



Cambodia Update

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Books for Lifelong Learning

Learning to read and write is a priority for empowerment in Cambodia, as it is elsewhere in the world. And with adult literacy rates very low in the rural areas of the country where Sustainable Cambodia works, it is especially important that the children get a strong start in reading.

Victor Siow, an international volunteer who was onsite from August through December of last year, recognized the importance of literacy for our students and organized a book drive. Victor reached out to family and friends all over the world to donate money to his book drive. He was able to collect enough money to buy 7 boxes of books and a bookshelf for the children of Sustainable Cambodia.

Displayed below are the some of the new books and the bookshelf we purchased!



Victor and Sustainable Cambodia staff bought all of the books from Cambodia's capital city, in an effort to keep the money within Cambodia. They purchased some of the books from a bookstore that sells books from not-for-profit publishers such as Room to Read and The Wildlife Conservation Society.

Our older students, pictured below, introduced the books to the younger children, who were thrilled and engrossed by the vivid illustrations that bring reading alive for them.

Rotary Clubs, Sponsors & Families

Four Rotary Clubs from the US and Canada, partnering with Australian Rotary clubs and Sustainable Cambodia sponsors, have helped more than a dozen villages and thousands of residents in 2009. These are some of the most in-need families in Cambodia, who previously had little access to water and virtually no sustainable means of support. Through the empowerment work of these Rotary clubs and the support of our SC sponsors, the village families have created self-sustainable communities.



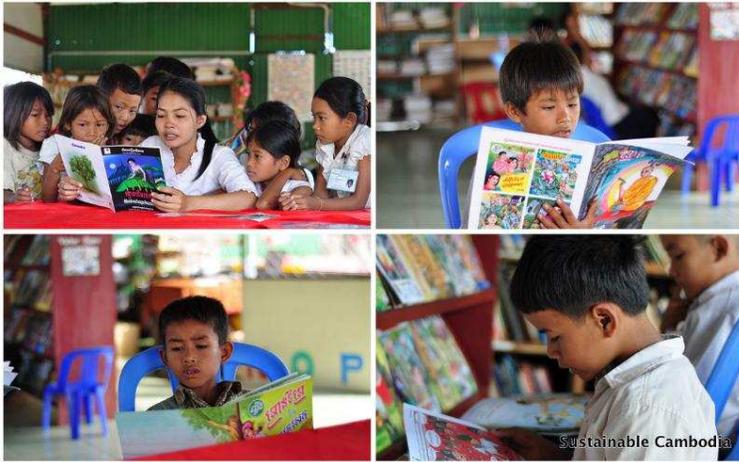
The families have dug large community ponds, installed irrigation systems, built preschools, planted new crops and begun raising farm animals.

The clubs who made this possible were the Rotary Club of Gainesville, Florida, the Rotary Club of Calgary, Canada, the Rotary Club of Locust Valley, NY and the Rotary Club of Salt Lake City, Utah. In the last half of 2009, Rotary of Western Australia joined in sponsoring numerous projects as well. Through these clubs, village families have gained access to water, have started irrigating their gardens, can feed their children and animals, and are keeping their children in school.



Sustainable Cambodia

Victor said, "The reward was immeasurable when we saw the childrens' faces light up with all those colorful story books and teaching materials."



Sustainable Cambodia

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Anything you can do to help us spread the word would be wonderful. You are changing lives every day, and for that we celebrate and thank you!

Love & service,

The SC Volunteer Board

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Beung Sdop Primary School



Sustainable Cambodia is proud to announce the opening of a new primary school in Beung Sdop in Bakan district! The community asked for education for their children, and we were able to provide them with a school!

Sustainable Cambodia gave the students school supplies and school bags and teacher training. The school also received books from Victor Siow's book drive. The community built the school building and bookshelves to house the new books.

The school makes learning fun for the children with colorful posters, painted wooden Khmer proverbs and royal portraits. They've even made 2 swings out of wood and rubber for recess!



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 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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visit us at www.sustainablecambodia.org