

Community People strong commitment to stop using alcohol

Svay Rieng, a remote province located near the Vietnam border, is considered to have one of the highest alcohol consumption rates in Cambodia. Alcohol abuse negatively impacts the community's health, security, poverty, violence, traffic accident rates and honour. Alcohol is the primary cause of these issues, yet many people are still not sufficiently concerned about these problems or the role they can play in changing the culture; they don't have the information or perspective to link alcohol negative consequences with the consumption itself.

Through these problems, PDP-Center has been organizing various projects to improve local knowledge and behaviours change between communities, grassroots organizations and national level officials in a bid to develop policies. Since May 01st 2015, PDP-Center and The Asia Foundation have been collaborating on the project "Preventing Intimate Partner Violence".

Since this project is implementing, many positive results happened.

For instance, Mr. Pen Samarth, 58 years old and the first vice-chief of Kompong Chak commune, Romdoul district, Svay Rieng province told PDP-Center that he drank alcohol for a long time before he joined the workshop on "Joint measures on Preventing and combating violence against intimate partners related to alcohol" on 6th of July 2015 in Kampong Chak commune office, Romdoul district. Since attending the workshop, Mr. Pam Samarth has shown his commitment to the cause by publicly promising other participants and himself that he would forever abstain from alcohol consumption, *"I am announcing in front of each of you that from today on I quit drink alcohol and buy alcohol for other to drink as well"*.

He stated the following; *"I, Mr. Pen Samarth, drank alcohol since 1980 until 2001 then I decided to stop once. Until 2002 I started to drink again until today and someday the amount of alcohol I drank a lone is up to 3 liters per day. Drinking alcohol is harmful to health, family and country. Whenever I drunk, I always use violence on my wife, children and grand-children. My health is weaker and weaker. I got sickness such as blood urinate, stomach inflammation, high blood pressure, heart problem that makes my family lost money for my treatment."* His increased awareness of the bad impact of alcohol, directly led him to abstain from drinking entirely while hoping influence others to reduce their consumption as well.

Mr. Ngoun Saban, 55 years old and a citizen in Kampong Chak village, Kampong Chak commune, announced that he would stop consuming alcoholic from that day on. After joining the training with PDP-Center and discussing the many bad impacts of alcohol consumption such as family violence, traffic accidents and ill health, he immediately decided to terminate his alcohol consumption.



Name of story collector:	Mr. Som Chenda
Date of collection:	20 July, 2015
Relation to Org. :	Program beneficiary
Location of story collection:	Kampong Chouk commune, Romdul district, Svay Rieng province