



The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation
Q House Convent, Silom Road
Bangrak, Bangkok
Thailand 10500

March 8, 2016

To whom it may concern;

Ms. Kwankaew Ketphol has been providing service on a contract basis to produce several documentary films for The Asia Foundation's (the Foundation) conflict mitigation and peace building program and I had served as her immediate supervisor. Kwankaew has proven herself to be a rare and committed peace documentary film producer and I would like to highly recommend her as a candidate for an internship at your organization.

I was introduced to Kwankaew's extraordinary creativity through her award-winning short documentary called "The Banality of Line." She was able to cleverly use symbolic narratives to portray the social boundaries that sets people of diversity apart. Kwankaew began her work with the Foundation, Thailand office, four years ago as a contractual freelancer to produce a number of short documentaries. These documentaries were used as part of the Foundation's 65 episode-television talk show program "Let's Talk Rights" which was broadcasted via the Thai Television Public Broadcast Station (ThaiPBS) from 2010-2011. Her series of short documentaries explored the untold grievances and conflict narratives experienced by people from diverse ethnicities and beliefs---Malay-Muslims, Thai-Buddhist, and Chinese minority residing in the southernmost provinces of Thailand, where armed conflict has led to the loss of thousands of lives and negatively impacted the livelihoods of the local population.

Kwankaew has continued to produce several high quality pieces for the Foundation, including, as part of the Foundation's interfaith initiative, the highly-acclaimed "Memorable Jabat," a 30 minute-long documentary which features the memorable history of a peaceful township of Ruso, now suffering from heavily armed conflict, through a portrayal of the longstanding relationship of the people of diverse origins who used to live harmoniously. Currently, under my supervision, she is part of the team tasked to produce a documentary film to promote minority identity in the conflict-affected area through the restoration of traditional village names.

Professionally, Kwankaew's consistent record of commitment to producing gender and culturally sensitive products is a result of her hard work and passion. The time she has spent with the community and interviewees during her research and production processes is a substantial indicator of this commitment. Her passion sets her apart and puts her in a small company of film producers who place their

commitment on peace building issues in Thailand. Throughout her time with the Foundation, Kwankaew needed only minimal supervision, mainly on the context of the conflict. However, she was quick to grasp new concepts and pursue her filming activities independently.

In short, Kwankaew has been the first female filmmaker I have had the pleasure to work with who dedicates her career to produce culturally and gender-sensitive documentary films to promote change in the region. If received an opportunity to acquire more knowledge and skill from your organization, I am strongly convinced that her contribution will further grow to effectively help change public perception to support the peace process in Thailand's southernmost provinces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Santi Nindang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Santi Nindang
Program Officer
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Bangkok, Thailand
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