ニュース6

上智精神をカンボジアで実践 本学大学院卒業生2名が日本国外務省から表彰を受ける

―日本とカンボジアの友好親善に貢献―

日本国外務省は、2019年8月に本学大学院出身のお2人のカンボジア人、オム・ラヴィ先生(王立プノンペン大学副学長・教授)、エク・ブンタ氏(文化芸術省無形文化財局副局長)の両氏が、日本とカンボジアの友好親善に貢献した事由で表彰すると公表しました。在カンボジア王国日本国大使館は、1993年プノンペンに再開されたが、今回は日本とカンボジアの友好親善に多大の貢献を果したカンボジア人として、初めて表彰することになりました。2019年12月18日プノンペンの日本国大使館で表彰の伝達式が行われました。

上智大学はその教育精神に "Men and Women for Others, with Others" (他者のために、他者とともに生きる) を掲げ、地球市民を育成してきましたが、このカンボジア人のお2人に心からエールを送りたい。

ブンタ氏は上智大学ソフィア会(同窓会)のカンボジア・ソフィア会会長を務めておられます。

Campus news

Two Cambodian Alumni of Sophia Receive Foreign Minister's Commendations



Cambodian officials Ravy Oum (right) and Buntha Ek (left) with Professor Yoshiaki Ishizawa in Phnom Penh

Buntha Ek, Deputy Director-General in charge of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts for the Kingdom of Cambodia ('99 M.A. in Area Studies) and Ravy Oum, Vice Rector, Royal University of Phnom Penh ('02 PhD in Area Studies) have been awarded Japan's Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY2019.

Both Cambodian officials are former international students at the graduate school of Sophia University. Professor Yoshiaki Ishizawa, Director of the Sophia Asia Center for Research and Human Development and the recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, for his work on restoring and preserving the ancient site of Angkor Wat, mentored their master's and doctoral theses before they

returned home to Cambodia. The honor bestowed upon Ek and Oum is the result of their years of work strengthening the links between Cambodia and Japan.

Reacting to their award, the two commented: "During the Pol Pot regime we lost our families, and we were so poor we did not always know where our next meal was coming from. Yet, we believed that if we just kept at our studies, a time would come when we would be able to give our best for our nation. The end result of our effort was gaining entry to graduate school in Japan as government-sponsored international students. So many Japanese people helped us during our stay in Japan. The acclaim for what we now are goes to the people of Japan; we are so grateful for their goodwill."