

The UC Bulletin



Serving the University of Cambodia

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THAKRAL

Commits Relentless Efforts to Build UC's Library Resources Capacity



The gift of reading is a powerful tool that is bestowed upon our students. Diverse books contributed by Dr. Rikhi Thakral have helped our students, faculty, staff, and community members explore ideas and dynamic fields of humanity. The books have helped spark ideas and dialogues in and outside of the classrooms. With the latest addition, Dr. Thakral adds nearly one hundred books that include young adult literature and authentic Chinese books to help bridge understanding between ASEAN and China. These books will help nurture the next generation of professionals who appreciate the culture of reading and Chinese ancient customs.

The University of Cambodia sincerely appreciates Dr. Rikhi Thakral for his relentless support of the university's academic endeavors. Over the years, Dr. Thakral has provided unyielding contributions to help UC grow and development through scholarships, financial support, in-kind donations, book donations, etc. Dr. Thakral spiritual's support has helped drive the university's progress and development in being one of the leading universities in Cambodia.

Community Literature Drive

The University of Cambodia would like to thank and recognize the Red Cross, the Mekong Dialogue, the Ministry of Health, the College of Social Science and UC alums for their generous literature contributions to helping build knowledge and understanding of our community.

- The Red Cross donated 10 copies of a fiction book
- The Mekong Dialogue donated 12 different documents
- The Ministry of Health donated 21 copies of a survey book
- 9 thesis papers donated by the college of social science and 1 from a UC alum.

Opening Ceremony of the Young Entrepreneur Venture Contest

By Sou Seiha

Representatives from the University of Cambodia attended the opening ceremony for the Young Entrepreneur Venture Contest on June 6th, 2014. The event was presided over by H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Industry and Handicraft. The ceremony introduced the 17 challenge groups including, Luxury Arts, Eagle Mart, Khmer Desert and My dream home, among many others.

After the presentation of each of each of the 17 challenge groups, H.E. Cham Prasidh provided a long and meaningful speech about the importance of hard work, motivation and having a career plan. He encouraged all the participants to use those skills to aid them in the upcoming contest.



CES Celebrates Its 13th Graduation

By Caitlin Macquarrie



Students have graduated, but they are encouraged to never stop learning.

Students who have studied with the Center for English Studies had their moment in the spotlight on Saturday, June 9th, when they attended the 13th CES graduation ceremony. The ceremony was attended and presided over by H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, President of the University of Cambodia. Other distinguished guests present for the occasion included Dr. Y Ratana, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Mr. An Sopheak, Director of the Office of Administration, Ms. Samantha Smith, Deputy Director of the Office of the President, and of course Mr. Pay Chheng How, Director of CES and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities.

The ceremony ran smoothly with the help of a group of talented UCSS students, led by Ms. Soun Khanra. UCSS also provided the event's talented MC, Ms. Heng Savadey, who led the proceedings dressed in an elegant black suit.

After observing the national anthem, Mr. Pay Chheng How initiated the ceremony with a brief report on CES' history and progress. He informed

the assembled guests that 568 students would be awarded certificates this graduation, bringing the total number of CES graduates over the last seven years to 3,374. Around 291 of the proud graduates were there to receive their certificates in person. Mr. Pay's speech also highlighted what was to become a recurring theme of the ceremony: the importance of lifelong learning. Even though these students were graduating, Mr. Pay pointed out, they should nevertheless nurture a love for learning and take full advantage of the possibilities of an academic life.

H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn was very happy to expand on this message in his impressive congratulatory speech to the graduates. Dr. Kao's speech was comprehensive and personalized, using examples from his own life to give the students advice for their future studies and lives. He began by emphasizing the fundamental importance of good health, and then went on to advise students to read more, to not take their parents for granted and to have the highest respect for their elders, to make good use of their time, to start networking and making connections while they are still in university, and to never stop learning. It was an apt message for the CES graduates, who have achieved the English skills they need to succeed and travel in the modern, globalized world. They have completed the first step, but the rest of their journey is just beginning.

As they set off on their new adventure, either continuing their studies at University of Cambodia or applying their English skills to jobs and careers, we hope that these graduates will remember to stay in touch with the Center for English Studies. CES alumni are the ones who can help us to look to the future, teach us what skills we should be teaching, and help us impart those skills through student seminars and other alumni activities. The future looks bright for graduates and instructors alike, and we are excited to discover what new learning opportunities await us all.

Cambodian Higher Education Association

on the Sum Up of Quarterly Achievements

By Por Malis

On May 22nd, 2014 Mrs. Por Malis, Vice President of Operations, attended the quarterly meeting of the Cambodian Higher Education Association (CHEA). The meeting was presided over by H.E. In Virakcheat, Chairman of the CHEA Board of Directors and H.E. Ly Chheng, President of CHEA. Vice President of CHEA, H.E. Doung Leang, started the meeting by reviewing CHEA's achievements in the 1st quarter of 2014 before H.E. Ly Chheng took over, to discuss current projects and make announcements.

H.E. Ly Chheng informed the meeting that earlier in the month of May, CHEA attended a retreat for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in association with MoEYS and Asia Development Bank (ADB). The purpose of this retreat was to create a road map for HEI reform from 2014-2030.

The meeting then discussed the issue of tax holidays, although many universities have already opened accounts with the Tax Department, some have not. The meeting's consensus was to have CHEA request an extension of the tax holiday; so those universities, who have not yet switched over, can meet with the Tax Department to officially negotiate before submitting for approval to the Prime Minister.

Due to current inconsistencies between universities in Cambodia, the issue of non-degree certificates and who will create, issue and sign them was brought up. They concluded that universities should continue to issue non-degree certificates by themselves, or request to have them co-signed by MoEYS. It was decided that there was no need to change the

current system, since it has not been problematic thus far. It was also noted that on official degrees, at least 2 people should sign the diplomas and that those persons should be; the university President, the Registrar and the Chairman or Chancellor of the university.

Also discussed were the current reforms being implemented by MoEYS; including new fees for HEIs and schools, and MoEYS verbal plan to begin issuing 5 year renewable licenses for HEIs. CHEA requested that, before the next quarterly meeting, all CHEA members do research on how other ASEAN nations deal with opening new universities. Specifically whether or not they are required to deposit money prior to opening and what limitations are placed on the licenses issued to HEIs. H.E. Ly Chheng made a special request to the University of Cambodia's President, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, for additional advice on other ASEAN nation's university operations, since he is very involved with ASEAN. The 2nd quarterly meeting of CHEA will focus on these reforms, and members are expected to bring in research to fuel the discussion.

H.E. In Virakcheat explained why it is important that universities not lower tuition fees in an attempt to raise enrollment. The reason for this is to maintain a high level of quality in the institution. As inflation increases, so should tuition and staff salaries. If all HEIs are able to do this, staff retention will increase and students will continue to receive a quality education.

*The University of Cambodia Introduces **KHMER TRACK** to its academic program in 2013.*

We are keeping our original degree programs (taught through the medium of English) as the international track. We are introducing selected parallel programs taught in Khmer: the quality is the same, so the only difference in the KHMER TRACK is the language of instruction. And there will be other changes to follow...!



High School Art Competition

By Samantha Smith

Sounds of scratching pencils and bustling paper filled UC's e-library on May 21st, 2014; as eager young artists from high schools around Phnom Penh competed to win UC's annual high school art competition. This year's prize was a 3 day trip to Japan and 30,000 JPY. Students were required to submit an original piece of art work along with a written explanation of their piece and the best submissions were invited to attend the art competition finals on the 21st of May. Students were nervous but determined expressions, as they worked hard to recreate their original submissions in the 4 hour session.

Students were able to choose between 5 topics; new world order thinking, preservation and protection of cultural heritage, peace safeguarding and development, humanitarian and charity efforts, and international cooperation.

The art work was judged based on the following criteria; content, artistic representation of content, creativity and style, artistic beauty, and realities of the painting. Upper management spent the evening of the 21st contemplating all the different pieces of artwork. They discussed the meaning and artistic representation of each piece of art before casting their first votes for the top 10. After narrowing the submissions down, management had heated discussions about the best artistic representation and the meaning being depicted. They took their time to review each written piece and discussed the meaning and purpose of the artwork in detail before casting their votes for the top 5.

Once the top 5 pieces had been chosen, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, along with the other committee members chose the winner based on the criteria mentioned above.

The award ceremony was held on May 26th in the UC conference room. H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn presided over the ceremony. In his speech, he encouraged the high school students to always work hard and to continue their educations after graduation. He congratulated all of the contestants before the top 5 winners were announced.

In 5th place was Ms. Phou Kanhana from Happy Chandara High School, for her painting under the topic of New World Order Thinking. In 4th place was Mr. Siv Chantha from Hun Sen Phnom Penh Thmei High School, for his painting under the topic of Peace and Safeguarding Development. In 3rd place was Mr. Ung Porhay from Hun Sen Serey Pheap High School, for his painting under the topic of Peace and Safeguarding Development. In 2nd place was Ms. Chren Chey Sak from HenSen Chum-pou Want High School, for her painting under the topic of Preservation and Protection of Cultural Heritage. The 1st place winner was Ms. Ouk Kakruna from Back Touk High School, for her painting under the topic of New World Order Thinking.

UC would like to formally congratulate all the contestants for their outstanding artistic abilities and effort put into this competition. Good luck and best wishes to the winner, Ms. Ouk Kakruna for her trip to Japan and future endeavors to become a designer.

Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement Project

The higher education system in Cambodia has changed significantly over the past 10 years and the number of private universities has grown substantially. The tremendous growth in the private education sector has benefited many Cambodians by providing more options for continuing their education after high school. However, according to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), this rapid expansion has created inconsistencies and gaps in the “quality, access, efficiency and managerial effectiveness in HEIs”. Due in large part to these concerns, the Kingdom of Cambodia has received a credit of US\$ 11.5 million and a grant of US\$ 11.5 million from the World Bank’s International Development Association with the purpose of funding the 5 year Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement Project (HEQCIP) 2011-2015.

The development objective of this project is to improve: a) the quality of teaching, management, and research in project-supported entities and b) pilot the targeting of disadvantaged students for enhanced access and retention. The project is comprised of four components: 1) Strengthening the Governance and Capacity of the Higher Education System; 2) Provision of Competitive Development and Innovation Grants; 3) Provision of Scholarships to Disadvantaged Students; 4) Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. DHE plans to hold workshops and seminars to build the aforementioned programs.

Over the next five years the University of Cambodia will take part in seminars, conferences and projects seeking to improve and standardize the four components of the HEQCIP project mentioned above. UC looks forward to improving its own standards and to work alongside other HEIs in Cambodia to improve the sector as a whole.

HEQCIP: Training Workshop on Procurement for Sub-Projects

By Sam Sophorn and Long Navanny

Mr. Sam Sophorn and Mr. Long Navanny were fortunate enough to travel north to Siem Reap Province, in order to attend the HEQCIP training workshop on Procurement for Sub-Projects. The funding for this project was obtained using public funds and therefore procurement officers have very specific guidelines they must follow in order to ensure that the public money is being used wisely and will benefit the future generations of Cambodia. This conference sought to train procurement officers in the proper practices of procurement and to give constructive feedback to HEIs on how to balance procurement tasks with HEI tasks.

The three day conference was opened with a speech by Dr. Un Leang, Deputy Director of Department of Higher Education and the head of Component 2, where he remarked on the trend of procurement moving from simple shopping to following strict procedure and the awareness of important issues such as, transparency, morality, environmental protection, gender and labor abuse. The first day of the

conference consisted mainly of training seminars based on reviewing the standard operating procedure (SOP) of procurement and general procurement procedures for goods and works.

The second day of the conference gave the participating Universities an opportunity to present a procurement document to the conference and receive feedback. UC’s Mr. Sam Sophorn presented a bidding document for package NS-G-43R3 (the procurement of office equipment). The document received much praise, with over 80% meeting the specific requirements for procurement documents, being asked only to ensure that the document does not lead to a particular preference for brand name products – thus ensuring that public money is being spent to purchase the most cost effective materials rather than spend unnecessary money to obtain specific brand names. Mr. Sam Sophorn and Mr. Long Navanny were happy to receive the feedback and hope to apply what they have learned in preparing future procurement documents.

The third and final day of the conference covered how to evaluate bids and issues that could arise from this process. It was consistently reinforced that it is very important for procurement officers to always fully consider the lowest bids, before moving on to higher bids in order to effectively spend the public funds and also to move away from accepting bids based on technical or commercial grounds alone. Dr. Un Leang closed the conference by encouraging procurement officers and sub-project managers to continue develop knowledge and skills and requested their continued support and commitment in achieving the goals of this sub-project.

HEQCIP: Workshop on Research Analysis

By Sam Sophorn

After 10 long years of working with the World Bank and the Ministry of Economics and Finance the DHE was able to secure funding for higher education research projects in Cambodia under the HEQCIP. HEI's across Cambodia began working on a number of different research projects in response to the new funding in 2012. The workshop, held from June 2nd-6th in Siem Reap province, aimed to review the progress of the research projects thus far and provide feedback and further training on research related processes.

The conference was led by many members of the Royal government as well as other members from international funding and research organizations, including; H.E. Mak Nhoy, Director General of the Department of Education; Dr. Un Lean, Deputy Director of the Department of Education; Mr. Seng Simeth, a World Bank Representative; Dr. Nith Bunlay, Deputy Director General of Higher Education; and Professor Dr. Trude Jacobson from Northern Illinois University.

The first two days of the conference were allotted for project presentation. There were 46 research projects to present, so the conference created categories for research type; pure research, experimental research and curriculum design. The University of Cambodia's research project was classified as 'experimental research', thus Dr. Sovathana Sokhom and Mr. Sam Sophorn presented UC's research project to that

group.

UC has been conducting a research project based on the hypothesis that encouraging student's to have high self-esteem and self-confidence will increase their ability to function in their daily lives and ultimately translate into a wider spread of a positive social outlook within an economic context.

The project began in 2012 and consisted of training teachers, holding self-esteem and motivational enhancement trainings and giving surveys to both the test group who participated in the trainings, as well as a control group to compare findings. Similar trainings and surveys were taken twice more, each three months after the prior. The research team is still working on compiling and analyzing the data.

A brief training was given on quantitative and qualitative data analysis, evaluating research, how to format final reports and how to search for funding sources. The conference also created an open dialogue about the necessity of creating a Cambodian Professional Research Network.

H.E. Mak Nhoy, Director General of Department of Higher Education shared his concern about the lack of effort to look for grants to support research activities and increase the research capacity development in HEIs and stressed the importance of harnessing these opportunities to further Cambodia's research capacities as a whole.

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HEQCIP: Workshop on Research Capacity Building and Writing Successful Grant Application

By Sam Sophorn

The Department of Higher Education held a workshop in Kampot province over June 13th-15th, 2014, regarding the necessity to increase research capacity in HEIs and focused on writing successful grant proposals.

The first point raised by Dr. Nith Bunlay, Deputy Director General of Department of Higher Education, was that not enough universities have been utilizing the grant programs available to them. For example, in July of 2013, a conference was held regarding grant proposals and it was expected that all HEIs present would submit proposals over the next year, however only five HEIs had actually submitted proposals. The DHE expressed the importance of building research capacities within HEIs in Cambodia and encourages all HEIs to take advantage of these workshops and available grants to improve their institutions.

In his opening speech, Dr. Nith Bunlay discussed the importance of building research capacity in every HEI. He was specific in mentioning that research personnel should be long term staff members, allowing them time to build an understanding of grant proposal writing and criteria of funding agencies.

Following the opening remarks, each university who had prepared a grant proposal, presented them to the conference and received feedback. The message conveyed from these presentations was the idea that HEIs need to focus on turning research problems into research objectives. In order to reframe the problems, HEIs must start looking at contextual, theoretical and methodological problems in the system and working to find new ways of approaching these issues.

In conclusion, Dr. Nith Bunlay presented an optimistic closing speech to the conference. He commended those universities that shared their proposals with the conference and applauded the sharing and collaboration apparent throughout the conference. He also shared his hope that each HEI will take advantage of the grants available to them and to expand their research departments accordingly.

The Benefits of Insurance

By Sar Synat

June 4th, 2014: Representatives from six different committees across Cambodia came together to put on an event entitled, "The Benefits of Insurance". The representatives from the aforementioned committees were as follows: Mr. Mey Vnn, General Director of Financial Industry Department of the Ministry of Economics and Finance; Mr. Bou Chanphirou, Head of Department of Insurance and Pension; Mr. Oeurn Chanvisoth, from the Security of Cambodia Insurance Association; Mr. Pankaj Banerjee, Chief Executive Officer of Prudential Cambodia Plc; Mr. Yuk Chamroeurnrith, General Director of Forte Insurance; Mr. Gustaf Agratson CEO of small MILVIK Insurance; and Mr. Men Ru, Program Manager of Health Insurance Association of Insurance Operation.

Although the insurance market in Cambodia is still quite small, more Cambodian people are recognizing the importance of insurance for the health and wellbeing of citizens and businesses. Despite the small size of the market, it is clear that the insurance industry is rapidly growing. According to the Cambodia Insurance Market Report, first quarter claims from 2013 totaled \$309,197 USD where as claims from the first quarter of 2014 totaled \$1,081,436 USD.

Mr. Men Ru spoke about the Community Based Health Insurance program aimed at improving access to health care specifically for women and children and rural, low income families. The conference was concluded with a discussion about the importance of insurance to protect your family's future, protect investments in the economy and provide a safety net to cope with crises, especially for middle to low income customers.

Cambodia-Australia Dialogue

By Soy Ratana

May 26th, 2014: In an event organized by the Cambodia Center for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) and the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh, two panels of economic experts from both nations came together to discuss the role of Australia in the regional development of Cambodia and ASEAN at large. 2014 marks the 40 year anniversary of Australia's participation in the ASEAN Dialogue Partnership program and this event is a symbol of Australia's commitment to ASEAN nations, in particular, Cambodia.

The University of Cambodia was invited to attend the dialogue and sent one lecturer and two students to represent the university and participate in the Q&A conversation following the panel discussions. Dr. In Sophal was the representative professor for the event, he was joined by Mr. Soy Ratana and Ms. Chhun Molika, students from the College of Social Sciences.

H.E. Dr. Chap Sothearith, Advisor and Chief of Cabinet for the Deputy Prime Minister gave the opening remarks where he introduced Australia's role in the regional development of ASEAN and Cambodia. His speech was immediately followed by a special remark from H.E. Ms. Alison Burrows the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia. She discussed how Australia has played a vital role in developing regional cooperation and maintaining peace, prosperity and stability to the region. She spoke about the importance of dealing with security issues in a peaceful and cooperative way and encouraged intra-ASEAN dialogue regarding the arising conflict in the South China Sea. She concluded by reaffirming Australia's invested interest in the region and their intention to deepen ties with all ASEAN member nations.

The first panel also included a presentation by Dr. Sally Percival Wood, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow from Deakin University in Australia. She discussed the past 40 years of Australia-ASEAN Dialogue



Partnership, which has focused on the evolution of economic regionalism and approaches to regional security. However, she pointed out that although Australia is very proud of being ASEAN's first dialogue partner, the past 40 years have not always promoted progress for the region. Australia played a minimal role as a trading partner in the early 1970s and their protectionist policies regarding international trade did not help ASEAN nations as they struggled to build their economies. It was not until the late 1980s with the founding of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) that economic cooperation and collaboration really began to assist ASEAN nation's economic growth and development.

The first panel was concluded that Australia's role in Cambodia's development has been steadily developing over time in a solid manner. In regards to the conflict in the South China Sea, whatever action Cambodia chooses to take regarding the resolution of this conflict, will be made based on the interests and security of Cambodian citizens and diplomacy.

The second panel consisted of a brief discussion between Dr. Sally Percival Wood and H.E. Ambassador Pou Sothirak, Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace. The purpose of this discussion was to seek out major challenges and potentialities in areas of diplomatic cooperation and how Australia can further understand and strengthen its assistance, cooperation, grants, and donation aids to Cambodia.

Following the discussion, the dialogue was opened to questions from all participants. Mr. Soy Ratana, a student from the College of Social Sciences at UC raised an important question to panel member Dr. Sally Percival Wood regarding the full integration of the ASEAN Economic Community. Dr. Wood mentioned in her presentation that she does not believe this integration will be able to be achieved by

the 2015 timeline and suggested that it was unlikely to happen by 2020 either. Mr. Ratana asked, “When or what is the suitable or exact time for the ASEAN integration if it is not in 2015 or 2020, from your respective opinion? In this regard, what are the specific roles of Australia and what has the Australian government done in fastening and accelerating this integration as Australia is one of the ASEAN Dialogue Partners.”

In response, Dr. Wood addressed the development inequality gap between ASEAN nations, noting that some countries are not ready for full scale integration because their economic foundation remains weak. She noted that Cambodia remains too dependent on foreign imports rather than producing its

own products. Regarding Australia’s role in accelerating ASEAN integration, she suggested that trade between Australia and ASEAN is a key factor in facilitating integration because it promotes economic development for ASEAN as a whole. Dr. Wood expressed her hope to see a more dramatic positive trade curve between ASEAN nations and Australia, and in that way Australia would play a more proactive role in the future of ASEAN integration.

Finally after an hour of tense questions and answers, the dialogue ended with a warm closing remark from H.E. Ambassador Pou Sothirak. He thanked the panelists and the guests and expressed his hope for continued cooperation and collaboration between Cambodia and Australia.

Cambodian **Red** Cross Dissemination Presentation



By Yun Makara

During the month of June, Universities across Cambodia held Cambodia Red Cross dissemination presentations, to provide university students with a basic understanding of the history and principles of the Cambodia Red Cross. The University of Cambodia held the dissemination on June 16th, 2014, Mr. An Sopheak, Director of Administration and Chair of the UCCRCY Advisor Committee, presided over the presentation and provided the opening remarks.

Mr. Kongvong Seyvisal gave a presentation about the history of the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), the largest humanitarian organization in Cambodia. The CRC is officially recognized by the Royal government as an auxiliary to the public authorities in humanitarian services to relieve the sufferings of the most vulnerable in society. Three general assemblies have been held; the first term was held by Princess Norodom Marie Ranariddh, who held the post of President of the CRC from 1994-1998, the second and third terms were held by Samdech Kattibritbindit Bun Rany HunSen, who held the post of President of the CRC from 1998-2002 and was re-elected in August of 2002. Her Majesty Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk residing as honorary president since 1994.

After the presentation of the history of the Cambodian Red Cross, Mr. Roeut Sokhon the Coordinator Officer of Cambodia Red Cross Youth gave a presentation about the significance of the emblem of international Red Cross organizations. The red cross or crescent on a white background has become an internationally recognized symbol of neutrality and protection. It also symbolizes the movement's seven fundamental principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. The international Red Cross organizations have been providing assistance and relief to those in need for generations, this dissemination project aimed at providing the youth of Cambodia with the knowledge of this honorable organization.

The University of Cambodia in association with the Cambodian Red Cross encourage students to give to those in need and aspire to humanitarian values, as espoused in the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent international organizations.

The 151st Anniversary of Cambodia **Red** Cross



By Sam Sochet

Cambodian Red Cross celebrated the 151st Anniversary of Cambodia Red Cross Day on May 8, 2014 at the Cambodian Red Cross headquarters. It the great honor to be joined by Samdach Decho Hun Sen and Samdach Kati Breut Bandet Bunranny Hun Sen at the celebration. In that event, there were many local and foreign guess, citizens, and students, and Cambodian Red Cross's youth. Moreover, there were many activities such as concert, drama, and fly the balloon so on.

There were thirty students from the University of Cambodia joined and other six students organize that even. They were Mr. Sam Sochet, Miss. Chhay Vuochmenh, Miss. Tex Kimmey, Miss. PhalSopheak, Mr. VarSotheara, and Mr. Keo Rottanakvisal. These six students play an important role in that even because they took different responsibilities. Mr. Sam Sochet and Miss. Tex Kimmey acted as protocol, Miss. Chhay Vuochmenh and Mr. VarSotheara acted as security guard, Miss. PhalSopheak prepared the documents, and Mr. Keo Rottanakvisal carried the balloon.

At the end of the even, the local and foreign charitable people contributed over \$14 million to the Cambodia Red Cross tosupport humanitarian affair. Finally, this ceremony finished successfully at 10: 30am in the morning. And all the guess took photos session and then end the ceremony.

World **Blood** Donor Day

By Yun Makara

June 14th, 2014: Dr. Hok Kimcheng, the Director of the National Blood Transfusion Center opened the ceremonies by highlighting the importance of blood to human life. He explained that about 150 units of blood are needed everyday and it is up to the local population to donate blood. He noted that it is the responsibility of all the men and women in the nation to donate blood and the responsibility of the medical staff to collect blood safely.

This year, the National Blood Transfusion Center held World Blood Donor Day under the title of “Safe Blood for Saving Mothers” and focused on highlighting the importance of having a clean and ample blood supply to protect new mothers in the case of severe pregnancy complications. Every day about 800 women die from pregnancy and childbirth complications related to severe bleeding. However, access to safe and sufficient blood would allow doctors to perform blood transfusions that could save the lives of many of those women. Unfortunately, access to blood and the safe use of blood transfusions remains a major challenge in many countries around the world.

This campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of donating blood as well as the importance of testing and safe practices related to blood transfusions. The campaign hopes to appeal to the men and women of Cambodia to, “give blood for those who give life.” It is of upmost importance that timely access to safe blood transfusions becomes a priority for all nations in order to prevent maternal deaths related to pregnancy complications.

Launching the United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Person

By Mam Thanna

May 6th, 2014: Human trafficking is a modern day form of slavery; and children specifically, are vulnerable to being sold into this system. A 2012 UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report on human trafficking recorded more than 10,000 cases of trafficking in persons in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific between 2007-2010, which is by far the highest rate of human trafficking in the world. The UN-ACT Project Document outlines the plans for the project which focuses on the Asia-Pacific region with great attention to the Greater-Mekong Sub-region (GMS: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam), because these nations have the most extensive and specific flows of migration and human trafficking in South Asia.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has developed a 5-year strategy for a Southeast Asian project entitled, “United Nations – Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons” (UN-ACT). This strategy outlines a strategic approach to coordinate efforts to combat trafficking in persons throughout the region. UN-ACT will build upon the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking, including revisiting an existing agreement between the six GMS governments with an increased focus on institution building to strengthen national capacities to fight human trafficking. UN-ACT took over the project management on May 1st, 2014 and held launch events in countries throughout the region over the course of the next few weeks.

The launch event in Cambodia was held on May 6th, 2014 at the Inter-Continental hotel in Phnom Penh. The welcome remarks were made by H.E. Mrs. Clare Van der Vaeren the UN Resident Coordinator for Cambodia, she gave an overview of the issues of human trafficking in the region and how UN-ACT plans to address these issues in SE Asia. After the welcome remarks ended, H.E. Mrs. Cuonh Sochhay, Under Secretary of State for the Ministry of the Interior pledged the support of the Ministry of the Interior to continue to collaborate with the UN on the issue of human trafficking through the new organization, UN-ACT.

And finally, H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Ministry of Women’s Affairs gave a speech about the causes of human trafficking and the importance of addressing these causes in order to prevent human trafficking in the future. H.E. claimed the three most important factors in human trafficking are; unemployment, poverty and illiteracy. She also pointed out that the law regarding human trafficking is vague which makes it difficult to collect the evidence needed to bring criminals to justice, and this must also be addressed. In conclusion H.E. pledged the support of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs to aid UN-ACT by continued collaboration and providing important and necessary services to the victims and stakeholders of human trafficking; such as, trainings and creating or issuing official papers that are needed to help the victims.

Student Zone

UC's Khmer New Year Celebration

UC
Student Body
Enjoys
Khmer
New Year
With The
Community



By The University of Cambodia Student Senate

On Sunday, April 6th, 2015, the University of Cambodia Student Senate (UCSS) celebrated Khmer New Year with a ceremony at the University of Cambodia. The event was held with the intention of bringing UC students and staff together as family to celebrate the upcoming Khmer New Year, as well as promote Khmer culture.

In the past, the University of Cambodia would celebrate Khmer New Year from sunrise to sunset with a ceremony lasting all day. However, this year, the event didn't officially start until 3pm. The ceremony was opened with Buddhist monks praying to ensure good luck, happiness and prosperity for the university; which was held under the honor of H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, President of the University of Cambodia. Many students, staff, and faculty members attended the ceremony and joined in the blessing of the university.

After the blessing ceremony, the traditional games began. Students played many games outside, including: Chh Chhoung, Leak Kanseng, Klaeng Chhab Kon Moin and many others. There were also 11 stands selling all sorts of food, drinks, books and t-shirts. UCSS also had a stand where they sold t-shirts and flowers, in which 100% of the profits went to Kantha Bopha Hospital.



Legendary Hanuman looks to take center stage



Request for Scholarship Funding

The University of Cambodia (UC) requests 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.

Because of the consequences of Cambodia's recent history, 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 4,000+ students enrolled at UC are on full or partial scholarship, 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 for more scholarships for needy students: as in the past, these targeted through competitive exams to 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.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn
President
The University of Cambodia

Ms. Por Malis
Operation Manager
UC Foundation

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Academic and Life Advices for Success

For Students

By Former Students

Ms. Ekvisoth Khatty

Child Protection Program Manager
Save the Children International in Cambodia

Earned a Bachelor's Degree
College of Law
Graduation Class of 2013

1. What did you like about UC program?

A credit system program facilitates student to finish their course faster than the normal program of the government university and professors are from different institutions in Cambodia as well as abroad.

2. What did you think of your program's facilities such as available technology, resources, and the classrooms?

It was acceptable as UC had the rule for all teachers who need LCD or classrooms for makeup class shall propose to UC contact person in advance. But I observed that some course had a crowded student which led difficulty to student in learning in spite of big room.

3. What accomplishments did you achieve during your university experience?

Besides having bachelor degree at law, I gained more knowledge and experiences from lecturers as well as my classmates.

4. Was there a professor, staff, fellow student who made a lasting impression on you or helped you when you were here at UC? How? Why?

Professors were almost supported me in case of need, particularly in the assignments. They gave clear instruction and did more explanation whenever I need their support. Staff at Registra office was

open for help when I asked for GPA. In general, they (professor, staff, and fellow students) were open for discussion and finding solutions to overcome problem met.

5. What was your most memorable moment as a student of the University of Cambodia?

My most memorable was group assignment with different group members as UC implementing a credit system.

6. What do you like to tell prospective students about the University or the program?

Accreditable University.

7. What advice can you offer to incoming or current students?

Getting old is not the barrier for learning, as I am now still proceed for master degree at law despite being old woman.

8. What is your current job? Is your current job related to your study program from the University of Cambodia?

My current job is designing and managing a program for protecting children from all forms of violence at all setting. My study program on law is helping me to do reflection how the existing laws of Cambodia

protect children.

9. How has UC program encouraged you to pursue your career?

My future career is to be a freelance consultant and I can work with legal agencies or civil society organizations that need to work for child protection program.

10. What are your career achievements you would like to share with students?

Working smart and keeping learning for self-improvement is the key points for career achievement.

11. What career advice would you like to give to students to better prepare them for the real world?

If possible, applying to be internship or volunteer in particular agency related to the student program study will help them in preparation for the real work after they graduated from the university.

12. Describe UC in 3 words?

Building new leaders
Promoting Accountability
Contributing to Cambodia development

13. What is your lasting impression of UC?

I do realize that UC now has a study program in Khmer; so how could UC program maintain their enrolment balance of student in studying in English and in studying in Khmer?

A CES Success Story

By Soun Khanra

My name is Soun Khanra (Honorary Student Speaker at the 2014 CES Graduation Ceremony and Member of UCSS). I am from Takeo province. I am an International Relations student in the college of Social Sciences at the University of Cambodia. I graduated from the Center for English Studies in August of 2013.

I am very grateful of my experience studying at CES. My CES courses provided me with both knowledge and practical skills. I learned interpersonal skills as well as academic skills and how to apply those to my studies. We studied reading, listening, writing and speaking at the same time. Studying everyday made me become more confident using my English skills. Moreover, my lecturers always assigned different assignments each term where students must work together in small groups. These assignments taught me how do research and write papers. Furthermore these assignments helped me feel confident speaking English in public and doing presentations. By the end of the term I was asked to be a speaker at a workshop entitled "An Exchange for a Better English Study."

I learned a lot in my year of studying at CES and those experiences changed my life in many ways. I learned how to live in a large society, how to communicate with other students and faculty members and most importantly, how to solve complex problems.

I would like to take this special opportunity to give many thanks to my wonderful lecturer Chheng



Sovannka who taught me problem solving skills and how to apply those skills in real life scenarios. She worked very hard to encourage all the students to study very hard. I would also like to say a very special thanks to Mr. Pay Chhenghow, director of CES, who works very hard every day to improve CES and get more support for students.

Last but not least, I would like to say that studying at CES will give you the best basis for English study for all students. They can use this special knowledge and experience to aid them in university life and ultimately in a career.

I would like to end by giving a small message to every student: keep working hard at your studies even though it can be really difficult. It is possible to find solutions to any problems that you encounter. Never give up in your life if you want to accomplish your goals.

Request for a Basic Science Laboratory

Robust growth over the past two decades has put Cambodia on the road to recovery. Industrial development calls for high-skilled workers to gain a competitive edge and continue Cambodia's development miracle. The University of Cambodia recognizes the critical need to cultivate new talent in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, with science as a cornerstone for the innovation and development necessary for Cambodia's progress into the 21st century.

But Cambodian students have a very poor background in basic science. In planning to rectify this deficit, the original plan was that all Bachelor's students at the University of Cambodia would do two science courses as part of UC's General Education programme (UC follows the US higher education system). The first was an introductory course (GSC101), which traces the evolution of the universe, from the 'Big Bang' through the creation of elements and then stars and planets, followed by an overview of the basics of Earth's physical and biological diversity. The second (GSC102) was a 40-hour laboratory-based course which would complement and reinforce the material covered in GSC101, including through the introduction of demonstrations of various physical and other concepts. However, whilst the courses were prepared in broad outline, they were never implemented: a major constraint was the lack of monies to furnish and finance a laboratory and teaching museum to permit the satisfactory running of the GSC102 component.

The University is thus seeking funding for a basic science laboratory with simple, relatively inexpensive equipment (e.g. microscopes, pH meters, ... : materiel already common-or-garden for high-school students from developed countries) in order to be able to launch GSC101 and GSC102 as components of an updated further revision of UC's General Education programme).

In addition, we are also seeking funding for a teaching museum, as a repository of biological and other materials, not only for GSC102 but also for other undergraduate and graduate courses (in particular, the proposed new Master's programme on Environmental Studies). Students would be actively involved in collecting and preparing materials for display, together with writing up their results: thus they would be given the chance to further develop their understanding of the course-work, as well as having the opportunity to further develop their soft skills.

Our long-term goal is to have a science and research facility to excite curiosity, develop skills of critical analysis, and allow for a blend of collaboration among scientific disciplines domestically and abroad. At the same time, it will help integrate theoretical teachings with practical research project methodology to increase engagement with students, teachers, and practitioners of the applied sciences.

The University's Phnom Penh campus is located on three and a half hectare of prime city real estate. A science and research facility would make a perfect addition to the University's initiative to help build society. The facility would be able to enhance teaching with research activities that supports interaction among students, faculty, and researchers and help build tomorrow's leaders.

By providing a science and research facility for students, faculty, and researchers a positive educational experience will help young people interested in pursuing engineering, mathematics, sciences and technology disciplines in college. An academic science and research facility can bring together educators from around the world to explore innovative methods of engaging students in the study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The facility will represent an important step in establishing a more robust science culture among Cambodian students.



T u i t i o n D i s c o u n t

In a push to increase enrollment for the University of Cambodia, the University is offering a tuition discount for all prospective students wishing enroll in its 2014-2015 academic year programs starting in Term 1:

1. 50% discount for **Associate Degree**

2. For high school students wishing to enroll in **Bachelor's Degree** programs can get up to 65% off.

Discounts are based on student's high school grade point average:

- Grade A receives 65%
- Grade B receives 60%
- Grade C receives 55%
- Grade D receives 50%
- Grade E receives 45%

3. 50% discount for **Master's Degree**

4. 25% discount for IEP Fastrax and ESL Programs for CES in October and December terms.

C a l l

f o r

B o o k

D o n a t i o n s



Reading is essential in learning. Reading helps develop a creative mind, imagination, and new ideas. Throughout history, ideas have changed the destiny of nations. The reality is that not all people have access to books in their homes, especially in their schools to help develop creative thinking. The University of Cambodia's Toshu Fukami Library is open to the entire community and has one of the most extensive collections of books, periodicals and reference materials to help foster learning, in the country.

Nevertheless, the library is limited in resources. It still has a long way to evolve in order to match the resources, standards, and wealth of knowledge available at other institutional libraries around the world. As a member of the WTO and ASEAN, Cambodia grapples with modernity and struggles to catch up with the rest of the world due to a lack of resources, especially books. Building the capacity of libraries and centers for learning is crucial for developing the entire society. As the UC's Toshu Fukami Library strives to be a center of learning and knowledge and largest depository of books, periodicals, and reference materials in Cambodia, we call upon donors, like you, to help make this vision a reality.



UNIVERSITY Supporters

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 directorop@uc.edu.kh so we can add your name in the next newsletter.

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www.ucfoundation.net