

## Message from Board of Directors

### Goals for a decade

Dear Friends,

In 2007, our Board, founders and funders began looking carefully at the past and future of SIDO (Society Integration Development). We looked back with pride at the breadth and responsiveness of our work. During the past years, SIDO has funded as a small grant to LNGOs on a pilot distance project supports and with direct self-project activities on researches, feasibility studies through different sectors in Cambodia in order to have its huge exploration SIDO in Cambodia or not. We are proud of the organizations and individuals we have been able to support and the work they have accomplished.

As we looked to the future, we concluded that we needed to focus our energies in order to have even greater impact. Last year, we embraced a new strategic vision:

**“To be a catalyst to shape vibrant communities in Cambodia within 24 towns and provinces. We will invest in courageous and effective leadership that significantly strengthens and improves the well-being of people in our target location and country.”**

We also affirmed our guiding principles of leadership, learning and impact. In everything we do we want to foster leadership, continually build on the knowledge we gain and choose activities that have a high potential to make a significant impact.

Our founders, boards and funders including me, characterized SIDO as society's “passing gear” – organizations uniquely situated to challenge and support communities in poverty reduction in comply the National Poverty Reduction of the Royal Government of Cambodia and also comply with the Lao PDR and Vietnam for the coming years, to be catalysts and, in doing so, to strengthen and improve the well-being of the people in those communities. As an independent organization we believe we are uniquely positioned for this catalytic role.

During the past six months, we asked ourselves repeatedly, “What difference do we want to make?” In response, we have chosen three ambitious goals that we intend to pursue for at least the next decade and will be the next as forever in fighting the poverty. We realize that we cannot reach these goals on our own. While we know where we want to concentrate our efforts, we readily admit that we don't have all the answers. We will be looking for partners across organizations, sectors, communities, the region and even the nation, with whom we can join in searching for the means to achieve these goals.

### **Goals for a decade: Courageous Leaders ~ Vibrant Communities**

SIDO will seek partners and pursue strategies to:

- **Develop Courageous Leaders and Engage Entire Communities in Solving Problems-** with a goal that by 2018, 20% of people in all demographic groups in each province say their community is effective at solving problems and improving their quality of life.
- **Support the Self-Determination and Self-financial reliance of Native Nations** - with a goal that by 2018, all 3 Native nations and target communities in Cambodia, Vietnam and Lao PDR are exercising self-determination, self-financial supports and actively rebuilding the infrastructure of nationhood.
- **Increase both of our social development programs and social enterprise Achievement** – with a goal that by 2018 the percentage of these two components will be increased slowly up with it's firmly and strong foundation relating the impact delivery through its partners and its direct implementing towards its target beneficiaries in each target location.

These are big goals. They're challenging. And we know we can't achieve them alone. We will look for partners who can help show us the way. We plan to pursue a more active, strategic approach for the use of our resources and external resources. We will learn as we go. While we may occasionally stumble, we will learn from our mistakes as we move forward. We will also be accountable, transparent about our goals and upfront about our progress every step of the way.

### **A period of being confidence**

In many cases, achieving these goals means we will be engaging new partners. It also means we will not be funding work or work in collaboration with whom that does not align with our goals. To help our partners through this earlier stage, we have set aside funds for an earlier stage grants for specific organizations whom we have had long and deep relationships. The organizations invited to apply for these grants will receive separate information directly from us. For the remainder of 2008, we will focus our resources on this earlier stage to the new strategy of a decade. As a result, we will still be openly accepting any new letters of inquiry or grant proposals for the rest of the year.

### **Looking ahead**

While we have set a new innovative strategy direction, this is just the first step of our decade goal. As we build on the achievements, lessons and courage of those who came before us, we are committed to working collaboratively to achieve these goals. We invite your ideas, suggestions and feedback. We look forward to your partnership. Most of all, we thank you – for your past and future support as we embark on this journey.

Sincerely,

David T. Calhoun