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... il y a peu d'endroits au monde où l'on assiste aussi brillamment à la transformation de petits chiffonniers en écoliers ... pour une vie meilleure et féconde ...  
(M. James Morris, Directeur Mondial du Programme Alimentaire de l'Onu, après son passage à PSE).



**Here and there,  
centered on the Child...**

Ghislaine Dufour, President

At PSE, what unites us all, sponsors, donors, and local teams, is passion for the children's education as a whole.

Sports hold a special place in this education. While races and sports rallies are organized in France and elsewhere to raise funds, in Phnom Penh, two beautiful football and rugby pitches, funded by sponsors, were inaugurated on the site of the boarding school and the new School of Business, 200m from each other.

Passion for education is shared by the local teams in Cambodia, who meet at the start of the school year to organize and to federate, as do the many volunteers who take part in the autumn "Journée des Antennes" in Paris. All together with the same project: help children escape from destitution and lead them to a vocation.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, celebrations were organized to remember Papy, in Phnom Penh and in the Paris region, at the pagoda of Champs sur Marne, with the Cambodian community. Papy, who used to remind us how lucky we are to be a part of this beautiful family.

Every year new children, every year new sponsors. Thank you!

## 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Papy's death

On 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of September, we gathered for another celebration around Papy. Many, many PSE graduates came to gather around his little house, on the oldest site of the PSE Centre, along with 82 Buddhist monks (Papy was 82 years old...). Joining the ceremony were our new French Ambassador, our Minister of Education, our Minister of Culture, etc... The Queen, who was abroad, was represented by one of her nieces. Everything had been beautifully prepared by PSE alumni and staff: installations, decorations, large printed photographs, flowers, traditional "rice soup" (which is a specialty, and is nothing like the rice water we were used to from our childhood), which our cooks excelled at making, cleaning up of the leaves fallen while the Centre was deserted during the holidays of



the Day of the Dead. A real hive which transformed the whole place in the space of a few hours, and which, once again, filled me with both amazement and emotion.

And then, when everything had been paid for, there was still money left over. It is traditional in

Cambodia, when you are invited to a party, be it a wedding or a funeral, or another occasion, to give a contribution. A table is always placed for that purpose, at the entrance or at the exit. Therefore, we decided to use the remaining money to drill a well, to build two toilets, and to buy school materials for a small countryside school, as well as to buy rice for a few extremely poor families in the same village as the school.

In fact, these were gifts from Papy, who has taken up the habit, of sending us winks and gestures ...



## A beautiful day of friendship

On 9<sup>th</sup> October, in a large hall in town, all the staff came together for the start of year meeting. Each department, in turn, presented their achievements of the previous year and their challenges for the coming months. The time for each was limited by a bell which warned the more long-winded: 5 minutes left. These presentations allowed everyone to better understand the mission of other departments and to update a bit what everyone was doing.

Alongside all these assessments and reports, I took the liberty of insisting on the fact that each and every one of us is there for the children, who are the heart, the origin and the purpose of our activities. That all these children, coming from broken childhoods, have more than others, a need to be listened to, supported and accompanied. My Khmer being still not sufficiently fluent ..., I had asked Leakhéna to translate



Borithy, G<sup>al</sup> Director



Rithy, G<sup>ale</sup> Education



for me.

Thanks to a well thought out organization, we hardly exceeded the time allowed for the morning session and the lunch break allowed us to go out and warm up in the hall. Yes, yes... the air conditioning in the room was on particularly high...

Then an afternoon of entertainment. Games; two high quality theatre shows played by members of the staff; songs, of which one was about Papy, composed and sung by a member of the finance department,

and which made everyone cry; and, to relax the atmosphere a little, "Aline", performed as karaoke by Fabien, the director of Vocational Training, Leakhena and me, with the choruses being sung by everyone. Without rehearsal, the result was only approximate, but that was Fabien's aim: to show that the directors are not unapproachable persons and that they too can appear a little ridiculous. All the participants were then judged by the level of applause.



To finish, I was asked to present a gift to those employees who had been at PSE for 15 years, amongst a few tears, of course: all these years of working together for the children!

## Back to work for the Departments

Before and after the seminar for the whole of the staff, each department had also organized their own meetings to start the new school year. For example, the Vocational Training department, now called PSE-I (= PSE Institute), under the leadership of Fabien (who is seeking his successor, because he has to leave at the end of the school year), went for an offsite in Sihanoukville;



as well as the Social department with its 190 staff, which

includes the Social Service team, the canteens, accommodation, security (guards), the paillotes, and the provinces (Sihanoukville and Siem Reap), under the direction of Leakhena.



*We are looking for a **volunteer expert in building / construction**, in France, to help for our large building projects. Must be present in the Paris area.*

## What has become of them?

**Chan Sitha** is 24 years old. She comes from a very poor family that never had enough to eat. A big family with 4 sisters and 3 brothers. Her father, caretaker of a property 20 kilometers from Phnom-Penh, drank and as a result, was violent, bringing practically no money home. Sitha remembers he used to beat her with palm branches... In 2007, PSE began caring for all the children, except the eldest who was already too old at the time and, to allow the children to study, we hired their mother as a cook until they could finish their schooling and the father as a day laborer. But that was still not enough: Sitha took a break from her studies for 3 months to work in a factory, and at night the children used to work as scavengers with their mother. Finally, the Social Committee decided to welcome these children into its Boarding and Foster Family protection services until their graduation.



*Clean-up day at the OBK childcare center.*

In 2012, Sitha earned her diploma, as a child care worker, and is managing, today, 2 of our child care centres, OBK and Smile Village centres. A hard-fought success story that motivates us, if that was necessary, to continue and demonstrates that PSE support can be crucial!

## Know your children



**S, S and P**, 3 little boys aged 10, 7 and 5 with elderly parents. They live on a kind of bedstead, poorly protected by a piece of tarpaulin, in an unhealthy and public land. The stepfather, suffering from a mental disability, does not work. The mother is a scavenger but does not work regularly because she drinks. So, of course, the family's income is well below to cover the basic needs. Barely 0.40 / day / person!... Sometimes neighbors give them something to eat.

Given this catastrophe, in June, we entrusted the children to a foster family, but the children did not want to stay there. Only the eldest has stayed. It is difficult to force children to leave their parents... Therefore, we allowed the two youngest to remain but give them rice so that they can eat. The two older ones are enrolled in our Remedial School, arriving here with our bus. The youngest goes to the day care centre close to where they live. But we need to think about rehousing them in order to try and resolve the whole of their problems.

## Back to school



On 4<sup>th</sup> September, after a few days of calm, following the end of the summer camps, the Centre came back to life, but for school, this time. At Borithy's request the directors, managers, and teachers were all there to ring in PSE's 22<sup>nd</sup> school year. The daily flag honor was a little more solemn, that day, with the welcoming of our new students and the best wishes for a great school year.



## The scouts, too, started a new year

Clara and Thibaud, who started our scout troop last September went back to their studies, replaced by Quentin and Caroline, who got down to business straight away.

During the summer, the 4 met up in France for a weekend of knowledge transfer.

Activities are already in motion, with news things: 30 wolf cubs joined the troop, due to the fact that we trained many leaders last year. Wonderful news!

*Wolf cubs who haven't yet got their shirts.*



## Branch Get Together



On 14<sup>th</sup> October, the day after our Board meeting, we held our branch get together which united 150 people from all over France and beyond. These are the finest of all those who tirelessly work behind the scene to support our activities in Cambodia.

It has been a very friendly and warm meeting that allowed the group to get to know each other better, to



meet newcomers, share experiences, gather good ideas, discuss projects and achievements and talk about the upcoming tour ... with an ideal weather that allowed us to have lunch outside, in the heart of Paris.

## Louis Lumière at the SoM



Thanks to the enthusiasm of our friend, Albert Oriol, our School of Media (SoM) has the fabulous luck of having a partnership with the École Nationale Supérieure Louis Lumière! Again, this year, 3 teachers from this prestigious school volunteered to spend 3 weeks here and lead an intensive training workshop for our students. The curriculum covered: lighting, framing and camera technology. A very big thank you to Arthur Cloquet (coming here for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row), Sylvie Carcedo and François Belin! The courses were filmed by volunteers, so that the students can refer to them later.

*François Belin*



*Sylvie Carcedo*



*Arthur Cloquet*

## The new football pitch

In September, took place the inauguration of our new football pitch. A magnificent artificial turf, gift from the Real Madrid Foundation and Smart, a major Cambodian telephone operator.

A remarkable organization and beautiful decorations, as the Cambodians know how, made the inauguration an impressive celebration, especially with the presence of all our football teams, wearing their brand-new kits.

The festivities ended with a game under the blazing sun, in which the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, who had arrived with his trainers in hand for the occasion, played with our youngsters, as well as our General Manager. A very special moment.



*Our Minister of Education*



*Our General Director*

