



The U.C. Bulletin

December 2008 Edition



Congratulations 2008 UC Graduates!

The University of Cambodia would like to extend a special congratulations to the class of 2008. 140 graduates received diplomas in the university's 4th Commencement Ceremony on October 16, 2008. Best of luck to you and your future endeavors.

Also honored in this year's ceremonies were three recipients Honorary Doctorate degree recipients. The Honorary Doctorates recognize those supporters of The University of Cambodia who contribute to the growth and development of our university and its community.

- **Lok Chumteav Bun Rany HunSen** of The Kingdom of Cambodia received an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities
- **H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr.** of the Philippines received an Honorary Doctorate in International Relations
- **Dr. Horst Posdorf** of Germany received an Honorary Doctorate in Public Administration.



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Scholarships Awarded to 600 First Years



Samdech Hun Sen - Haruhisa Handa National Scholarships 2008



*A special thanks to
DR. HARUHISA HANDA
for his determination
in educating the next generation
of young Cambodians.*



TOP: Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen presided over both scholarship ceremonies and presented awards to the students. He has continually supported UC in striving to provide students with higher education.

LEFT: Graduating high school students representing every province filled out scholarship applications on steps, cars and tables surrounding UC.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen's Vision 100 - Scholarships



*UC would like to extend its
most sincere gratitude to
DR. RIKHI THAKRAL
his Thakral Group
colleagues and his family
for their unfailing support that
made this scholarship possible.*

Free education was the buzz around The University of Cambodia during the month of September as more than 8,000 high school seniors flooded the campus to vie for the 600 full-tuition scholarships that were offered to new students entering the university this October.

Word of the **Samdech Hun Sen-Haruhisa Handa National Scholarships** and **Samdech Techo Hun Sen's Vision - 100 Scholarships** brought in students from Phnom Penh and outlying provinces September 1-10 to fill out registration forms.

Sitting among his peers who scribbled away on registration papers tucked inside blue folders, Teav Rachana said he hopes to attend UC so he can study International Relations.

"This school has good qualities," he said. "It has good teachers and it is a good school."

Other students were just hoping to be able to study the area of their choice without the high tuition fees. Hor Heng from Kam-pot Province wants to study Management, Kung Seng from Phnom Penh wants to study Education, and Pal Sereyvatana from Phnom Penh wants to study English.

To stand a chance of earning one of the awards, the registered students returned to in mid-September in order to undergo a rigorous examination that covered both general knowledge and English language comprehension. Those scores were then combined with secondary school grades to select the

"best and brightest" of Cambodia, as UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn put it.

This year's recipients of the scholarships were awarded in ceremonies on October 2, 2008, for the National Scholarships and November 20, 2008, for the Vision 100 Scholarships. Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen presided over each ceremony. He has continually underlined his strong support for higher education and has repeatedly articulated his goals of enrolling more Cambodian students in universities and enhancing human resource development in Cambodia.

Last year, UC also awarded 500 National Scholarships, and hopes for both scholarship programs to continue in the future.

UC's Facility Tests Limits

As The University of Cambodia continues to grow, finding classroom space to house incoming students has been a concern.

In the past, the university has addressed student body growth by creating a four-session system, where students can opt to take classes mornings, afternoons, evenings or weekends. Por Malis, UC's Office of Administration Director, said that the university hopes to continue to house classes within the university's facilities, but if necessary, they will rent out rooms in the National Institute of Education (NIE) building for evening sessions.

The number of students who enrolled in classes for Term 1 of the 2008-09 year more than doubled from last year.

Malis said the university hopes to support the increasing number of students with a well-equipped staff.

"Quality should be our first priority," she said. "We need to strengthen our faculty and the capacity and quality of our faculty and staff."

UC has already attracted international at-

tention, having been recognized by Eduniversal as having one of the top 1,000 business colleges in the world and by Germany's educational ministry. With this ranking of "Good Business School with Regional Influence," it wants to continue to expand its networks internationally, Malis said.

Perfectly timed, with this growth is the move to the new campus at Sangkat Tuok Thla, planned for October 2010. The 11-story building, currently under construction, will accommodate between 10,000 and



20,000 students, as well as a library and the Toshu Fukami Conference Center. A second building, which is expected to be complete by January 2009, will house UC's own Southeast Asia TV and Radio FM 106. The university is also continuing the search for funding in order to construct dormitories to house students from the provinces wanting to attend UC. Interested individuals, organizations or businesses wanting to support dormitory construction should contact the UC administration.

Editor's Note:



You hold in your hands the first printed copy of The U.C. Bulletin, The University of Cambodia's newsletter. In other words, you are holding a tiny piece of UC history.

It's an exciting time at the university as we are still in the toddler stages of development. In our fifth year of operation, we have made many achievements and recently sent our fourth graduating class into the career field. However, we are looking forward to what the future holds. Across town a new campus is being constructed that will hold 10 times the number of students as our current facility. We are also working to establish an alumni association, which will keep our UC family close and connected as it grows. And, of course, we will continue to develop existing programs such as AEF, AFDD, Foundation Year and CES and ALC, all of which you will read about in this quarter's newsletter.

In order to keep an accurate record of the UC community, this bulletin needs to serve as much more than a one-way flow of communication. I invite you – students, faculty and friends of the university – to contribute your thoughts, perspectives, ideas and reports to this newsletter. This written history should serve as much more than a piece of paper that is thrown away once the news ages, but instead, serve as a live forum where intellectual discussion occurs and innovative ideas flow.

Please send your thoughts and ideas to ucbulletin@gmail.com. For more university news and events, visit www.uc.edu.kh

Thank you for your support and happy reading!

New Faces

The University of Cambodia recently welcomed seven faculty members and three full-time staff members to campus. Meet a few:



Ms. Thourk Chanda is already known by many of us at UC because she interned in the Academic Foundation Department for several months before becoming a full-time Accounting Assistant. Ms. Chanda graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Banking at the University of Cambodia in 2008. She loves watching TV and listening to music.



Mr. Cheang Sangvath joined UC as Associate Dean in the College of Education. He completed his Bachelor's degree at the National Institute of Education, specializing in information technology and mathematics. He then went on to complete a Master's of Educational Administration at Mahidol University in Thailand. Before joining the UC family, Mr. Sangvath lectured at the National Institute of Education in the IT department and served as Director in the School of Information. His hobbies include reading and researching education and IT.



Mr. Phon Navuth joins us as Admissions Director. Mr. Navuth completed his undergraduate in Economics at Royal University of Law and Economics in 2004 and went on to complete his International MBA in Taiwan in 2008. While he was in Taiwan, he also worked in the marketing department of Uniphone Telecommunication Co., Ltd., responsible for the South Africa market. Mr. Navuth is fluent in English, Chinese and French. Swimming and discovering new things are his hobbies.

Leadership Workshop Encourages Discussion Among Community Leaders



international,” said participant Lem Vanak, a representative of EFC-KEY, an organization that works with Cambodian youth.

Because the participants came from a variety of backgrounds, presenter Gina Lopez felt it was a good opportunity for them to learn from each other and learn from their own work, getting the best from a variety of views.

“The exchanging of ideas through discussion was good,” said Lopez, who motivated the participants with her presentations on personal traits of a leader and leadership as an influence process. “With a very dynamic group of participants, I would say it was a success.”

Participants quickly learned that leadership is not black and white, but has many gray areas. How one chooses to lead often “depends on the situation,” and this idea was addressed throughout the weekend.

In setting the tone for the workshop, ALC Director Bandol Lim suggested that the eventual adoption of any one paradigm would require education and national debate. He emphasized the ALC’s goal of reducing the power distance between leader and follower through the encouragement of a leadership style that confronts challenges such as poverty reduction and development by helping to raise the ambitions of the follower.

The University of Cambodia’s visiting guest Dr. Raymie McKerrow, a professor from Ohio University in the U.S., moderated the weekend workshop and offered his personal insights to the current trends in leadership thought. McKerrow drew on his 20 years experience as a communicator, having taught U.S. business leaders the essential leadership skill of public speaking and corporate communication.

He said he felt the workshop achieved its goals in giving the participants a well-rounded understanding of leadership and encouraging participant involvement.

“Participants were able to express their own views on leadership practices, as well as ask questions to improve understanding or to request more specific advice as to leadership practices,” he said.

To view photos from the workshop weekend, please visit the ALC website, www.alc.uc.edu.kh.



TOP: Participants engaged in debate and shared points of view during the three-day, interactive workshop.

LEFT: Dr. Raymie McKerrow, from Ohio University in the U.S. opened the workshop with an overview about leadership.

The Asia Leadership Center (ALC) of The University of Cambodia, organized a three-day training workshop, October 24-26, allowing aspiring leaders in Cambodia to study the many aspects of leadership. The topic was considered from a global perspective, with a host of international speakers being supported by home-grown experts in the field.

In a short but tightly packed 72 hours, 20 workshop participants were given a rigorous introduction to a wide array of leadership concepts, delivered by leadership experts from Cambodia, the Philippines, the U.K. and the U.S., that could be used to build upon their own leadership capabilities and skills.

“I think that most of participants, including myself, gained a lot of experience from this workshop, and all the theories taught through this training can be applied to individual’s goals,” said participant Simorn Sorn, who works in the administrative arm of UNICEF in Cambodia. She added that the workshop challenged the participants’ ways

of thinking and benefited them in terms of professional development.

Topics covered during the workshop included the leader-follower relationship, a matter that was considered from the point of view of fairness, trust and ethical behavior. The workshop also considered the leader’s personal characteristics and traits and the leader’s ability to use status in influencing the behavior of followers. Other topics include leadership in the cross-cultural context, participative leadership, leadership and work teams, and charismatic or transformational leadership.

While the structure of the workshop was based upon a lecture format, the intellectual fodder stimulated discussion and debate among the participants from how to relieve stress caused by work to how the rise of strong leaders can contribute to Cambodian development.

“I think this was a very useful workshop because I not only learned from the speakers, but also from the participants who came from different agencies, both national and

Lecture Series Brings World Leaders to UC

Former World Bank Counselor Discusses Contemporary View of Leadership

The view of leadership is evolving. At least that's the way Katherine Marshall, former counselor to the World Bank President, sees it.

"The expectations of leaders today are high: they are to have vision, ability to see and present in strategic ways, communication skills, charisma, and an interest in people," Marshall said in a presentation to UC students and faculty as well as other community members. "Respected leaders include all races, genders, and nationalities."

Marshall, currently a professor at Georgetown University in the U.S., delivered a motivational message, "Leadership Excellence: Universal Principles, Challenges in Cambodia," on July 29 to nearly 150 students, faculty and community members as part of the Asia Leadership Center's Eminent Leaders Lecture Series. The series aims to recognize a variety of leadership experiences and perpetuate a broad understanding of leadership.

During her lecture, Marshall highlighted the necessary qualities of contemporary leaders, but also emphasized that there are multiple kinds of leaders that each have different roles in society.

She told her audience that the

traditional top-down method of leadership doesn't necessarily apply in today's world, and if they want to become good leaders they need to understand themselves, understand their work environment and effectively manage their organization according to its specific goals and needs. She said that each person has different qualities that make them influential in different situations and becoming attuned to those things can draw out effective leadership skills.



Marshall said that the idea of leadership is pertinent in

people's lives because all sectors of society require positions of authority.

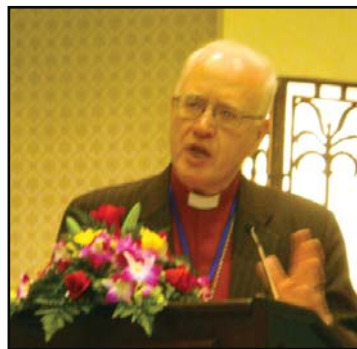
"Leadership is a topic that concerns each and every one of us," she said.

Marshall has been serving international development for more than 30 years. In addition to her work at the World Bank and at Georgetown University, Marshall is a senior fellow at Georgetown's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and a trustee at Princeton University. She has also been recognized by The University of Cambodia as a Distinguished Visiting Professor.

Archbishop Ties Religion to Leadership

From Buddha and Abraham to Mohammed and Jesus, religious leaders have impacted the world in unchangeable and unthinkable ways, creating new modes of thought and influencing generations of followers. Lord George Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury in the U.K. and a religious leader of his own time, encouraged people of all faiths to lead in such a way that promotes peace.

Lord Carey spoke to about 200 UC students and community members, addressing the topic, "Does Religion Have Anything to Contribute Towards Leadership?" as part of



the Asia Leadership Center's Eminent Leaders Lecture Series. According to him, religion contributes to societal leadership in three ways: through transcendentalism, morality and service to others.

"From these three principles, religious leaders have led by example, have put others first and sought to build a better world," Lord Carey said in his presentation.

Applying a transcendental mindset, he explained, gives humans a point of accountability and a sense of humility. Put simply, "Religion reminds us of our creatureliness."

Religions also operate under moral codes, which, he said, sets

an example for the way society as a whole should operate. When a leader lives by a moral standard, it keeps him or her thinking about the benefits of the group, avoiding selfish behaviors.

Finally, Lord Carey touched on the idea of a service attitude. Effective leadership, he said, does not come from a person who wishes to make money, get famous or pursue other selfish desires. It comes in service to the community.

Lord Carey laid these ideas amid the greater context of what makes an effective leader, citing influential leaders like Ghandi, Winston Churchill and

Nelson Mandela, who have used their authority as leaders to build a more harmonious world.

Lord Carey served 70 million Anglicans as the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury from 1991 to 2002. After receiving his Master's in Theology and PhD for his research on the origins of Christian ministry, he continued on to be a Fellow of the Library of Congress, a Trustee of the World Faiths Development Dialogue and the Co-Chair of the Council of 100, which seeks to bridge the gap between the Western and Islamic worlds. He also served at various universities in the United Kingdom and authored 14 books.



As part of its Eminent Leaders Lecture Series, the ALC will continue to host prominent world leaders to speak about varying leadership styles. Beginning in May 2009, nine Nobel Laureates and distinguished international personalities will visit as a part of the series.

For a list of upcoming speakers and other ALC events, visit www.alc.uc.edu.kh.

4th Asia Economic Forum Addresses Financial Crisis and Regional Issues



Jose de Venecia, Jr. urged Asian leaders to consider the effects of globalization when preparing economically for the future. This was de Venecia's first appearance at the Asia Economic Forum.

With global financial markets currently treading through rocky waters and the Asian stocks taking a swift plunge in October, this year's Asia Economic Forum could not have been more strategically placed.

"Indeed, this financial crisis has negatively affected millions of people, particularly those in Asia, and amounted to obstacles against development and poverty reduction," Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen said in his keynote speech, which opened the conference.

How appropriate, then, that the convening of the 4th Asia Economic Forum, The University of Cambodia's independently run think-tank, brought in experts from around the region and the world October 14-15 to examine, analyze, discuss and exchange views on such issues as sustainable development, global competition, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. This year's forum focused on the theme "Asia in a Global-

izing World: Challenges, Priorities, Leadership and Future Directions," and a focus on the financial crisis was the thread that linked the conference's four sessions together.

As the opening speaker of the first plenary session, "Issues and Challenges Confronting Asia," Lord George Carey of the U.K. offered an outsider's perspective on how the fragile state of the economy has affected Asian countries. Although East Asia holds some of the weakest economies, he said, the buoyancy of East Asian trade has guarded the region against the global economic downturn.

"It is undeniably the case that Asia has been blessed with able and inventive people and enriched by ancient cultures," Lord Carey said.

However, this safeguard is a structure the AEF panelists considered could impede economic development. Much discussion during the session led to concerns about how East Asia countries face the challenge

" This financial crisis has negatively affected millions of people, particularly those in Asia... "

SAMDECH HUN SEN, PRIME MINISTER

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

UC hosted 17 guest chairs and panelists for this year's AEF. The distinguished speakers included:

H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Congressman, House of Representatives; Chairman, CDI Asia Pacific; Founding Chairman, International Conference of Asian Politics, Manila, Philippines

H.E. Ong Keng Yong
Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore; Former Secretary-General of ASEAN, Singapore

Dr. Haruhisa Handa
Founder and Chairman, Asia Economic Forum; Chancellor, The University of Cambodia; President and Founder, International Foundation for Arts and Culture, Tokyo, Japan

H.E. Imron Cotan
Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia

H.E. Bounkeut Sansomsak
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR Vientiane, Laos

Dr. Jebamalai Vinanchiarachi
Principal Adviser to the Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Vienna, Austria

Lord George Carey
Former Archbishop of Canturbury, London, England





During his keynote address, Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen touched on the global financial crisis and how it has affected Asian economies. This hot topic set the tone for the rest of the two-day conference.

of not only competing regionally with countries like China and India, but competing on the global scale as well. According to the panelists, challenges such as rising expectations in regards to poverty, the environment and disease control, as well as the challenge of educating people to improve human resources and technology have to be balanced alongside current economic concerns like rising food and oil prices.

H.E. Ong Keng Yong, former Secretary-General of ASEAN, focused primarily on Southeast Asia and ASEAN, by outlining six challenges of Asia's future. He said in the future, Asia leaders would have to manage society's increasing expectations, reconcile national interests with ASEAN goals, function economically in a globalizing world, compete with economically prosperous countries, educate society on technology and work together on transnational issues.

In his presentation, Dr. Haruhisa Handa, AEF Founder and Chairman, tied a country's economic success to the success of their education system by citing two case studies that detailed Japan's education structure over the years. Education, he said, especially the education of ordinary citizens is extremely important to economic development.

Moving into session two, "Current Priorities for Asia," the panelists gave their personal viewpoints on what Asia needs to focus on in order to be able to compete

globally. Concern for education, community building and sustainability – both environmental and economical – ranked high as "should-be" focal points for Asia's leaders.

"Some problems in education have yet to be addressed, such as lack of school facilities, very low teacher-to-student ratio and the inadequacy of curriculums," said Imron Cotan, Secretary General of Indonesia's Department of Foreign Affairs. "The solution to this problem is conscientious national planning with an eye to the goal of universal education."

During day two, the session opened up discussion on the topics "The Role of Asian Leadership in the World" and "Asia's Future Directions." In the former, the panelists highlighted qualities they would like to see in their leaders as Asia continues on the path toward globalization, including a service attitude, logical thinking and an aggressive approach toward achieving goals, as well as what issues the leaders need to think critically about. The conference ended with thoughts on future directions for the continent.

"East Asia's combination of intelligent interventionist states and visionary entrepreneurs willing to think long-term should enable our home region to pace global growth all over again – as it did between 1960 and 1990," said Jose de Venecia, Jr., Congressman in the Philippines' House of Representatives and Chairman of CDI Asia Pacific.

The dialogue will continue next year as the



Seventeen guest chairs and panelists focused on the challenges, priorities, leadership and future directions of Asia in the context of a globalizing world. Pictured above: H.E. Ong Keng Yong, Dr. Jebamalai Vinanchiarachi, H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea and Professor Rajah Rasiah.

AEF adds another facet to include the Australian perspective. UC President and AEF Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said there will be two conferences, one in Phnom Penh and another in Perth, Australia.

For more details visit www.aef.org.kh.

AFDD Aims for Change Through Exploration of Religious Perspectives

The Asia Faiths Development Dialogue (AFDD), in its second year, brought together people from different religious faiths and professions from around the world to share ideas about how common discussion among people with varying beliefs can achieve peace, cooperation and harmony.

This year's conference entitled "Building Peace, Cooperation and Harmony Through Inter-Faiths Dialogue" took place on October 17 and built upon the AFDD's first conference, held in December 2006, by adding in the concept of cooperation, calling religious leaders to put their faith into action.

"This dialogue is needed because, despite countless intersections, the worlds do not meet comfortably and we are still groping to find bridges," said keynote speaker Katherine Marshall, who is involved in the World Faiths Development Dialogue and served as former counselor to the World Bank President. "The vocabulary, the images and stories, and the intellectual constructs of different worlds, can be very discordant and seem far removed. But in reality they overlap and are intertwined."

The conference addressed this issue of cooperation – or as Marshall put it, "building bridges" – as well as the ideas of peace and harmony in three plenary sessions. The first looked at Cambodian perspectives, the second took a regional and international point of view, while the third explored what inter-faiths dialogue will lead to in the future.

In the first session, representatives of Cambodian Islamic, Protestant and Buddhist faiths all highlighted education as the most important means of promoting peace, cooperation and harmony among the different religious sects.

The panelists of the second session reiterated the need for education and called for religious leaders to disseminate ideas of peace and cooperation among their followers. At the heart of this, said Jose de Venecia, Jr., a Congressman in the Philippines, the need for people with different ideas to begin talking to one another.

"There cannot be peace among nations unless there's peace among religions. There cannot be peace among religions unless there's dialogue," he said.

In the third session, the panelists took

RIGHT: Members of Cambodia's Muslim community at AFDD.

BOTTOM: Katherine Marshall, with Dr. Handa and Dr. Kao, opened the conference with a keynote speech about the need for inter-faith dialogue.



different perspectives on how to take the efforts of the AFDD in a forward-moving direction to resolve world conflicts. Chou Bun Eng, Secretary of State to Cambodia's Ministry of Interior, pointed out that people can use their similarities to understand their differences, while Tepsakha Khi Sovanratana, Vice Director at Preah Sihanuraja University in Cambodia, pointed out that Buddhists believe that world peace cannot be achieved without peace within individuals.

Overall, the panelists had a common consensus that the diversity of faiths and cultures need to be preserved and valued, especially in the changing landscape of the 21st century. As Marshall mentioned, the inter-faiths movement is becoming a global trend seen on the regional, national and international levels.

"The modern interfaith movement largely reflects changes linked to modernization and globalization," she said. "First, one's religion today, in most modern societies, is not a simple given, an inherited identity, and second, religions are far more intertwined today, with different groups living together all over the world, than they generally were in the past. Thus, a product of modernization is the emergence of plural societies and interfaith work is one avenue to address the implications of this vast social change."

Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Founder and Chairman of AFDD, showed conference attendees how inter-faith cooperation can be put into action. After years of attending various inter-faith dialogues, he decided to start Sihanouk Hospital, which combined the efforts of the



Christian, Shinto and Jewish religions as well as support from the Royal Family in Cambodia.

"I asked them to collaborate under one purpose – that is, to help save underprivileged people's lives and heal disease," Handa said. "All religions have a common purpose to save underprivileged people. So to save Cambodian people's lives, their differences were no problem. They, hand in hand, worked together."

The goal of AFDD is to spread the global inter-faiths movement across Asia.

"We hope that it will be an additional tool and provide a different perspective using faith based understanding to help develop a culture of peace," coordinator Bandol Lim said.

According to Samraing Kamsan, moderator of session one of this dialogue, peace and development are directly linked.

"Without peace, there is no development," he said. "We would like to ask inter-faith groups to educate about peace and to work toward harmony in society so we have no more conflicts."

For more information on AFDD, visit www.afdd.org.kh.

Course to Dispel Garment Industry Myths

The garment industry might conjure up some paradoxical thoughts among the young and educated students of UC. While many are eager to wear the latest fashions, they see factory work as a grungy job they will steadily avoid. However, with figures from leading organizations in the garment industry saying 80 percent of Cambodia's exports and nearly 300,000 of its jobs stem from the garment trade, is this an industry that up-and-coming Cambodian professionals should give consideration to?

The Garment Industry Productivity Center (GIPC) thinks so and, along with USAID, is funding a new course at The University of Cambodia that will put the garment industry in the scope of the global economy. As part of UC's International Business degree program that is being revived this year, "IBS 309: Textiles and Garments in the Global Economy" will teach students the ins and outs of the garment industry and what it has to offer educated managers.

UC received books, reading materials, PowerPoint presentations and brochures from GIPC, all to be used to aid the professors' lectures in the classroom. Gina Lopez, Associate Dean in the College of Management who is spear-heading this new course, also said the students will investigate case studies and take a site visit to Adrian Ross' New Island Clothing factory, which she says is one of the finest run garment factories in the country.

In the course launch, which took place October 8, representatives from GIPC, USAID and the garment industry came to UC to rally students enrolled in the course around the benefits that this course will bring them and their future careers.

"First of all, the garment industry will

never go away," said GIPC Chief of Party Jane O'Dell to the students. "Second, in the garment industry, you will learn how to manage production and manufacturing. Then you can take that expertise to other industries."

As Van Sou Ieng, Chairman of the Garments Manufacturers' Association in Cambodia (GMAC), pointed out, there are nearly 300 garment factories in Cambodia that hire 25 to 30 managers each. Still, the country's industry isn't as productive as in neighboring countries, so there is a desperate need for educated Cambodians to take over management positions and improve the industry.

"We need Cambodian managers so we can send expats back to their countries and lower costs," he said. He also added that recent graduates need not hang on to those preconceived notions that a career in garments means you'll be working in a dirty sweatshop for meager pay. He pays his accountant \$500 per month and his managers \$750 per month.

The University of Cambodia is one of the first recipients of this new program initiated by GIPC that aims to build local capacity in the garment industry in order to allow Cambodia to compete in the global arena.

"The University of Cambodia was one of the highest rated," O'Dell said about the universities that GIPC surveyed to take part in the program. "It has good programs and programs that are focused on the employability of students, as well as how students can contribute to society and, of course, be rewarded with good pay."

Currently, nearly 100 students are enrolled in the course. Depending on the student response, it might be offered again next term.



During a tour of New Island Clothing garment factory, students learned about the various stages of the garment-making process. They found that management in this industry could be difficult but rewarding.

New Perspectives:

Inside the garment industry

The classroom converged with the real world as 30 students in "IBS 309: Textiles and Garments in the Global Economy" visited New Island Clothing garment factory in November.

"The field trip was a chance to show the students an actual factory," said Gina Lopez, Associate Dean in the College of Management and professor of the course. "To let them see the actual operations – the process."

While the course, through a series of lectures and case studies done in the classroom, allowed students to gain a better understanding of how Cambodia's garment industry fits into the world economy, Lopez wanted to challenge the students' expectations of the industry and give them the chance to observe what she considers one of the safest, most employee-focused factories in Cambodia.

During a factory tour and orientation with owner Adrian Ross, many of the students gained a new perspective on the work environment. Here are some of their thoughts:

"I thought the factory would be dirty, but when I entered the door, I was like 'Wow!' It was clean."

- Kheng Vanny, Business Management

"Most of the hard jobs are done with technology. The cutting of the cloth and the printing of the patterns – I expected people would do those jobs."

- Chhit Chanleakhena, Accounting

"The owner Adrian Ross is simple and modest. He talks to everyone like they are friends or family."

- Kang Muy Theng, Finance Banking

Study Tests UC Students' Cognitive Abilities

UC students participated in a German psychology study that will compare Cambodian mental rotation skills, or the ability to rotate mental representations of two- and three-dimensional objects, to those of German students.

Anne Janssen, a research assistant at Free University of Berlin, gave the students a series of three tests – two to test their mental rotation ability and one general intelligence test. According to Janssen, similar studies done in Germany have shown a strong correlation between mental rotation and I.Q. Gender has also shown to be a big factor in the outcome of the test.

“We’ll see if it’s the same here,” she said.

Janssen decided to perform her study here as part of her diploma thesis because there is a lack of research on mental rotation in smaller countries like Cambodia. She was also intrigued by the relative youth of the universities here, and when she selected the school to perform the study, she took into account that The University of Cambodia has only been in operation for five years.

UC’s students were eager to contribute to the study, and Janssen said she was overwhelmed by their volunteerism.

“In such a short time, it’s incredible,” she said. Three-hundred-ten student volunteers participated in the study, exceeding her goal of 300. “In Germany, the same sample would take three months to obtain.”

RIGHT: Student participants in the mental rotation study took three tests. Their scores will be compared to that of German students.

BOTTOM: Anne Janssen performed this psychology study as part of her diploma thesis at Free University of Berlin.



Upon her return to Germany, Janssen will give the same tests to a sample of German students and compare those results to the results of UC’s students. She then intends to publish the results in a German journal as well as a Cambodian journal.

Dr. Angus Munro, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, said that an article could appear in the *Journal of Cambodian Studies*, which is published by the UC Press, should the outcome of the study prove significant. However, he said neither Free University nor The University of Cambodia has made any formal commitment.



UC Gathers Information to Publish First Cambodian Encyclopedia

Cambodia has a rich, deep culture and history, but the country’s growing libraries still contain only bits and pieces of its records. In an effort to provide the nation’s schools and libraries with a complete reference source about Cambodia – from its history and art to its research and agriculture – Dr. Angus Munro, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and a UC committee has begun work on the Encyclopedia of Cambodia.

“The goal is to make it accessible to all of Cambodia,” Munro explained.

Currently in the beginning stages of this massive project, Munro said he has compiled an initial list of nearly 4,000 entries

and is putting together a rough outline of the book’s layout. However, as he gathers more information, the topic list continues to grow. Soon, the committee will approach Cambodian and foreign contributors who will help write the encyclopedia’s content.

Once the encyclopedia is complete – an original deadline set for December 2009 – it will be printed in both a Khmer and an English volume.

“This will be used as an opportunity for our student interns to translate Khmer entries to English and English entries to Khmer,” Munro said.

The university plans to then distribute the first edition of the encyclopedia around

the country, giving a free copy to all schools and libraries. The reference book will also be sold in bookstores and abroad.

Initial funding for the encyclopedia project was provided by the university with a \$5,000 donation from the BG Group and in-kind support from Monument Books. However, the university is still seeking supporters for the project and businesses organizations that would like to purchase ads that will be included in the book. According to Munro, the project will not stop after the initial printing. In subsequent editions, UC will continue to revise and fill in gaps in the encyclopedia’s content.

CES Grows as Program Develops

In June 2007, during the term when Pay Chheng How took over as the Center for English Studies (CES) Director, the center taught 130 students. In the past year and a half, the number of students has increased nearly 10-fold, with nearly 950 students enrolled for the October 2008 term.

Much of this increase can be attributed to UC's scholarship program, which offered full, four-year tuition to more than 600 first-year students to begin their studies at UC in October 2008. According to How, however, much of the influx in the number of students can be attributed to the updated CES program, which has increased the center's credibility and reputation. Since June 2008, CES has updated its textbooks, improved teacher qualifications, imposed stricter English language assessments and increased the hours of learning per student.

CES, which operates on a system separate from the regular UC academic schedule, is a required supplemental certificate program that UC students must complete to prepare them for the English used in their Bachelor's degree courses. Composed of six levels that cover the basics of speaking, listening, reading and writing, the program takes a year, or

six two-month terms, to complete. Upon completing the certificate, students should be able to operate fluently in English.

The stricter attendance guidelines, as well as the increased requirement on the number of tests and quizzes that the teachers must give, has seemed to benefit the center, with about 90 percent of the students graduating successfully from the program.

"When there are tests, students work hard," said How.

But much work has gone into improving the overall quality of the program. Here is a look at the ins and outs of CES.

A Focus on the Basics

Reading and writing are essential skills needed to become fluent in the English language, and in the past year CES has made these two aspects a priority, said How. Once students master the speaking and listening skills that are taught in the first two levels of the program, they move onto improving their reading skills.

"We always encourage students to read," said How. In the intermediate levels, students are required to read six selections from Asian, European and American literature,

such as Robinson Crusoe. To complement the readings and aid in the students' understanding, the students also watch DVDs of the stories.

Then the students move onto academic writing in the final two levels of the program. CES recently introduced a new textbook series, "Effective Academic Writing," which has better facilitated both the students and the teachers during the learning process and has bridged the gap between basic English classes and B.A. programs.

"When we first introduced writing skills, it was difficult for both teachers and students," said How. "Now the teachers are comfortable with it, and the students must learn to adapt."

The Language Lab

As part of required class assignments, students spend time in the language lab to improve their comprehension and pronunciation. They use two programs, the American designed "Rosetta Stone" and "Tell Me More About English," which focuses on British English.

"The [computer] programs not only improve their listening skills, but improve their confidence in doing audio and visual exercises," How explained.

CES introduced "Tell Me More About English" to the language lab during the October 2008 term in order to offer a larger variety of exercises to the students. It has become a favorite among the students, he said.

Business English

CES hopes to implement a 16-month business English program next term, geared toward people working in NGOs, in businesses or with the government. Although the curriculum has been established, there has yet to be a student enrolled in the program.

The program offers coursework that teaches a formal style of writing and speaking that can be used in workplace situations. Students will learn the correct way to write business documents such as faxes, e-mails and memos, and how to conduct telephone conversations and interviews using formal English.

With classes taught mainly by native English speakers, students will engage in group discussions and perhaps visit businesses outside the classroom in order to put their formal English into practice.



Students used their time in the language lab to supplement the instruction they received in their English classes. They used the "Rosetta Stone" and "Tell Me More About English" computer programs.

Special Recognition:



Congratulations to Bandal Lim, Deputy Director of the Office of the President and Asia Leadership Center Director, who was selected by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation to attend **Asian Renaissance: Capacity Building for Future Leaders in Southeast Asia**. Lim has been recognized as one of Asia's young leaders and will meet with members of ASEAN during the first week of December in Indonesia.

Team of Aspiring Lawyers Places Second in National Mock Trial Competition

A room full of professionally dressed men and women, clad in their collared shirts and pressed black pants and skirts, watched as Mr. Som Sovan sat on trial for robbery, accused of stealing a woman's purse while she was returning home from a trip to the ATM.

The scene could have been straight out of a courtroom drama, but it wasn't. It was the prompt for the Second Annual Cambodia Mock Trial Competition, hosted by The University of Cambodia.

Teams of students from The University of Cambodia, Build Bright University, Royal University of Law and Economy, Cambodian Mekong University and Pannasastra University of Cambodia converged in the UC Conference Center September 3-5 to present their cases to a panel of judges, in competition to be the top legal team in Cambodia.

Students were awarded points on a number of qualities including their overall performance, creation of questions, exhibited information, control of the witness and closing statements.

"The students take it seriously. They work hard. They are passionate," said Steven Austermiller, the event's organizer. "Their work is better than most advocacy seen in the U.S. and Cambodian courts."

The competition is part of USAID's initiative to promote creative, non-traditional educational methods within Cambodia and teach advocacy to students, said Austermiller, the legal education adviser at East West Management Institute, which, along with USAID and the American Bar Association, helped fund the event.

UC prepared for 10 weeks and sent two teams of five students to take part in the competition. One team, consisting of students Heng Kanal, Van Chanphila, Mao Sovanratha, Lim Srey Sros and Po Vannary, made it to the final round and were deemed "second winner" by the judges because although they didn't win their case, they gave a compelling performance.

"The judge said there was only a slight difference between the teams and that it was hard to make a decision," said Tep Punloe, the team's mentor.

As part of the qualifying team, third year



Students from one of UC's mock trial teams accepted their second-place medals alongside adviser Tep Punloe, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Angus Munro and U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Piper Campbell.

law student Chanphila said he was chosen to compete because of his good grades and participation in class discussions.

Chanphila, who played prosecutor in one of the preliminary rounds and defendant Som Sovan in a second preliminary round, saw a challenge in developing questions for the trial and working with the given facts.

"You have to make a point and protect your side of the case," he said. The competition helped him improve his advocacy skills, and he wants to take those skills into his future career as a lawyer.

"I can help my country do a lot," he said about his decision to be a lawyer. "And if my family has problems, I can help them."

Not having made up her mind quite yet as to whether to pursue a career in law, In Phirun, also a third-year law student, said the competition gave her an opportunity to put her coursework into action.

"I want to get good advice and experience," she said. "Because I'm studying law, I must practice."

The students have greatly improved their skills from last year, said Punloe, doing a better job with memorizing the facts and

performing. He said he hopes to continue to help the students develop their skills by instituting a legal clinic at the university, which will provide resources to help the students in their preparation.

Oops!

Piper Campbell, Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy, made a glaring error when she mistakenly called The University of Cambodia by the name Cambodia University. Campbell was presenting the second place medals to the UC Mock Trial Team on September 5 when she announced the name of a non-existent school.

The UC team hesitated to appear on stage, but swallowed their pride to accept an award they were rightly due. They would, however, like to advise Ms. Campbell in the future to please do her homework.

"We are The University of Cambodia," the students proudly declared.

Debate Team Argues Environment Issues



Four UC students competed in a debate regarding climate change and health policy. The debate, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, aired on TVK in September.

Three UC debate team members made their debut television appearance alongside a veteran debater and fellow team member at the "Youth Environmental Debate" hosted by the Ministry of Environment at TVK on September 5.

Kang Sokkim with her rookie teammates Ou Dane, Tim Vutha and Riel Rathsatya went head to head against Cambodian Mekong University in a debate over whether climate change should be included in governmental health policy. The team from The University of Cambodia fought a tough battle, but did not make it past the preliminary round.

"We planned very good, but lacked confidence in our speaking," said Vutha, an Eng-

lish major, who said the team argued that the government should create a health policy around greenhouse gasses and the changing climate.

Before the day of the debate, the students had about a month to research information to support their points. They gathered data from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Health and the U.S. Embassy.

The team also recognized that this initial debate posed some challenges that they will work on for future competitions.

Although Rathsatya, an International Relations major, said he believed they organized their information well, being in front of a large audience made him jittery.

"Because it was my first time, I felt a little bit nervous. That's why I forgot my points," he said. "There were many people around me so I lost confidence."

On the other hand, Dane, an English major, felt it was use of humor that might have hurt him. As Keng explained, they had to be strict about the points they were making, but also engage the audience. They can use humor, but not so much that they waste time.

"They have no experience, so they didn't know how to be on television and compete with other teams," said Dean Gina Lopez, the team's adviser. The more experienced members of the team were competing, at the Mock Trial competition held at UC on the same day.

Even though the debate did not end as they hoped, the team agreed they learned a lot from the experience. Not only did they learn to work together in a group and get practice researching and organizing information, they also had the opportunity to expose their knowledge and communication skills to high level ministry members.

"Now we have experience on how to win, know our weak points, and can improve," Vutha said.

The debate club resumed meetings for the new term in October.

Scholarship Students Rewarded With Angkor Wat Concert

Twelve scholarship recipients attended the MTV EXIT concert in Siem Reap December 7 as a reward for receiving the highest scores on their scholarship exams. Cambodia Advance Communications Co. Ltd. sponsored the students' trip to the first-ever concert to be held at the ancient Angkor Wat. MTV and USAID co-hosted the event to raise awareness about human trafficking and featured the bands Placebo and Click 5.



Students attending the concert (from left to right): Ou Dane, Inn Chan Bora, Kim Khemrin, Neth Monika, Tim Vutha, Lorn Lenghim, Reil Rathsatya, Thang Lily, Sry Kimhong
Not pictured: Nhan Kongkearith, Khuan Chan Nary

Senate Ends Year with Student Forum



During the university's 5th Anniversary celebration, jointly organized by Student Senate and the UC administration, students from the Center for English Studies performed comedic skits.

As The University of Cambodia's Student Senate wraps up 2008, the officers reflected on this administration's activities. This year the students organized and implemented a university-wide Khmer New Year celebration in April and held a new student welcome forum in December.

The New Year celebration was an all-day event. In the morning, nearly 40 to 50 monks – some who study at UC and some from local pagodas – received a food offering organized by the Student Senate. In the afternoon, students gathered in the UC Canteen to take part in dancing, games and a singing competition. There was also an educational debate, judged by UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, where the students discussed the pros and cons of attending UC.

On December 6, the Student Senate held a forum in the UC Conference Center for upperclassmen to talk with first-year students about study skills, time management and other related topics. UC welcomed 600 new students this year through the scholar-

ship program, and according to Treasurer Lim Ainay, the forum gave older students the opportunity to share their experiences at university.

"It will give students who won scholarships confidence," said Vice President 2, Var Vathana.

The Student Senate will reconvene during the third week of December to hold elections for the new year, and all UC students will participate by voting. Current Vice President Morm Sambathrathmanith, a second-term foundation year student, said he hopes that the new administration will be able to carry out some project ideas that have already been discussed, including service projects and a Woman's Day.

Although he says he will not run for reelection, Sambathrathmanith said he will offer his support to the new officers.

"If the new members of Student Senate want to carry out these projects and need advice from someone with more experience, they can come to me and ask," he said.



UC students showed off their talents during Student Senate events like the Khmer New Year and the 5th Anniversary celebrations.

Students who are interested in applying for an officer position, can turn their CV into the administration office.

2008 Student Senate Officers

President:
Oeun Sam Art

Secretary:
Nuon Sovannvatey

Vice President - Administrative Affairs:
Morm Sambathrathmanith

Treasurer:
Lim Ainay

Vice President - Technical Affairs:
Chim Chandanika

Faculty Adviser:
H.E. Samraing Kamsan

Foundation Year: Student Perspectives



Foundation year students gather before class begins in the UC Conference Center. Although the room accommodates classes of 100 to 200 students, foundation year students say they are looking forward to the new campus facilities.

Entering the foundation year at a university can pose many exciting opportunities and challenges for new students. Meeting new people and adjusting to city life, as well as managing time with work and studies, are just a few of the experiences foundation year students face. This is a vital step for students beginning their college careers.

The University of Cambodia was among 33 universities to receive a three-year accreditation from the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) for its Academic Foundation Department (AFD), a high achievement for a university that has been in operation for only five years.

"This is one of the most important offices of the university because if we fail accreditation, we cannot run foundation year and can only accept second year students," AFD Director Dr. Y Ratana said.

In January 2009, UC will begin the next review process for the foundation year department, where the ACC will scrutinize the curriculum, facilities and human resources as well as interview students and faculty. In the past three years, the department has improved the program, such as making revisions to course syllabi, by taking into account ACC recommendations.

As the department administration focuses on improving the program for the next three years, students Chin Vathana and Thang Lily offered their impressions of UC and university life during their first year here.

New Beginnings

When Vathana began his first year at UC this October, working toward a major in Business Management, he already had two

years of English Literature training from a local under his belt. However, leaving his family in Kampong Cham Province, he has learned to adjust to city life. Not only has he met new friends and rented an apartment, but he has learned to use the technological conveniences not found in the provinces.

"I'm from the countryside, so I never used the Internet before," he said, explaining this has made his class assignments that require Internet research a challenge. "So at UC, I'm learning to use the computer."

He has found the computer science course, one of the five compulsory courses in which foundation year students must enroll, particularly helpful and important in preparing for his Bachelor's program.

During the students' foundation year, UC also provides numerous opportunities outside the typical coursework that encourage the students grow intellectually and, as Lily put it, "learn about society."

Pursuing her degree in International Relations, Lily said she hopes to one day work in Cambodia as a diplomat. Having the opportunity to attend various ceremonies as well as the Asia Economic Forum, has expanded her knowledge about the country and the world.

The Foundation Year Experience

Ranked in the top three universities in Cambodia, UC has presented many opportunities to new students, including offering full-tuition scholarships to bright students proficient in English and hiring faculty with an extensive knowledge base to help guide their learning.

But with these opportunities comes per-

sonal challenges that the students must overcome. The rigor of the coursework and high expectations from the professors leads the students to question their abilities. Lily, for example, said she often finds it difficult to remember all the points she needs to make when giving oral presentations, and Vathana finds it intimidating to answer questions in front of a class of nearly 200. Add to that, all the coursework being done in their second language, English, and university life proves to be a huge adjustment.

"In foundation year, you learn basics that will help you get your Bachelor's," said Lily, cueing in on why the first year at UC is so important. During their first two terms, the students sharpen skills such as public speaking, research and studying, that will help them during their four years at UC.

Vathana found in-class group work particularly helpful in meeting study partners and learning about new cultures. As difficult as the coursework can be, he said he refuses to give up.

"It's difficult, but if I want to be successful, I must study hard," he said. "I never give up."

On Facilities

There's no denying that the cramped quarters of UC's current facilities are becoming even tighter as the UC student body grows each term. While the new Phnom Penh campus is being constructed at Sangkat Touk Thla and is expected to be completed by the end of 2010, UC's newest students have taken note on how the current site has affected their learning.

"This afternoon when we were studying, an ambulance went by and distracted us," Vathana said. He commented that the current building seems much smaller than other universities and because it sits so close to the road, the noise of traffic causes a disturbance as it filters into the classroom.

Both Lily and Vathana also noted that with such large class sizes and with no facility to support the numbers, it's difficult to get one-on-one time with the professor and the room gets hot.

"Everything will be up to date and modern in the new building, which will help," said Lily.

However, President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn noted the varying class sizes, including the larger lecture classes, will help students adapt to the real world.

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To give supporters from the private sector the opportunity to contribute to The University of Cambodia's mission of excellence in providing quality education, research and public service initiatives, the university established the UC Foundation. Founded in 2005, the UC Foundation will support academic programs, student scholarships, faculty and facility developments, and more.

If you have a passion for improving higher education and would like to learn more about how to unite with us in continuing the UC tradition, please visit our website.

www.ucfoundation.net

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, however, we would like to express our sincerest apologies to any names we have forgotten. If you have contributed to The University of Cambodia and are not present on the list, please write our editor at ucbulletin@gmail.com so we can add your name in next quarter's newsletter.

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Dr. Handa Appointed as PM Adviser



Congratulations to Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Chancellor of The University of Cambodia, on his appointment as Adviser to the Prime Minister of Cambodia. Dr. Handa assumed his official duties as an adviser to Samdech Hun Sen beginning in July. He was also appointed as the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka, Japan, in October.

"Dr. Handa has been officially recognized by the leaders of this country. The

Prime Minister believes Dr. Handa has done a lot and will continue to do a lot for Cambodia," said Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, UC President. "We are truly happy and I think this will go a long way in enhancing the relationship between The University of Cambodia and the Prime Minister's office and between Cambodia and Japan."

Dr. Handa's many accomplishments include establishing Cambodia's first "Japanese Culture and Business Research Center," contributing to the international welfare of the blind as Vice President of the United Kingdom's Royal National Institute for the Blind and serving as Chancellor to The University of Cambodia since 2003.

Book Donation Expands UC Library

Many thanks for the donation of 569 books to the university's Toshu Fukami Library courtesy of Dr. Rikhi Thakral, Executive Director of the Thakral Group. The books ranging from a number of disciplines, including law, economics, science, social sciences and health, will contribute to the expanding knowledge and literacy of our

students.

Over the years, Dr. Thakral has supported the development of UC's students through his donations of books, computers and scholarships. This year, he generously offered 100 four-year, full-tuition scholarships to Cambodia's best and brightest high school seniors.

UC Earns German Recognition

The University of Cambodia received its first international recognition this November through Germany's Kultusministerkonferenz, a governmental organization that oversees educational issues. This notoriety, which equates a UC education with that of a German university, means more opportunities abroad for UC students.

In order to standardize the qualifications for foreign students who study abroad in Germany, Kultusministerkonferenz looks at the status of universities worldwide and rates the quality of their degree programs.

For UC students, recognition from this organization will allow easier access to German study visas and open opportunities to apply for German graduate programs, said Dr. Angus Munro, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Although students might have to take a few extra classes before jumping into graduate studies at German universities, he said, with this recognition, they will not have to start at the B.A. level.

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