicator. My main duties are building national and international partnerships, drafting policy recommendations, and developing and implementing risk analysis, social innovation, and leadership development projects. I participate in many ASEAN policy events, and host many ideas exchange events at AVI.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

I wanted to study international relations in an international setting where the topics we were learning meant something very personal to someone I was studying with. IUJ, with people from every part of the world, gave me such connection to what we were learning in the classroom.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

My worldview and leadership vision was shaped by my learning experience at IUJ where I was exposed to the international learning environment and quality education. IUJ provided a unique opportunity for me to have deep reflections and social learning- getting to know myself better, connecting with friends from various parts of the world, and immersing myself in nature. My colleagues from throughout ASEAN, specifically, help me to understand issues with Cambodia’s neighbors in mind for a good balance in policy development.



Speaking at the December 2021 summit for ASEAN Chairmanship 2022 kick off event with Cambodia taking the lead for ASEAN.



Answering questions from the press regarding Cambodia’s chairing of ASEAN in 2022

Dr. Channary Khun, Consultant, International Fund for Agriculture Development



Class of 2006
MA, International Development
Thesis: *Foreign Direct Investment and China's Intra-industry Trade*

“IUJ was like a home away from home.”

What are you doing now?

I am working on a research project for the **International Fund for Agriculture Development** using the Cambodia inter-censal agricultural survey generated under the 50x2030 Initiative. The study attempts to understand key challenges in Cambodian rice sector by analyzing factors contributing to land productivity and investigating how productivity impacts agricultural commercialization. The goal is to provide a new perspective on potential policies and reforms.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

Before I set foot in the IUJ campus, I was mainly interested in the International Development program it offers and the diversity of international students living and studying there. However, after being on campus for a few months, I realized that IUJ offers something more precious: a tight-knit community of students from Cambodia and all over the world. The memory of group study cramming for exams, of organizing culture events, of learning to ski in the winter, of hiking in the fall, of seeing tulips and Sakura in the spring, and of barbecuing by the riverside in the summer always brings back lots of joy.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

The respected credential and the invaluable training that I received from IUJ enabled me to obtain a teaching job at Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia right after returning to Cambodia. IUJ has also instilled in me the love for research and equipped me with necessary skills to do so. With two years of teaching experience and the research ability attained from IUJ, I was able to secure a Fulbright Scholarship and successfully completed my doctorate study in the U.S.



MA, IUJ in 2006 and PhD Southern Illinois University, Carbondale in 2013



Channary's consulting firm logo

Mr. Rotha Chan

CEO, FW Life Insurance



Class of 2009

MA, International Relations

Thesis: *Local Governance in Cambodia's Decentralization Era: Prospect and Challenges*

“IUJ: the place that profoundly transformed me into the person I am today.”

What are you doing now?

I am the Chief Executive Officer of FWD Insurance, a digital life insurance company in Cambodia which is the 10th market location for the FWD Group. The firm is making life insurance friendly and available to the people of Cambodia. We are proud to have won the Most Innovative New Digital Insurer award in 2021.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

I chose IUJ because its location is favorable for a focus on learning and research. Her tranquility was great for my nature: serious to learn. English is the medium of education. IUJ offers next-in-class quality faculty and curriculum supported by abundant resources. Equally important, I was very fond of the fact that all students resided in the campus, which to me was a once-in-a-life-time chance for real global network building.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

I developed a close professional and personal network with the Japanese and international community which is hugely important to my career journey. Partly I have been shaped by the Japanese way of life and working, which I am very proud of, and which is helping me succeed as a CEO.



Rotha with his company teammates celebrating at their company front entrance.



Rotha speaking in a staff town hall.

Dr. Sok Heng Lay

Deputy Director, Economic Research and International Cooperation Department, National Bank of Cambodia (Central Bank)



Class of 2009
MA, International Development
Thesis: *Exchange Rate Movements in a Dollarized Economy: The Case of Cambodia*

“IUJ changed the way I think and changed my life.”

What are you doing now?

I work with the growing teams within the research and financial stability divisions to provide analytical, forecasting and special research projects support in order to produce various economic reports. The research output and recommendation are mainly used to support policy decisions of the monetary and financial stability committees of the central bank.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

I chose IUJ for two reasons: First, Japanese language is not required in the class. Indeed, I did not speak Japanese, so I felt that I could focus on my core subject well without worrying about the language; while spending time in extra Japanese class for communication purposes only.

Second, I learned through the website that IUJ is a small university but with students from different parts of the world, so I believe that it is a chance for me to make more friends. Of course, everything went as expected and I truly believe that I made the right decision!

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

Before going to IUJ, I was working in a private company but after IUJ, my thinking and career path changed. I was trained with research and analytical skills. IUJ had equipped me with a good understanding and analyses on global economic issues. On top of that, I had a chance to improve my communication skills through interaction with friends from diverse backgrounds across the globe. More importantly, I completed a PhD in the same field because I was motivated by skills and experience from IUJ.



Presenting during the National Bank's annual Macroeconomic Conference, 2017



Receiving an Award for the Japan Foreign Trade Council (JFTC) essay competition 2017





Mr. Fadane KHIM

Director, Department of Debt Management,
General Department of International
Cooperation and Debt Management,
Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia



Class of 2012
MA, Public Management and Policy Analysis
Thesis: *Was the School Feeding Program
Effective? Evidence from Cambodia Demographic
and Health Survey 2010*

“IUJ is a land of endless opportunity.”

What are you doing now?

I professionally have involved several core duties and contributions in relation to preparation and monitoring the implementation of strategic and legal documents related to public debt management. I am also the Secretariat Head of Technical Working Group who jointly leads the preparation and coordination of Policy Framework for the Development of Government Securities, rules and regulations for managing the first-time government securities issuance in Cambodia.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

I learned about IUJ through my family members who also holds masters degrees from the school. Hearing first hand about their education challenges and achievements, seeing their enthusiasm when talking about IUJ, and knowing how their IUJ experienced opened up opportunities for them, motivated me to follow in their footsteps. It was the right decision.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

IUJ helped me to explore a unique, refreshing, and incredibly exciting side of the world which helped me to grow professionally and gain cultural and international experience in a non-traditional way. Study in IUJ is an impressive part of my resume to open up employment opportunities and to be able to facilitate domestic and international project coordination. The challenging course work, though tough, tooled me with the skills and confidence to be a finance professional for my country.



Presenting MEF Database for Official Statistics.



In the field to examine aqua-business opportunities and challenges.

Mr. Sophal Lang

Head of Procurement, Tboung Khmum
Provincial Administration, Cambodia



Class of 2012

MA, Public Management and Policy Analysis

Thesis: *Does Poverty Matter for Intergovernmental Transfers to Local Governments? Evidence from Cambodia*

“IUJ has changed my life into a real and professional working style.”

What are you doing now?

I work on investment planning and provincial development planning with elected councilors and the governor to keep my province on a good development track. In this way I am very instrumental in assisting my people to restore their daily income, improve road for transport of agricultural products to market, compete with other cities for developed and clean city conditions, all with a focus on developing the provincial economy.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

IUJ is a unique university with a campus full of international students and professors all improving our mutual communication skills, sharing professional careers, developing our soft skills, learning from high quality professors in international research and from high ranking Japanese companies.

Two years at IUJ gave me many new daily experience of learning to cope with different cultural friends, foods, and communications – we may learn more outside the classroom than in.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

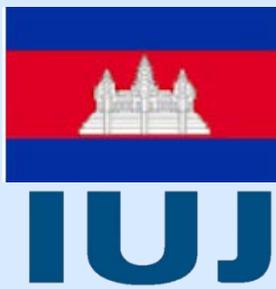
Cross-culture communication experiences at IUJ taught me tolerance and acceptance of differences. This lesson extends to leadership styles: when our colleagues have many different ideas we discuss together openly and, in the end whatever our leader decides we need to comply and find a way to reach our goal together. We practice this daily at IUJ to become effective global leaders.



Supporting at an infrastructure worksite



Receiving a top 3 Cambodian government medal, Mahasena



Mr. Raksmeay Uch

Section Chief, Economic Research and International Cooperation Department, National Bank of Cambodia (Central Bank)



Class of 2012

MA Public Management and Policy Analysis

Thesis: *Currency in Circulation and the Currency Substitute Instruments in a Highly Dollarized Economy: The Case of Cambodia*

“IUJ: The university of new opportunities.”

What are you doing now?

I am working for the National Bank of Cambodia, Economic Research and International Cooperation Department. My team and I monitor, assess, and report to management on the macroeconomic status and financial soundness of Cambodia.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

The quality and credibility of IUJ became well-known to me and lots of friends in my office. People would say things like “if you really want to learn, apply to IUJ because IUJ’s environment is very suitable for you to get to concentrate on your studies.”

The rumor became a reality when I started my study life at IUJ. The study environment, which includes the beautiful location of the campus and the presence of international students who come from different parts of world, create a very challenging, but interesting study environment.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

After two years at IUJ, I had gained lots of knowledge and new insight related to public management such as policy modeling and budgeting. This program also provides other core courses relate to economic fundamentals that add more value to my job as a researcher in economics and finance fields. In IUJ, I learned not only from the courses that could enhance my skills and knowledge but also how to work on a team with various classmates who have different cultures and beliefs.



The certificate awarded by the Nepal Nastra Bank Governor in joining the Southeast ASEAN Central Bank Course on Economic Modeling



Survey team: conducting a survey on Dollarization in Cambodia.





Mr. Bith Chankhan, Chief of Procurement Office, Administration and Finance Division, National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development



Class of 2013
MA, Public Management and Policy
Thesis: *The Effect of Commune/Sangkat*
Fund on Education Outcomes in
Cambodia

“IUJ! A good place to learn, a hub for global networking, and the best place for lifetime memories.”

What are you doing now?

NCDDS is a governmental institution body that initiates and drafts policies, legal documents, etc. that relate to Decentralization and De-concentration. As chief of the procurement office, I helped develop of a 10 year-National Program Phase 2 (2021 to 2030) and actively implemented National Program phase 1 which accomplished remarkable achievements for Cambodia. Successful reforms include functional transfer at Sub-National Administration, public service delivery for local citizens, a dramatic reduction in poverty rates, and improvements in local economic development. Beside this, I am a member of Cambodian Nutrition Project, which is funded by World Bank and focuses on the health of children and their mothers.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

IUJ is one of the famous universities in the world. The school is the place where many students around the world come to live and learn together. It is designed just like a second home for every student and professor. Beside the hectic class assignments, students have time to socialize, play various sports, and do other activities. Many leaders, government officers and successful businessmen have graduated from IUJ. In term of academic programs, IUJ has great and responsive curriculum which relates to student careers, experienced and helpful professors, and of course good environment for study. Therefore, there is no doubt for me to choose IUJ.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

IUJ’s large library is equipped with so many books making it useful for research and professional career development. Besides sharing knowledge with students, all professors treat their students like brothers, sisters and friends. They provide advices and guidance for a successful academic journey. After I graduated, I joined NCDDS and could immediately apply at work. Knowledge from nearly all the core courses and elective courses



Participating in policy discussions for NCDDS



Receiving medal for service to the Royal Government of Cambodia

Mr. Potheary Lim

Director, Training Department, National School of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior



Class of 2016

MA, Public Management and Policy Analysis

Thesis: *How do the Key Local Actors Affect the Implementation of One Window Service Office? A Case Study in Khan Dangkor, Cambodia*

“IUJ is my passport to future success.”

What are you doing now?

As I am a director of the training department, I have an opportunity to involved actively in creating manuals for training with other professionals and my management in areas of effective and compliant public administration and then deliver that training to all sub-national officials ranging from provincial/capital governors to staff.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

IUJ is great: it is a good place for study and to make friend along with helpful staff and professors. It comes with the exposure to Japanese culture: hard working, responsible, punctual, etc. which I thought would later help my career – and it is!

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

IUJ equipped me with knowledge related to public management, local administration, and other related fields in the public sector as well as promoting the commitment toward assigned tasks. These help me a lot for my professional career now.



Speaking at a training session



Accepting the promotion to the Ministry's directorship for the training department

Mr. Suos Kumpina

Deputy Chief of Section, Procurement
Department, Electricity of Cambodia (EDC)



Class of 2017

MBA,

Thesis: *The Study on the Procurement Management Strategy for Electricity of Cambodia (EDC): A Stope Framework Analysis with AHP*

“IUJ can mean “I and U in Jail” but to me it is a paradise for studying.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

At IUJ I could can develop my knowledge and language skills in a very international setting. I also enhanced my abilities to manage and guide diverse groups effectively. This helps me educate not only my family to be more open minded ad effective in leadership roles, but also the staff at my work place!



How did the IUJ experience support your career?

Personally, I learned so much about the beautiful country of Japan with its modern technologies, historic sites, and delicious food. I also learned about the world through studying with friends from over 50 countries. It is hard to put in words what this all means to my self development. But because of it, I am contributing not only knowledge but soft skills to make my institute in Cambodia a better place. I also have good communication skills with Japanese consultants and contractors, and with diverse professionals from other development organizations – skills made possible from IUJ campus life and the cross cultural communication daily practice.

What are you doing now?

I work on procurement initiatives with ADB, JICA, AFD, and KfW. I review the bidding documents, and contract managements. Moreover, I review and respond to the donors on the procurement procedures and follow the international guidelines (FIDIC). I share my experiences with my young generation at workplace extending my IUJ education to them.



At EDC work station



At EDC project site with junior staff.

Ms. Sokha Che, Tax Official, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cambodia



Class of 2017

MA, Public Management and Policy Analysis

Thesis: *Dress versus Suit or Dress and Suit? Partnership Building beyond the Dichotomy of Passive and Active Representation at the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Cambodia*

“IUJ – A gravity of opportunities to make differences in lives.”

What are you doing now?

As an official at the Tax Policy Bureau of the General Department of Taxation, my main responsibilities include reviewing the tax exemption request by taxpayers and coordinating with relevant tax units for reporting the progress implementation and development of tax policy documents. I contribute to the implementation of the revenue mobilization strategy leading to the high revenue collection performance for the government.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

IUJ truly matched my institution’s demand for skills development in staff in areas of public management and policy analysis. I appreciated the well-designed course curriculum, very professional and resourceful faculty members, a diversity of student body, a majestic campus with snow and mountains, a global network, and the adaptation of a cross cultural communication.



How did the IUJ experience support your career?

My current duties are making the best use of the core courses and electives from IUJ which enable me to provide input on the tax policy documents and involve in the process of formulation and development of important tax policies. In technical terms, the wide range of topics in research methodology course—data collection, data entry, data analysis—is very practical in my current position. Beyond the classroom, I broaden my perspective, improved my problem-solving skill, built up a global network with a bundle of very good friends who I could approach for any relevant issues, be more resourceful in my family. I have expanded my opportunity to contribute to the society through the IUJ experience.



During a training on International Financial Institutions at IMF Regional Office, Singapore



Receiving Training Certificate on Double Taxation Agreement, Singapore Cooperation Center, Phnom Penh

Mr. Lark Kong

Chief of Section,
Exchange Management Department,
National Bank of Cambodia (Central Bank)



Class of 2018
MA, International Development
Thesis: *Targeting Borrowers or Financial Institutions? Credit Cycles and Macprudential Policy*

“IUJ, the perfect place to absorb knowledge and create a global social network.”

What are you doing now?

As a member of the investment team, I am responsible for overseeing the operations of portfolio managers to ensure that their investments comply with the institute's investment guidelines. In addition, I also participate in the selection of investment counterparts by analyzing the credit rating and other financial and economic concerns. Moreover, I analyze and exchange Know Your Customer (KYC) documents with counterparts to ensure each transaction complies with the Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crimes (AMLFC) Institute.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

IUJ is one of the major universities in Japan which offers an English-only program with highly qualified professors. The school provides advanced knowledge and skills to international students, particularly government officials from various countries. More importantly, it is not only the place to absorb the knowledge, but also to establish relationships with many international students across the globe by sharing experience, culture, custom, and food. My family is very proud to have one of its members graduate from IUJ.



How did the IUJ experience support your career?

I have learned many things both academic and social life while I was at IUJ. The knowledge that I obtained from IUJ is very crucial because my current task is more relevant to what I learned. I have transformed theoretical knowledge into practice at my work. For example, to analyze the counterparty risk, I must analyze it from the macro to micro-level. So, I will not perform my daily task well without useful knowledge from IUJ. Besides the academics, the social network that I built during my stays at IUJ also help to smooth my tasks. I remain connected with them to share the work experience through social media and other platforms.



Participating in a seminar at the Banque de France, Paris



Attending a workshop in New York City, USA

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Total 93 Alumni: 1999-2021

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International University of Japan
国際大学

Join us!

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info@iuj.ac.jp

