

# Southeast Asia Resource Center (SEARAC)



SEARAC is a national organization advancing the interests of Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese Americans through leadership development, capacity building, and community empowerment. Founded in 1979 as the Indochina Refugee Action Center (IRAC) to facilitate the relocation of Southeast Asian refugees into American society, it also fostered the development of nonprofit organizations led by and for Southeast Asian Americans.

SEARAC serves as a coalition-builder and leader, carrying out action-oriented research projects, and strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations such as mutual assistance associations (MAAs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs). It also fosters civic engagement among Southeast Asian Americans, and represents our communities at the national level in Washington, DC.

Immigration, education, health, economic development and involving more women in policy discussions are areas SEARAC actively advocates through its leadership in the Refugee Council USA, and the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans.

## State Farm® Background

State Farm funds the Leadership Advocacy Training Conference and Project SAVE. SEARAC is an Alliance Partner of America's Promise and a member of the Campaign for High School Equity.

The annual Leadership Advocacy Training Conference gathers 60-120 Southeast Asian American leaders around the country in Washington, DC for advocacy and networking with members of Congress and the federal administration. State Farm Zone Associates have presented loss mitigation topics to meet the needs of the community, many of whom live in low-cost housing, and survivors of Katrina and Rita.

In 2008 the focus will shift to financial education and youth leadership development opportunities: Youth Advisory Board, Project Ignition, Service Learning, and APIA U: Leadership 101.

SEARAC works with partners in academia and the advocacy community to produce original publications that inform policy debates about Southeast Asian Americans. The Project SAVE publication focuses on education in these communities.

SEARAC is an America's Promise Alliance Partner.

## At A Glance:

### Contact information:

1628 16th Street  
Washington, DC 20009-3099  
(202) 667-4690  
[www.searac.org](http://www.searac.org)

### Executive Director

Ms. Doua Thor

### Programs

- Leadership Development: Each year, SEARAC gathers together approximately 50 Southeast Asian Americans in Washington, DC for advocacy and networking with members of the U.S. Congress and the federal Administration. This program provides a successful model for advocacy training that will take place as part of Project HELP in California in 2006. The Leadership-Advocacy Training is supported by the State Farm Insurance Companies. Participants remain in touch with one another and with SEARAC through a variety of volunteer activities and through an e-mail list-serve. This project, which is linked with the Southeast Asian American Advocacy Initiative, is funded by State Farm®.
- Southeast Asian American Action and Visibility in Education (SAVE) Project: SEARAC works with partners in academia and the advocacy community to produce original publications that inform policy debates about Southeast Asian Americans. SAVE is one such project, focused on education in the communities, which is supported by the State Farm® Insurance Companies.

### State Farm Contact

- Leslie Moe-Kaiser  
(309) 766-6218