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INDIGENOUS YOUTH

IMPACT RESULTS



Beyond: CIYA Support Indigenous Youth in Protecting IPs Rights

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The Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA) was established in 2005 and officially registered with the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2008. As the first Indigenous youth association in Cambodia that has worked closely with Indigenous youths and communities across 9 provinces and the capital. Over the past 21 years of birth, CIYA truly made significant contributions to empowering Indigenous youths, strengthening leadership, promoting Indigenous rights, supporting IPs youths accessing to hight education, , revitalizing IPs culture, and building a strong network of young Indigenous leaders who contribute to their communities at local, national, and international levels.

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One of CIYA's most important achievements is its contribution to the education and development of Indigenous youth. Over the past 21 years, CIYA has supported more than 200+ Indigenous students from diverse 6 Indigenous Peoples Languages-based groups to graduate from universities in Cambodia through its education program. The program provides 3 dormitory accommodations, bachelor's scholarships, Indigenous knowledge training, leadership capacity development, Indigenous rights training courses, and other forms of support. Through these opportunities, Indigenous students have been able to access higher education, develop their knowledge both IP wisdom, and leadership skills, and return to contribute to the development and protection and addressing of their community needs.





Secondly, CIYA has been playing an important role in providing leadership and knowledge on Indigenous perspectives. Through its programs and activities, CIYA has enabled people to better understand Indigenous situations, challenges, cultures, and rights, from the grassroots community level to national and international platforms. CIYA's activities have reached an estimated 1,000+ beneficiaries, including Indigenous youth, women, persons with disabilities (PoD), LGBTQ+ people, elders, and local authorities. One example is Ms. Sam Art Rachana, a CIYA member who received support and encouragement from CIYA for many years and later benefited from the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship. Her journey demonstrates how long-term investment in Indigenous youth can create future leaders and advocates for Indigenous rights.



Thirdly, CIYA has developed a strong network that supports Indigenous youth initiatives to address to community needs. CIYA provides 1000+ young people with opportunities to lead, organize, and implement projects and activities independently in response to the needs of their communities. Rather than only being beneficiaries, Indigenous youth are encouraged to become active leaders and agents of change. Today, CIYA has more than 300+ Indigenous youth members who continue to work to protect and promote Indigenous peoples' rights at different levels. This growing network demonstrates the importance of creating spaces where Indigenous youth can develop their leadership, build confidence, share experiences, and take collective action.



Lastly, CIYA has created a generation of Indigenous youth leaders who continue to protect and promote Indigenous rights at local, national, regional, and international levels. The impact of CIYA can be seen through the achievements of its former members. For example, Ms. Choeun Sreymom, a former CIYA member, received support through accommodation, university scholarships, capacity-building training, and other opportunities. Through these experiences, she developed her leadership and advocacy capacity and has since become the President of the Cambodia Indigenous Women Association. In this role, she works to protect and promote Indigenous women's rights and the rights of communities affected by the Sesan Hydropower Dam project in Kbal Romeas village, Stung Treng Province, Cambodia.





Overall, CIYA's impact over the past 21 years goes beyond the number of students, members, or beneficiaries it has supported. CIYA has invested in Indigenous youth as future leaders, advocates, and community change-makers. Through education, leadership development, Indigenous knowledge, rights training, networking, and opportunities for youth-led initiatives, CIYA has contributed to building a stronger generation of Indigenous leaders who are able to represent their communities and promote Indigenous rights. The experiences of its former and current members demonstrate that investing in Indigenous youth creates long-term benefits for Indigenous communities and strengthens their ability to protect their rights, culture, lands, resources, and future.



Thank You!

