



Gechsoun Khun
Tourism Entrepreneur, Kek Soon's Kampot Cuisine & Culture Tours

Khun Gechsoun aka Soon was born and raised in Kampot province, Cambodia. Soon grew up in a poor and disadvantaged fishing community and spent much of her childhood earning money to support her family by cleaning fishing boats and other jobs such as selling food on the streets of her hometown.

In her late teens she was sent to Malaysia to work as a maid and spent 8 years in this role where she also had some opportunity to learn skills such as baking and cooking. Her employer was a business woman who established the first chain of Nando's restaurants in Malaysia and inspired Soon to start her own restaurant on her return to Cambodia.

Soon's first restaurant was in Bom Not, a jungle town in the Cambodian countryside where she specialized in local cuisine. After she married and had a daughter, Soon returned to Kampot where she took over management of popular local café Ellie's but soon established a new venture Kek Soon's Kitchen at KAMA. At KAMA Soon became involved in producing the annual Kampot Readers & Writers Festival and hosting many international guests for this event as well as other arts & culture initiatives through KAMA (Kampot Arts & Music Association). This work came to the attention of NGO Swisscontact who partnered with Soon to establish Kek Soon Cuisine & Culture Tours and to develop a website for online bookings and promotion.

Kek Soon's Cuisine & Culture tours have become very popular for visitors to Kampot and she has since included art workshops and opened an Art Gallery at KAMA, Kampot. Soon is thrilled to receive the news that she is the winner of a World Tourism Star Award and is now looking forward to her first trip to Switzerland to attend WTFL.