Top Stories:

Khmer New Year Traditional Blessing Ceremony and Celebration

Royal Blessed Songkran New Year 2016 for His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni

Dedication Ceremony for UC’s World Economic Forum Hall

Outstanding Students: Miss Yuos Sreydeth and Mr. Va Sodaroth

UC Donates $10,000 USD to Cambodian Red Cross

UC Celebrates 13th Anniversary by Planting 13 Cambodian Palm Trees

College of Management Has Been Renamed: The UC School of Business

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Doing Research in Cambodia: Making Models that Build Capacity

By: Mr. Travis Mitchell, Director of the Council for Research and Creativity

On April 1, 2016, Dr. Y Ratana, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Mr. Travis Mitchell, Director of the Council for Research and Creativity, attended a half-day event hosted by the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) at the Cambodiana Hotel. CICP was launching their final report entitled, “Doing Research in Cambodia: Making Models that Build Capacity,” which investigated the state of the culture of research in Cambodia. The authors discussed various issues, such as the difficulties associated with gathering reliable data, the structural challenges related to donor initiatives, the lack of well-trained local researchers, and the lack of money that can be used to invest in research.

The team constructed an online platform that aims to connect national and international scholars in order to collaborate, exchange publications and share research opportunities. Finally, the report includes recommendations for further research and policy initiatives in order to let young people think of research not just as an academic requirement but as an opportunity for creative and independent thinking. The University of Cambodia has been pushing research with the TSS School of Government and International Relations, the Council for Research and Creativity, the Institute for Research and Advanced Studies, and the ASEAN Study Center, along with most classes across all colleges.

Editor’s Workshop for ASEAN Citation Index

By: Mr. Travis Mitchell, Director of the Council for Research and Creativity

On 18 March 2016, Mr. Travis Mitchell, Director of the Council for Research and Creativity, attended a workshop entitled, “Editor’s Workshop for ASEAN Citation Index,” at the Phnom Penh Hotel. Dr. Nith Bunlay, Deputy Director General of Higher Education, opened the conference and explained the challenges of research in Cambodia. Then, Under-Secretary of State of MoEYS, H.E. Dr. Touch Visalsok, gave his remarks. Two expert speakers, Dr. Narongrit Sombatsompop, Chairman of the ACI Steering Committee, and Mr. Inn Beng Lee, representative of Elsevier, discussed the process of how journals in ASEAN get entered into the ASEAN Citation Index. They described in great detail the selection criteria and explained how to get research moving faster in the country. Participants then divided into groups to evaluate certain Cambodian journals to practice the evaluation criteria, and then presented the results to the guest speakers. The University of Cambodia plans to launch the Cambodian Journal of International Studies in 2016, so the information was very useful in case UC wants to submit CJIS to the ASEAN Citation Index in the future.
The Skills and Career Development Center successfully hosted two workshops entitled, “Public Speaking” and “Conflict Resolution in the Business Sector.” The public speaking workshop took place over 3 months where theoretical and practical teaching methodologies were employed. Practices from the Toastmaster Public Speaking Club were used to strengthen participants’ skills and know-how. The Conflict Resolution in the Business Sector workshop spanned 5 days; a participatory learning approach was taken, and the participants conducted a field visit. After completing the 5-day workshop, participants visited the VSO organization.

SCDC had the great honor of hosting a short certificate ceremony for the two courses on April 1, 2016, at The University of Cambodia.

This award ceremony was held in honor of the students who completed the requirements for either the Public Speaking workshop or the Conflict Resolution in the Business Sector workshop. Thirteen students were awarded Certificates of Completion in Public Speaking, and ten students were awarded Certificates of Completion in Conflict Resolution in the Business Sector. SCDC Director, Mr. Brendens Lek, had the honor of presenting each Certificate of Completion to the well deserving students.
On 2 April 2016, in response to the official invitation from Bou Nou Ouk Law Firm, staff from The University of Cambodia attended a workshop entitled, “Legal Database Usage in Modern Technology in Terms of ASEAN and the World.” Mr. Prak Sophorn, Assistant to the College of Law, was assigned by The University of Cambodia to attend the program mentioned above. This workshop aimed to raise awareness on the importance of legal research through modern technology and the use of technological tools for obtaining legal articles through standardized databases. The workshop also sought cooperation from stakeholders in their efforts to improve the current legal database.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Nou Tepirith, Founder of Bou Nou Ouk Law Firm, also highlighted the challenges of developing a legal database, including the difficulty in collecting vast sources of legal documents, the technical work required, and the high demand for attention to detail and commitment from the working group in order to accomplish this task.

The next presenter was a technician of Bou Nou Ouk Law Firm’s legal database system. He gave the audience a general presentation about the database, and introduced them to the fundamentals of the database’s structure and categorization methods. For example, documents are classified by the category of law, the year adopted, volume number, and title.

The stakeholders discussed the database system, and then shared their thoughts and requests. Specifically, they requested that Bou Nou Ouk Law Firm consider offering free subscriptions to stakeholders who may lack access, for example rural schools and poor law students.

At the end of workshop, Mr. Nou Tepirith, Founder of Bou Nou Ouk Law Firm, kindly offered a compilation law book to all participants as a token of continuing knowledge and to promote a reading culture at their respective universities and institutions.

The University of Cambodia understands the importance of cultivating meaningful relationships locally and internationally, and thus is excited to announce the implementation of a new program called, Partners of UC. This program aims to expand the UC family to include organizations and institutions throughout Cambodia and abroad, who support the mission, spirit and purpose of UC. Collaboration between Partners and UC will be mutually beneficial, and will create a large network of innovative individuals that can be used to support personal, institutional, and national development.

Partners of UC will be invited to speak to students, faculty and staff regarding their individual specialties, display products on campus and at UC events, and offer internships or employment to our talented students. In addition, Partners are encouraged to work alongside UC management to develop and enhance university curriculum and human resource development.
The Center for English Studies (CES) at the University of Cambodia (UC) provides many English programs for students who wish to pursue their degrees at the University of Cambodia and for those who need English for their own purposes. Students who successfully complete all levels in each program are given a certificate of completion. The 15th CES graduation ceremony was held on 2 April 2016, to confer certificates of completion to 497 students who have successfully completed level six in the Intensive English Program (IEP), and to award certificates of academic excellence to 48 outstanding students at the Center for English Studies at the University of Cambodia, from term one to term five, in the academic year 2014 – 2015.

The 15th CES graduation ceremony was chaired by Dr. Y Ratana, Vice President for Academic Affairs and representative of H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Founder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of the University of Cambodia. The participants and guests of this event included Ms. Por Malis, Vice President of Operations, Professor Din Merican, Acting Dean of the Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations, Mr. Pay Chheng How, Associate Dean of the College of Arts Humanities and Languages and Director of the Center for English Studies, Mr. Sam Sophorn, Director of the Office of Administration, CES instructors and staff, UC staff, and CES graduates.

This remarkable event begun with the national anthem of the Kingdom of Cambodia and a welcome speech and brief report on the history of CES and its programs by Mr. Pay Chheng How, Director of CES and Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Languages. On this special occasion, Dr. Y Ratana, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and chairman of the ceremony, presented a very meaningful speech to the fresh CES graduates, which emphasized two main points – persistence in learning, and the significance of social capital (social networking). He unfolded these two vital concepts by sharing his own learning experience and pointing out empirical evidence on the relationship between social capital and obtaining success in life. He indicated that one should never let a small calamity terminate his or her academic life. Additionally, he reasserted that no one would become successful without social networking. This valuable speech was followed by a short, but meaningful message by Professor Din Merican, Acting Dean of the Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations. In his remarks, Professor Din reiterated the importance of perseverance in learning, and encouraged students to “never give up.” He also emphasized the value of being humble and helpful to others on your path to success.

Before closing the event, Ms. Heng Moly, representative of the CES graduates, was invited to give a brief talk on her experience at CES and her future academic life at UC. In her remarks, she showed her deep gratitude to her parents for their support, and CES instructors and UC staff, and especially the UC management team, for their dedication, and their utmost care and love for her and all UC students. In her conclusion, she shared her high expectations and utmost respect for UC staff, faculty members and management, all of whom, she believes, will make her future academic life at UC smooth and memorable.
The 12th International High School Art Competition Festival was announced to the general public throughout the country on February 17th, 2016, and the application deadline was March 30th, 2016. 15 high school students submitted their artwork for evaluation. On April 1st, 2016, an exam was held to assess the candidates artistic abilities and congruence with the competition’s themes.

The following committee was responsible for assessing the artwork and determining the winners:

1- H.E. Samraing Kamsan Member of the UC Board Trustees Chair
2- Dr. Y Ratana Vice President for Academic Affairs Vice Chair
3- Mrs. Por Malis Vice President for Operations Vice Chair
4- Mr. Cheng Pay How Associate Dean, College of Arts Humanities and Languages Member
5- Mr. An Sopheak Associate Dean, College of Media and Communications Member

The evaluation process is divided into three phases: (1) Determine top 10 (eliminate 5) (2) Select top 5 (eliminate 5) (3) Adopt top 5 rankings and determine winner

The evaluation criteria of this competition is divided into the five following points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workmanship techniques in the use of color</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity and style</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
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After the detailed evaluation process, five unique masterpieces were selected, and the top prize was presented to Ms. Veasna Lucklita, a student from Don Bosco School, under the theme, “The maintenance of peace and development.” The top five winners are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veasna Lucklita</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Chanrany</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ly Kimhorng</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>77.50</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ung Rithchanboramey</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>71.50</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ly Setheamony</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first place winner is awarded the opportunity to visit Japan for 3 days, in addition to a cash prize of 30,000 JPY (Thirty Thousand Yen). All expenses incurred during the 3-day Japan trip including accommodation, food, local means, and airfare to be borne by the organizers.

Last but not least, on April 5, 2016 at 2:00pm, The University of Cambodia organized an official result announcement ceremony for the International High School Arts Competition, which was chaired by H.E. Samraing Kamsan in the UC Conference Room. H.E. Kamsan congratulated Ms. Veasna Lacklita who obtained a 91 score from the committee and won this competition. He also encouraged those who did not win the competition to continue to practice and not give up, he suggested doing one painting or drawing per month. After that, H.E. Samraing Kamsan conferred the certificates of appreciation to all the candidates, and took photos together.
At 7:30am on April 7th, 2016, The University of Cambodia organized a traditional Khmer New Year blessing and offering ceremony, which included a procession of 99 Buddhist monks, invited from seven different pagodas. The ceremony was presided over by **H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn**, Founder, Chairman of the Board Trustees and President of The University of Cambodia, and **LCT Khem Rany**, Director General of Southeast Asia Television (SEATV), Member of the Board Trustees and Vice President for General Affairs at The University of Cambodia.

After the traditional blessing for a prosperous new year, 7 monks representing the 7 different pagodas blessed the University building. Immediately following, the procession of 99 Buddhist monks began. The procession was joined by H.E President and Lok Chumteav, staff, faculty, students, families, and friends.

In the evening, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn and Lok Chumteav organized a buffet dinner reception for UC’s staff and faculty members, as well as SEATV’s staff, to celebrate Khmer New Year. Last but not least, the management team and staff of both institutions enjoyed dinner together and danced to celebrate the New Year.
Five students, Long Sovann, Pov Chantha, Sokrun Seng, Mouey Sreyleak and Taing Souheang from The University of Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross Youth attended the Royal Blessed Songkran New Year for His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni on 7 April 2016. The celebration was organized by the Union of Youth Federation of Cambodia, and was honorably attended by Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Kittipritbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen, First Lady of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of the Cambodian Red Cross, Excellencies, government officials, Royal Ambassadors and Ambassadors, students and other citizens.

The main objective of the celebration was to show respect and appreciation for the precious Royal Treasure, King Norodom Sihamoni. The celebration brought him renewed energy and wisdom to serve the nation and his people, and Cambodia will make progress in all areas.
The University of Cambodia conducted the UC Facebook Photo Competition 2016 under the topic, “Education and study life at The University of Cambodia.” The competition was open to both students and the general public. The event formally began on February 1st, 2016, and ran through March 31st, 2016.

The criteria for judging submissions included: 1. Relevance to the topic; 2. Creativity; 3. Quality and visibility of photo; and 4. Amount of “Likes” received. Essentially, participants had to adhere to the first three criteria in order to submit their photo, and then were given two months to promote their respective entries to gather as many ‘likes’ as possible.

In recognition of the hard work and courage of the contestants, The University of Cambodia generously offered prizes to the top three contestants, the value of those prizes totaled $800 USD. They are:

1st Place - IPAD 3
2nd Place - Large Fridge
3rd Place - Fruit mixer

Additionally, a fourth winner was selected for the Judges’ Choice Award, and they will also be given the 50% scholarship for any short-course or certificate course at UC.

All four winners displayed unique factors in their respective masterpieces. We are pleased to announce the winners are, as follows:

- 1st place: Mr. La Vanly, with 844 “Likes.” His picture portrayed a ‘selfie’ with the UC building as a background and a caption that explained how UC is the best university for students to study for degrees and conduct academic research.
- 2nd place: Mr. Mey Phearith, with 644 “Likes.” His photo showed the UC football field and a student playing football. The caption explained the photo is meant to promote a balance between studying and physical fitness - depicting UC as a place where it is possible to study while maintaining your physical well-being through sports, as well.
- 3rd place: Ms. Sann Thida, with 357 “Likes.” Her photo displayed her achievements and her caption mentioned that UC is helping her to make the world a better place.
- Judges’ Choice Award: Mr. Chhin Long, for a photo showing the outward appearance of UC from a birds-eye view, which the judges deemed a “must see.”

UC considers this event to be a huge success and congratulates all the contestants for their artistry and bravery for submitting their photos. Congratulations especially, to the four winners, you have made your family and The University of Cambodia very proud.
Participating in Youth Contests

By: Ms. Naihean Huo, UC student majoring in English Language and Literature

Reading and art have been my favorite hobbies since I was young. I used to dream of becoming a well-known artist and author. The word ‘competition’ is a powerful motivation for me. I have participated in many contests that fit my capacity and natural talents, but unfortunately, I’ve failed many times. Although I have failed, all of those experiences have been lessons on how to be successful today. Finally, my hard work was rewarded, and I achieved success in two contests.

The first contest was composing a poem on the topic, “The effects and measures to avoid alcohol,” organized by the Cambodia Movement for Health Organization on its Facebook page, from March 10-20, 2016. There were two kinds of contests: drawing and Khmer poem composition. The top prize was a laptop, and the top two and three contestants received tablets. Being more confident in writing, I chose to enter the second contest, Khmer poem composition. My two-page poem described the bad effects of using alcohol and the measures that should be taken to avoid them. On March 27th, 2016, I was announced as the second place winner. Thus, I was awarded a tablet. I really felt fabulous and proud of myself on that day. Plus, among the six winners, I was the only girl.

The second contest I obtained success in was a drawing contest on the topic, “I am a Role Model 4,” organized by the Facebook Page of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, from May 27th to June 1st, 2016. This contest offered four categories: video making, song composition, article writing and poem composition, and drawing. I did not choose poem composing again because I wanted to test my other talents as well, so I chose drawing. I spent a few days drawing about a successful woman who had been passionate in, and committed to, volunteer work and studying hard in student life. The submissions were posted on Samdech Techo Hun Sen’s Facebook page, and the public evaluated the submissions by ‘liking’ the posts. The ten submissions that received the most ‘likes’ by the competition deadline received the top awards. Joyfully, I was ranked eighth among the top ten winners. On June 5th, 2016, I was awarded an admiration certificate, a cash prize, and a sport suit from the Prime Minister. I felt so proud on that day.

Last but not least, both contests were not too challenging, but rather they were quite enjoyable and very valuable. I can truly say that they were productive activities because they inspired me to express my potential, and be active in society. I always seek for such kind of contests to develop my capacity, to share my gifts with others, and to participate in new social networks. One phrase I’d like to leave you with is one that always motivates me, “NEVER GIVE UP!”

I’d like to express my profound gratitude to The University of Cambodia for always supporting and encouraging me, and every other UC student, to do good deeds for society.
The University of Cambodia was honoured to receive a visit from Dr. Jean Decety from 18-21 April 2016. The main aim of his visit was to discuss possible future research collaboration; related to this, he also made a presentation to a select group of undergraduate students.

Dr. Decety’s original specialisation was in neuro-imaging studies of the normal human brain and the effects of psychiatric conditions, based on his work in France and at two world-renowned neuropsychological research centres in Sweden: the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and the University of Lund. Thereafter in 2001, he moved to the University of Washington in Seattle, as Professor and Head of the Social-Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory. Then, in 2004, he moved to the University of Chicago, where he now holds the positions of Irving B. Harris Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry, as well as the Director of the Social Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory and the Child Neurosuite. During his time there, his interests have expanded to now include behavioural studies and related social science dimensions, especially in the field of ‘neuro-economics’ and the testing of various aspects of game theory.

Reflecting this, Dr. Decety gave a presentation to selected UC students on, ‘The bright side and the dark side of empathy.’ In this context, ‘empathy’ refers to the understanding of other individuals’ feelings and the consequent motivation of pro-social behaviours related to caring and concern, with an associated decrease in agonistic behaviours. Thus he noted that the bright side pertains to fundamental aspects of behaviour for the survival of many species, not just in humans: it is an essential component of parental care and the consequent survival of any offspring in species which invest energy in the guarding and nurture of their progeny.
In human societies, a positive effect is that empathy may be extended to others not within the family group. This is the basis of charitable appeals to help those who are, for example, threatened by famine or other natural or man-made disasters. He pointed out the importance of the identifiable victim (‘spotlight’) effect, where focussing on one particular individual case was more effective in eliciting an empathic, charitable response than a more generalised appeal relating to a group from the otherwise anonymous population at large. Thus, he noted that Stalin had observed that one death is a tragedy ... whilst the millions who died during the latter’s ‘reign’ were merely statistics.

Related to this, neuro-imaging studies have identified that a salience network for danger and threat, leading to the activation of defensive and protective behaviour, is also activated in tests designed to arouse feelings of empathy. This includes a key neuronal group rostral to the anterior corpus callosum, as well as perspective-taking elements in the medial prefrontal cortex.

On the other hand, Dr. Decety pointed out that there is a negative aspect to empathy. Most obvious is the tendency to prefer immediate kin, with nepotism as the immediate consequence. More subtly, there is evidence from neuro-imaging studies that many humans show implicit empathetic biases in relation to perceptions regarding the social standing of another individual (for example, in how they contracted HIV infection: testees were ill-disposed to those who were said to have been actively infected by needle-sharing, compared with those who were passively infected by blood-transfusion, through no choice of their own). Furthermore, there was also evidence for such internal biases in favour of their own ‘race’ when comparing Caucasian and Chinese participants in neuro-imaging studies, based on their brain-scanned responses to visual presentations of individuals of different races with expressions of pain. Such implicit evidence for unconscious biases provides a more solid basis for understanding individuals’ attitudes, when compared with their overt expression of explicit beliefs: whilst an individual might think that they are unbiased; brain scans suggest that this may often be just a superficial veneer.

Dr. Decety concluded by noting that morality represents an additional, apparently human-specific innovation which is underpinned by a more general need for empathy. The implicit argument is that morality transcends empathy (with the latter’s potential negative connotations) in sustainable human societies.

The material presented by Dr. Decety was very conceptual, although he strove to maximise its accessibility to the audience, and to emphasise its practical relevance with regard to appealing to others’ sensitivities, and thereby evoking empathetic reactions.
On April 27th, 2016, The University of Cambodia held a ceremony to dedicate a hall at The University of Cambodia in honor of the World Economic Forum. The hall was officially renamed as, “World Economic Forum Hall.” The function was held at the Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations (TSS) on the 10th floor of UC’s main building in Phnom Penh. It was jointly presided over by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Founder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of The University of Cambodia, and H.E. Dr. Philipp Rosler, Member of the Managing Board and Head of the Center for Regional Strategies at the World Economic Forum. Also present were four members of H.E. Rosler’s delegation as guests of honor.

The naming of this hall underlines of the importance UC attaches to the World Economic Forum, and to support the efforts and leadership of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in hosting the World Economic Forum’s ASEAN Summit in Cambodia in 2017. All UC faculty and staff members participated in the ceremony to celebrate this important and historic occasion.

Additionally, Dr. Rosler took time during his visit to tour UC’s lecture halls, laboratories and libraries to meet with UC students and explore the diverse facilities offered.
UC Distinguished Lecture Series on “Energy, Security, and Climate Changes for SE Asia and Cambodia”

Featuring

Dr. Peter Hefele, Director of the KAS Regional Project on Energy Security and Climate Change

By: Professor Din Merican, Acting Dean of the Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations

Dr. Hefele is the head of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Project on Energy Security and Climate Change (RECAP), based in Hong Kong. On Thursday, 21 April 2016, Dr. Hefele made a presentation to about 70 staff and students in the Executive Meeting Room at The University of Cambodia. The subject of Dr. Hefele’s presentation was, ‘Energy, Security, and Climate Changes for SE Asia and Cambodia’.

The essence of Dr. Hefele’s presentation was the rapid population growth in Asia, the rise of middle classes, and the increased demand for energy. Asia, including the Indian subcontinent, has the most rapid growth of energy consumption in the world. The price for this growth is emissions, air pollution and deforestation.

This is the dilemma of development, and this rapid growth is being exacerbated by climate change, along with competition for resources and vulnerability caused by conflict.

RECAP often runs regional workshops with students to explore solutions to these problems, including energy transformation and integration of energy and climate change politics. These workshops are based on the experience of COP21, the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference. A major finding of this conference was that the most influential changes in public attitudes and behaviour were from the bottom upwards, not regulations imposed from above (laws and regulations).

The result of this conference (the Paris Accord) was an agreement to set a goal of limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

Germany, for example, has achieved zero growth of energy consumption, but this has been by way of public debate, consensus and working with disparate groups. This method has been proven effective, where as, government regulations alone have proven ineffective in a number of countries.

Dr. Hefele believes that energy problems for Asia will increase (pollution, cost, and conflict), unless there is greater public awareness of these problems and a willingness to explore solutions.

Dr. Hefele expressed his sincere interest in developing future ties with UC and exploring joint activities including workshops, conferences, and the exchange of scholars. UC is excited to have a distinguished scholar such as Dr. Hefele as a partner of the University, and we look forward to the fruitful cooperation that is sure to come.
The Skills and Career Development Center (SCDC) had the great honor of inviting Mr. Lim Rithy, Human Resource Director at Pour un Sourire d’Enfant (PSE) Organization, and Mr. Oung Borin, Head of Human Resources at Aplus Consulting Co. Ltd., to be distinguished guest speakers at SCDC’s Success and Career Forum.

53 students participated in the Success and Career Forum event. The students learned so much from the speaker, Mr. Lim Rithy. He spoke about the challenges and opportunities in recruiting and managing staff. Mr. Borin focused on the activities of 3rd and 4th year students, encouraging them to prepare for the real world job market before their graduation. The forum was very active, and students fully participated by asking lots of engaging questions.

The Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations is a graduate and doctoral school with a heavy focus on conducting policy research and conducting research through an in-house think-tank. TSS will create a network of individuals, organizations and institutions that will enable students to broaden their academic and professional connections and networking opportunities.

The University of Cambodia is offering 100 scholarships for TSS students in AY: 2015-2016, in an effort to promote access to quality education for all Cambodians.
Due to the continuing major challenges related to road accidents, on April 30th, 2016, the Cambodian Red Cross organized a Youth Forum Debate entitled, “Youth and the Respect of Law on Road Traffic,” to celebrate the 153rd Anniversary of the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day on May 8th, 2016, under the theme, “Cambodian Red Cross is Everywhere for Everyone.” The CRC hopes that the youth debaters play the role of peer educators and their key messages about preventing traffic accidents and following traffic laws will help to reduce fatalities caused by traffic accidents. CRC hopes that all Cambodian people will pay more respect to traffic law implementation, which will help to reach their ultimate objective, “Today, tomorrow - no traffic accident.”

The University of Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross Youth (UCCRCY) team won 2nd place in this Youth Forum Debate.

The Forum was participated in by Cambodian Red Cross Youth from four universities: The University of Cambodia, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh International University, and Cambodia Mekong University. The team of youth debaters from The University of Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross Youth consisted of: Mr. Sam Visith, Mr. Prak Sopheara, Ms. Hor Vuochleang, Ms. Sam Oeurn Linda and Ms. Soun Khanra.
Mr. Jan Hansen, Senior Country Economist at the Asian Development Bank-Resident Mission in Cambodia, delivered an economic briefing to an audience of University of Cambodia faculty, staff and students. The lecture was moderated by Prof. Din Merican, Acting Dean of the Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations.

Mr. Jansen said that swift action by the Obama Administration and the Federal Reserve prevented the global economy from tanking into a deep and prolonged recession following the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008 and its ripple effects on the entire international financial crisis. What was essentially a localized failure of a major US investment bank, the crash quickly became a major crisis of confidence in the global fiat currency system. Unfortunately, recovery, albeit swift, could not be sustained, driving a clear policy message that expansionary monetary policy with quantitative easing and near negative interest has severe limitations in reviving economic growth against weak economic fundamentals. Growth of the Chinese economy stagnated in 2015, and developing economies were affected by poor commodity prices, particularly oil, which negatively impacted major oil exporters like Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. Additionally, the Greece debt crisis, and adverse political developments and escalating violence in the Middle East, in particular, Syria, are impacting the global economy’s ability to regain strength and stability.

As a result, widespread growth in developing Asia is expected to decelerate to 5.7 per cent in 2016 and 2017, from 5.9 percent in 2015. However, Asia accounts for 60 percent of global economic growth, close to the average over the past 5 years. On the other hand, growth for the major economies will remain stagnant.

As a result, the global economic environment in 2016 and 2017 will remain difficult, as financial markets are expected to remain volatile due to uncertainties with regard to the direction of US interest rates, financial vulnerabilities in emerging markets, further deterioration in the EU, and the unexpectedly rapid decline of economic growth in China.
With regard to Cambodia, Mr. Jansen said the country is expected to experience robust growth with strong fundamentals. In 2015, the economy grew at 7.0 percent in real terms, buoyed by industrial production and services. Inflation remained relatively low on account of subdued food and fuel prices. The budget deficit narrowed while government deposits continued to rise, signaling the strong fiscal position of the government. In 2015, money supply and credit to the private sector moderated. On the current account side, exports rose by 14.1 percent while imports increased by 11.9 percent. Due to a smaller trade deficit and higher remittances (excluding official transfers), the deficit on the current account narrowed to an estimated 11.1 percent of GDP. International reserves of Cambodia increased by 16 percent to roughly USD 5.1 billion, equivalent to about nearly 5 months of retained imports. Credit must be given to the Royal Government of Cambodia for its sound management of the economy.

Despite growing uncertainties in the external economic environment, Cambodia’s GDP in real terms is expected to expand by 7.0 percent in 2016, due to credible performances by the service sector (including tourism) and manufacturing (especially garments and industry). The agricultural sector is projected to expand by 1.6 percent. The Asian Development Bank expects growth to be slightly higher at 7.1 percent in 2017.

On the inflation front, higher growth and rising food and fuel prices are expected to further lift inflation marginally to 3.0 percent in 2017, compared to 2.5 percent in 2016. Fiscal policy is likely to be expansionary with the fiscal deficit at 4.3 percent. Better export opportunities are expected to narrow the current account gap to 10 percent of GDP in 2017.

In summation, Mr. Hansen said that looking back, Cambodia has done very well since 1998 due to peace, political stability, and an average growth rate in excess of 7.0 percent every year. Cambodia is now poised to be a new ASEAN tiger economy. It is integrating well in ASEAN, and with the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 the country is in for better times ahead. However in the interim, Cambodia needs to deal with the vulnerability of its financial sector due to heavy exposure of its banks to the construction and real estate sectors and domestic credit. The loan to deposit ratio remains high, and this needs to shift.

Externally, the export sector may be sluggish in 2017 due to a slowdown in major export markets (especially China and the United States), a weakened US dollar, and volatile global financial markets. Fortunately, due to higher than expected growth in exports of garments, footwear, services, infrastructure development, and a steady increase in foreign direct investment, Cambodia will continue to do well.
On 8 May 2016, 50 youth from The University of Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross Youth (UCCRCY), led by UC advisors, attended the commemoration of the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, under the high patronage of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The ceremony was under the theme, “Cambodian Red Cross is Everywhere for Everyone.” The objectives of the event were to strengthen the ownership of the CRC branches following the decentralization and deconcentration of the CRC structure. By building the capacity of the Red Cross Youth and Red Cross Volunteer network to provide competent assistance to humanitarian services of all kinds including disaster response, CRC will become more useful and effective than ever.

Additionally, it is important to raise funds from both within the country and from overseas, so CRC may continue to support disaster relief efforts and carry out other humanitarian activities. Thankfully, many notable national and international guests participated in the ceremony, and pledged to dedicate funds to the CRC.

Secondly, Samdech Kittiprittbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, gave prominent welcoming remarks and a report on the accomplishments and ongoing achievements of the CRC. She also expressed her appreciation to all those who support the CRC and its many humanitarian activities.

Third, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, delivered his keynote address and a report on CRC fundraising activities and prominent donors. He expressed his admiration and gratitude for the efforts of the Cambodian Red Cross, and noted their important part in developing the country.

Last but not least, this celebration provided UCCRCY with a variety of useful experiences including the chance to be a part of the organization and preparation of this successful event.
By: Mr. Kao Kim Panya, Representative of H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn

On May 8, 2016, at 8:00am, Mr. Kao Kim Panya, representative of H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Founder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of The University of Cambodia, and Lok Chum Teav Khem Rany, Member of Board Trustees and Vice President for General Affairs of The University of Cambodia, on behalf of The University of Cambodia as a whole, delivered $10,000 (Ten Thousand US Dollars) as a donation to the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) in Phnom Penh, to celebrate the 153rd Anniversary of the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, under the theme, “Cambodian Red Cross is Everywhere for Everyone.” The event was honorably presided over by Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen and Kittiprittbandit BunRany Hun Sen.

Mr. Kao Kim Panya said that this is the second time in 2016 that The University of Cambodia has contributed its own money for humanitarian works; the University previously donated funds to Kantha Bopha Hospital on February 24th, 2016.

On behalf of UC, Mr. Kao Kim Panya also stated that The University of Cambodia is committed to continue providing humanitarian services as additional contributions to society, especially for poor Cambodians and those who are affected by natural disasters in the upcoming months and years.

The University of Cambodia understands the importance of cultivating meaningful relationships locally and internationally, and thus is excited to announce the implementation of a new program called, Partners of UC. This program aims to expand the UC family to include organizations and institutions throughout Cambodia and abroad, who support the mission, spirit and purpose of UC. Collaboration between Partners and UC will be mutually beneficial, and will create a large network of innovative individuals that can be used to support personal, institutional, and national development.

Partners of UC will be invited to speak to students, faculty and staff regarding their individual specialties, display products on campus and at UC events, and offer internships or employment to our talented students. In addition, Partners are encouraged to work alongside UC management to develop and enhance university curriculum and human resource development.
What are your daily study habits?
“I make my own schedule for every day, and I always follow my schedule all the time. Also, I review the lessons that I studied last week. During lectures, I try to listen to my lecturers very closely; I try to ask questions, and clarify what I don’t understand. I also like to share my knowledge to my friends to improve myself.”

Do you do anything different when studying for a quiz or exam?
“I always review every lesson before the exam; I try to review for months in advance, and I never wait until the last minute. In addition, I have to research more because the lectures just guide us and provide some ideas, but many questions are left open, and that is why I need to read and research more.”

Do you study at another university or have a job or internship?
“I just graduated from the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Currently, I’m working as a teacher.”

How do you manage your time and schedule?
“For me it is difficult to manage my time, because I’m working while studying. So, when I have a break at the workplace, I need to review my lessons for 10 or 15 minutes. When I come back home, I only have time to review my lessons for about 20 or 30 minutes. So, I always must study more over the weekend.”

Being a student can be a very stressful and busy time, how do you manage your health?
“Actually, even though I study very hard, I never study late at night due to the fact that it will not be good for my health. I don’t force myself to study if I feel tired. I know clearly that it will not be effective. Moreover, I spend 10 or 15 minutes on exercise on the weekends.”

What are your future plans?
“After I graduate from UC, I want to apply for a scholarship to study abroad for my Master’s Degree. If I don’t have a chance to study abroad, I will study for my Master’s Degree in Cambodia.”

Where do you see yourself in 5-years time? 10 years?
“In 5 or 10 years, I imagine that I will become a professional lecturer at The University of Cambodia.”

What advice can you give to other students who are hoping to be more successful next term?
“Students should have good time-management skills, try to research more - don’t base your education on the teacher’s words only. Students should come to study on time regularly and be active in class - ask questions, and share information to the class. Last, but not least I want to say, ‘Don’t study harder, study smarter.’ Meaning, you should use the most effective methods to study, not just devote the most time to studying.”
What are your daily study habits?
“I like to study everything, but mostly, I like to study technology. I like to do exercises, homework, assignments, group discussions and group debates. Moreover, I like communicating with other people to get new ideas and experiences.”

Do you do anything different when studying for a quiz or exam?
“I’m always well prepared for the exam. I summarize or list down the important points, and continue practicing exercises that are hard for me. I also look through all the old lessons.”

Do you study at another university or have a job or internship?
“Right now, I am pursuing two degrees simultaneously.”

How do you manage your time and schedule?
“I have a schedule for my studies. For example, I work on the subjects that are more difficult for me first.”

Being a student can be a very stressful and busy time, how do you manage your health?
“Actually, I like eating a lot because it can help me to have more energy in order to support my health and my studies. I also like to exercise by playing football and going to the gym.”

What are your future plans?
“Currently I am studying IT, so I’d like to become a programmer.”

Where do you see yourself in 5-years time? 10 years?
“In 5 or 10 years, I will be a good staff member and a good manager, as soon as I make it to the top.”

What advice can you give to other students who are hoping to be more successful next term?
“There are several points to follow if you want to be a successful in your studies. First, you need to study what you are most interested in. Determine what you want to achieve, this will make you become more committed and more confident in achieving it. Also, you should be well prepared for your lessons, do not skip them. Try to study the most difficult lessons/subjects first. Furthermore, you should observe other people, for instance your teacher, because you can learn so much from them. Not only that, but you should also join in on outside events because you can learn a lot and gain significant experience from these kinds of activities.”
The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) Kratie Branch organized a camping program for Cambodian Red Cross Youth in Kratie Province from 20-21 May 2016. The event was entitled, “Cambodian Red Cross Youth and Self-Skills Development,” and was sponsored by Fang Long and CRC Kratie Branch. 45 participants from four different high schools participated in the event. The event was presided over by Ms. Brak Sopheap, Deputy of CRC Kratie Branch.

Ms. Soun Khanra, University of Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross Youth (UCCRCY) Member, was invited to be a coordinator of the event. She was also invited to speak on the topic, “How to Be Successful in International Camp,” where she shared her experiences and lessons learned from International Camp in Thailand last year. The purposes of the camping program were to:

- Provide a training course on The Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Humanitarian Values.
- Provide a policy dissemination of Cambodian Red Cross Youth activities.
- Increase youth relationships.
- Improve and increase youth engagement in knowledge and experience sharing.
- Build teamwork and responsibility skills.

The results of the camping trip were fruitful. The participants worked very well together and cooperated on a number of tasks successfully. Participants built good relationships with each other, a great way to begin building networking skills. The work the participants completed during the program, displayed both their discipline and responsibility. And finally, the participants gained invaluable experience working and living together as a team.

It is incredibly valuable for Cambodian Red Cross Youth Advisors to work with Cambodian Red Cross Youth in high school. Youth Advisors have had many experiences and have gained much knowledge. If they can share these experiences with younger students, lessons can be learned early on, and Youth Advisors can really participate in developing Cambodia’s human resources.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Cambodian Red Cross for consistently providing me with golden opportunities and support to join national and international activities. Last but not least, I would like to express my profound thanks to H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Founder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of the University of Cambodia, who always supports and encourages every student. In return for these kindnesses, I promise to work hard in order to share and use my knowledge and experiences to better society.
The ASEAN Study Center (ASC) would like to extend a special thank you to H.E. Christopher B. Montero, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Cambodia, for donating books related to the Philippines to the ASEAN Study Center’s Resource Center. The willingness of the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines to broaden mutual understanding within ASEAN by making this donation will help our students gain knowledge regarding the history and culture of the Philippines. It makes a huge difference to have these books at our center in order for students to learn more about distinguished Filipinos, cultural traditions, economics, politics, and development trends that have helped transform our dynamic ASEAN Community.

We are in integration mode. The ASEAN Study Center (ASC) is doing all we can to help raise awareness and understanding of our diverse community. For 2016/17, we have several exciting programs in the pipeline including publications, round-table discussions, and lecture series aimed at helping bind our diverse ASEAN community together. We look forward to working with the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in upcoming projects.

If individuals or institutions would like to donate resources to help build ASC’s capacity in helping to promote ASEAN awareness, please take a few minutes to come visit our center. Mr. Ban Bunheng, our Acting Director, is always available to set up a visit for you or to answer any questions you may have. Please don’t hesitate to call him at 012-795-558 or email him at bunheng-asc@uc.edu.kh.

The ASEAN Study Center (ASC) would like to announce a book drive to create UC’s very own - ASEAN Library. Donated books related to ASEAN Nations’ domestic and international affairs will make a lasting impact on the UC community. It makes a huge difference to have such books at our center in order for students to learn from the many admirable ASEAN leaders that have helped transform our dynamic ASEAN Community. As we count down to the ASEAN Economic Community, the ASEAN Study Center (ASC) will do all we can to help raise awareness and understanding of our diverse community.

If individuals or institutions would like to donate resources to help build ASC’s capacity to promote ASEAN awareness, please take a few minutes to come visit our center. Mr. Ban Bunheng, our deputy director, is always available to set up a visit for you, or to answer any questions you may have. Please don’t hesitate to call him at 012-795-558, or email him at bunheng-asc@uc.edu.kh.
THE UC SKILLS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

PRESENTS

“How to Plan for a Successful Future”

By: Mr. Ros Hoeun, Assistant to the Skills and Career Development Center

In response to these objectives, SCDC invited 3 guest speakers from various backgrounds: Mr. Ly Dara, who has been working for the Scholar Library; Miss. Seap Sinet, a former Youth and Gender Equality Program Officer at UN Women Cambodia; and Miss. Nara Sokhema, Director of Recruitment, Selection and Marketing at Teach For Cambodia.

Mr. Ly Dara spoke about the benefits of reading books and the importance of building a reading culture in Cambodia. Miss. Seap Sinet gave three tips for building a personal development plan. First, create a dream. Second, act on the dream. Lastly, maintain strict self-discipline. And the last speaker, Miss. Nara Sokhema, stressed on the importance of finding your own passion, and also, managing your time well throughout academic life. She said, “I have been to 46 countries around the world without using my own money because I have found my passion in travelling, and worked hard to incorporate this into my career.” She suggested that everyone should find his or her own passion, and work towards a career in that passion.

On May 21st, 2016, from 8:30am to 11:00am at The University of Cambodia, the Skills and Career Development Center organized a sharing session entitled, “How to Plan for a Successful Future.” 123 participants from different universities in Cambodia participated in this event. The main objective of the event was to help young people better understand themselves, and to raise awareness about their roles in Khmer society. The aim was to build students’ confidence and to give them a vision of what their goals could be like. Additionally, SCDC sought to boost the motivation levels of the young generation regarding volunteer work.
On 27 May 2016, a delegation from the Georgia Institute of Technology, in the USA, visited The University of Cambodia in order to learn more about the Cambodian education system. On the day of their arrival, the 13 American students and professor received a warm greeting from the UC Management Team, led by Ms. Por Malis, Vice President of Operations, and they then toured the campus. The leader of the group, Dr. Katja Weber, gave a lecture to both the visiting American students as well as students from UC under the title, “The European Union’s Changing Role in Southeast Asia,” held in the Conference Room as an installment of UC’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

Afterwards, the Americans joined approximately 40 Cambodian students in playing traditional Khmer games in an effort to learn more about Khmer culture; the visitors in turn taught some traditional American games to the students. Everyone laughed as they played and truly enjoyed the experience. A very special thanks goes to UCSS and their advisors for organizing the traditional games, and for giving the Americans a traditional krama to remember their visit by.

The University of Cambodia was very pleased to host this delegation from GIT, and is looking forward to conducting future joint endeavors.
On May 30th, 2016, **H.E. Dr. Sok Siphana,** Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia and Senior Partner at Sok Siphana & Associates, visited UC as a Visiting Lecturer as a part of UC’s Distinguished Lecture Series. His lecture was entitled, “ASEAN Economic Community and Cambodian SMEs.” This installment of the UC Distinguished Lecture Series was jointly organized by the ASEAN Study Center (ASC) and the Council for Research and Creativity (CRC) of The University of Cambodia. The Lecture was moderated by **Prof. Din Merican,** Acting Dean of the Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations (TSS).

Prof. Din Merican welcomed everyone and briefed the audience about Dr. Sok Siphana’s educational background and his working experiences around the world. Dr. Sok has been a Managing Partner of Sok Siphana & Associates since 2009, as well as an Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia, with a concurrent attachment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, focusing on development and economic policy matters including private sector development. Additionally, he has been advising the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC) on economic development policy matters from 2009-present. Despite all that, he also handled many other positions in ASEAN throughout his career.
Dr. Sok Siphana informed the audience that AEC was adopted during the 13th ASEAN Summit on November 20th, 2007, in Singapore. The aim of AEC is to transform ASEAN into a region with a free movement of goods, services, investments, skilled labor, and a freer flow of capital by 2015. AEC should be seen in conjunction with the ASEAN Political-Security Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

Moreover, Dr. Sok showed a few statistics on ASEAN. For example, ASEAN’s total GDP reached $2.57 trillion in 2014. This figure was almost double the size of the region’s economy in 2007 when the AEC Blueprint was first adopted. The growth outlook in the region remains relatively robust and better than the global average. The real GDP growth in the region is projected to be 4.6 percent this year, the same as in 2014, before accelerating to 5.1 percent in 2016.

Therefore, Dr. Sok also raised the question: Are Cambodian companies/SMEs ready? He said the concerns relate to the fact that Cambodian SMEs are worried that they will soon face increased competition, and vulnerable firms may be eliminated, leading to job losses. The main constraints of SMEs are the lack of technical and managerial capabilities, access to greater markets, access to finance, skilled workers, and access to information and networks.

Last but not least, Dr. Sok said that the AEC may not be able to immediately deliver a fully integrated single market and production base for ASEAN member states, but it will be a stronger group of nations on many counts. With continued efforts and the Post-2015 agenda to implement economic integration initiatives, the AEC will have a significant, positive influence on trade and FDI, on linkages with SMEs, on promoting overall economic growth as well as stimulating structural transformation in Cambodia.

The Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations is a graduate and doctoral school with a heavy focus on conducting policy research and conducting research through an in-house think-tank. TSS will create a network of individuals, organizations and institutions that will enable students to broaden their academic and professional connections and networking opportunities.

The University of Cambodia is offering 100 scholarships for TSS students in AY: 2015-2016, in an effort to promote access to quality education for all Cambodians.
On June 2nd – 4th, 2016, representatives from The University of Cambodia, **Mr. Min Seiha**, Associate Dean of the College of Social Sciences, and **Mr. Ro Vannak**, Deputy Director for the Office of IQA, attended a workshop entitled, “The Process of Accreditation in Higher Education Institutions and How to Write an Analytic Self-Assessment Report,” organized by the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) at the Kampot Pedagogy Training Centre. The agenda for the event was as follows:

1- Introduction to the Guidelines for the Process of Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
2- The procedures and evaluation process for HEIs.
3- Understanding and analyzing supporting evidence for each indicator of the national standards, and the process and procedures of the self-evaluation report.

**H.E. Pit Chamnan**, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, spoke about the importance of quality education assurance in Cambodia in order to be ready for an increasingly competitive labor market with the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community.

A number of experts from the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) also presented on the theoretical framework and gave other meaningful contributions to the workshop as well. **Mr. Tep Neave** presented the use, method and value models for discourse analysis. **Mr. Tit Sinoeun** presented the process of evaluation planning, the theory behind the national standards, and analytical report writing, including identifying appropriate sources of information, methods for collecting information, information analysis, and result interpretation.

At the end of the workshop the participants were split into five groups, where they provided input on the analytical Self-Assessment Reports. Groups used the national standards to correct meanings and give feedback to ACC. Mr. Min Seiha was selected as the representative for Group 1 leading the discussion during the group session, and presenting the outcomes to the meeting on Standards 1 & 2.
The University of Cambodia

FOUNDATION

Request for Scholarship Funding

The University of Cambodia (UC) is requesting funding to support its UC Scholarship Program. A large majority of potential Cambodian university students are unable to afford the tuition fees to attend a local university, so the Scholarship Program is critical to alleviate this major obstacle to self-advancement. At the same time, funding for the Scholarship Program helps the university to cover its operating expenses and maintain its high academic standards.

Although much development progress has been made in the past two decades, the consequences of Cambodia’s recent history continue to limit the formation and development of skills among Cambodian youth, particularly those most affected by exclusionary factors such as poverty, gender, ethnicity, and geographic remoteness. The UC Scholarship Program is a targeted effort to support the educational development of high-achieving Cambodian students across the country, so they can develop the necessary skills and competency to become knowledgeable employees and engaged citizens.

At this time, a large majority of Cambodian students need financial assistance to pursue and complete their higher degree programs and have other enriching educational opportunities. Roughly 80 percent of the 3,000+ students enrolled at UC are on full or partial scholarships, made possible by generous donors. The university anticipates that this figure will remain high for several years until a majority of Cambodian families are financially secure enough to make this investment on their own. Additionally, there are currently no government agencies or private institutions that offer student loans to Cambodian students to help them pay for university tuition, living expenses, or learning enrichment opportunities that include research, internships, and teaching.

The university is seeking financial and in-kind donations to create more scholarships for students in need. Scholarships are awarded to students who score highest on a competitive exam targeted towards impoverished students, students from rural areas, ethnic minority students, and female students.

Funding in the Scholarship Program will substantially help UC raise the standards for research, critical thinking, innovation, and problem solving—the ultimate goal is for UC students to be marketable not only in Cambodia, but also regionally and globally. By providing access to high-quality learning opportunities for students, as well as emphasizing fluency in the English language for students in the International Track, UC trains and prepares its students to make strong, positive contributions to Cambodian society through social and economic development.

If you would like to contribute to the UC Scholarship Program and give students across the country the opportunity to live their dreams and change lives, please contact UC Foundation representatives to help give the gift that matters most, a higher education.

Ms. Samantha Smith
Advisor to the President
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On June 3rd, 2016, the College of Media and Communications (CMC) organized a study tour at SEATV and FM 106 Mz broadcasting stations and a visit to its relay antenna at Veal Sbov in order to relay practical insights of real-life media work to undergraduate media students.

The two day-study tour was organized by Mr. An Sopheak, Associate Dean of CMC at The University of Cambodia. Students majoring in Media Studies will conduct many activities like these, so that they will have a better understanding of real world media practices and communications.

This trip has drawn students’ attention and they were jubilantly happy to participate in such a tour. They were excited and impressed by the stations’ expert staff that introduced the studio, broadcasting gadgets, news production chains, and media management throughout the tour. This study tour aimed to be a type of orientation to provide students’ accurate perceptions of the real life implications of the theoretical knowledge they study in class.

The University of Cambodia currently offers three programs of study in the College of Media and Communications: BA in Media Arts and Studies, BA in Visual Communications, and BA in Communications Studies. These three majors not only provide theoretical learning, but also fieldwork assignments and research methodology to strengthen and broaden students’ abilities in news gathering and writing.

Director of the News Department at SEATV, Mr. Mundul Keo, gave a brief presentation to the students about the challenges of producing the news. He explained, “Producing the news is not easy; it needs patience and commitment. And here at our station, we produce daily news four times per day for broadcasting. Our newsreaders and editors are constantly working hard to meet the tight schedule.”
Ms. Nhek Sreyleak, a student of CMC, expressed her exhilarated feelings toward the management team at The University of Cambodia for organizing such a study tour so that students will learn more. “I want to have this tour again,” she said. “When I am in the studio I feel more confidence. These tours will broaden my knowledge, and reflect the theories I am learning in class,” she added.

“We have learned a lot from the study-tour and visit to SEATV: from editing, production, radio broadcasting, news production and live broadcasting,” said Soun Sreyneang, another CMC student.

Ms. Chin Leaksmy said that she felt excited by the way people are working in studio, “Especially working with computers, doing graphics, layouts, and sound effects for the news production,” she explained. “It is really amazing. I told myself that my dream will come true, as I wish to be a news presenter on TV one day when I graduate,” said Leaksmy.

“Here, studying at The University of Cambodia, we have not only provided students core courses with theories, but we also prepare them with practical experiences. Because we work directly with SEATV TV and Radio, which is located on our campus in Phnom Penh, our students have the unique opportunity to spend a significant amount of time participating in real life news production. CMC offers internships at SEATV during the semester break, so that they will be ready as tailor-made professionals when they graduate,” said Mr. An Sopheak, Associate Dean of CMC.

On the second day, a visit to Veal Sbov was conducted to view the main relay-broadcasting antenna. The purpose of this visit was to provide students with a greater understanding of technological advancements and mechanical equipment in broadcasting. The students expressed their satisfaction about what they had learned about the process of signal and broadcasting systems from the visit.

**Introducing the College of Media and Communications**

The College of Media and Communications (CMC) is being launched in response to the University’s desire to constantly improve itself and adjust to the needs of the current economic and educational environment. CMC will provide both theoretical and practical knowledge regarding the functions of journalism, reporting and technical production. The SEATV television and radio station, located on the University of Cambodia campus, will host students for the practical component of their degree program.
At 10am on June 7th, 2016, Ms. Samantha Smith, Advisor to the President and the Council for Research and Creativity at The University of Cambodia, gave a lecture at Crescent Park Senior Living Center in Eugene, Oregon, USA, entitled, “The Evolving Landscape of Cambodian Education.” Ms. Smith was invited as a part of a program at Crescent Park to provide continuous education and stimulating activities for their residents. Mr. Earl Koenig, an Ambassador for Crescent Park Senior Living Center, introduced Ms. Smith and the topic of her lecture to the crowd of about 25 residents.

Ms. Smith began by introducing herself to the audience and explaining how she came to live and work in Cambodia. After her short personal introduction, she began to recount a brief history of education in Cambodia.

She explained that prior to about the 1920s, education in Cambodia was primarily centered in Buddhist Wats. Facilitated by Monks, primarily male students were taught a variety of social, moral and practical lessons and skills. During the French protectorate (1867-1953), France attempted to implement educational reforms to serve political motives, but did not succeed in achieving their aims. They did, however, succeed in integrating subjects such as arithmetic and French language into existing Buddhist schools.

Ms. Smith explained that despite the struggle for independence and the violence of the American War, Cambodia made great strides in education from 1953-1970. Hundreds of new schools are opened, state universities are expanded, and university enrollment more than doubles from 1956 to 1969.

Sadly, with Lon Nol’s successful military coup in 1970, Cambodia’s education system sees a severe decline in funding. Lon Nol’s rule, already erratic and devastating to educational reform, causes the nation to slip further into civil war, and reform becomes impossible.

Cambodian education faced its darkest time during the Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) Regime. The Khmer Rouge saw educated citizens as a threat to the agrarian-communist utopia they hoped to build. As a result, all traditional educational activities are banned, and educated individuals – in particular teachers, doctors, and lawyers were targeted by Khmer Rouge Militias and murdered. Most educated individuals are either killed or flee the country during this time. The only education at this time is being done secretly in refugee camps and dark rooms, or through Khmer Rouge propaganda trainings.

After Vietnamese troops took Phnom Penh in 1979, education was slowly restored in Cambodia. Although, it is reported that during the Vietnamese occupation education operated solely under a strong Vietnamese bias, and only children of civil servants were able to access education.
From March 1992 - September 1993, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) took control of the nation’s governance. UNTAC was created to ensure that the provisions of the Paris Peace Agreement were executed properly. UNTAC had a diverse mission, but focused primarily on building a civil structure and hosting free and fair elections, disarmament, resettling refugees, and other human rights issues. Although education reform remained relatively stagnant throughout the UNTAC period, the lasting changes that took hold during this time created the climate for which Cambodian education would soon flourish exponentially.

Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, education in Cambodia grew at a rapid pace: government spending increased, new schools were built across the nation, and both foreign and local investors were opening new universities and international schools.

Unfortunately, the ease of opening new schools lead to many underqualified schools operating in Cambodia. Additionally, the low salary rate for teachers in Cambodia and low percentage of GPD spent on education in Cambodia led to some systemic problems with corruption and quality control across the board.

The demand for education grew so rapidly that the private education market naturally expanded in conjunction. Unfortunately, the growth was unsustainable, as current quality controls could not keep up with the influx of new schools and programs opening and expanding. As more and more students enrolled in private, international schools, the need for new regulations and accreditation processes became dire.

Fortunately, in present-day Cambodia, the government is passing sweeping education reforms, and has been working hard to stamp out corruption and low quality institutions. The Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport oversees the operations and quality control for all education institutions, from primary to higher education. The Accreditation Committee of Cambodia is a national independent quality and improvement organization that accredits all universities in Cambodia. Enrollment rates continue to rise, as cheating and corruption continues to decline. The quality of education institutions improves consistently, as regional integration efforts make the implementation of international standards imperative.

Ms. Smith closed the lecture with a profile of The University of Cambodia and its Founder and President, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn. She then took questions from interested audience members. The lecture closed at 11am.
June 7, 2016:

UC School of Business Distinguished Lecture Series on “Dissemination Workshop on Cambodia Trade Swap, TDSP, Monitoring and Evaluation, Results and Impacts”

The workshop was jointly facilitated by the Ministry of Commerce, with the presence of H.E. Tekreth Kamrang, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce, with the support of the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MTDF), and the UC School of Business Organizing Committee and the UC Office of Administration. Several presentations were given to update the audience on what has been achieved so far, especially in regards to local and international trade. The presentations also covered future government plans to further grow, develop and improve the trade sector and enhance trade development and support programs. Presenters explained that progress will continue to be made through regular monitoring and evaluation, as well as ensuring that all data is well analyzed and the results of studies evaluate not only the current situation but also the potential impacts and propose solutions as well.

June 8, 2016:

Banking Academy of Vietnam visits UC

The UC School of Business facilitated a visit from the Banking Academy of Vietnam to The University of Cambodia, for the purpose of discussing future collaboration efforts such as joint training, student and faculty exchanges, joint research ventures, and consultancy activities. Dr. Do Thi Kim Hao, Vice-President for International Relations at BAV, led the delegation from Vietnam.
June 9, 2016:

Maybank Go Ahead Challenge 2016: Campus Level

This is the second time the Maybank Go Ahead Challenge 2016 (MGAC) Campus Level was held at The University of Cambodia. Almost 100 students from various universities in Cambodia participated in the event. MGAC is an international competition with participation from 14 countries; as such there are both national level and grand finals following the campus level competition. In the years 2012 and 2014, UC School of Business alumni Mr. Ngoun Soksan and Ms. Tang Sreyneang’s teams respectively placed as the 1st and 2nd runners up at the grand finals in Malaysia. We hope that our talented UC students will succeed in the competition again this year.

June 22, 2016:

Business Talk Club of Cambodia

The Business Talk Club of Cambodia was launched with the purpose of helping participants improve their business communication skills, discuss and share ideas about the current business climate and other current events, and to enhance participants, critical thinking abilities. Initially, seven students participated in the launch, but this increased to 11 on its second meeting, July 2, 2016. The BTCC was co-founded by Mr. Long Chantola, who facilitated the club’s initial meeting.

June 23, 2016:

Teach for Cambodia

The UC School of Business, in its avid support of Teach for Cambodia, held another meeting with students who are interested in getting involved with Teach for Cambodia as teaching fellows. The students were so enthusiastic and excited to learn how they could share their knowledge with, encourage, and impact high school students in rural areas. UC highly encourages students, especially those looking to become teachers, to get involved with Teach for Cambodia. Ms. Nara Sokhema, Director of Recruitment, Selection and Marketing at Teach for Cambodia, is a UC School of Business’ alumnae.

June 24, 2016:

Manulife Cambodia Career Brief

The Career Briefing of Manulife Cambodia was based on their training entitled, “How to be a Professional Salesperson,” and was attended by several students who are interested in learning more about career opportunities in the field of insurance. The briefing consisted of three (3) parts: (1) Introduction to the company (Manulife Cambodia); (2) Tips on CV writing and interviewing; and (3) How to submit applications and search for careers online. Mr. Rith Bunroath is an alumnus of the UC School of Business, and is currently the Manager of Recruitment and Sales Promotion at Manulife Cambodia.
The UCSB Women’s Futsal Cup (WFC) 2016 was a two-day futsal tournament organized by the students of BUS305: Fundamentals of Project Management with the purpose of providing students, especially female students, the opportunity to jointly participate in a friendly tournament. The hope is that the tournament would highlight the many rights and talents of women, and encourage them to participate in an aerobic social activity while also inspiring them to be future leaders by providing mental, emotional and physical nurturing for optimum growth and development. Throughout this project, the student organizers successfully applied theories into practice, from encouraging students to form a team, sourcing out sponsors, coordinating with other units, and most importantly by working effectively as a team.

The very successful tournament was participated in by four (4) teams: Kanggo, Scarlet, UC Warriors, and Womanchester. The declared winner was the UC Warriors.

Both undergraduate and graduate students attended the 2nd Career Briefing of Manulife Cambodia. UCSB and Manulife Cambodia are in discussions about creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would benefit both the university (student career development) and Manulife Cambodia. The second sharing session was very successful and UCSB is looking forward to future collaboration with Manulife Cambodia.

The above activities of the UC School of Business illustrate the school’s dedication to excellence, and highlight how UCSB uses many teaching methodologies and mechanisms to optimize student’s learning. UCSB understands the importance in ensuring student’s practice the application of theories: learning by doing, learning with fun. The Dean of the UC School of Business established an Organizing Committee, comprised of students from different sessions and language tracks. Therefore, all events and activities are easier to mobilize and are well coordinated. Also, this committee acts as a way to engage students in school activities, and to expose them to the real world of business.

The UC School of Business was delighted to host Mr. Ly Sodeth, Senior Economist at the World Bank Cambodia Country Office, as a guest lecturer in the UC School of Business Distinguished Lecture Series.

Mr. Sodeth presented the audience with updates on the financial situation of the Cambodian real estate sector, employment rates, income and consumption rates, poverty rates, inflation rates, the fiscal sector, the monetary sector, etc. The students listened to every detail, and during the Q & A, Mr. Ly Sodeth was amazed with the issues raised by UC students, and was very happy to provide answers and engage in critical discussion.
Inauguration for Nature Reserve 
In Preah Vihear Province

By: Mr. Mornh Khunluongratanak, UC Cambodian Red Cross Youth Member

On 15-16 June 2016, UCCRCY representative, Mr. Mornh Khunluongratanak, Member of The University of Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross Youth, attended the inauguration event for a new pond and forested camping area within Ork Boeung Prey Association Protected Areas of Preah Vihear Province. The event was presided over by H.E. Dr. Yin Kimsean, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Environment. Local authorities, monks, residents, teachers, and students from nearby and those who travelled from Phnom Penh also attended the event.

The newly built pond is 2.5m deep, 90 meters long, and 50 meters wide. The inauguration also celebrated the 4,500 saplings that were planted to create a new forested area. In celebration of the inauguration, the organization gave chickens to 280 families in the area.

The student delegation from Phnom Penh spent one night camping together in the newly created camping area. The students from many different universities used this opportunity to share and exchange views and ideas for developing social activities into development activities for communities and ultimately the nation. The program ended with fruitful results and the students travelled back to Phnom Penh in the morning of the second day.
On Wednesday, 15 June 2016, Mr. Teang Samnang, Talent Acquisition Manager of The Advanced Bank of Asia Limited (ABA), and a team from the ABA Recruitment office visited The University of Cambodia (UC), and spoke to students from the UC School of Business about successful ways to prepare job applications and begin their career search in the Banking and Finance Industry.

The event aimed to equip students with:

- A better understanding about the background and employment opportunities at ABA;
- The keys to having a successful job application process: the search, preparing resume, filling out the application and attending the interview; and
- A basic understanding of the employment opportunities at ABA, and how to submit a resume for consideration.

Speaking to almost a hundred students, representatives from ABA briefed students on the keys to conducting an effective job search, preparing resumes and applications, and tips for interview preparations. Mr. Samnang added that one must not overlook the importance of professionalism on social media, as employers use social media as a tool to screen potential employees.

Professor Gina Lopez, Dean of the UC School of Business encouraged her students to be proactive in seeking employment opportunities. She explained that students should take advantage of public events held for them at UC and to participate in as many competitions and student organizations as possible.
Celebration of the Royal Birthday of
Her Majesty the Queen Mother
Norodom Monineath Sihanouk

By: Mr. Prak Sopheara, University of Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross Youth Member

On 18 June 2016, ten members of The University of Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross Youth (UCCRCY) attended the Blessing Ceremony for Her Majesty the Queen Mother of the Khmer Nation, Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, Honorary President of the Cambodian Red Cross, organized by the Cambodian Red Cross. Central Committee members of the CRC, donors, wives of senior leaders and many Red Cross Youth members from across the nation also attended this special event.

The purpose of this event was celebrate and express gratitude towards Her Majesty the Queen Mother, and Honorary President of the Cambodian Red Cross, for her relentless humanitarian efforts and for being an amazing Royal role model for the world.

81 monks were invited to conduct the traditional blessing ceremony to commemorate her 81 years of age. The ceremony was presided over by Lok Chumteav Annie Sok An, and H.E. Khoun Sudary, Vice President of the Cambodian Red Cross, and representative of Samdech Kittipritthbindit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Red Cross. The monks led prayers to all the sacred spirits in the world and the Tevada of the Throne to bless The Queen Mother of the Khmer Nation with good health and longevity, as to remain forever a great shelter for all Cambodian people. Additionally, they prayed for the spirit of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the late King, to bless his people with peaceful lives and prosperity for eternity.
CAMBODIA FORUM FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT – RESEARCH NETWORK AND RESEARCH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

By: Mr. Ro Vannak, Deputy Director for the Office of IQA and Dr. Keo Sam Ell, Assistant to the Vice President of Research, Development and Policies

On June 18 – 21, 2016, representatives from the University of Cambodia (UC), Dr. Keo Sam Ell, Assistant to the Vice President of Research, Development and Policies, and Mr. Ro Vannak, Deputy Director for the Office of IQA, were invited to attend a workshop entitled, “Cambodia Forum for Research and Development – Research Network and Research Program Management,” organized by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS). The workshop was held at Angkor Paradise Hotel in Siem Reap Province.

The workshop was presided over by H.E. Yuok Ngoy, Secretary of State for MoEYS, H.E. Touch Visalsok, Under Secretary of State for MoEYS, and H.E. Mak Ngoy, Director of the GDHE. There were 89 participants from the General Department of Higher Education (GDHE), MoEYS, and both public and private higher education institutions in Cambodia.

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

1. To officially launch the establishment of the Cambodia Forum for Research and Development (CFRD);
2. To mobilize the first CFRD and create focal points for each institution;
3. To discuss the Terms and Reference for the Chairman, Secretary General and Division Heads of CFRD;
4. To introduce strategies for building research networks and research professionalism through discussion; and
5. To build the capacity of research programs/project management through discussion.

The opening session was led by Dr. Nith Bunlay, Deputy Director of GDHE, Dr. Richard K. Gilbert, Professor at the University of Phoenix, USA, and Dr. Neth Baromey, President of CFRD and Professor at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. The opening speech by Dr. Nith Bunlay stressed the importance of CFRD playing a key role in research project networking between all research-based institutions of higher education. Dr. Richard K. Gilbert provided remarks on how to become a qualified project manager, and how to build research development capacity. Dr. Neth Baromey addressed the main role of the CFRD infrastructure and the roles of each component that organizes the body of the CFRD.

The workshop was divided into 3 themes: (1) CFRD launching, (2) building research networks and research professionalism, and (3) capacity building for research projects/project management.

Day 1: 18 June 2016: Following the registration of participants, the opening ceremony was held, addressing the workshop objectives, structure and self-introductions. Theme 1 (CFRD launching) focused on the explanation of the rationality, purposes, membership, and structures of CFRD and on the discussion of its terms and references.

Day 2: 19 June 2016: Theme 2 (research network) addressed the research facilities to be shared amongst members and the development and management of these resources. The direction of research collaboration needs to be focused on setting clear goals and ensuring mutual understanding and efficiency. Finally, the meeting was wrapped up with a plenary discussion on collaborative procedures.

Day 3: 20 June 2016: Theme 3 (research capacity building) emphasized on how to manage research projects successfully. The best practices for research project management, and lessons learned were shared and discussed. This theme was concluded with the topic of promoting science and research projects amongst the young generation.
On 20 June 2016, the College of Social Sciences at The University of Cambodia invited H.E. Hun Many, President of the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC) to deliver a public lecture on the topic, “National Interests.” The event was presided over by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Founder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of The University of Cambodia. UC staff, faculty members, students, members of parliament, RGC representatives and students from three other universities attended the lecture.

Emphasizing on experience sharing, H.E. Hun Many raised many points regarding Cambodia’s recent history, basic definitions of national interests, and why defending national interests is so important. The viewpoints of national interests can be envisaged through different approaches including individual, academia and official positions. As they are normally closely related, these require a thoughtful differentiation on the basis of what it should be and what it really is.

Three well-known cases were recommended for attentive analysis: the case of liberation (7 January 1979), the case of Preah Vihear Temple (2008-2011), and the case of the South China Sea. Each case shows different kinds challenges and difficulties that arise in decision-making. In approaching these cases, the focus must be on seeking out constructive solutions that protect national interests on the international stage. Thinking as a national leader, it is clear that protecting national interests while cultivating international cooperation and seeking innovative solutions to complex issues, such as the cases mentioned above and others such as global warming, energy security, and population growth, is an incredibly complex and difficult task.

The lecture offered many good and useful ideas, especially for the youth. Students were encouraged to work hard to become knowledgeable, capable people because an educated citizenry and skilled work force is a critical step in protecting national interests in the future. Also, it is important not only to work hard, but also to work positively as well. Cambodia needs citizens who are active problem-solvers, people who are actively working to be a part of the solution – this is also crucial for the development of Cambodia.
On the morning of 23 June 2016, UC faculty, staff, and students gathered to celebrate the 13th anniversary of The University of Cambodia under the theme, “Planting Palm Trees as the Symbolic Tree of UC, and the Promotion of a Life-Long Learning Culture at UC.” Participants in this UC milestone event included Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Founder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (BoT), and President of UC; UC BoT Member and Vice President of General Affairs, LCT Khem Rany; members of the UC Management Team; faculty; staff; and students. Overall, a total of 13 palm trees were planted to mark the 13th anniversary of UC. In addition, a total of nine key staff who joined UC from the very beginning, either before, or immediately after, the University’s inauguration on 23 June 2003 were recognized for their commitment, dedication and contributions to UC.

Representing the young people at UC, Mr. Kao Kim Panya, Assistant to the President of UC, spoke about how the Cambodian palm tree is a symbolic representation of the country itself, and stated the significance of the palm tree to the lives of the Cambodian people, as it is embedded in their livelihoods and daily lives. Then, he mentioned that UC has chosen the Cambodian palm tree to be the symbolic tree of the University, as UC reflects the name of Cambodia and strives to be the number one university of the Cambodian people.

UC President, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, then spoke about how the Cambodian palm tree fits UC. Cambodian palm trees stand firm, and do not sway in the wind, much like the character and value of the Khmer people. He gave an inspiring speech where he reminded the audience that UC has grown so much from its inception until now, and that we will continue to grow and develop by innovating and introducing new initiatives year by year. The University is working to build valuable human resources for Cambodia, which is in line with the direction of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), under the wise leadership of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, which made the development of human capital their number one priority. He praised UC’s alumni and asked if they would share their success stories with the University, as their achievements are UC’s pride and joy.
Dr. Kao Kim Hourn thanked those who have loyally served UC and contributed to its growth and development since its founding, they are:

1. **Dr. Haruhisa Handa**, Chancellor of UC
2. **Mr. Kao Sophalla**, Vice President for Supporting Services and Member of the Board of Trustees
3. **Lok Chumteav Khem Rany**, Vice President for General Affairs and Member of the Board of Trustees
4. **H.E. Samraing Kamsan**, Member of the Board of Trustees
5. Other donors and scholarship supporters

He then gave recognition to the staff members that have been an integral part of the UC family since its inception, presenting a plaque and flowers to each person, as follows:

1. **H.E. Samraing Kamsan**, Member of the Board of Trustees
2. **Mr. Kao Sophalla**, Vice President for Supporting Services and Member of the Board of Trustees
3. **Mr. Inn Tong An**, Deputy Director of the Office of the President
4. **Mrs. Por Malis**, Vice President for Operations
5. **Mr. Chum Nheb**, Head of Security Guards
6. **Mrs. Chan Sreyroth**, Director of the Office of Accounting and Finance
7. **Ms. Kong Rathana**, Director of the Office of the University Registrar
8. **Mr. Pom Piseth**, Head of Web Master
9. **Mrs. Seng Kanha**, Librarian
It was my great honor to be awarded a full scholarship to study at The University of Cambodia (UC). What I enjoy most about learning at UC is the fact that instead of solely focusing on theories, The University of Cambodia integrates both theory and practice into its study programmes. UC students, including myself, have opportunities to not only acquire new concepts related to their field and/or profession, but they also practice the theories they’ve learned in the classroom to reflect real world scenarios by doing assignments, conducting group discussions, and participating in field work.

In addition, lecturers at UC are approachable and very helpful. I always feel welcome to seek advice regarding my study problems and assignments. During lectures, I often have the opportunity to work in groups with different students. I personally find it fun and a good way to enhance my knowledge related to various sectors such as business, economics, finance, education, and so on.

However, how will you spend your time if you have the opportunity to study overseas? Achieving good grades and graduating with distinction is probably a dream for all students. Personally, I view the experience of participating in student clubs, interacting with local people and gaining local work experience to be equally as important as the academic experience itself. I hold this belief because through my own academic experience, I have come to acknowledge that there are many important lessons and concepts for us to learn that are not taught through structured academics but rather through socializing. Frankly speaking, most of the achievements and life experience I have gained thus far in my life is because of socializing and networking with other people.

As an overseas student, your studies must always come first, because you do not want to achieve a good social experience but fail academically. However, during your spare time, I would recommend participating in student clubs and organizations. This is also applicable for a local university experience, not just overseas. You may be asking yourself, why bother participating in student clubs? Let me share my own personal experience of the benefits of participating in student clubs, and you can decide for yourself.

At my university in New Zealand, there are many kinds of student clubs such as social clubs, business clubs, sport clubs, leadership clubs and many more. One of the reasons to join these clubs is that as a newly arrived international student, you may find it difficult to settle in to your new surroundings during the first few months or even during the first year. Student clubs help you to settle in faster by providing fun activities with other international students such as barbecues or trips to the beach. Clubs are also a good way to make new friends, and learn about new cultures. Some student clubs not only help you to settle down and make new friends, but also to develop your leadership potential through working on business projects such as planning and executing workshops and business events.

It is not easy to truly learn and experience other cultures without directly interacting with them. Learning about new cultures and understanding the differences between their culture and your own is really important as it helps you not to judge people, but instead appreciate their differences. For example, I used to have a negative perspective of people who have tattoos. Coming to New Zealand, however, has changed my perspective. For people here, having tattoos is fashionable. If you have a tattoo on your arm, some kiwi people may come to you and say, “This is so cool. Where did you get that?” For Maori people, the indigenous ethnic group of New Zealand, they love to have tattoos on their faces. Some Maori even have tattoos covering their whole face, which may be perceived as bad, or simply weird, by some Cambodian people. This understanding of cultural differences has changed the way I view people with tattoos, and I am now accepting of this tradition and fashion.
Besides my study schedule and social life, I work part-time at a café as a barista. I decided to start working because I was confident that a part-time job would not affect my academic performance. However, if you struggle academically, it is probably not a good idea to work while you are studying overseas. But back to my own work experience, through working at the café, I learned many new things that are not taught in university. I now understand what customer service really means in the business world. I have also developed the new skill of making coffee. Through working, I have made many international friends from different countries. Most importantly, I learned a lot about how a café is run and the leadership responsibilities and techniques of a café owner. Because I am pursuing a Master’s in Educational Leadership, I am very much interested in how an organization is run, especially regarding leadership techniques to motivate the staff to work as a team. Every day working at the café was so much more than just earning extra money. It was about making new friends and learning different leadership styles in a foreign context. What I have noticed from kiwi people’s leadership style is that they value staff’s opinions and feedback, not just from customers. All staff members are encouraged to give feedback to the leadership and to share their opinions on what could be done to improve the café.

As mentioned earlier, I highly value hands-on social learning because being academically successful alone is not enough for the 21st century; complex skills such as communication, networking, negotiation, problem solving, and critical thinking are needed. Universities provide you the necessary foundation of knowledge to join the workforce, whereas the skills developed in social and workplace settings are generally people and experience centered. Participating in social clubs and working a part-time job, while maintaining academic success makes you a well-rounded student, trained in many different kinds of skills and ready to tackle challenges with critical thinking and practical know-how.

“HOW TO WRITE A NOVEL”

BY

MR. SOK KHIEU SAMITHI

By: Ms. Nem Sowathey, Director for the Office of Public Affairs, Communication and Alumni (OPACA)

To promote a reading, research and writing culture, The University of Cambodia (UC) hosted Mr. Sok Khieu Samithi to share his experience and talent with UC students on “How to Write a Novel.” The event was chaired by Ms. Nem Sowathey, Director for the Office of Public Affairs, Communications and Alumni (OPACA). Although Mr. Samithi is currently only in his ninth grade of high school, he has already published his fourth science fiction novel entitled, “The Wildland,” which is now available at the UC Bookstore.

The University of Cambodia would like express warm appreciation to Mr. Sok Khieu Samithi, and his parents, H.E. Dr. Sok Siphanna and LCT Khieu Mealy, for dedicating their time to share and encourage students at The University of Cambodia to use writing as a way to express yourself and communicate ideas.
Hard working, helpful, friendly and honest are the four adjectives that best describe who I am. My name is Chhayleang Nguon, and I am currently the Chief Executive Officer of one Cambodia’s leading real estate firms, Ratanaka Realty. Throughout my life journey, I have faced many challenges and difficult decisions that I had to cope with.

I was born to a middle-income family. My father is a government official, and he is now also helping my mother and my younger brother run a small restaurant near the Russian Market. My parents have played a crucial role in my upbringing. Receiving a good education and becoming a well-rounded citizen have always been on their list of priorities for me. I’ll admit, I felt a lot of pressure to become successful. Therefore, I worked really hard to get good grades during high school, so I could get into a good university for my higher education. I finished high school with a B-grade, which was considered to be excellent. That meant I was able to go to a good university, right? Yes, I could. However, there are many good universities in Cambodia, and I wanted to make the right choice. Unfortunately, I had no idea which one was the most suitable for me. After weeks of research, I finally came across a scholarship opportunity available at The University of Cambodia. I decided to apply, and eventually I was accepted.

I believe that pursuing a good education, be it formal or informal, is the backbone of a person’s success. As the saying goes, you can predict how high the building is going to be by looking at how deep they dig the foundations. So, to me, finding the right place to receive my education was extremely important. The University of Cambodia, based on my understanding and research, has one of the leading curriculum programs in the country. Since I have always been a businessman, I decided to major in Business Management. Looking back to my university times, I feel that I learned so many new and interesting things, which has become a firm foundation for my business acumen.

Immediately after my graduation at UC, I was hired as a sales supervisor at a local real estate company. As a salesman, I was required to make calls, hold meetings with clients, and visit various properties. It was a really tough job for me because I was used to working in an office at a computer and had liked doing so. Yet for this position, I was required to go out under the hottest sun and speak to many strangers who often refused to buy or even listen to me. At some of these low points in my career, I felt that I was ready to quit, even though I had just begun. I felt lost. What kept moving me forward was the burning desire I have always had to become a businessman. I believe that difficult things bring great rewards. So, although my job was hard, I always had faith that one day I would look back and say, “Thanks to that hard work, I am who I am today.”

I worked as a sales supervisor for two years before I decided to leave, so that I could seek opportunities to set up my own company. I thought it was going to be easy! I was wrong. After leaving the company, I faced many challenges due to my lack of experience. However, I am the type of person who likes to take risks because I think they are manageable if we know how to handle them. Without further thinking, with some savings that I had, I decided to set up my own real estate company at the age of 22. Unfortunately, I could not make it. The company closed down after a few months and the money was gone. But did I give up? No, I did not. I looked for another opportunity. Several months later, I found new partners. We decided to start another company. Six months after we set up the new company, we ran into crisis again. I closed down another company! I thought that was it. I was never going to make it. However, I still had the passion and determination to be a successful business owner.

In early 2015, I met with another group of partners. We decided to start again. This time I had gained substantial experience of what does and does not work, which I did not have during my previous failures. Today, I am recognized and respected as one of the real estate experts in the industry. My opinions are regularly featured in leading newspapers, TV networks and in magazines. Another big thing is that we have recently become an exclusive agency partner and consultant for a developer of a 12 million USD project. Additionally, I have also been working with various local and international developers in building up my business. I believe there are more success stories to be written for us.

Again, my spirit of never giving up was always stronger than the fear that I might fail. I believe success will come after a series of failures. We have to always keep moving forward.
The UC School of Business proudly presents

Business Talk Club of Cambodia

By: Mr. Long Chantola, BTCC Co-Founder and UC Business Management Alumni (2015)

It was a great pleasure to be a part of the inaugural meeting of the Business Talk Club of Cambodia on June 22nd, 2016. The participants were energetic and willing to share and learn from each other. It felt as though one hour went by so quickly, for it was a wonderful and fruitful experience for everyone.

Interactive discussions unlocked creative ideas, as the group talked and questioned one another. The format of the club was kept simple to make participants feel at ease with joining. Sounds interesting, doesn’t it? So what exactly is the Business Talk Club of Cambodia, anyway?

The Business Talk Club of Cambodia conducts meetings once a week with the purpose of helping participants to improve their business communication skills, discuss and share ideas about the current business climate and other current events, and to enhance participant’s critical thinking abilities. Prior to joining the weekly session, participants are required to read business news, be it about Cambodia, ASEAN, or the world at large. At the start of each session, participants can volunteer to brief the club on the news story they have found. After the briefing, the club will discuss the topic critically – here they can use knowledge they have learned in class, their previous observations, and outside readings to support their ideas during the discussion. This aspect of the club is called, “Articles of the Week.” In addition to that there is, “Business Words of the Week,” in which participants can share any technical words relevant to business, finance, and economics with the club. By doing so, contributors and observers will accumulate new ideas interactively every week. These two generic agenda items are just the beginning of BTCC; everyone is welcome to initiate new and interesting activities that they want to include. On top of that, there will be an occasional presence of UC School of Business alumni to share their experience and expertise with the club.

BTCC was conceptualized thanks to a survey conducted by the Graduate Career Council of Australia that revealed the top ten characteristics of outstanding and desirable graduates. Among them were communication, knowledge of industry, and critical reasoning (Kramar, et al., 2014). Despite the fact that this survey was conducted in Australia, I believe that the same holds true in Cambodia. Recommended by Lowndes (2014, p. 135), a communication expert who trains executives in fortune 500 companies, experiencing new things from time to time can help you to become “an insider in any crowd.” This is what the Business Talk Club of Cambodia can provide its members, if they continue to join and actively participate in, and prepare for, every meeting.

The books we use in class help us to understand theories through examples relevant from before the books themselves were published, thus information can be outdated. Honestly speaking, it is not even certain that every student will read the textbooks, much less read supporting materials beyond the textbook such as news and journals. If students do not read at all, they will get nothing. This is why Articles of the Week is a crucial part of student development. In addition to that, participants are encouraged to critically observe the ideas being shared and feel free to raise their counter-ideas as well. By doing so, they are strengthening their critical thinking skills.

As mentioned above, it was a great start to the club; however, this is not the end. Club members must continue to provide ongoing support and commitment. By being both a contributor and an observer in the club, you will maximize your learning over time. Joining this club for one hour each week will not take much of your time, but I can guarantee you that it is a great investment of your time. We all have the same amount of time - 24 hours each day – and we must make decisions on how to invest this very scarce resource, so make wise decisions.

References
On Monday, 16 May 2016, a meeting was held at The University of Cambodia to follow up on a recent visit by UC representatives to the Northbridge International School (NIS) campus. There, we met with Dr. John Nash, School Counselor, and Ms. Melanie Ireland, Director of Admissions and Marketing, who welcomed us with a short brief about their high school students and university events, and provided us with tour of the NIS campus.

Professor Gina Lopez gave an overview of UC including its many academic programs and use of the US credit-based system. Prof. Lopez noted that the credit-system provides significant advantages for students in terms of academic diversity and future preparation. She also shared the profiles and achievements of a few notable UC alumni. Ms. Nem Sowathey, Director of OPACA, proposed a few possible collaboration efforts. She suggested hosting an event for high school students at NIS, and also exchanging facilities in accordance with each institutions’ unique key assets - UC hosting one of the nations most extensive library collection and online database access, and NIS having exceptional sport facilities.

Representative from NIS, Dr. John Nash, mentioned about special English-proficiency test waivers for NIS graduates existing at the American University of Phnom Penh (AUPP), and suggested a similar route could be beneficial for both UC and NIS. Mr. David Reed asked about scholarship opportunities that could be provided to NIS students based on their scores and achievements ranked by the International Baccalaureate® (IB) system.

The discussion extended to cover upcoming UC events including the 1,000,000 Trees project as well as the UC Distinguished Lecture Series. The meeting ended favorably with a tour of the UC campus and SEATV studios where UC’s College of Media and Communication students are interning, and being trained and employed.
The study tour was held in response to a recent visit by representatives of UC’s Office of Public Affairs, Communications and Alumni to the Wat Koh High School campus. The school principal agreed to allow all year-12 students to attend a study tour at The University of Cambodia with the objective of allowing students to gain a better insight into university life and effective academic strategies.

On Monday, 17 May 2016, over 100 students and 5 teachers from Wat Koh High School visited the UC campus across two sessions, morning and afternoon.

To begin the tour, Dr. Y Ratana gave an overview of the profile of UC including its history, academic programs, student clubs and extracurricular activities. This was followed by a testimonial from UC Alumni who came to share their experiences and personal success stories.

Afterwards, students were provided with a full tour of the UC main campus. Students visited the conference hall, the Toshu Fukami Library and E-Library, the UC Sport Complex, and the Student Career and Development Centre. Students were even given a short demonstration of English services offered at UC.

Students also had the chance to meet with faculty and staff members including members of the Council for Research and Creativity, the ASEAN Study Center, and the Techo Sen School of Government and International Relations.
On May 28th, 2016, the Academic Foundation Department held its annual Graduation Ceremony in the UC Conference Center. The event was honorably presided over by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Founder, Chairman of Board of Trustees and President of The University of Cambodia.

Also in attendance were vice-presidents, deans, associate deans, directors, staff, faculty and foundation-year graduates.

The AFD Graduation Ceremony is held annually to confer foundation year certificates to all students who have successfully completed foundation year requirements as issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport at The University of Cambodia. The event is also intended to give recognition to students for achieving success in the first year of their academic life, and motivate them to continue to strive for greatness throughout their time at UC and beyond.

To begin, Mr. Keo Chhorthong, Director of the Academic Foundation Department, gave the opening remarks for the ceremony. He highlighted the noticeable progress of the department, and revealed the statistics of students in the department. According to his report, 2822 students, 1233 of whom are females, have successfully completed their foundation year and have been awarded foundation year certificates. This year, 290 students, 191 from I-Track and 99 from K-Track, will be granted foundation year certificates. Of the 290 graduates, 48 are outstanding students: 1 student achieved a cumulative “A” grade and 47 students received “B+” grades. He dedicated these achievements not only to the hard working students themselves but also to all UC leaders, staff, faculty and students for their joint efforts to provide the best education possible. He also noted that the UC community wants to encourage everyone to “think globally and act locally”.

By: Mr. Keo Chhorthong, Director of the Academic Foundation Department
H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn then gave his keynote remarks. He congratulated the graduates for their hard work and encouraged all the students to further their efforts in studying. He explained that a good study foundation is the basis for success in higher education. At UC, there is no cheating; thus, students have to depend on their hard work and dedication to pass their classes. This is the culture of anti-corruption, in which we start from us, individually, to make our nation and society uncorrupt. He also explained that the system of education at UC is modeled after the educational system in the United States, which uses a credit system.

He also advised students not to study for multiple Bachelor’s degrees at the same time because although you will obtain two or three degrees, the education level is still only equal to a Bachelor’s degree, which is comparatively lower than a Master’s degree. Instead of investing so much time and money into two congruent Bachelor’s degrees, students should study one single major and focus significant attention to self-study and academic enriching activities so they can be knowledgeable and well rounded students. They should then pursue a Master’s degree: it is an ideal way of academic self-development, and ensures you continue to climb the ladder of life-long, continuing education.

After that, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn conferred certificates of honor to the outstanding students, as well as the foundation year certificates to all graduates.

At the end of the agenda, two outstanding students took the stage to share their experience in achieving academic success to their fellow students. The University of Cambodia is a leading higher education institution in Cambodia, where quality education is combined with career-oriented skills training. It is a place of opportunities for academic, social and personal growth, they explained.
Thank you to all individuals and institutions who have lent their support to the University of Cambodia. We hope to have included a complete list of those who have made financial and in-kind contributions to UC, and express our sincerest apologies to any individual or institution we have forgotten. If you have contributed to the University of Cambodia and are not present on the list, please write our editor at Bulletin@uc.edu.kh so we can add your name in the next edition.

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If you have a passion for improving higher education to help Cambodia develop its human resources and would like to learn more about how to help UC continue its tradition of providing academic excellence to the entire community, please contact the UC Foundation at ucf@uc.edu.kh and make a generous contribution to a brighter tomorrow.

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