

# Hope, Connection, Bravery, and Wisdom: Building Resilience in a Changing World

## Message to Peacebuilders

Remarks to ACTS students by Soth Plai Ngarm, CPCS Board Chair,  
20th February 2025, Siem Reap

"Friends, colleagues, and fellow peacebuilders,

I am delighted to stand before you today as we gather to celebrate the work we have done together and the work we will begin after this.

We live in a time of significant global change—political shifts, rising polarization, and evolving conflicts reshaping our world. But despite these uncertainties, one truth remains clear: our commitment to peace must remain unwavering.

As peacebuilders, we must stay positive and hopeful, even when confronted with challenges that seem insurmountable. Hope is not just a sentiment; it is a strategy. It fuels our resilience, sharpens our vision, and gives us the strength to continue when the road gets tough.

But hope alone is not enough. We must also be brave—brave in standing up for justice, speaking out against violence, and fostering dialogue where others see only division. Yet, bravery without wisdom can be reckless. This is why we must also be smart and strategic. We must read the political landscape with clarity, anticipate changes, and adapt our approaches to remain effective.

Equally important is our ability to stay connected. In an ever-changing world, collaboration is key. We must strengthen our networks, share knowledge, and support one another across borders and disciplines. Flexibility and creativity will be our tools to remain relevant in this shifting global reality.

At times, wisdom calls for patience. There will be moments when it is necessary to step back—not out of fear, but out of strategy. Avoiding being the target today does not mean giving up; it means living to fight another day, ensuring that our work continues and that our vision for peace remains alive.

Above all, we must keep wearing the eyes of wisdom. Complexity can cloud our vision. Darkness can obscure our path, but wisdom allows us to see beyond the immediate, to understand the deeper currents of change, and to navigate with purpose.

Let us continue this journey with courage, intelligence, and unity. Let us rise to the challenges of our time with resilience and vision. And as we do so, let us take this moment to enjoy the company of fellow peacebuilders"