This leaflet contains the profiles of four successful women in politics in Commune/Sangkat Councils who were elected during the 3 June 2012 Commune/Sangkat Council elections. The four women come from four different provinces: Ms. Ear Chanthol, commune chief, Kienchrey commune, Kampong Siem district, Kampong Cham province; Ms. Pich Sreyphal, first deputy, Trapaeng Chorng commune, Bakan district, Pursat province; Ms. Chea Sipheng, second deputy, Korkithom commune, Kiensvay district, Kandal province; and Mis. Ny Romdoul, second deputy, Preaek Luong commune, Aek Phnum district, Battambang province.

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”), a non-political, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia, has produced these case profiles to promote women’s political representation in Cambodia at the national and sub-national levels and to encourage public interest in women’s representation in politics.

These case profiles are available:
- As text and audio on CCHR’s website www.cchrcambodia.org

Ms. Ear Chanthol
Commune chief, Kienchrey commune, Kampong Siem district, Kampong Cham province

Born: 1965
Marital status: Married, four children

Education: Grade 6
Residence: Kampong Siem district, Kampong Cham.

Before Chanthol started participating in politics, she volunteered as a member of a women’s association in 1980 to 1987 and continued volunteering at the Kienchrey commune hospital from 1998 to 2002. In 2002 she stood as a candidate in the commune council elections, and was elected to be a commune council member. She continued her political work in the commune, so in 2007 she was elected to be the commune chief. Chanthol was re-elected in the June 2012 elections.

The main factors that make her successed in politics are the motivation from her family, and from the party’s representative in the province, who has always given her advice when Chanthol has encountered problems or difficulties. Especially, she can manage her time effectively, including balancing commune activities and housework. Moreover, Chanthol is supported by the people in her commune because she has built good relations with them and helps them with their problems, regardless of how long it takes.

Ms. Pich Sreyphal
First deputy, Trapaeng Chorng commune, Bakan district, Pursat province

Born: 1953
Marital status: Widow, two children

Education: High school degree
Residence: Bakan district, Pursat province

Beginning as a teacher in a primary school and a small business owner, Sreyphal then volunteered as a member of a women’s association from 1993 to 2002. She started participating in politics in 2002 when she was elected as a commune councilor (sixth rank). In 2007, Sreyphal was elected as a second rank commune councilor and in the June 2012 Commune/Sangkat elections, she was elected as the first deputy of her commune.

She believes that there are some factors that have contributed to her success. First, she has been willing to sacrifice her personal time in order to help villagers solve their problems. A second factor is building relationships. She has built good relationships with other commune councilors, both within her commune and in other communes, to facilitate sharing amongst themselves their experiences and finding the best solutions. Moreover, she has tried to build good relationships with non-government organizations and other partners, particularly to seek financial assistance for the development of her commune.
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Ms. Chea Sipheng
Second Deputy, Korkithom commune, Kiensvay district, Kandal province

Born: 1967
Marital status: Married, four children
Education: Grade 10
Residence: Kiensvay district, Kandal province

Starting her career as a human rights activist in 1998, Ms. Chea Sipheng became a member of the Human Rights Party in 2007. She was elected to be a second deputy in Korkithom commune, Kiensvay district, Kandal province in 2012.

She believes her success in the election was due to her personal struggle and commitment to help the poor and also because of her family’s support. Moreover, people support her because she is always available to help them – day or night.

Ms. Ny Romdoul
Second deputy, Preaek Luong commune, Aek Phnum district, Battambang province

Born: 1987
Marital Status: Single
Education: Third year university student, studying management
Residence: Aek Phnum district, Battambang province

From Bak Roteh village, Romdoul was interested in joining in political affairs in 2006. She first started participating in meetings organized by the Sam Rainsy Party, before she became a member of the party. In order to gain training and learn how to become a leader, Romdoul often accompanied the party to the field during visits with the constituency, which made her want to work in the Commune/Sangkat Council. She thought that she would have a good chance “because I often go to the field with the party, I am an attentive learner, I have worked hard as the finance officer for the party’s district, and I am brave.”

Because she was supported by the political party, her villagers, and her family, she was elected as the second deputy commune chief, Preaek Luong commune, Aek Phnum district, Battambang.

I am proud of the fact that I can help people even though my salary is very low

Don’t think it is impossible; weakness is not an obstacle to participation in politics

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Case Profiles of Successful Women in Politics at the Commune/Sangkat Level in Cambodia

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