



Empowering families and children to effect lasting change... community by community.



Cambodia Update



December with Sustainable Cambodia!

The joy that fills the hearts of the young people in our main school in Pursat is a wonder to see!

December brings not only joyful holidays, but the annual Human Rights Day celebration at Sustainable Cambodia's schools. Every year on December 10th this event is held, to remind everyone of the importance of nonviolent conflict resolution in communities and countries around the world. The theme of this year's Human Rights Day was "dignity and justice for all of us".

A group of SC students prepared the celebration. Poems were read, songs were sung, skits were performed and information was presented about issues concerning human rights. And, as you can see from the photo, sweetness and joy were overflowing.

Sustainable Cambodia's students learn about the importance of human rights, and follow human rights issues around the world. These are the young people who will help to transform their country and the world.

We wish you and your loved ones all the best for the holidays and 2009.

Holiday Greetings



Holiday Greetings from all of us at Sustainable Cambodia!

Many religions are active in Cambodia, the most prevalent being Buddhism. This season, Buddhists celebrate Phum Ben to honor ancestors and celebrate gift of family and friends.

Several of our International Volunteers joined the families of Veal Village to celebrate Phum Ben, enjoying the hospitality and fellowship that comes with this time of celebration.

In the worldwide spirit of this meaningful and joyful season, we celebrate you - our Sustainable Cambodia family - and the empowerment that your support brings to the village families and their children.

How ever you celebrate the season, we wish you all the very best in 2009 and send best wishes for a peaceful world, loving family and friends, and good fortune.

In love & service,

The board, staff, volunteers & families of Sustainable Cambodia

A New Building for the Preschoolers of Chreykroen



The youngsters of Chreykroem Village, in the Kravanh district, have something to smile about. After holding classes in a local home for the last five months, they will soon have a building of their own for their preschool.

The school serves approximately 30 students and that number is expected to grow. The teacher, a 22 year-old local woman, was selected by the village families and Sustainable Cambodia due to her level of knowledge and her strong commitment to teaching the children of her community.

SC provided the building materials and guidance for the villagers in how to construct the building. The community members came and worked together and at the end of the weeks of construction they have a new preschool for their children.

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During two eye-opening sessions, students currently attending United World College of South East Asia in Singapore spoke to the older students at Sustainable Cambodia. The three UWC students, visiting over their winter break, are from Swaziland and Senegal, and the third student is a former Sustainable Cambodia student who grew up in Pursat and was a previous scholarship recipient.



The visit was perfectly timed, as several SC students have been working very hard on their scholarship applications.

Everyone is hopeful that they may be the next to qualify for a scholarship!

The UWC students shared what it is like to be a student in the program, living abroad two years, and they gave them tips on how to apply as well as how to adjust to life abroad. The African students also talked about their countries and students discovered there are a lot of similarities between life in Africa and life in Cambodia. The SC students felt they had greatly benefited from these lessons and were thankful for the visitors.

Sustainable Cambodia is a grass-roots, volunteer-based, Rotary-supported, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, working with rural Cambodian villages to help them achieve sustainability and self-sufficiency. Our model is unique in several ways:

- Only native Cambodians are employed as paid staff, and all international officers, directors and consultants are unpaid volunteers, ensuring 100% of funding goes directly into the rural village programs.
- We are an empowerment organization rather than an "Aid" organization. We provide resources, assistance, training and education to the community, empowering families to revitalize their community and economy.
- Our approach is broad-based, including schooling for children, safe village drinking water, irrigation systems, alternative agriculture, vocational education, micro-business and healthcare.
- In return for the assistance, each family commits to helping surrounding villages: We not only "teach them how to fish," but teach them to help others how to fish.

While we currently work in central Cambodia, our vision is for this empowerment model to spread across Cambodia, and ultimately to grow into other countries.

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