



First of all, I would also like to express my gratitude to all TI Cambodia staff for their substantive work towards the camp and sparing no effort in hosting the first International Youth Camp for 'Youth Empowerment for Transparency and Integrity' on 4-10 January 2015 in Siem Reap province. I am grateful to the national authorities in Siem Reap for their warm welcome and for openly sharing experiences. I feel so elated I got the chance to meet a group of young passionate and energetic youth participants from Cambodia and six other countries from across Asia (Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh). There was

a huge sense of cultural sharing, and great insight provided on transparency, integrity and the causes and consequences of corruption in an open, frank, constructive and courteous manner. Most inspiring was that we had all been brought together by a common vision. A vision to build a society, a nation that is transparent and free of corruption.

According to UNODC, corruption is a global phenomenon found in all countries and no one would deny the very fact that youth are the back bone of every nation. It is undeniable that empowering the youth of every nation is of great importance in order to build a transparent and sustainable society and economy.

Throughout the camp, the consequences of poor governance and weak oversight of human rights law came up as a common issue in most of the participants' contexts. My feelings towards corruption is that it cannot be prevented overnight. But, what I believe is with continuous efforts from each and every citizen we can minimize it overtime through education, deterrence, effective enforcement and prevention by enforcing a zero-tolerance mindset towards corruption.

In my opinion, the role of youth in the fight against corruption is to challenge the system that endures corruption. This is certain not an easy task especially working against a corrupted system which has been embedded. For this reason, the youth should come forward together hand in hand and take responsibility on the behalf of their country to build a sustainable, transparent and corrupt free society and economy for everyone.

- *Nicholas Tan Check Foong*