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

New Classrooms Expand Learning Opportunities

Education is the key to sustainable development in Cambodia. By offering enrichment classes to students who would otherwise be unable to afford them, Sustainable Cambodia is able to strengthen the quality of education of Cambodians.

In February 2010, the JGG Foundation gave Sustainable Cambodia a grant to build three new classrooms (pictured above). The grant not only included funding for the materials and manpower to build the classrooms, but also for tables, chairs, and learning materials for each classroom. Each classroom can accommodate 20-25 students, and two to three educational sessions are held in each classroom per day.

We celebrated the Opening Ceremony for the new classrooms on May 8th, 2010. We invited the representatives of JGG Foundation, John and Khary, the district governor, local authorities, students, and parents to participate in the ceremony. Several students participated in the ceremony to thank the JGG Foundation. Thun Visa, the master of the ceremony, and Chhon Ratha (pictured above), a representative of all of our students, said "We are so

appreciative and thankful to JGG Foundation that provides a grant to build a new school building for Cambodian children to study to get the knowledge and skills to develop their families, communities, and country."

Then John, a representative of the JGG Foundation, told the children about his uncle, the founder of the JGG Foundation. This is the way we pass on the gifts we receive in the world - by helping others to help themselves and those around them.

The new school building will allow SC to expand its education program, "...empowering families and children to effect lasting change, community by community, child by child".

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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. Sustainable Cambodia was co-founded by Rotarians, and active Rotarians make up a majority of Sustainable Cambodia's governing Board of Directors. SC aligns its values with those of Rotary International, including RI's ideals of empowerment, peace through understanding, world service and community service. We apply Rotary's effective "Four-Way Test" to ethical issues. 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 that 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 teach 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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