2014 Economic Empowerment Fellows Biographies

Cohort One Southeast Asian Participants: May 3 – June 8, 2014

Burma/Myanmar

Ms. Mon Mon Myint THU
Managing Director, AcePlus Solutions Co., Ltd, Rangoon

I am Mon Mon Myint Thu from Myanmar. I graduated from University of Computer Studies Yangon in 2004. After working for three years in IT industry, I went to Japan for further study in Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo. I got my MBA there. Then, I came back to my country and worked for my former company until 2012. I set up my own company, AcePlus Solutions, in September 2012 as a subsidiary of ACE Data Systems, my former company. So, I am now working at AcePlus Solutions company as Managing Director. Regarding with my family, my father is a merchant, my mother is a retired government employee and my elder brother is a music video director. Although we are very different in our professions, we are very close and love each other. I married to my husband in 2011 and I have a son who is about two years old now. I am interested in listening music, reading books, hanging out with friends, and travelling in my leisure time.

Mr. Htin Aung KYAW
Deputy General Manager, Myanmar Microfinance Supervisory Enterprise (MMSE), Nay Pyi Taw
I am a Deputy General Manager, Myanma Microfinance Supervisory Enterprise, Ministry of Finance at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. I retired from Myanmar Navy in 2003 and transferred to Myanmar Maritime University, Ministry of Transport. I've got Master Degree from the Shanghai Maritime University in 2007. I served as a lecturer and Associated Professor of Nautical Science Department at Myanmar Maritime University from Jun 2003 to July 2012. In university teacher’s life, our department produces many skillful students for international maritime fields. We can contact with many work opportunities for our new generation. We affiliated with international maritime universities to scholar exchange programs for my students. In 2012, I transferred to the Ministry of Finance and I served as a Assistant General Manager, Myanma Microfinance Supervisory Enterprise, Ministry of Finance. In my ministry, our department takes part in many microfinance projects and cooperates with UNDP, UNCDF, WB, ADB, INGOs, NGOs. I provide liaison, support and coordination to foreign experts and consultants. And also provide input on international micro-finance practice for the development of policies, directives and programs for the supervision of micro-finance organizations. We promote the capacity-building of staff members, including English language training, ICT applications, workshops and linkages with national or international experts. I married with Ms. Mon Thiri Soe, Assistant Director, Department of Historical Research and National Library. She is a history scholar and working for the Ministry of Culture. I have only son, 13 years old.

Ms. Swe Zin LE
Business Development Director, Bella Interiors Co., LTD, Rangoon

"We all have made mistakes and we learnt from it. Being an optimistic person as I am, it always give me the chance to see the brighter side of the future. Coming from the late developing country, Myanmar, I was very fortunate enough to receive the support from the parents to study overseas to get the business degree. With the knowledge from education and work experience from outside of country, I always have been curious to contribute myself in developing Myanmar in any possible ways that, I could. Having huge interest in businesses that create jobs for undeveloped villages in Myanmar, I believe I will find a good guidance through this program to get my plans on right track"

Cambodia

Mr. CHHON Chheayudh
Founder/Director, Angkor Walkers, Siem Reap
After 15 years as a Buddhist monk in both Cambodia and Thailand, Yut left the pagoda to follow his passion for sharing his home country with visitors. Yut now works as the founder and manager of Angkor Walkers, a budding tour company based in Siem Reap.

As well as being a strong advocate of responsible tourism practices, Yut has a deep interest in cross-cultural communication and experiential learning. Since entering the tourism industry in 2008 he has worked as a trip leader and facilitator on many educational trips across Cambodia, working with groups ranging from high school students and families to journalists and high-level academics. During this time he has received extensive facilitation, leadership, and cross-cultural communication training in both Cambodia and the United States.

Yut specializes in helping travelers embrace new learning experiences and engage with new cultures on a deeper, more meaningful level. While he is driven by creating travel experiences that combine fun, learning, and genuine connections, his biggest dream is to integrate his knowledge of Buddhist philosophy and educational travel. He hopes to do this by introducing exciting, engaging, Southeast Asia tours that also offer an opportunity to learn about the religion that underpins much of this region’s peaceful culture.

Mr. OEURN Ratana
Executive Director, Community-based Integrated Development Organization (CIDO), Phnom Penh

Ratana Oeurn was born March 30th, 1986 in Cambodia. He is an original citizen of the last ended civil war province called Oddar Meanchey province in northwest Cambodia where he has grown up, studied and worked. He is currently an Executive Director of the Community-based Integrated Development Organization called CIDO, a Cambodian Local Non-Governmental Organization operating mission in two northwest provinces in Cambodia, Oddar Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey provinces. He obtains bachelor degree in General Management and has graduated from Build Bright University, Phnom Penh in Rural Development and Project Management. He gains 10 years work experiences with several Non-Governmental Organizations in multi-sectors. He has learnt a lot from organizational development, community development, project management, human resource management and leadership. He used to travel to several countries for attending different training courses and fellowship programs via Asia, Africa and Europe. He likes rural development and economic empowerment, and he commits to work in all these fields. As a director of an organization, Ratana has tried a lot in fundraising from different donors. He wants to see positive change in the community and he is willing to contribute to the development of his own country, Cambodia and the world.
Ms. Vansy SENYAVONG  
Director, Maeying Huamchai Phattana (MHP), Bokeo

Director of Maeying Houamjai Phattana(MHP), which translates to Women Mobilizing for Development. I am based in Houayxay, which is the capital of the northern Lao province of Bokeo. The main reason inspiring me to set up this organisation is the poverty of the poor women in the rural areas. There is big gap in development between city women and rural women, especially with respect to gender balance and economic empowerment. Prior to setting up MHP, I had been working in rural development for 10 years with UNDP and the Belgian Non-government Organisation Vredeseilanden, with a focus on community development in grass root level. In particular, I have an interest in gender mainstreaming and women’s income. I have attended many overseas forums on women economic empowerment, and these have made me even more inspired to practice bringing economic empowerment to the very remote areas, so that these women get a chance to develop themselves and bridge the income gap between men and women. I am married and have two young daughters here in Houayxay. We also have many ethnic students from rural areas in our house, whom we have supported to stay with us for their schooling or vocational training. In my free time I enjoy aerobics, using social media, and watching Korean movies.

Ms. Sousada CHANTHASIRI  
Team Leader, Development Environment Community Association (DECA), Vientiane

Currently Soutsada Chanthasiri is the Team leader for the Development Environment Community Association (DECA) in the Lao PDR. DECA is a newly established local NGO, which started operating since mid 2012. Soutsada Chanthasiri has been working with the organization since its initial operation date. Her work with DECA involves implementing programs and activities, including providing training to target groups (Women and community members) on economic development, environment protection and conservation (climate change, chemical used reduction), management skills and others issues related to development and gender empowerment. Soutsada Chanthasiri also oversees the design, monitoring and evaluation of programs and activities of the organization and coordination and capacity building with government partners. In addition, she is responsible for communication and liaison matters with donors and local NGO
network and clients to ensure the smooth operation of program and activities of the organization. She also assists to facilitate the discussion platform of NGO network as requested, involving strengthening the good governance process where the role has been given and recommended by the steering committee. Before working with DECA Soutsada Chanthasiri worked as a Community Development Specialist with the Rural Research and Development Training Center (RRDTC). Soutsada Chanthasiri has also been active in various volunteering and committee roles within the community such as:

- Involvement in a project to promote chemical free green agriculture in Phaoudom district Bokeo Province,
- Organizing the capacity building training for new NGOs in Vientiane Capital
- Committee member for the ASEAN People Forum
- Committee member of the Asian Europe People Forum
- Women Caucus and Women leader member
- Coordinator of consumer education Malaysia
- Community Knowledge Association Board
- Association Education Women Legal Development Board
- Huam Jai Assamak (Youth Volunteer) Board and
- Association for Disabled People Board.

**Thailand**

![Dr. Ornprapa Anugoolprasert](image)

**Dr. Ornprapa ANUGOOLPRASERT**  
*Lecturer, Thammasat University, Bangkok*

My name is Ornprapa Anugoolprasert from Thailand. There are six people in my family. My father has always been in agricultural business. Growing up, I have spent my childhood time in sugar cane farm, mulberry farm, para-rubber farm, and cassava farm. That is why I have always been interested in agriculture and related technology. I pursued my passion in this field and enrolled in Department of Agricultural Technology (B.A.), Faculty of Science and Technology, Thammasat University. Later on, I continued and graduated a master course and a Ph.D. course from Major of Sustainable Agriculture, Graduate School of Bioresources, Mie University, Japan. Specialized in plant nutrition, I am, at the moment, a lecturer, teaching organic farming management to Master degree students at Thammasat University. I am working on a research titled ‘Effect of High Quality Organic Fertilizer on Yield and Quality of Lettuce’. The objective of this research is to encourage Thai farmers to reduce chemical fertilizer application and change to sustainable agriculture in the future.

I am energetic to learn new things and I am positive. My interest now is organic farming management. I still have a lot to learn in this field, and I would definitely like to learn more about this to improve both my teaching and researching.
Ms. Arunee NAMAMUTI


My name is Arunee Namamuti. Nick name is “SAO” which means “forever young”. I love it because it never makes me old. I was born on 13th May 1970. Now I am 43 years old. I have one younger brother and 2 younger sisters. My hometown is Bangkok. I got a bachelor from Thammasat University in major of Social Work Administration. Then 6 years later, I graduated for Master Degree on Communicative English. I started to work at a Publishing Company in Comics section as a promotional staff. I decided to work here because I love Disney Cartoon. While working here, I had some chances to meet Mickey and Minnie, my beloved characters. I was happy with it.

Then I found that I would like to get back to my career which is “Social Worker”. After I was selected to work as a social worker, I started to work at the Provincial Office for Public Welfare. I had worked with many different groups of people such as poor people, children, young people, disabilities, elderly people as well as HIV infected people. I have had to apply a lot of my knowledge from what I have learnt to my real cases so that I could give them the best welfare and service that I could do. Few years later, I moved to work in another place but in same position. In the year 1997, I was selected to participate in an International Exchange Program called “The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program”. I have gained a lot of things from this program since it really inspired me to develop myself in many aspects such as English speaking skill, Leadership skill, interpersonal skill etc.

Soon later, I moved again to work at The Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups (OPP.) as “International Exchange Program Coordinator”. I have had many good chances to broaden my mind by visiting in different countries through exchange programs, conferences, seminars and training courses. I also do apply many things to my personal and working life such as “be punctual and discipline as Japanese people” Now I am working at Vieng ping Children’s Home in Chiangmai, Thailand as a Chief of Social Work Section. I responsible for orphans, abandoned, children who faced with social problems and violence in their families aged from new born to 24 years old (under the Child protection Law) I am happy with my current work because I can do a lot of things for my children; providing good welfare, creating good activities, returning them to their original home, providing them temporary foster families and permanent adoptive families as well as providing young girls some occupational trainings.

My personal life, I am quite easy going people. I love to cook especially Thai Food so I am a good cook for my family. Now I am living with my adoptive son, 13 years old in Chiang mai, peaceful and beautiful city. I have never been in America but I have to go on one day because I have set my personal goal for long time that I will visit all Disneyland in the world and two of them are in U.S.A. In my free time, I love to read books and doing some crafts. Travelling is also my favorite hobby.
Ms. Yaowalak SRIKHAMPHA  
*Researcher, Mae Jo University and Foundation for Culture and Environment Southeast Asia (FCESEA), Chiang Mai*

I’m from a rural agricultural community in mountains of Northern Thailand. When I was 15 years old I and my friends founded the “Takon Yom Youth Group” at my home town after we joined the conservation camp program with a Thai NGO whose work focuses on youth. Because my home town is the area of the Kaeng Seua Ten Dam Project. This is a government-sponsored large hydropower development project that if built would bring many serious negative impacts for my home town. Water would flood the communities and force us to relocate. We would lose our golden teak forest, the only remaining one in Southeast Asia, and our Yom River, our wildlife, our forest products, herbs, our culture and our livelihood. Because of this I am very interested in environmental protection and concerned about the future of my home town. During the movement we are try to develop our livelihood to the community enterprise to make income to support our family and our local environmental movement against the dam project. And I also learn more about sustainable development. I studied about it in my masters degree and work with Thai and International NGOs, universities, and another communities in Thailand and then I try to invite my community and the youth to think about how to do sustainable livelihood and environment by community enterprise.

Vietnam

Ms. TRAN Thi Kim Dung  
*Local Program Officer, Economic Empowerment Program with Gender Perspectives in Quang Nam, Ho Chi Minh City*

The program Kim Dung is working on aims to (i) encourage local initiatives which promote employment and entrepreneurship, while gender disparity is alleviated through improving skills of local authorities and civil society (ii) promote rural development with local and gender approach, enabling fair distribution and control of resources (iii) promote Social Rights of vulnerable people through social justice initiatives on equality and non-discrimination, specially women.
One of the key activities of the program is to promote gender equality at the grass root level and gender mainstreaming into local economic development. Kim Dung takes over this component and is a gender adviser on activities based on community, especially for ethnic minorities beneficiaries.

Her job is to design, plan, implement, monitor, and provide counsel on a wide range of community initiatives on gender promotion. Especially, her prior duty is to design various activities on empowering rural women, help them feel confident in social-economic activities and related business management activities.

With her position and role, Kim Dung has many chances to work and cooperate with various stakeholders: governmental agencies at all levels, local NGOs, private enterprises, mass people and marginalized volunteers network. The diversity and different working style/environment urge her to learn continuously. It is a good opportunity for her to access the issues in lens of various aspects and be flexible in handling issues.

She is also the active member in GAP network (funded by Gender Equality Department/Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs and UN Women) and national network in Domestic Violence prevention and control in Vietnam. She regularly joins in Regional and national conferences to learn and exchange experiences and knowledge with the topics relating to gender such as Gender and Development, Gender Statistics, and Women in International Labour Migration from Vietnam.

Ms. DO Thi Thu Thao

Business Development Manager (GreennoCom), Program Manager (YESE), Green Innovation and Communication Company (GreennoCom), Young Entrepreneurs and Sustainability Education (YESE), Hanoi

Thao holds a Bachelor degree in International Business and Economics from Foreign Trade University, Vietnam and a Training-of-Trainer certificate of Social Entrepreneurship Development from Institute of Leadership and Management, UK. She has been working as Co-founder and Business Development Manager for Green Innovation and Communication Company (GreennoCom), a business start-up focusing on communication and education for green business and sustainable development in Vietnam since 2009. In addition, she is responsible for Young Entrepreneurs and Sustainability Education (YESE), a youth education program as Program Manager. Her work involves leading and coordinating project planning and implementation as well as developing and maintaining relationships with other organizations.

Thao has a strong interest in culture and cultural exchange activities. She was formerly one of the leaders of Hanoi Kids, a volunteer organization that provides free city tours for foreign tourists in return for English practice and culture exchange. In 2010, she initiated a project called “Pieces of Culture” and led a series of interactive cultural events in order to promote Vietnamese culture and stimulate cultural exchange between Vietnam and other countries.
Ms. NGUYEN Thu Huong  
*Program Coordinator, Study Abroad Adviser, Can Tho University, Ho Chi Minh City*

I am Nguyen Thu Huong, can be named as Huong, means pleasant scent. I come from Can Tho, the southern part of Vietnam. I am Program Coordinator of International Training Program, namely Tropical Semester Program in Department of International Relations, Can Tho University. My major responsibilities consist of program design, implementation and logistic arrangement. This program aims at promoting the brand name of our university as well as increasing the number of international students to Can Tho University. Relatively, I am also a study-abroad adviser consults for the local candidates around Mekong Delta Provinces to upgrade their knowledge by studying abroad in different developed countries. Thanks to those tasks, I have opportunities to work closely with both local and international counterparts who help me better myself in my profession. I love travel and enjoy exploring new cultures. I got married with Danh and we have two kids. My daughter Lucy is 10 and my son Andrew is 3. Thanks god brings all of them to my life.

Mr. HO Duong Dong  
*Lecturer, Danang University of Technology (DUT), Ho Chi Minh City*

I am a young lecturer at DUT in Danang city, Vietnam. My city is a small but charming city in the center of Vietnam. My background is Mechanical Engineering. However, most courses I am teaching related to management. This is because I like to communicate with others and I love my career because I could see my students improving themseves and growing every year. In 2011, I got a Master degree in Production Engineering and Management in KTH, Stockholm, Sweden. I have five years working experience in several companies in Hochiminh city, the biggest city located in the south of Vietnam. My hobby is traveling on motorbike, reading books, watching movies, and volunteering. Joining this project, I hope that I would have good experience as well as learn new knowledge which I would like to transfer them to students in class.
Kim Morisaki

Starting her professional career in Kumamoto, Japan, Kim built her entrepreneurial skills in international trade for eleven years. While there she launched and operated Big Sky International Trading, an importer of US building materials and furniture to Japanese architects, developers and designers. She later returned to her native Montana and spent five years in the private sector managing national accounts for a local building products manufacturer.

Kim oversees Business Development and Special Projects for Montana West Economic Development, assisting new and expanding businesses in their pursuit of financial resources and business expertise. Kim provides counseling and technical assistance for MWED clients as they work through their business plan needs. An active member of the Flathead Business and Retention (BEAR) team, Kim promotes and develops industry networks (manufacturing and technology) to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing for local business sectors. Kim holds a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Claremont McKenna College.

Her special project for the last few years has been the development of the Flathead County Economic Development Authority’s (FCEDA) rail-served industrial park. This project is a necessary stepping stone for the City of Kalispell to realize their vision of revitalizing the Kalispell Core Area. As staff for FCEDA Kim works closely with the City of Kalispell’s staff on this project and related grant applications.

As President of the Flathead Valley Hockey Association, Kim plays coordinator, chauffer, and fundraiser for her children and husband’s sports events year round. Actively involved with the local Japanese community and Montana’s Japan Club, Kim helps arriving Japanese students settle into the Montana lifestyle.

Jeff Tiberi

Policy Director, Montana Association of Conservation Districts, Fellowship coordinator for Mr. CHHON Chheayudh
Jeffrey Tiberi is the current Policy Director at the Montana Association of Conservation Districts and was the first Executive Director of the Montana Heritage Commission. Both positions aim to conserve Montana resources, both natural and historical. The Montana Heritage Commission manages Virginia City and Nevada City, two boom towns of the gold rush in Montana. As Executive Director, Mr. Tiberi oversaw the preservation of over 250 buildings and 800,000 artifacts. He holds a BS in Natural Resources from Penn State University and a MA in Management and Human Relations from Webster University.

Mark Rehder
Geyser Farm, Owner, Fellowship coordinator for Mr. OEURN Ratana

Mark Rehder holds a degree in agriculture and has been farming for nearly 20 years. He has been on his 10-acre plot of land in Livingston, MT for three. While Geyser Farm is not certified organic, Mark follows organic growing procedures in all parts of his operation. Geyser Farm strives to be a sustainable business in every way: they grow diversified crops, practice crop rotation, sell all of their produce within 30 miles of the farm, donate food to charitable organizations and deliver produce on the day it was harvested.

Mark has also started a non-profit called Farms for Families, which is dedicated to improving the self-reliance of local food systems. They promote market garden production, food processing and pastured animal systems. Geyser Farm acts as the central farm and assists satellite farms in establishing market gardens. The organization strives to give people the tools to control their nutrition by eating locally as well as the education to establish home gardens.

Laos
TBA

Thailand

Geoffrey Birnbaum
Executive Director, Youth Homes Montana, Fellowship Coordinator for Ms. Arunee Namamuti

Geoff reports to the Board of Directors. He is responsible for overseeing all facets of the organization including program development, fundraising, marketing, strategy, policy, collaboration and personnel. He graduated from Hobart College in
Geneva, NY and came to Montana in 1972. After six years working with youth and social policy, Geoff became the 1st Executive Director of Youth Homes in 1976. He has been involved in the growth of the Youth Homes from a 7 boys group home in 1971. Geoff and his wife, Nancy, have been foster parents a number of times and he has been coaching high school aged soccer players for 28 years. They have two grown children and grandkids.

Laurie Strand Bridgeman
Youth Harvest Director, Garden City Harvest, Fellowship coordinator for Dr. Ornprapa Anugoolprasert

Laurie has been involved with Garden City Harvest since 2003. She has worked with youth in experiential therapeutic settings for four years and has worked with the Youth Harvest Project since 2006, taking on the role of Director in 2008. Laurie graduated from the University of Montana with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and went on to receive her Master’s in Social Work. She enjoys sliding on sticks down snow covered mountains, practicing yoga, and all aspects of food - from preserving to cooking to eating.

Vietnam

Darlene Samson
Interim Director TRiO Student Support, University of Montana, Fellowship Co-Coordinator for Ms. NGUYEN Thu Huong

Darlene Samson currently serves at the university as the Interim Director of TRiO Student Support Services. Darlene has worked at TRiO SSS for the past 23 years! I’ve loved working with UM TRiO Students in every day advising and support to help students stay in college and graduate.

Darlene received a B.S. in Business Education from EMC (MSU-Billings) and her first teaching position was on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning as a business instructor. During her five years in Browning, she also taught classes at Blackfeet Community College, Browning and Cut Bank adult education programs, and her last year as Counselor with the Blackfeet Teacher Training Program at Blackfeet Community College. Her career includes working with displaced agricultural and migrant workers, displaced homemakers, Upward Bound instructor, and various substitute teaching positions in middle, high schools, and Flathead Valley Community College. In her spare time, she’s devoted to family—husband and two daughters—college sophomore and high school sophomore; spending summers at Swan Lake, and following her husband to GRIZ athletic events or other sporting venues; and trailing her daughters numerous activities!
**Dr. Susan Rinehart**  
*University of Montana, TRiO Student Support Services, Fellowship Co-Coordinator for Ms. NGUYEN Thu Huong*

Dr. Susan Rinehart has spent her entire career, of 30 years, involved with international students. She served as a Director of International Student Programs, Director of Sponsored Student Programs, and English as a foreign language teacher. While earning her doctorate at the University of Arkansas, she researched and wrote about international student use of computer technology to communicate. Some countries she has visited include Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy, and England. Susan is currently on the Board for the Missoula International Friendship Program which matches UM international students with Community Friends in the Missoula community.

**Linda Ellersick**  
*University of Montana International Programs, Communication & Outreach Coordinator and Assistant to the Director, Fellowship Co-Coordinator for Ms. NGUYEN Thu Huong*

Linda has worked in the Office of International Programs (OIP) since August 2010. She develops and coordinates OIP news, events, website, and other communication and outreach efforts, connecting OIP with other UM units and the surrounding community. Linda has degrees in Latin American Studies and International Affairs, and a Teaching English as Foreign/Second Language Certificate. She has studied and conducted research in Mexico, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

In her free time, she enjoys practicing Aikido and yoga, reading, gardening, traveling, rafting, cooking, and hiking.
Tara Mastel
Community and Economic Development Extension Agent, MSU Extension Jefferson County, Jefferson Local Development Corporation, Fellowship Coordinator for Ms. Tran Thi Kim Dung

Tara Mastel is an MSU Extension Agent working on Economic and Community Development in Jefferson County, Montana. Tara also manages the Jefferson Local Development Corporation, which is Jefferson County’s lead economic development organization. In the seven years she has been in this role, Tara has worked on a wide range of projects, including leadership development with community volunteers and elected officials, microbusiness assistance, farmer’s market development, value-added agriculture business assistance, grant-writing, grant management, group facilitation, construction administration, historic preservation, and community foundations.

Prior to economic development, Tara did strategic research and planning at a mid-sized national advertising agency for seven years. Tara has a Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a focus on Regional, Economic, and Workforce Development from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota. Tara grew up in Northeastern Montana and after a long stint in the city is happy to be back in Montana to raise her three kids with her husband, Mike.

Tom Harrington
MSU Extension Agent for Jefferson County, Jefferson Local Development Corporation, Fellowship Coordinator for Ms. Tran Thi Kim Dung

Tom works with the Jefferson Local Development Corporation helping new and existing businesses with development and expansion. He also works with mining natural resource organizations to improve communication with the local community and assists water conservation studies and improvement programs in the area. Tom graduated from Montana State University with a degree in finance. He then served in the military for twenty-two years, focusing on planning, training, logistics, and operations. His service included three years in Mannheim, Germany.
Mark Rehder
Geyser Farm, Owner, Fellowship coordinator for Ms. Yaowalak SRIKHAMPHA

Mark Rehder holds a degree in agriculture and has been farming for nearly 20 years. He has been on his 10-acre plot of land in Livingston, MT for three. While Geyser Farm is not certified organic, Mark follows organic growing procedures in all parts of his operation. Geyser Farm strives to be a sustainable business in every way: they grow diversified crops, practice crop rotation, sell all of their produce within 30 miles of the farm, donate food to charitable organizations and deliver produce on the day in was harvested.

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Joe Fanguy
University of Montana, Director of Technology Transfer, Fellowship Coordinator for Ms. DO Thi Thu Thao and Mr. HO Duong Dong

Joe spearheads the University of Montana’s economic development interests by working closely with local, state, and global partners to stimulate job creation in Montana. As the University of Montana’s Director of Technology Transfer, Joe’s management responsibilities include the University’s intellectual property and licensing portfolio as well as spin-out companies. During his term as President of MonTEC, Fanguy revitalized the Missoula based 32,000 square foot business incubator as the hub for entrepreneurship and start-ups in Western Montana. In 2014, Fanguy also secured funding and launched the University of Montana Blackstone LaunchPad program, a world renown platform for supporting student led entrepreneurial ventures of all disciplines. Prior to his 2009 arrival in Montana, Joe served as assistant director in Mississippi State University’s Office of Technology Commercialization, where he also served as a licensing associate for several years. Joe’s educational background is in the field of chemistry, with a Doctorate and Master’s degree from Mississippi State University and a Bachelor’s degree from Nicholls State University in South Louisiana.