Cambodia's first social work grads ready to take the reins

Calvin Yang

After witnessing his fellow Cambodians endure poverty, child exploitation, domestic violence and discrimination for years, 24-year-old Chhaileng decided to do something about it.

"It's very exciting time for Cambodia's first social work student," says student Hun Sinoun. "We hope this will help students to learn more, explore more and experience more."

The four-year course, which began in September, 2008, was specially designed as a practical, hands-on program to prepare its students to work at local and international organisations as well as in public agencies.

"This program provides our students with a more participatory learning environment instead of just sitting in lecture or reading our text books," Meng, a lecturer specialising in psychological trauma and counselling, says. "We hope this will help students to learn more, explore more and experience more."

The professional degree, which emphasises field learning as a key component, allows students to be directly involved in work at local and international organisations including government, non-government organisations and First Step, a local organisation and First Step, an international organisation.

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