

Biographical Data Form of Ms. Samith HOU
Candidate of the Kingdom of Cambodia to CEDAW

Surname: Hou

First Name: Samith

Date of Birth: 01 January 1958, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Present Position: Secretary General, Cambodian National Council for Women.

Professional experience:

Ms Hou Samith has over 30 years' experience from increasingly senior positions in government along with work with NGOs, specifically working in the area of women's rights and development. She would be a most valuable asset to the Committee as she has the practical experience of leading and managing development work in the area of gender equality and women's rights along with her in-depth knowledge of the CEDAW. As the Secretary General of the Cambodian National Council for Women, responsible for the CEDAW, she has the experience of leading the work on dissemination of the CEDAW and the concluding comments in Cambodia in close cooperation with senior government officials, parliamentarians, and the human rights institutions. She has competently led the national working group through consultations and drafting of the national report to the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. In her capacity of senior government official, she has participated in high level international forums and conferences, which has provided her the necessary high level international level experience to engage effectively in such a committee. Furthermore, Ms Hou Samith has the English language skills necessary to engage at this level.

Positions held:

- Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Cambodian National Council for Women (2008-2010), (CNCW is responsible for implementing the State's commitment to CEDAW monitoring, implementation and reporting.)

As Secretary General Ms Hou Samith responsible for oversight and performance of the General Secretariat, which is the operational secretariat of the national council. She oversees the work of the three departments and their respective divisions under the general secretariat. This includes developing the workplan for the Council and also managing the funds from both the national budget and development partners, including the UN. (Please find attached the sub-decree on the role and responsibilities of the CNCW and the General Secretariat.

- Director General, Department of Technical Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia(1998-2008),
- Program Officer, PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health) Cambodia, responsible for work on migration dynamics and HIV Aids prevention, Cambodia (leave of absence from MOWA) 2001--2008
- Deputy Director General, Ministry of Women's Affairs (1996-1998),
- Director of Women and Development Department, Ministry of Women' Affairs (1992-1996), Cambodia
- Staff, Women's Association of Cambodia (1984-1992).
- Member of Prek Pnov Commune People's Committee, responsible for Social Affairs and Culture, Kandal Province, Cambodia.(1981-84)
- Sub-chief of Prek Pnov Health Centre, Kandal Province (1980-81)

Educational Background:

- Baccalaureat II (Sisovath High School, 1974, Phnom Penh)
- Masters degree in Public Administration (2009, Chamroeun University of Poly Technology, Phnom Penh)

Selected training courses:

- English language, Level 12, Australian Center for Education, Phnom Penh Cambodia 1997
- Training in Advocacy, Communication and Social mobilization, Thailand Aug 2007
- English Language course, 3 months, Singapore, 1999.
- Project Planning and Management for Women in Development, Australia, 6 weeks, 1998
- ASEAN orientation course, November 1997
- Principles of Management and Good Governance. Cambodian Institute of Human Rights. 2000
- Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, UNICEF, - promoting women's and child's rights, China, 1995

List of Publications:

Ms Hou Samith has contributed with technical advice and quality assurance to a range of CEDAW related material and publications produced in Cambodia in English and Khmer which have been commissioned for CEDAW awareness raising and training. These include:

- Training manual and leaflet on CEDAW
- CNCW magazines