Abstract: This presentation examines the role of international consultants in the current context of globalization and international development. In the assumption of universal applicability, policies and practices in special education based on the values of and models in developed countries are transferred to developing countries without consideration of the local socio-cultural and political-economic contexts. Based on my own experience as an international consultant in Cambodia, I’ll discuss some of the consequences of such an oversight and present the case for using cultural reciprocity as a framework for developing culturally-responsive education and rehabilitation systems for children with disabilities.