Background

Sombath Somphone was disappeared in Vientiane, Laos, on 15 December 2012. Now more than 10 years have passed since he was abducted and there is still no news of his whereabouts or his current status.

Sombath’s greatest passion was to give opportunities to children and young people, especially those who lack opportunities and who want to improve themselves to work for the greater benefit of society in a holistic, sustainable, and balanced way with nature and the environment. The ultimate goal of the Fund is to develop the greater wellbeing (happiness) of the self and society as a whole.

Sombath was highly influenced by the ideas of Arjan Sulak Siviraksa regarding engaged Buddhism, and by the work of the Spirit in Education Movement (SEM) and the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB). The Fund is under the management umbrella of the Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF), a Thai non-profit foundation, under which SEM and INEB operate.

Fund Objectives:

**Education** - To provide full or partial scholarships, especially to marginalized children and young people seeking to complete their education in schools or colleges.

**Community Projects** - To provide small grants to active young adults (up to 35 years of age) to initiate start-up work or activities for youth in community education or development.

**To support** organizations providing education or humanitarian relief to at risk children and families.

Project Target Areas

The target area of the recipients will be from countries in the Mekong Sub-Region:
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Vietnam
- Southwest region China

Target Groups

- Marginalized children
- Active and socially engaged young adults
- At risk children and families in need of emergency supports and/or humanitarian assistance

Who can apply?

Non-profit organizations, small groups or individuals.

Time Frame

- **Application Deadline** - May 31, 2023
- **June 2023** - Announce successful applicants
- **December 2023** - Grantee event with project presentations and a call for donations to support next year’s round of projects.

Deadline to submit applications is **May 31, 2023**.

Send applications to sombathfund@inebnetwork.org