



Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

PRESS RELEASE

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SEARAC Celebrates 30 Years of Southeast Asian Resettlement by Honoring Community Leaders

Washington, DC – On September 17, 2005, SEARAC will honor individuals and organizations that have supported the Southeast Asian American communities at SEARAC's gala entitled, *Beyond Refugees: From Flight to Setting Roots*. Southeast Asian honorees in attendance will include: Yong Kay Moua – acknowledged and awarded by former President Clinton as one of the "Thousand Points of Light"; Dr. Huong Tran Nguyen – 1994 nominee for the National Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award; Torm Nompraseurt – long time activist and the Organizing Director of the Laotian Organizing Project; Loung Ung – a featured speaker on Cambodia, child soldiers, and landmines and author of the national bestselling book, *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*; and Catherina Nou – President of the Khmer American Student Association at the University of California, Davis. "These honorees represent the progress of the Southeast Asian community in this country. These awards celebrate the successes of the past and present, as well as the hope for the future of our entire community," says Doua Thor, Executive Director of SEARAC.

At this event, SEARAC will also commemorate the 30th year of Southeast Asian refugee resettlement to the United States and the 25th Anniversary of the Refugee Act by featuring Southeast Asian performances and honoring our allies, Refugee Council USA and State Farm[®]. In addition, SEARAC will host a silent auction with proceeds supporting SEARAC programs and relief efforts and survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

The gala will be held on September 17, 2005, from 6:30 to 10:00 pm, at Tony Cheng's Restaurant in Washington, DC.