


**Summer Field School [Online] on
 MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine :: 19-28 September, 2021**

DELEGATE PARTICIPANT'S PROFILE

	<p>Mr. Tek Vannara <i>Executive Director</i> The NGO FORUM on Cambodia (NGOF)</p> <p>#78, St: 202, Toeklaok3, Toulkork, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Tel: +855 12 793 489 Email: tekvannara@hotmail.com / vannara@ngoforum.org.kh Website: www.ngoforum.org.kh</p>
Highest Education	Two Master Degrees (1) Development Study and 2) Agriculture and Rural Economic Development.
Personal Statement	<p>I am very happy to be a delegate participant for the forthcoming Summer School on 'Mountain Ecosystems and Resource Management'. My name is Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia (NGOF). I have 20-year experiences with non-governmental organizations in particular on environment, natural resources management, water governance and leadership. In addition, I have great experience of community development, eco-tourism, indigenous people, diplomacy and network with NGOs, the governmental ministries, development partners, private sector and CBOs. Since 2014 until to present, I hold the position Executive Director of the NGO FORUM on Cambodia, it is a membership organization that have 96 national and international organizations as member and 450 national and international organizations in Cambodia as network members. Since 2007 to August 2012, I was playing very active as part time lecturer for the master program at Royal University of Agriculture on the subjects of natural resource management and eco-tourism and I have supervised and advised to at least 45 master students who written their thesis on the field of natural resource management and environment. From 2007 to 2009, I was becoming a</p>

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	<p>Chairperson of board of director of Cambodia Community Based Eco-Tourism Network that coverage 35 members (35 NGOs, academies, private companies and government institutes), representative of CSO in Asia Pacific and South East Asia to the UNREDD executive board. Till now, I have been published 16 books related to hydropower, renewable energy, fishery resource management, river basin management, forestry management, indigenous people and watershed. It was published by national, regional and international. In 2012, I have got an excellence award on environment and peace in Asia from Eco-Peace Leadership Center and UNEP at The Kangwon National University, South Korea. I have got two Master degrees in Development Studies from The University of Geneva (IUED), Switzerland and Agricultural Economic Development from Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia, moreover I have got PhD in Sociology. Furthermore, I have also got various advance training courses nationally and internationally.</p>
Paper/Presentation Title (Unpublished Research or Review or Field Work)	<i>The Potential of Community Based Eco-Tourism Development in the Mekong, Stung Treng province, Cambodia</i>
Keywords	Tourism; Community Based Eco-Tourism; Natural Resources, Traditional Culture and Cultural Resources
Abstract (100-300 words)	<p>Including Angkor and other luxurious temples in Siem Reap and Preah Vihear, Cambodia contains plenty of cultural heritages, natural recreations and potential natural resources for developing tourism. In particular, Community based Eco-tourism (CBE) is a new thing to be considered in significance of micro economic development in areas where poor populations are settled and where natural resources are available.</p> <p>Today, the importance and interest for developing eco-tourism recreation has increased throughout the world. Tourists are not only the main source of income generation and the lesson learned of the local population, but they also help developing communities and the nation. In addition, they contribute to strengthening friendly relations between</p>

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	<p>nation in a better way and this may bring a real peace to Cambodia.</p> <p>Anyway, the Mekong close to Cambodia-Lao border has fantastic natural beauty, beautiful landscapes for tourists including: Water rocks, Water fall, flooded forests, beach, fishery communities, forestry communities, minority cultures and their customs and river dolphins. Although we are have the possibility to establish a community based eco-tourism development (CBED) in Mekong river, it is not an easy task as it will compete with the main tourist sites, which have already, been created in Siem Reap and Preah Vihear provinces.</p> <p>In reality, to achieve this objective, a few things need to be developed such as infrastructure, education and capacity building and at the same time, we need qualified researchers to study clearly all relevant issue and opportunities to effectively develop Community Based Eco-tourism.</p> <p>Based on this objective, a sixth-months research study of "The potential of Community Based Eco-tourism Development in the Mekong, Stung Treng province" Case Study "Thalaborith district" has been designed. This research is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the potential natural and cultural resources in the study area for develop eco-tourism along the Mekong River. 2. Identify the opportunity and challenges for eco-tourism community development. 3. To find ability to organize planning strategy for eco-tourism development. <p>The Methodology of the study have structure interview, semi-structure interview, group discussion for quantitative and quality data collection. For structure interview we have selected sample 80 persons in the five villages of three communes: O'svay, Preah Romkil and Koh Sneng. These villages included: O'svay:30 samples, Vernsoern: 6 samples,</p>
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	<p>Chomthom: 11 samples, Anlongsvay: 20 samples and Koh Lgnor : 13 samples and all stakeholders and foreign tourism 37 samples including secondary data from other documents in libraries.</p> <p>The study showed that all the villages, communes that we have studied have natural resources, cultural resources, history places, traditional culture and wishes stories related to Mekong river for ecotourism attractions such as dolphins, Phameth Waterfall, flooded forest, forest, species and local culture. However, some tourism assets in some communes are under serious threats such as forest clearance for land private ownership, land grabbing, over fishing and illegal fishing activities than the other communes. Particularly, Kohsneng and O'Svay communes' forest is being cut and clearing a long the National Road. Moreover, dolphins in Preah Rumkel commune are under serious threats from fishing activities and fast and noisy tourist boats. These tourism assets need to protected and conserved if the community wants to develop tourism because tourists want to see these resources. PLUP is highly recommended before the community can develop tourism in their communes. Clear land and forest titles for individual, commune and community forest and fishery need to be mapped out and approved before the presence of tourism development. If PLUP is not implemented, tourism will bring more serious problems for the community by bring attracting newcomers to buy more land.</p> <p>All communities want to develop tourism in their communes. Preah Rumkel's motivation to develop tourism was to enhance cultural understanding and knowledge while the rests want tourism to reduce poverty. It appears that the communities were aware of tourism impacts both positive and negative from else where. This understanding is a backbone for tourism development. O'Svay commune may be the most ready one in terms of leadership despite the fact that they do not have tourism resources as attractive as Preah Rumkel's. Koh Sneng and O'Svay has expressed the interest of</p>
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	developing ecotourism in their community forestry, which they are trying to get recognition from the ministerial authority. All communities have expressed the need of ecotourism awareness, short course training and study tours to see other tourism communities.
More Information (weblinks)	www.ngoforum.org.kh