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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**World Education's Program Manager Participates in the C8 Summit**

World Education is pleased to announce their involvement in the C8 Summit, an unprecedented meeting that will put children's issues on the agendas of the world's most powerful leaders. Children and young people from eight of the world's poorest countries are gathering in Scotland this week alongside leaders from eight of the world's most powerful and prosperous nations. Organized for the first time by UNICEF, the C8 is bringing together children from the world's poorest countries with children from countries of the G8. Their task is a daunting one: to firmly place children's issues on the agenda of the G8 leaders.

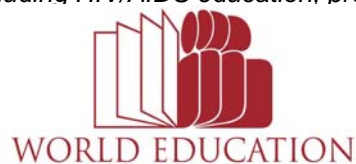
Seventeen-year old Sou Thida from Cambodia's northeastern Ratanakiri province will be representing the concerns and needs of children from Cambodia as well as the wider Asian region. Thida is a lower secondary school student from a very remote part of Cambodia, home to many of the country's ethnic minority people. Thida has experience in promoting children's issues through her work as a peer educator and youth leader, but her experience has thus far been limited to her native Ratanakiri province. To tackle the enormous challenge of participating in the C8 Summit alongside other children from across the globe, Thida will need the encouragement and support of a knowledgeable and compassionate mentor: World Education's Mdm. Sok Kim Sroeung. "We are pleased that Sou Thida has been invited to speak and that Mdm. Sok Kim Sroeung will provide her the support she needs," said David Kahler, Vice President of World Education's Asia Division and Special Projects. "The voice of young people is tremendously important for G8 leaders to hear to get the true picture of the realities they face at home."

Since 2002, Mdm. Kim Sroeung's work in World Education's OPTIONS program in Cambodia has helped to reduce the number of children, especially girls, who fall victim to trafficking and exploitation. Working with local organizations, World Education helps to identify vulnerable children who are at risk to human trafficking and then helps them obtain the basic education they need to help them realize other options in life. World Education works in three provinces in Cambodia: Prey Veng, Kompong Cham, Banteay Meanchey, and certain areas of Phnom Penh.

The C8 will be held in Dunblane, Scotland, from July 1-6, 2005. Sou Thida and Mdm. Sok Kim Sroeung will be there with UNICEF's sponsorship support. We hope that the world's powerful leaders will be able to hear Thida and Kim Sroeung's voices.

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**World Education** is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of the poor through economic and social development programs. World Education contributes to individual growth, strengthens the capacity of local partner institutions, and catalyzes community and national development. It is known for its work in education in the workplace, micro-enterprise development, and integrated literacy and health programs, including HIV/AIDS education, prevention and care.



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