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# ARO - Compilation of 50th anniversary tributes

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IDRC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary continues to resonate with stakeholders around the world. As a complement to [the tributes posted on Mahali last May](#), we are sharing below additional tributes from grantees in Asia.

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## **Pech Sokhem**

Executive Director

Cambodia Development Research Institute (CDRI)

Cambodia

On behalf of all the Cambodia Development Research Institute (CDRI) staff, I am extending our heartfelt congratulations to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on its 50th anniversary and launch of a new strategic plan in support of research for development, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. This year, we celebrate our 30th anniversary as an independent policy development research institution. CDRI is grateful to IDRC for its close collaboration with it and the impactful assistance rendered to Cambodia and region for several decades.

The Climate Change and Water Governance project funded by IDRC from 2012-16, was a catalytic in addressing knowledge gaps for informed decision-making for climate change adaptation and resilience in Cambodia, and building stronger collaboration among key institutions and CSOs in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

CDRI was honored to coordinate the Greater Mekong Subregion Development Analysis Network (GMS-DAN) 2011-2014-2016, with support from IDRC for assessing inclusive development in the GMS and the institutional capacity development in health and education. This important regional platform for collaboration among key think tanks in the GMS was further developed through the continued IDRC support until present.

This regional collaboration has prepared us well to respond successfully to latest IDRC call for the Rapid impact assessment of COVID-19 on inclusive development and democratic governance in the Mekong Sub-Region (2021-2023).

CDRI and our partners are looking forward to strengthening and deepening our cooperation with IDRC at this critical juncture. We wish IDRC colleagues a greater success and health and their loved ones.

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**Min Zaw Oo**

Executive Director  
Myanmar Institute for Peace and Security (MIPS)  
Myanmar

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has played a significant role in the growth and success of our organization, Myanmar Institute for Peace and Security (MIPS). Of course, this support has not only come in the form of research and activity grants, but also its thoughtful advisory and collaboration opportunities with Canadian academics and experts.

Our relationship with IDRC began as early as February 2019, when IDRC offered funding for a research project on public service provision and decentralization in Myanmar's ethnic states, done in partnership with the University of Toronto. The project was one of the first opportunities for our nascent organization to conduct fieldwork, and it boosted the confidence of our research team and enriched their experience

IDRC has also provided long-term support to our effort to monitor and record armed conflict in Myanmar. As one of its core functions, MIPS produces a monthly report to keep stakeholders informed of impending risks and opportunities for dialogue and conflict resolution.

Recently, IDRC funded the production and launch of the "Annual Peace & Security Review 2020", our yearly assessment of key peace and conflict trends in Myanmar and principal vehicle for publicly disseminating data generated by our conflict monitoring system. The report received high praise from researchers and practitioners in the security field and helped to raise public awareness and understanding of the extent and nature of armed conflict in Myanmar.

MIPS is grateful to IDRC not only for the funding that enables our work, but also for the advice and insight it offers to ensure our research reaches the widest possible audience and yields the greatest impact among policymakers and stakeholders. Beyond the benefit it provides to our organization, IDRC's support goes a long way in moving Myanmar closer to understanding the dynamics of the internal security environment and the steps needed to achieve a lasting peace.

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**May Sabe Phyu @ L. Hkawn Htoi**

Director  
Gender Equality Network (GEN)  
Formerly the Women's Protection Technical Working Group (WPTWG)  
Myanmar

The Gender Equality Network (GEN) is a member-driven inclusive network of more than 100 non-profit, non-partisan civil society organizations, national and international NGOs, and Technical Resource Persons, (TRPs), working collectively to achieve the goal: "Myanmar is a society in which there is gender equality at all levels and in all sectors, and where human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled" and with the overall objective "to achieve gender equality and social justice by transforming discriminatory systems and structures, norms and practices".

GEN wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate IDRC in celebration of the 50th Anniversary and to thank IDRC for partnering with GEN in implementing the "Knowledge for Democracy in Myanmar" initiative with the aim to promote research capacity, inclusion, gender equality and respect for diversity.

The financial and technical support provided by IDRC is much appreciated as GEN and its members have benefitted through participation in the research project entitled "Understanding barriers and working pathways towards women political participation in Myanmar" together with the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand and McGill University in Canada. Such initiatives have contributed to improved research knowledge and skills for GEN staff and its members. Additionally, the financial support provided to establishing and maintaining the first Gender Resource Centre providing the much-needed information and data on gender and women empowerment is well recognized and the facilities are utilized widely by Myanmar researchers, academicians, parliamentarians, government officials and public to support their research studies.

GEN's work on gender-related issues and contribution to increased participation of women is evident through the Canada government-supported N-Peace award won by the Director of GEN as a gender expert in Myanmar.

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### **K.S.SUBRAMANIAN, Ph.D. (Canada)**

Director of Research & NABARD Chair Professor  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
India

I am pleased and deeply honored to present a letter of testimony to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, on the eve of its Golden Jubilee celebrations. Indeed, I am truly indebted to IDRC for its support for my education, career growth and breakthroughs in inventing technologies to address global challenges in agri-food systems.

I received one of the most prestigious Canadian Commonwealth Fellowship for a period of five years (1993-1998) to pursue my Ph.D. program at the University of Ottawa, Canada. That helped me to acquire extraordinary brilliance in understanding complex subjects and enabled me to publish five papers in plant-mycorrhiza interactions in high impact factor journals that are being highly referred and rewarding even today. IDRC invited me as a Guest of Honour in 2004 which I consider as a recognition of my hard work in my Ph.D. program.

In 2012, I got a major Canadian project jointly funded by Global Affairs Canada - IDRC on "Enhanced Preservation of Fruits using Nanotechnology" involving University of Guelph (UoG), Canada which was in operation in the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) for more than 6 years (2012-2017). This project addressed a global challenge of post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables in India which is causing a huge economic drain of USD 40 billion annually. A basket of nano-technologies such as pre-harvest spray, post-harvest dip, nano-packaging, and nano-film developed in the project substantially reduced the losses while enhancing the availability and ensured nutritional security in the country.

The nanotech project is recognized as a flagship program that helped TNAU to build infrastructure and trained manpower, supported more than 60 students and scholars and led to bilateral exchange visits of TNAU and UoG faculty, besides helping farmers (> 12,000) to minimize post-harvest losses. Also, as a result of the program, 30 papers were published, 2 patents filed, and a policy decision was taken to introduce nano-products to improve the rural livelihood in India.

I take this opportunity to congratulate IDRC and offer my best wishes to the Centre on the occasion of the celebration of its 50th anniversary and hope that IDRC would continue to support developing countries across the globe to reduce hunger and malnutrition, promote women's empowerment and ensure peace and harmony among Commonwealth countries.

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