



THE RABBIT'S GAZETTE

The Rabbit School quarterly Newsletter

Cycling for change, conference, workshops... This last semester, The Rabbit School has been proactive to defend children with disability's rights.



CYCLING FOR CHANGE: 100 CHILDREN RIDE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF DISABILITY

On April 4th, 100 children ride on their bikes to celebrate both Children's Disability Rights and Women's Rights Day (March 8th) in Siem Reap Province. For 5 kilometers, the children pedaled with the aim of raising awareness among the population about the challenges of disability, especially for women and children.

Deputy Governor Chem Sothea introduced the day, reminding that for the last few years, the district administration has been via the Office of Social Welfare and Social Welfare collaborating with organizations intending to promote access to special education, but also to identify, with the help of the community, people with disability to identify children and adults that may be eligible to the disability card and children that could access to a special school. In the future, The

EVENTS SINCE JANUARY



5 Public events: 2 Autism Days, Children Days, Disability Day, Women's right Day

2 Sub national forums on Inclusive Education in Chbar Morn and Kandal Stung

11 Parents meetings focusing on advocacy and small business workshops (208 participants)

1 participation at a conference at the French Institute, focusing on History of disability in Cambodia

Rabbit School aims to develop this kind of events, as it is a good way to raise awareness and include our students at the same time.

PLAY AROUND THE WORLD: 3 MONTHS TO PLAY WITH OUR STUDENTS



Rabbit School offers much more than just education; it's a place where students with disability can learn, have fun, and connect with children their own age. As it is difficult for most of them to make friends, this aspect is very important for our Organization. Over a period of four months, three enthusiastic volunteers from Canada and sent by the NGO "Play Around The World, devoted their time to organizing collective activities and games for our students.

From painting and Red Light Green Light to customizing plastic necklaces and singing, all the children were encouraged to express their skills and boundless energy, creating a joyful atmosphere of togetherness.

Johann, one of the volunteers, found these activities to be in perfect alignment with the

Rabbit School project. He noted that "while children spend a significant portion of their time learning in class, during breaks, they often play together without necessarily having the opportunity to organize games independently, especially those with disabilities.

With the introduction of their activities, they not only stimulate their imagination and creativity but also foster an environment where they learn to play together without relying on specialized equipment.

According to him, "this experience has been an amazing journey of discovering Cambodian people and their culture. We are sincerely grateful to Rabbit School for their warm welcome and support throughout, and we look forward to sending a new team next year to continue this wonderful exchange of knowledge and fun!"

A big thank you to Emma, Courtney and Johann for their dedication and support during those 4 months.



"BEYOND DIFFERENCES", DISABILITY ROUNDTABLE AT THE FRENCH INSTITUTE



On Saturday 8th of July, Teacher Hun Touch, Director of the Rabbit School, participated to a conference organized by the French Institute of Cambodia. The theme was focused on physical and intellectual disability and gathered different specialized NGOs (KSH, Krousar Thmey, and Rabbit School).

During this roundtable, participants retraced the history of disability in Cambodia, the progressive interest of the population in this topic, and the challenges to face. In particular, they insisted on the difficulty for PWD to find a job after their studies.

Even if Cambodian law requires at least 1% of employees with disability in each company, most of them still don't follow this rule. Participants agreed on the necessity to continue raising public awareness, but also work together for this purpose.

After the conference, a French movie was shown, "Presque", which tells the story of a friendship between an adult with a physical disability having a thirst for adventure and a newly divorced and disabused undertaker.

RABBIT SCHOOL KEY FIGURES

From January to July



Children With Disabilities

402 *Children with intellectual disabilities (30% of girls)*

53 *Classrooms in 16 schools*

62 *Special teachers*

115 *Children received in-kind scholarships (books, pencils, bags)*

48 *integrated classes received teaching materials*

Out Of School Children

409 *OOSC were newly enrolled (49% girls) in one of the 16 schools*

572 *OOSC received in-kind scholarship (uniforms, materials, bicycle...)*

poor families were supported in business projects (laundry, chicken

5 *farming, coffee shop) in Phnom Penh and provinces.*

VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOOD: LAUNDRY OF HOPE



Living as a widow mother with her son Veasna, Mrs. Khim Sophea is a 54-year-old woman residing in a rented house in Sangkat Choam Chao Pei, Khan Por Senchey, Phnom Penh. Thanks to the support of Rabbit School, TCDA, and the PAFID project, she has had the opportunity to participate in various project activities, workshops, and knowledge-sharing meetings with other people with disabilities.

Through these engagements, Mrs. Khim Sophea discovered potential opportunities to improve her life and her family's circumstances. Drawing upon her current experiences and determination in the laundry business, where her children also contribute, the Rabbit School organization offered her vocational training in modern laundry skills. Moreover, they provided essential materials to help expand her laundry services, increase her income, and create a sustainable career for Veasna, ensuring he can continue his studies.

This support has filled Mrs. Khim Sophea with happiness, as she now possesses valuable knowledge and skills to successfully run her business. Additionally, the opportunity to involve her children in the business has enabled them to contribute to their family's livelihood.

Mrs. Khim Sophea expresses her heartfelt gratitude to Rabbit School, TCDA, and PAFID for the invaluable support they have provided, which has transformed her life and brought hope for a better future for herself and her children.



Currently, Rabbit School vocational training program helps young adults and parents of children with disabilities to get access to labour market:

- 35** YWID receive pre-vocational training
- 4** YWID are in job employment or internship
- 5** families set-up their own business (1 laundry, 3 chicken farms, 1 coffee shop) .

CASE STUDY: MESA, IN KAMPONG SPEU, RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP



Vy Mesa, a 7-year-old girl, possesses a right-hand deformity and resides in Sla village, Vallis commune, Samrong Tong district, Kampong Speu province, along with her parents. Being the second child in a family of three siblings, Mesa's father works as a construction worker, while her mother is employed in a factory.

Before joining the school, Mesa experienced feelings of loneliness, and guilt, and exhibited disobedience toward her parents. Moreover, she harbored fear about attending school. However, her circumstances have significantly changed since then.

"I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the generous donors and Rabbit School for enabling my daughter to receive an education equivalent to that of other children. I am truly grateful and excited to witness my daughter's educational achievements."

Presently, Mesa attends grade 1 in an inclusive class at Vallis Primary School, situated approximately 3 kilometers away from her home. Through the generous support of Aide et Action and TCDA, facilitated by Rabbit School, Mesa has been awarded scholarships encompassing school uniforms, notebooks, bags, a bicycle, and rice.

After nearly a year of attending school, Mesa has made remarkable progress in her reading, writing, and overall attitude. She now finds joy in attending school and cherishes the moments spent playing with her friends. Each day, either accompanied by her parents or independently riding her bicycle, Mesa eagerly commutes to school. At home, she diligently completes her homework and assists her parents with household chores.



Mesa's father expresses his profound gratitude towards Aide et Action, TCDA, and Rabbit School, stating, "I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the generous donors and Rabbit School for enabling my daughter to receive an education equivalent to that of other children. I am truly grateful and excited to witness my daughter's educational achievements."



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