



ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014



Message from Director – Mr. Sameth

Dear All,

2013 was a great year of change and progress for the Save poor Children in Asia Organisation. The biggest project that we started this year was the decision to build a new Education and Community Centre (ECC).

We have had great achievements in setting up new projects such as the tablet classes in both schools, and several other classes in both schools. Since offering more classes we also saw our attendance levels rise in both of our schools. In addition, the projects that we started in 2012 continue to be a great success, our hairdressing class as well as the computer classes in both schools.

In the field of community service we were also able to achieve a lot of the goals that we set at the end of 2012.

Besides having small meetings with the board members and the long-term volunteers from SCOOP and the German Red Cross, we still meet with everyone involved every second week to talk about how we can improve as an organisation. For us at SCAO, communication is the key for effectively working together as a team. I would like to thank each and every one of our local staff members and volunteers who have come and helped us in 2013.

Everyone working for SCAO is unique, brings new perspectives and opinions, and helps us to become the organisation that we are today. Without all the support and dedication from volunteers from all over the world, SCAO could not work as effectively as we are right now.

I would like to take this time to thank all the donors of SCAO for all their contributions, big and small. If it was not for your help, we at SCAO would not be able to run all the projects that we have today. I hope that you continue to support us in the future and together as a team we can grow and give children access to knowledge, those who need it the most.



Mr. Sath Sameth (Director of S.C.A.O.)



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About Save poor Children in Asia Organisation - SCAO

SCAO received its first licence from the United Nations in 1992 and its second registered licence from the Cambodian Authorities on October 27th, 2004. With generous contributions and donations from various volunteers from around the world, SCAO was built and officially opened on December 5th, 2007. Since its creation, SCAO has evolved into a wonderful environment where children and volunteers can feel at home, learn, play, and prosper.

Mr. Sath Sameth and his wife are ambitious in their vision for SCAO and the disadvantaged children of Cambodia. Mr. Sameth grew up in Svay Kon Keo Commune (Takeo Province, Cambodia). When he was young, the Khmer Rouge killed his father, leaving him, his three sisters and four brothers to live in poverty. He left his home at the age of twelve to go to Phnom Penh where he lived in a Buddhist Monastery for nine years. He then studied Forestry and Journalism at Chom Kadon University. Mr. Sameth also worked for the government Forestry Department where he travelled to 24 Provinces learning and advocating sustainable forestry methods.

It is Mr. and Ms. Sameth's passion and devotion to children that has driven them to open up a centre where children are cared for, loved, and receive an education. SCAO gives children the opportunity to live with the Sameth Family, escape from poverty and isolation and be in an environment where education is accessible. These children are taught valuable skills that will help them become independent and self-sustainable, as well as giving them the opportunity to have a brighter and more prosperous future.

Since opening in 2007, SCAO has expanded and developed as an organisation. SCAO now operates two schools in which English is taught, along with computer classes, and a hair and beautician class. SCAO I is located near the SCAO Centre in Russey Keo, 6km north of the capital Phnom Penh. This school now provides free English and computer classes to over 350 students from the surrounding area.

SCAO II was opened in August 2011 in the small rural village of Som Rong, about 18km north of Phnom Penh. Som Rong has an estimated population of 550 people. The livelihoods of the people of Som Rong depend upon working on the rice fields, running small grocery shops out of their home or from working in garment factories. Over 230 students attend SCAO II where they receive free English and Computer classes, as well as the hair and beautician class.

Work is currently being undertaken in the construction of a third school, SCAO III in Prey Ponror village, bringing all of the benefits that the previous two schools have brought about for Cambodian people and children in need.

Please visit our new website www.savepoorchildreninasia.org for more information.



Our Mission, Vision and Philosophy

Our Mission

To fight poverty by supporting children on their way to education, social integration and self-responsible citizenship.

Our Vision

To enable disadvantaged to help themselves in a sustainable way. We believe that education is the very foundation for this goal. Therefore, all children must have the opportunity to receive an adequate education and to learn a vocational skill of choice. The integration into society and the labour market is the last step to independence and responsible citizenship supported by SCAO.

Our Philosophy

The most efficient ways to fight poverty are to share, to educate and to work together.

Additional Goals

- Build branches of SCAO throughout the country.
- Develop vocational training classes for disadvantaged children living in Som Rong Village, Prey Pon-ror Village, and in surrounding areas.
- Reach out to the community through educational awareness campaigns.
- Building bridges among the advantaged and disadvantaged communities in Cambodia, Asia and the World.

Governing Body of Save poor Children in Asia Organisation

Mr Sath Sameth
President

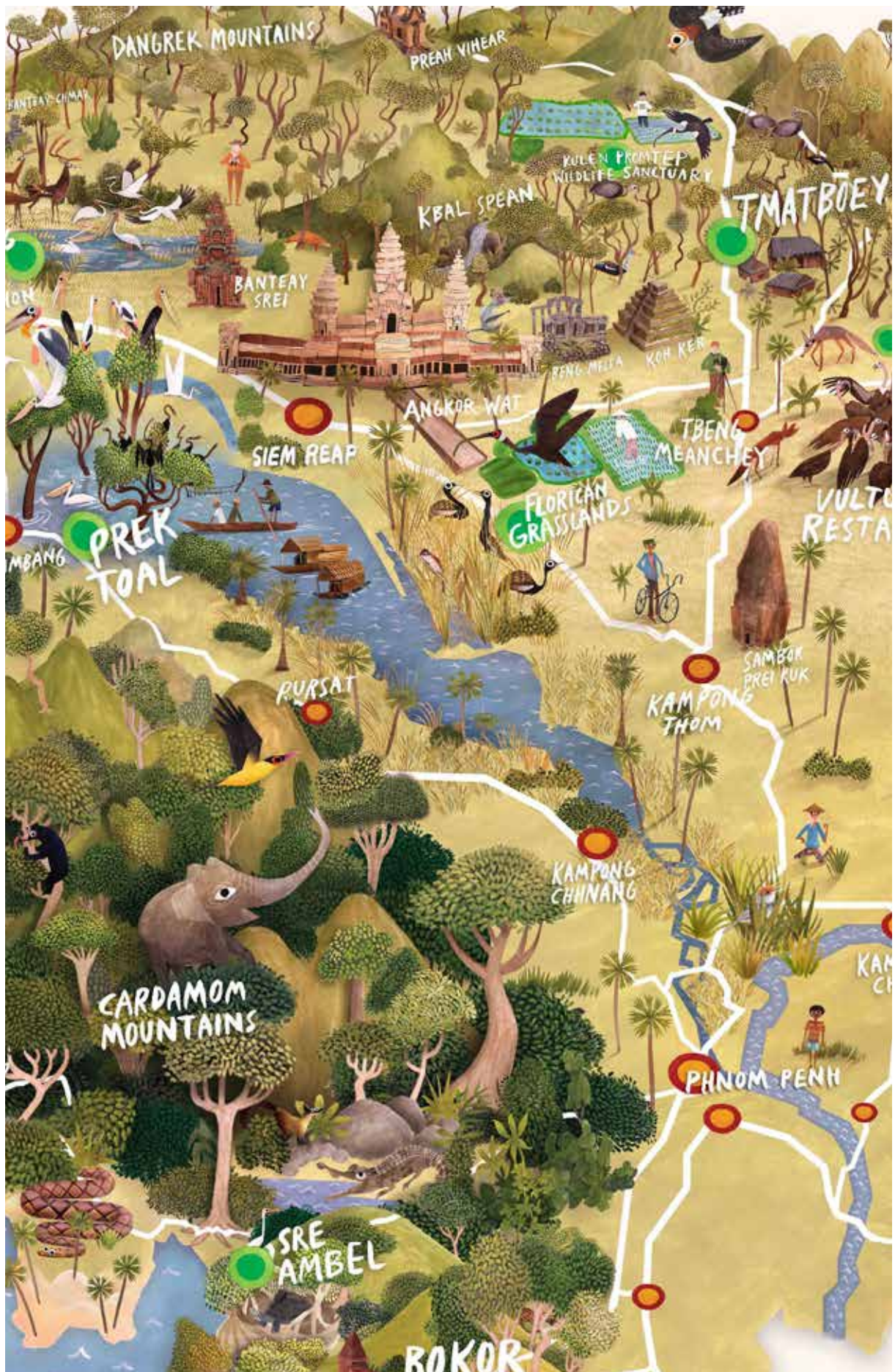
Mr. Som Hom
1st Vice President

Mr. Ruos Din
2nd Vice President

Mr. Sin Ngori
Treasurer

Ms. Kroeun Lath & Mrs. Lonh Sopheap
Advisor & Secretary

Mr. Lonh Sivuth
Technical Section



Country Profile – Cambodia

- Country : Cambodia
- Capital : Phnom Penh
- Currency : Riel (KHR), US Dollar (USD)
- Surface Area : 181,035 km/sq
- Population : 15,140,000 (2013)
- Religion : The population is primarily Buddhist, with a small Muslim minority (around 2.5%). There is also a small Christian Community.

Background

Cambodia's long period of war, isolation and chaos has resulted in a difficult life for the most vulnerable members of society, the children. Children are especially vulnerable in any country, but in Cambodia they are the tragic and innocent victims of the country's recent dramatic history and the uneven development of a new economy, political system and capacities to respond to basic human needs.

During the Khmer Rouge regime, education was dealt a severe setback, and the great strides made in literacy and in education during the two decades following independence were obliterated systematically. It was at the hands of the Khmer Rouge that schools were closed, and educated people and teachers were subjected to suspicion and harsh treatment and at the worst, execution. It was estimated that at the beginning of the 1970s there were more than 20,000 teachers living in Cambodia, but 10 years later only about 5,000 remained. After the Khmer Rouge was driven from power, the educational system had to be re-created from almost nothing. Illiteracy had climbed to more than 40 per cent, and most young people under the age of 14 lacked any basic education.

During the past two decades Phnom Penh has experienced rapid growth, with its population doubling from 1998-2008. This is due to the in-migration of rural Cambodians seeking employment in the booming capital. In 1998, one in every twenty Cambodians lived in the city of Phnom Penh, in 2012 it was estimated to be one in every ten. The difficult living conditions in the countryside are due to poverty, poor crop yield, continuous warfare and/or banditry in some regions.

The increase in the urban population leads to an increase in the population of poor children. The resulting poverty forces many children to work in order to supplement the family's income. A child that is forced to work in order to support its family does not have the opportunity to attend school and gain a valuable education. It is the opportunity to gain an education that can give poor children a fair and fighting chance to build a better life for themselves. Many families are restricted by the cost of public education, costs such as registration fees, uniforms, supplies and mandatory private lessons can force children to never enrol or even drop out of school. The poverty rate of Cambodia lies at 53% of the population living on less than \$2 a day (UNESCO, 2008).

The children of Cambodia are the most vulnerable members of society, yet they are the ones with the most opportunity. By giving a child the opportunity to attend school and gain an education, you are giving them the chance to break out of the poverty trap and build a bright future for themselves.



Education

ABC Beginner Curriculum

In September 2013 we received an ABC Beginner Curriculum from one of our Education Officers. This curriculum is, instead of the previous curriculum and the usual lessons before, now focused on the phonetics and the pronunciation of the letters and sounds. The aim is to teach the kids to read, correct pronunciation and spelling. So, instead of learning the alphabet in the usual way by the names of the letter, a more important aspect is now learning the phonetics, without forgetting the names.

The letters and sounds are ordered in seven different letter groups, each group six letters. This new order should ease the learning process through having more simple sounds in the beginning, and more difficult or quite similar sounds in a more advanced stage of learning. With each letter or sound, around five to six words are being taught which start with this sound or contain it. In this way we already introduce new sounds which are included in the words without actually teaching them. This might slow the process in the beginning, but later it will speed up the lessons.

The first weeks of teaching were quite complicated and exhausting. Most of the students knew the alphabet already and were now confused by the new order and the different pronunciations. They didn't accept calling letters by their sounds instead of their names. It wasn't easy to get them to understand that class is no longer singing the alphabet song, learning colours and body parts but copying words and sounds, and starting to read. The students made many mistakes while copying, most of the time several words had to be copied again and telling them the sound instead of the name of the letter didn't help them in writing.

After a few weeks of copying each word five times, and pronouncing each word sound by sound, you could notice that progress was being made. The students got faster in copying the words, a couple of weeks ago it would take over half an hour, and could now be done in 20 minutes. The number of mistakes decreased, writing and spelling in general improved and became faster. But, when you would ask a student to read a word, they would stay silent or say a different word they would remember from previous lessons.

After we started the second letter group, and the new words were put on the board, we noticed the amazing progress that had been made. The long-desired had happened: the students could read these previously unknown words without any help. The new curriculum and the hard work of teachers and students had finally been successful. The kids are able to read new words, based on their knowledge of the phonetics. Through the curriculum the students made a huge step in their English language education.

Even with difficulties in the beginning, now, over four months later, ABC classes are running smoothly and the letter groups will be finished in a few weeks. After finishing the curriculum and passing an assessment the students of the ABC Beginner class can level up to ABC Advanced and a new ABC Beginner class will be introduced.



Education

Introduction of Conversation Class at SCAO I

Since the beginning of November 2013, we have added a conversation class in SCAO I, which has shown to be a great success at SCAO II over the past year.

Due to the busy schedule of most of our students it wasn't easy to find a time that suits everyone, however we've now started to teach conversation class every Friday in the New Headway Pre-Intermediate Classes from 5.30-6.30. Even though we make Conversation classes mainly with the students from the Pre-Intermediate classes, every SCAO student is welcome to join the class, as long as they want to improve their spoken English and talk about a wide range of different topics.

Since the introduction of the Conversation Class, we have regularly had 20-30 students showing up in each of the two conversation classes. Most of the time, the two classes are joined by at least two or three volunteer teachers.

The main idea behind conversation class is to encourage the students to speak English more freely and to express their own opinions. Since we always have volunteers from different countries staying with SCAO, we have had many interesting talks about all the different cultures and backgrounds that are represented at SCAO.



Volunteers at SCAO I teaching Conversation Class.



Our students taking part in Conversation Class.

At times that we have high numbers of volunteers staying at SCAO I, like in December this year, where we had up to nine volunteers working at SCAO I, we were able to teach the Conversation Class splitting the students up into smaller groups. This way each volunteer can concentrate on a group of about 4 to 6 students. Having conversations within smaller groups ensures that every student gets enough attention and has the chance to voice their opinion and improve their spoken English skills.

So far we have mainly talked about families, different religions and traditions, and careers. There is also a huge interest in the different education systems in several countries and in these systems in comparison to Cambodia. Other times traffic safety, keeping the environment clean and opinions on recent events in the South East Asian Regions and the rest of the World have been discussed.



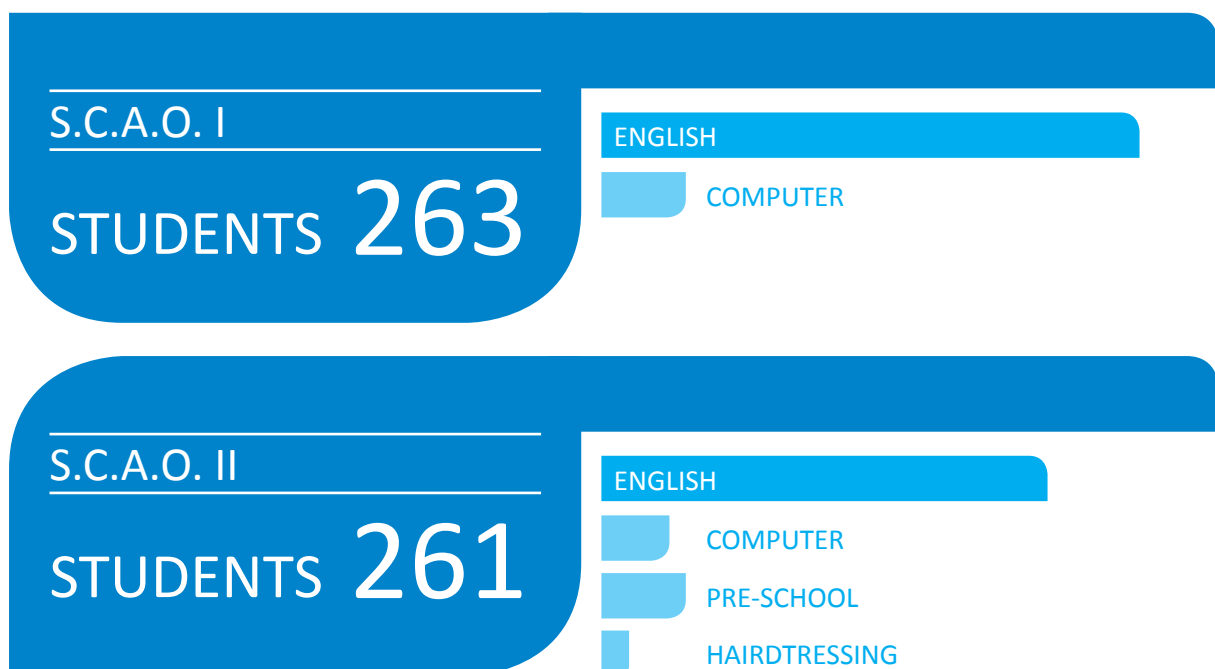
Education

SCAO I

English Classes and Numbers of Students:

While SCAO is running several projects in terms of community services, the English Classes at both schools still remain SCAO's main task and represent the organisations main goal, that of education. Throughout the year 2013, SCAO I and II had around 250 students in each school, attending classes on a daily basis. This includes Computer Class, Hairdressing Class and the new Preschool Class at SCAO II which was introduced in November.

The following are average numbers of students during the year at each school:



In the past, the numbers of students in lower levels were huge in comparison to that of older students and students in higher levels, which had been low. In the recent months SCAO I experienced a strong increase in the number of students in SCAO's highest level, the Pre-Intermediate Class. Therefore, another Pre-Intermediate Class was introduced.



One of our volunteers, Leon, explaining further to some students after class in the new Pre-Intermediate in the late evening (S.C.A.O. I).



Students of Srey Lat's Elementary Class, during an exam (SCAO I).



Education

SCAO II

Preschool Class

In 2013 we developed and introduced a new class, which allows the youngest children of Som Rong Village to join our school. The Preschool Class started on the 28th of October, 2013. This new project is for young kids from the age of 2-6 and is in addition to the public kindergarden. Beside English language, fun and creativity, we set the focus on the importance of the community, team spirit and suitable behaviour, so that the children are well prepared for the future. Since promoting the class with the help of flyers, numbers were increased from 2, up to 34. Three to four volunteers teach this class, providing enough help and individual attention where needed. In the beginning students found it difficult to be creative and to draw without being given examples. But, as time progressed clean up most of the kids became more confident, and are drawing impressively now.

This is why our classroom is decorated with such nice art from the pre-schoolers.

The last month has been a great success, and the Preschool Class has changed a lot. We have developed a new method of teaching and also the kids have grown up and learned a lot the last few months. Classroom behaviour has improved hugely; children sit down of their own accord, they have also learned how to share and realise there are enough toys and games for everyone.

They've also made a huge leap in the amount of phrases and basic words they've learned.

With the help of songs they have learned a lot of words already. We always start our day with a song, which teaches them to say "hello" "how are you?" and "I am fine". Since starting to repeat phrases like "sit down", they now understand and remain in their seats. The phrase they probably know the best is "", because it's when they begin time outside the classroom, where they can play all kinds of games. In this time they learn a lot by themselves, because they help each other and learn from each other. Team spirit and a sense of community have become a really important aspect. This means that we have achieved one of our goals with the Preschool Class, which is a great sign of progress. Another important thing is the daily routine that we have introduced. We try to do some of the same activities every day, which helps in the learning progress and the positive effects can be seen already.

Our way of teaching has changed slightly. We are now teaching according to topic. They recognize parts of the body with the use of songs, flashcards, videos and drawings. In using the same method they now recognise animals, colours, fruits and vegetables, family members, transportation and items of clothing. We also try to work on stimulating all five senses with the children to maximize their learning experience. We have wireless internet, so we try to use a short video clip once a week to vary the way of teaching and to keep them attentive. We figured that this is a really good way to keep focus and to encourage their creativity. We also emphasize repetition of topics, we repeat key vocabulary and concepts every couple of days to solidify their knowledge. We are convinced this is the best way to remember what has been taught for a longer time and hopefully forever.



They've also become more creative. During the first Preschool lessons they didn't know how to work with their own paper and crayons. They just waited for an idea given to them, or tried to cheat on their neighbours' paper. But now they seem to be really excited to put their pocket-full of ideas into real art. Some of them turned out to be talented artists, it's really impressive!

We have our success stories but we also have some struggles to work on, mostly with the development of individual children. It's difficult to keep the momentum of a class going when one child has ideas of his own. But we work on this daily and developed some rules, so that most of them behave really well now, even if they were difficult in the beginning. For example, a month ago we had a new student join us and she was terrified, she couldn't enter the school without her mother by her side and wouldn't let her leave. Fast-forward a few weeks and she comes to school all by herself, joins in the activities and even speaks to us quite confidently. In this way, every student is adorable and an important part of the whole class.

The best aspect in the Preschool, are the little funny situations we experience every new day. There's the fabulous Nita, who comes every day with a crazy hat from her huge collection. Also, she always has a laugh about herself and goes on to teach us her name everyday as if she is afraid we could forget her. There is also Borin, who is a real character. He carries a cute belly with him and always makes us laugh with his fantastic facial expressions.

The last 20 minutes of class we always play with different things in the outside area. These activities include playing with blocks, being active with balls or ropes and for the older ones playing with jigsaws. Last week we figured out that the kids love to do a 'conga-line' through the school or just dancing around in circles while singing "ring-a-ring-a-Rosie". This "game" always ends up with teachers lying on the floor, which might be the most entertaining thing for these toddlers, even though none of us understand why.

We feel that we are doing something right, as most of these children are waiting at the gate up to 30 minutes before class. This makes us all proud and confident with what we are doing at the moment. We feel we really know how to work with this age group, so we've also started to write our own curriculums. Hopefully it will be ready soon to be a good guide for future volunteers.

Also, something important to mention is, that since two of the volunteers visited the Preschool in the public school, we decided to change some things. We have become stricter with them, and while we still sing songs, "Hello" and "Goodbyes" songs are now only used as rewards for good behaviour in class. In general we have decided to set the focus more on the aspect of suitable behaviour in class in the near future.



Community Development

Through the provision of free English classes as well as computer training and other classes, SCAO strives to help the communities in which we are located. By giving the children in the communities the chance to attend English classes for free, we are helping them to help themselves to drive towards a better future. The classes that SCAO provides are above the standards that you would find in some private schools in Cambodia. The children that attend classes will grow up with the chance to make their community a better place.

In addition to the school, SCAO also works in various different areas of community development. Some of these community development projects range from:

- Workshops in nutrition and healthcare education
- Creating awareness of human trafficking
- Creating awareness of domestic violence
- Demonstrations of environmentally friendly charcoal.

It is an SCAO vision to help the communities in which we operate in all the ways that we can. We communicate with people of the community and listen to their views on what can be improved in their community. Currently we are undertaking the construction of a new Education Centre in Prey Ponror, and are extremely excited at the prospect of working with a new community in Cambodia.



Celebrations

Christmas Parties at SCAO

Each year we celebrate Christmas in both schools at SCAO. Both celebrations this year have been a great success and a lot of fun for everybody. The party at SCAO I was before Christmas, and the second one in SCAO II, took place three days after Christmas.

All the kids were very excited and were ready for some festive activities when we opened the gates of the school. The place was crowded with over 300 children. Food was delivered in a huge basket, which was packed with sandwiches and fruit. This could have been the biggest order that the market has ever received! We had 300 hungry children in the school and everyone can imagine what kind of chaos we had to deal with. But, with help from all of the volunteers we handled the situation effectively and really enjoyed it.

Feeling full from the food and excited for what was next, everyone was ready for the singing competition and other games. Even the smallest kids were brave enough to perform on the stage. Some of the kids sang some very popular songs. We were impressed by their English speaking and singing ability. As an award we gave the winners prizes, which were sponsored by some of the Australian volunteers. During the party we were listening to local Khmer electronic music, and not to mention the most important song of the day “Gangnamstyle”. Additionally we gave out some fruit. But, it more or less ended up in a fruit fight, than a well-mannered eating experience.

As a present we gave out toothbrushes and toothpaste. The volunteers carried out a practical on using the toothbrushes and the importance of dental hygiene. A very big thank you to “Gecko Kinderhilfe”, who sponsored these very important presents.

The parties were finished early in the evening with wild dancing, which we thought was the most enjoyed activity for all the children. Both Christmas celebrations were hugely successful, and will always stay with us as unforgettable memories.



Celebrations

Family Day at CIA FIRST International School

This year, CIA FIRST International School, once again invited all the kids from the SCAO Centre for a very special event, the “Family Day”. This day started off with some tasty food for the kids from a barbeque and nice chocolate milkshakes.

After the food there was music, a dance show, some small stage plays from the students and many funny games organized by staff and friends of CIA School. The kids were enjoying this very special day, far away from the daily routine at SCAO and their schools.

Highlight of the day were gifts from students of grade 9 from CIA School. With creativity the boys and girls organized some very nice and personal gifts. Many thanks go out to the Interact Club of CIA FIRST International School and CIA FIRST Director André Struve who made all of this possible, CIA School and especially their students for letting the kids of SCAO take part in this great event and opening their mind for us.



CIA First's director Mr. Struve, the students from CIA grade 9 and the Center kids



Lakana and Leemai were very happy about their gifts from the CIA First students.



SCAO Soccer Team & Sports Class

Human Rights Soccer Tournament

In 2013, CIA FIRST International School in Phnom Penh, held the annual “Human Rights Soccer Tournament” in the beginning of December. On the 8th of December, many teams from different International Schools and non-governmental organisations in Phnom Penh and further afield came together to celebrate and promote Human Rights, friendship, love and peacefulness within any race or status.

The tournament began with a speech of CIA’s Director, Mr. Andre Struve. The speech reminded all of us of a moving individual, who had just passed away a few days before. On the 5th of December 2013, Nelson Mandela died at the age 95. As a person that lived and worked for the dignity of man, Mandela inspired people all over the world with his spirit of charity, selflessly giving his life and love to all people, independent of who they are or where they come from, and probably his greatest trait: the ability to forgive. After a minute of silence among the shades of his death, the tournament was underway, looking forward to a new century which hopefully shall bring out new men and women to lead humanity into the right direction.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” – Nelson Mandela

As the only team playing without professional equipment or trainer, SCAO’s football team appeared as the underdogs of the tournament. With ambition and energy all the boys tried their best. After three thrilling games with tough competition and many goals, the SCAO team unfortunately did not make it into the higher rounds of the tournament.

Although SCAO did not make it into the higher rounds of the tournament, and the team felt a bit disappointed in themselves, everybody had a great time. Having lost was forgotten quickly. There was a valuable lesson learned that day: having fun is all about being with the people you love and enjoy being with each other. Now, the team is looking forward to preparing themselves with some hard training in the coming year!



The SCAO football team and the volunteers Christian, Florian and Leon



Chan from SCAO trying to make it against four opposition players!



Residents of Som Rong attending workshop on how to use water filters.



Vibol explaining to residents of Som Rong how to use water filters effectively.

Health

Water Filter Follow Up Case Study

Name: Soporn / Family Size: 6 / Number of Children Attending SCAO: 1 child attending

1. Have you noticed a reduction in illness/sickness in the family?

"The first time I used the water filter, the water was so clean. We haven't had any problems with our water since then. It makes things a little easier now."

2. Has there been a reduction in the amount of charcoal used in cleaning water? How much income has your family saved?

"Before we had the water filter, I used to boil our water. But now we no longer have to boil our water. My parents also drink water from the filter. We used to spend so much money on fire wood for boiling and cleaning the water. We would have to boil the water for drinking many times a day; it uses up a lot of wood. Each time I bought the fire wood it cost around \$20 and it would only last for two months."

3. How many times a day is it filled/refilled? Who does it?

"In one day I fill it twice and it is usually enough for the whole family. I usually fill it once in the morning and again in the evening."

4. Do you think there is a need for more in the community?

"If there are more water filters available, S.C.A.O. should bring them to the poor areas of the community that don't have access to clean water. I brought one to my cousin in another province also because it is so good for the family. My cousin is now very happy to have one and better access to clean drinking water."

5. Have there been any problems or complications with the water filter?

"The first time we cleaned it. Just the one time and a lot of water came out from the sides of the filter. The next time we used it there was no problem and I don't know why it happened. I bought one filter and took it to my cousin's house because the water where she lives is very bad. She called me soon after telling me that the water is so much better and so clean. They have been using it every day since."

6. What improvements could S.C.A.O. make with this project or how it is implemented?

"I want the community to have more and more water filters. The more we have the better for everyone! Having a greater number of water filters to distribute in the community would be great."

7. Are there any other areas of community development that you would like to see S.C.A.O. involved in?

"Maybe S.C.A.O. should bring them to other areas that also really need them. It could really benefit other families like it has done for mine!"

8. Can you please give an example of how it has affected/changed family behaviour?

"I no longer have to spend a lot of time boiling the water; it's just so much easier with the filter. It makes more time and money for other things. It also makes everyone's health much better as well."



Here we have different stages of construction of toilets in a house in Som Rong.

Health

Case Study : Follow Up on Toilets

Name: Sokha / Family Size: 6 / Number of Children Attending SCAO: All her children attend.

1. Have you noticed a reduced level of illness/sickness in the family after the latrine was built?

"Before we got the latrine, my family and I were sick very often. Now, because of the latrine the sickness throughout the family has reduced. The children don't get sick as often any more."

2. Have there been any difficulties with the latrine?

"We haven't had any difficulties with the latrine. We borrowed the money we needed from someone in the village to finish off the latrine. There was a little interest on the loan. We have finished paying back the money that we owed, which is good!"

3. What maintenance costs, if any have there been?

"We haven't needed to spend any more money than we borrowed, on maintenance. It was just the initial \$100 to get the latrine finished."

4. How has it improved the living standards of the family?

"The first time I used the latrine, I was just so happy. It made everything so much easier for me and my family. Before we had the latrine, I and my children would have to go to the neighbour's house to use the toilet."

5. Would you like to see more latrines built by SCAO in Som Rong?

"I would really like to see more in the community because it has helped us so much!"

6. What other areas of community development would you like to see SCAO involved in?

"I feel like I don't know what to say or how to say it. I would be very happy if SCAO could help with more latrines to other very poor families. I feel so happy with the latrine because we are a very poor family also."

7. Can you please give me an example of how it has affected your family/changes you have seen in behaviour?

"Now that we have the toilet and it is finished, we feel much more comfortable than before. Everybody in the family feels good and is healthy now! It used to be very hard for us when we didn't have the toilet, especially when someone was sick."



Health

Dentist visits at SCAO I

In late November, we started to work together with an NGO called “Cambodia World Family”. This NGO aims to provide free dental care to Cambodian Children.

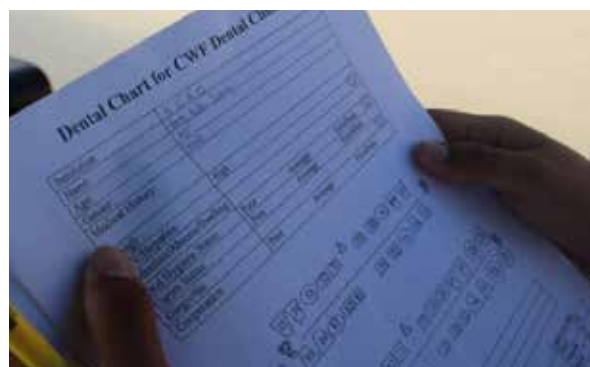
“Cambodia World Family” (CWF) was founded in 1997 by an American general practitioner who assisted in Thai border refugee camps. Before establishing a clinic in Phnom Penh in 2005, CWF was involved in several projects, one of them a mobile dental clinic treating orphans in Cambodia’s provinces. Today CWF is run by Dr. Robert Ogle and manages to treat more than 12,000 patients a year.

The CWF dental clinic in Phnom Penh is managed by Ms. Sopheak Son and employs seven Khmer dentists and nurses. These employees are the backbone of the organization since they are committed to CWF in a long-term relationship. They are also the only people at CWF that get paid. Other than that CWF also gets a lot of help from international volunteers that have experience in dental care and nursing.

Since late November SCAO has started to bring students from SCAO I to the clinic of CWF once a week. Every Wednesday morning at 9 o’clock the SCAO tuk-tuk takes up to 10 students to the clinic in Phnom Penh. So far we have managed to bring a number of 26 students to CWF. For every dentist visit, one long-term volunteer joins the children. Volunteers can assist them in filling out forms for CWF, make sure everyone knows what to do, and be responsible for the students of SCAO, and to support the children when they have to lie down on the dentist chairs.



Here we have an SCAO student receiving dental work.



One of the dental charts for used for SCAO students.

The attendance of a volunteer also plays an important role in the communication with the dentists. The local staff and volunteers explain to the child as well as to the volunteers the problems – if there are any – and the volunteer writes them down on the “Dentist Visit Attendance List”. Next to every child’s name there is space for notes, to write down how many times the child has been to CWF, and if they need to come back for more treatment.

This way we ensure that children don’t just visit CWF once and then forget about their dental care, but that they go regularly and their treatments are completed and effective.

We would like to thank “Cambodia World Family” for offering free dental care to vulnerable children and especially for working together with SCAO. This is a great example in showing how partnership and teamwork can be even more effective in helping those in need.



Health

Household Survey in Som Rong Village

SCAO have been operational in Som Rong Village, which is located 18km north of Phnom Penh, since August 2011. It is a simple small rural village that exists in isolation from the capital. There is no existing information on the village regarding population, average income, occupation of families, average income, livelihoods, etc.

In February 2013, a household survey was drawn up consisting of 33 questions. These questions helped us to gain a better insight into the lives of the families who live in Som Rong. With this better insight, it enabled S.C.A.O. to then concentrate on certain areas or hardships that faced the families in the village.

Through the results of the survey there were three significant factors that the families suffered from:

1. Lack of access to clean safe drinking water.
2. Lack of access to a toilet.
3. Lack of access to healthcare.



Mr. Sameth with a family in Som Rong.



Peter & Vibol carrying out the household survey.



Families attending rice distribution.



Volunteers helping in rice distribution.



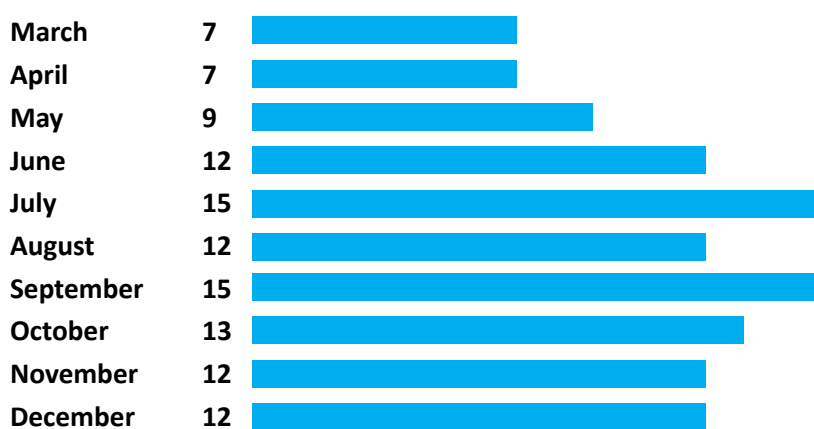
SCAO Volunteers

For the local kids that live at the centre and the students attending SCAO schools, the volunteers serve as a great opportunity for them to improve their English and learn about different cultures. In addition they become more confident in themselves, get used to the contact with foreigners and explore different manners, behaviour and knowledge throughout the contact with volunteers. Overall, the multicultural teachers broaden perspectives of the children and are also their friends outside the school. SCAO is divided between short term and long term volunteers. A short term volunteer is someone that stays with the NGO for no longer than a month, anyone joining the organisation for a longer period is considered as a long term volunteer. SCAO hosts over 140 volunteers in average each year. Most people are short term, as the location of the first school close to the capital Phnom Penh is attractive to many travellers who would like to gain experience volunteering during their time in Southeast Asia.

Those helpers are often the ones that bring new ideas for income generation projects, changes in structure and point out the difficulties that their classes show. Their limited period of time pushes most short term volunteers to get involved faster and contribute ideas that they have brought from their home country or journey.

SCAO relies most of all on its long-term volunteers.

Increasing numbers of volunteers at SCAO



Throughout the growth of SCAO in the past years, the schools and the Centre face an increasing number of volunteers. Also in 2013 the number of volunteers increased. Especially in July and September, SCAO's work was represented by up to 15 volunteers! The peak of 15 volunteers is marked the highest number of volunteers SCAO ever had.

Length of stay

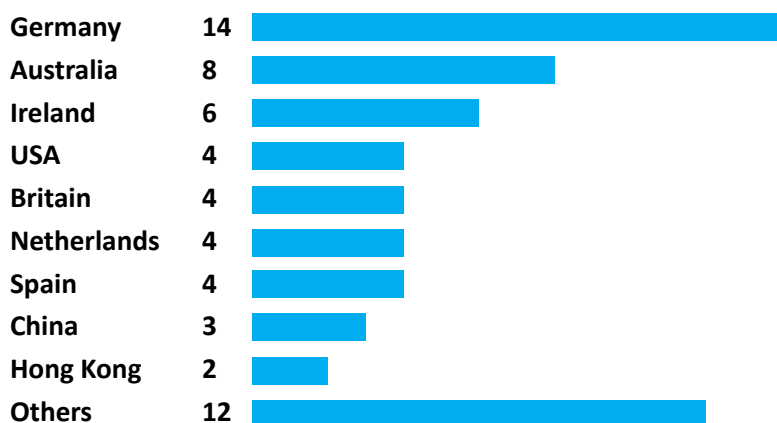
In relation to effectiveness and sustainability with the growth of S.C.A.O., the organisation is trying to concentrate more on working with long-term volunteers. In the year 2013 S.C.A.O. the majority of volunteers were staying between three and six weeks.



SCAO Volunteers

Nationalities of volunteers

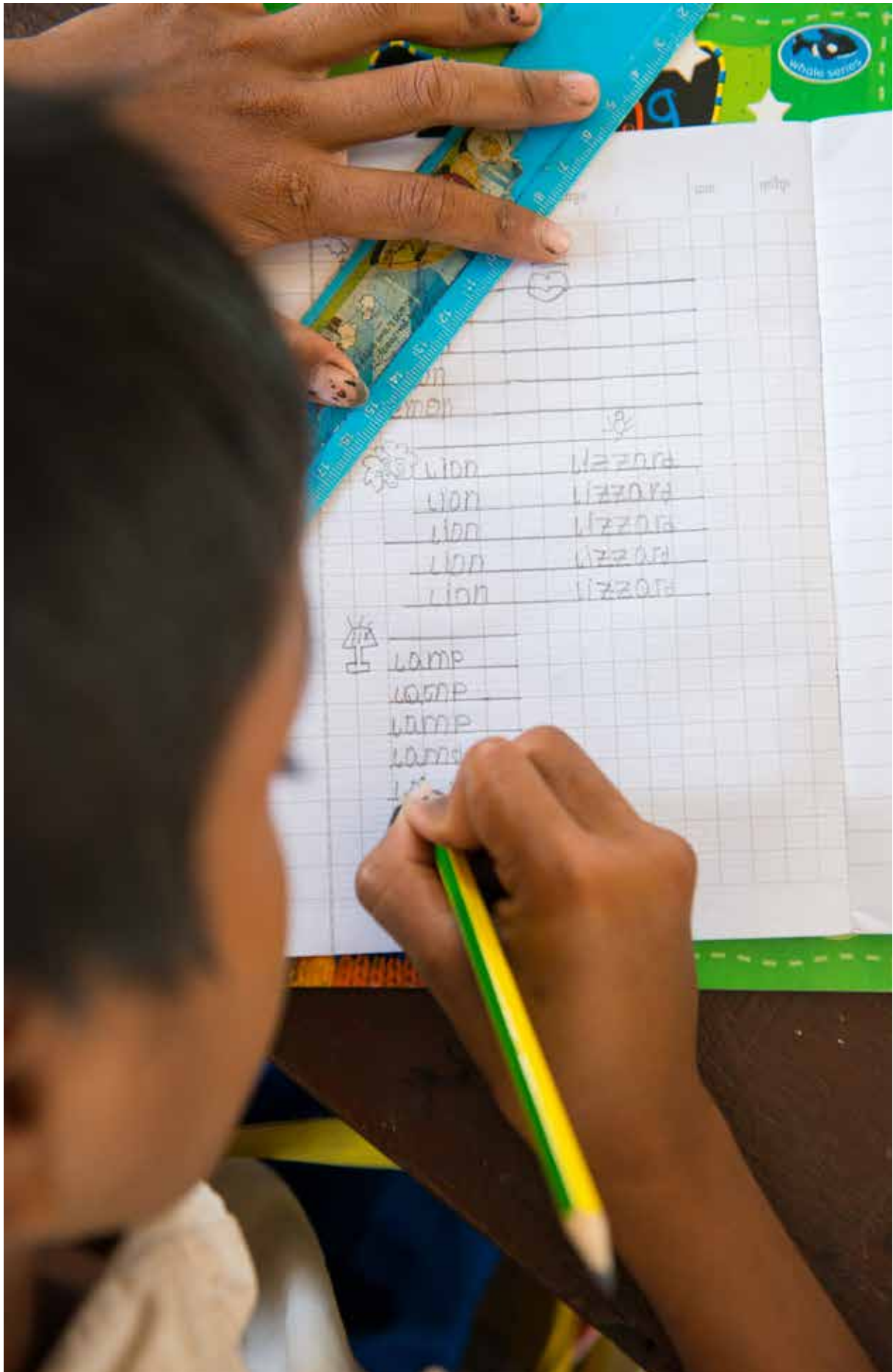
People from all over the world come to SCAO to help us with our tasks and duties and also to make an experience they could never get while staying in their home country, or home continent! In the year 2013, 61 volunteers from 21 different countries came to work at SCAO. The highest amount of volunteers came from Germany, Australia and Ireland.



Age of the volunteers

Most volunteers coming from all over the world, who want to lend a helping hand and get an unforgettable experience, are pretty young. Some are those who have just finished school or university and who are seeking to see another part of the world. We are always happy to see passionate volunteers who want to share their experience and knowledge with the kids studying at S.C.A.O., as well as with the younger volunteers. We are happy to have seen a wide age-span pool of volunteers in the year 2013. The average age of volunteers at SCAO in 2013, was about 24 years.

For the year 2013, SCAO is proud to have had 61 volunteers in total, with an average age of 24 years, coming from 21 different countries.



SCAO Volunteers

Volunteer Report – Till Olaf

Before I started my five month journey through Asia, I wanted to do some volunteer work. I hadn't decided which kind, whether I wanted to work as a farmer, teacher or tourist guide. But on my first couple days in Bangkok I was watching TV and there was a documentary about a school in Cambodia. A German guy was helping out there and described the project. As I learned later, the documentary was a few years old and there had been much progress. I wrote some emails to SCAO and decided to go there. After two and a half months travelling I went to SCAO and stayed there for 6 weeks.

I met all of the volunteers working there, who were nice and open-minded. I always had somebody to talk to, or to have coffee with. If you like coffee, you will like the cafe close to the SCAO I.

The work was pretty new to me. I have never worked as a teacher before, furthermore in English. But it was easy work. I learned a lot about the boys and girls in my classroom, and I hoped that I could teach them something as well.

To volunteer was the best decision of my journey. It was not only the good work for the kids, there were all of these nice people, the holidays, Phnom Penh, and of course the fascinating Khmer people and culture.

In the time I was working there, I received a deep and insightful view into the culture and everyday life. This was easily one of the most interesting experiences of my life.

So, if you are reading this, and not sure yet if you should do it, believe a German stranger:

Do it, and for as long as you can!

Thank you SCAO!

Till Olaf.



Around 3000 chickens are living at Hom's farm at the moment.



Mr. Hom with one of his many chickens.



Mr. Hom and his younger brother during the vaccination process.

Case Study

Mr. Som Hom starting his own chicken farm

Mr. Som Hom, once lived and grew up at the Centre of SCAO. During that time he not just grew in height and age, he also learned to take on responsibility by becoming a teacher for higher English classes at SCAO. Nowadays, he is a confident young man and is running his own successful business! Before Hom came to SCAO he was living with the brother of Mr. Sameth. They were living in Toul Kork district in Phnom Penh. There, Hom used to earn his daily rice by working as a waiter in a restaurant. Speaking just a little bit of English and working in a job with low opportunity for advancement, Hom decided to accept the offer of Mr. Sameth, to live at the Centre of SCAO I. His younger brother and sister already lived at the Centre, Hom joined his two younger siblings in December 2008.

At the SCAO Centre, Hom took this opportunity to learn more English, especially because of the foreign people he lived with, and later worked with, he says. As a talented and driven young man, Hom used his capacity and willingness to help himself and other people; he learned very fast and became a teacher at the SCAO School. During his time as a teacher at SCAO, he was successfully teaching the Pre-Intermediate Class in the evening, becoming self-confident and a role model for the other kids at the Centre as well as his students. When asked as to what he liked most about the life at the Centre, Hom replies: “I liked that the volunteers and kids were like one big family. Of course what I liked a lot, was that I could improve my English. I loved teaching and I loved the kids!”

Apart from being a teacher at SCAO, Hom always used to remain a student as well. During his earlier times at the Centre, he finished High School at “Intarakevi High School”. After finishing High School, Hom decided to involve himself in what he is really interested in, agriculture. He started studying at the “Preak Leap National College of Agriculture”, where he also completed a veterinary course, which eventually led him on to his later profession. Hom’s dream now was to open his own business, to be independent and to be able to support his family. Since then, his dream came true.

Since 2013, he is running a chicken farm in the north of Cambodia, close to the Thailand boarder, about 490km from Phnom Penh. It is located in South Sra Em village in Kantout Commune, Chormksan District, Preah Vihear Province.

On his chicken farm, there is enough space for up to 4,000 chickens and at the moment there are about 3,000 chickens living there. Two people are working at the farm and his younger brother helps out from time to time.

What he likes most about his job, is that he can work in a profession he likes, one that he was trained for, and that he is independent with his own business, he says. “I can relax, whenever I want.”

Financial highlights

SCAO is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation that survives 100% on donations. These donations are spent 100% on running projects within SCAO. The finances are overlooked and controlled by Andre Struve. The opening balance of SCAO on the 1st January 2013 was \$3,500. At the end of 2013 the closing balance on the bank account was \$7,500. All the Incomes and Expenses are shown and explained below:

Income (monetary donations):

The income total for 2013 is \$67,000.

There were three main monetary income sources throughout 2013:

(1) Most of its income, SCAO was able to generate by itself through the accommodation fee: \$24,800 was paid by volunteers staying and teaching at one of the two schools. \$7,800 of this sum is sent by the German Red Cross to pay for the stay of the three Red Cross Volunteers.

(2) The monetary donations being given to SCAO, by its partner organization “Kinderhilfe in Kambodscha” (KIK) helped SCAO cover running costs with a total donation of \$21,500. The total sum of monetary donations given to SCAO by private donor’s amounts to \$20,400. This includes all Child Sponsorships, all donations that have been given in Cash and all donations transferred to the SCAO bank account. The gift shop has generated a profit of \$300.

For a detailed list of donors and sponsors please take a look at the ‘last page’ of the Annual Report.

(3) Non-monetary donations

Non-monetary donations with the equivalent of \$2,650 helped SCAO lower the living and running costs of The Centre and both schools. The most common donation of this type was rice and stationary; others include a projector for the schools or games for the kids living in the Child Care Centre.

All non-monetary donations have been taken into account though they are not listed as income and the saved purchases of equipment are not listed as Expenses; they are listed as non-monetary donations.

Expenses

In 2013 SCAO spent a total of \$62,860. The larger expenses were for food, salary, education costs for the public education, university fees for the Centre kids as well as the Third School project.

SCAO provides three meals a day to over 20 people at the Centre and three people living at the New School. Furthermore SCAO also provides meals for all volunteers at the Centre and at the New School throughout the year. With this in mind, it is easy to understand that the largest expense in 2013 was, by far, food. This expense totalled at \$20,700.

With the growing number of staff, salaries for the staff cost \$10,500 in 2013. SCAO gives salary to a total of ten staff. These staff members, who receive salary, include the SCAO board members, assistant teachers, caretakers of the New School, the hairdressing teacher, tuk-tuk driver, the cook as well as Mr. Sameth and his wife Mrs. Sopheap.

In 2013 SCAO decided to expand the volunteer accommodation in the Centre and as a result build one more room on the ground floor. Furthermore SCAO also had to invest into creating more privacy for the girls living in the Centre. In order to provide more hygienic conditions, the floor as well as the toilet was completely redone in the Centre. This, as well as costs for repairing computers and buying school materials (books, pens etc.) added for a total of \$7,500.

A total of \$5,000 was spent to pay for the public school and university fees for the SCAO children/young adults. Fees for the five university students made a total expense of \$2,000.00 which included things like clothing, text books, laptops and other studying materials. For all other children, \$3,000 was spent on attendance fees to public (government) primary or public secondary school. School uniforms and studying materials have also been summarized under this expense.

The land, on which the SCAO I School is built, currently incurs a rent of \$150 per month. The rooms rented near the Centre for the older girls of the Centre to live in cost \$30 per month. This added to a total of \$2,160 in 2013. In addition to this, a further \$2,600.00 was spent to pay for the electricity, gas, coal and water bills of the Centre and both schools.

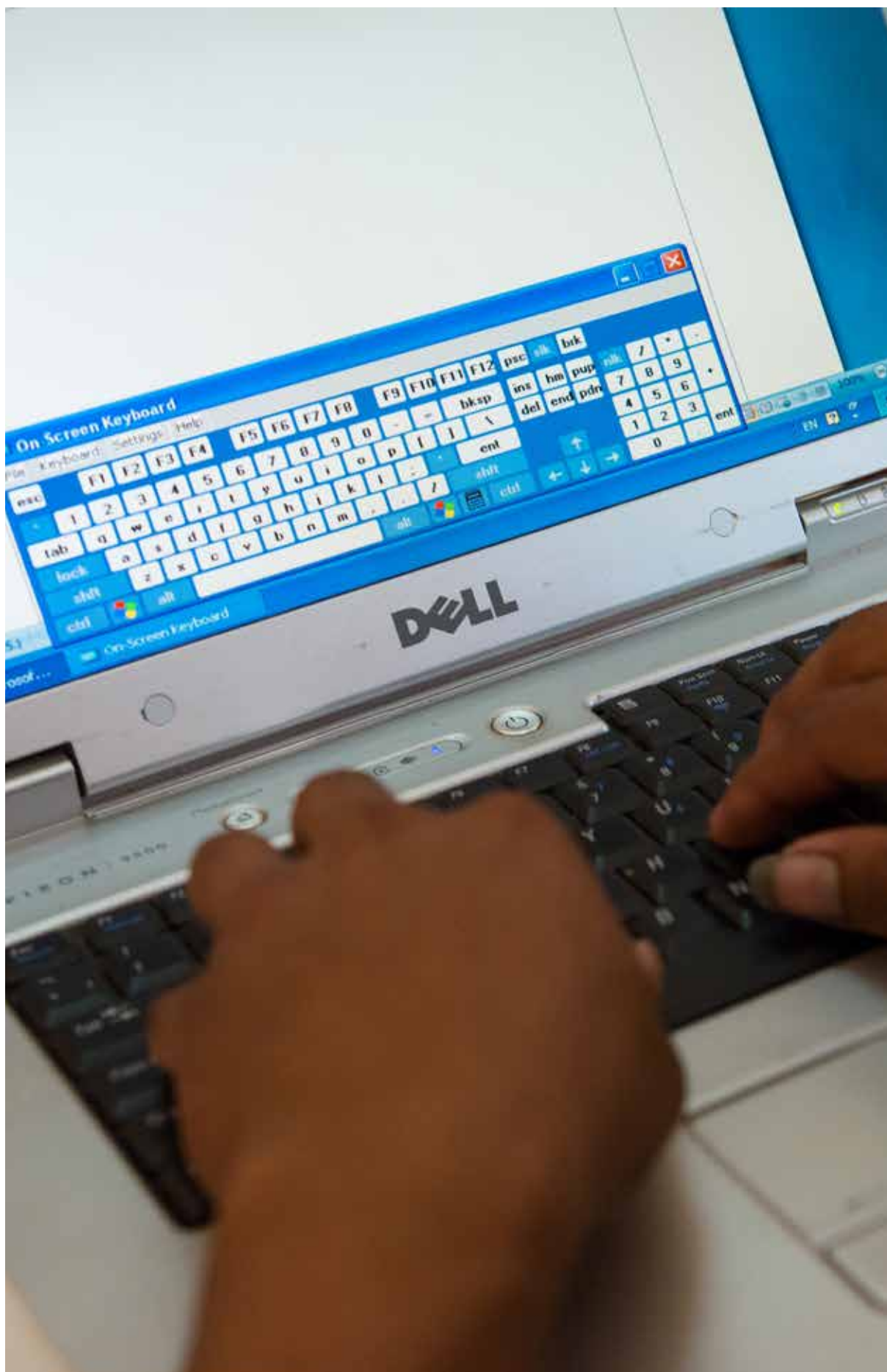
A total of \$1,600 was used on maintenance/repairs for the motorbikes and tuk-tuk of SCAO as well as gasoline. All five of SCAO's university students use a motorbike for transport to their university, and SCAO uses its own tuk-tuk to transport volunteers and materials.

As SCAO is a volunteer based organisation, the use of the organisations own Facebook page, webpage, and various email addresses has been essential to maintain constant contact with donors, future volunteers and past volunteers. The result of this was a cost of \$1,150.00 through purchases of mobile phones and internet access, and in editing and maintaining the pages and addresses. Purchasing quality Internet in Cambodia is still very expensive in comparison with western countries and thus incurs a high charge. At the end of 2013, SCAO decided to install Wireless Internet at the Centre and New School, as this will be cheaper in the long term. Installation costs have also been summarized under this expense.

Money spent for buying clothes for the kids at the Centre amounted to about \$900, the costs for medical treatment was around \$200.

In 2013 SCAO spent \$550 to ensure the continued running of the Hairdressing and Beautician project which had been introduced in 2012. Costs included purchases of various styling products, and styling/hairdressing equipment.

As part of SCAO's vision and mission, it was decided to build a Third School throughout the next two years. As a first step, SCAO in 2013 purchased the land to build the school on. The land cost \$9,700. Adding the costs spent on searching for the land (transportation etc.) a total of \$10,000 was spent on the project "Third School" in Prey Ponror.



Financial highlights

Summary

In 2013 SCAO had an income surplus of \$4,000. This explains the difference in opening and closing balance of the SCAO bank account.

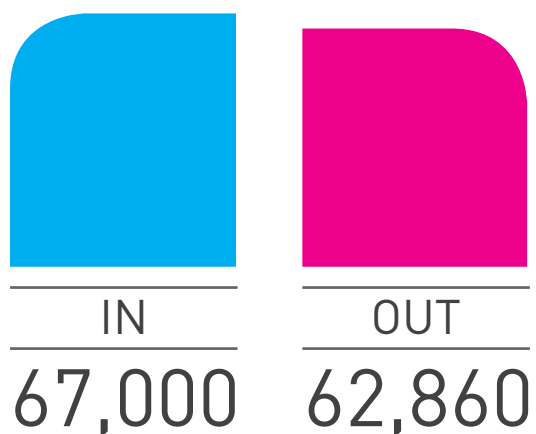
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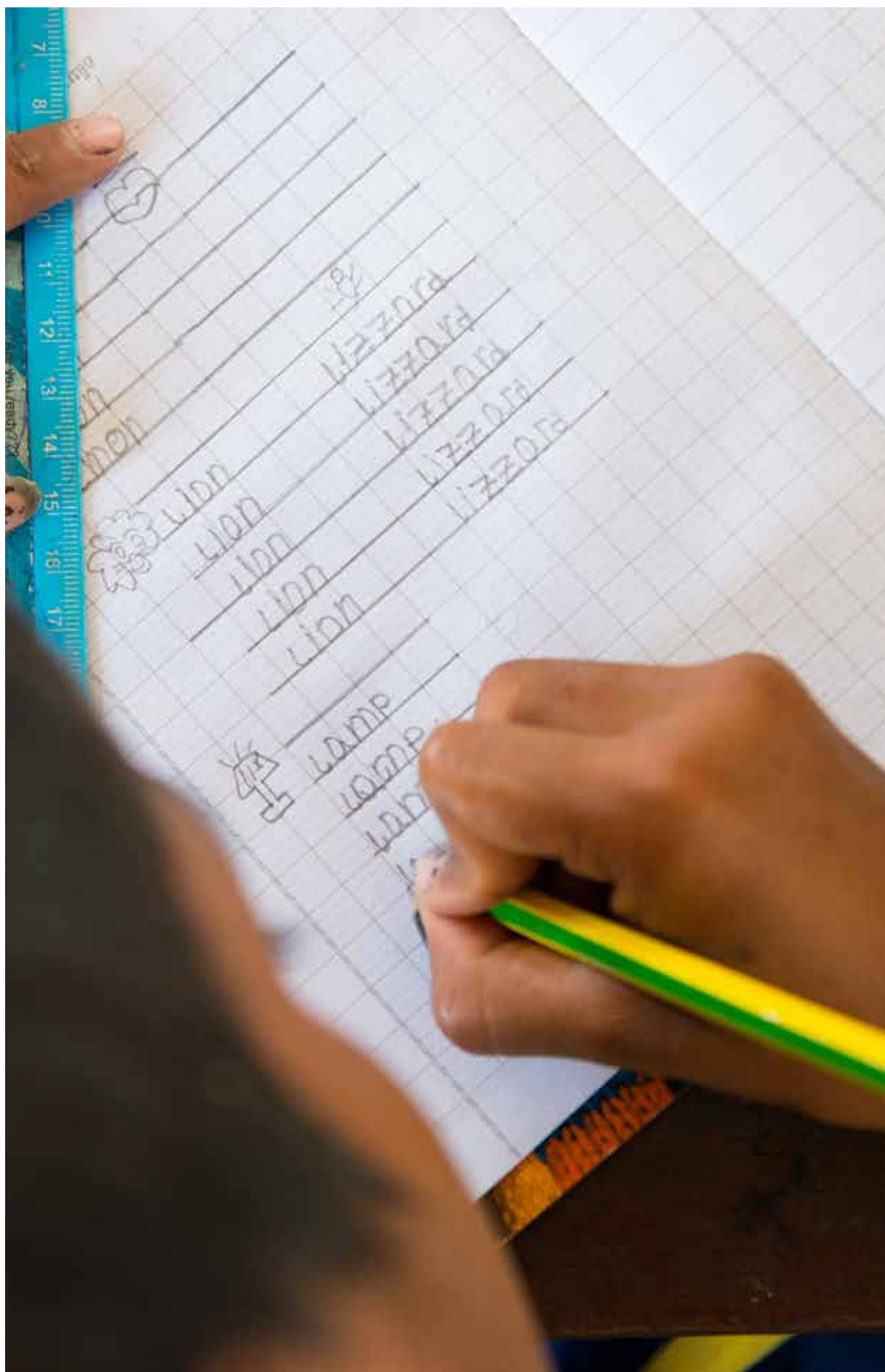
Food	20,700	
Salary	10,500	
Equipment	7,500	
School Fees	5,000	
Bills	2,600	
Rent	2,160	
Motor/Gas	1,600	
Internet/Wifi	1,150	
Clothes	900	
Hairdressing	550	
Medicine	200	
Third School	10,000	
Total	62,860	

IN

Accomodation (RC: 7800)	24,800	
KIK	21,500	
Donation Bank	15,800	
Donation in Cash	4,600	
Gift Shop	300	
Total	67,000	

Pacha Youth paid a total of 3474 for sinks, toilets, water filters, rice for the poor.





Final Message

To all our donors, sponsors, volunteers and friends,

We at SCAO would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support through 2014. This year has been fantastic along with every other year that we have had.

Thank you to partner organisations

Beginning with just the family of Mr. Sameth, SCAO is now an organisation with many responsibilities, staff, volunteers and friends. Those who help SCAO, contribute to immense internal growth from year to year within the organisation. SCAO operates on a unique model that has been tweaked and modified over time. This is the combination of: dedicated volunteers from all over the world, and the support coming from our partner organisations. Without these partner organisations, SCAO would not be the influential organisation that it is today.

SCAO is proud to have six partner organisations in four different countries:

Kinderhilfe in Kambodscha (KiK) - Germany

Gecko Kinderhilfe - Germany

Pacha Youth Foundation - USA

SCOOP Foundation - Ireland

Estrellas de Camboya - Spain

Web Success Team – USA

We would like to thank all of our partner organisations for their great support in the past year.

We hope that during 2015 and following into 2016, we will be able to reach our next milestone, the construction of a new Education and Community Centre in Prey Ponror Village. By continuing our partnership together, we can succeed in the goal that we have set out for ourselves. Together we are working together to brighten the future for the youth of Cambodia.

Thank you from everyone at SCAO



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