



studaid

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Dear sponsors
Dear friends

We have a few things to report for the end of the year. Completed diplomas, a new STUDAID team member in Switzerland, and another trip to Phnom Penh give us much to report.

Academic and professional achievements of our students



Successful completions of studies: Over the past few months students Sreymean (Bachelor in Accounting), Lyhornng, Rany, Sokly and Sina (all Bachelor in Management) have all passed their final examinations. As is custom in Cambodia, they don't yet have their diplomas in hand; these will be received over the course of next year. Phally and Sina have also successfully

passed the English diploma.

Professional development: Our good news does not end with the completion of bachelor's degrees: All of our graduates have been able to secure a position in their field of study. This has meant a significant increase in income; a promising start to their professional and personal futures. This success can, in some cases, be attributed to internships in which our students were able to gain experience. We are currently researching how we might enable all our students to find internships during their studies. As the dual education system is not (yet) well known in Cambodia, it's a little bit more difficult than might be anticipated.

Seminar in Phnom Penh - A group of STUDAID students have a try at entrepreneurship

How does one write a business plan for a small business? At the previous seminar the topic "business plan" was brought up as a suggestion for a future seminar. Because this is easier done with a real life example, we searched for an event for which we could plan, organise and execute a small business plan as a basis for this workshop.

One such opportunity arose with the "Green STEM Festival". STEM Cambodia is an NGO with the main objective of encouraging more young students to pursue careers in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. They regularly host events in which they gather funds, among other things, by renting out food vendor spaces.



The STUDAID students were able to try their own hand at entrepreneurship in form of a food stand at a two day event. Skype and live meetings in which business name, goals, products and pricing, as well as roles and responsibilities were discussed and determined.



The workshop offered for all STUDAID students presented an opportunity for all to discuss and give further ideas for sales strategy and pricing. Sausages for the hot dogs were specially made by Smiling Gecko Cambodia's Farmhouse butcher. At the workshop, the students got the opportunity to taste these; they loved them.



Rany and Sokkhim spent time researching cost effective food and beverage supplies. SamAn designed a "company logo", to be used on the food stand banner. On November 28 and 29 eight students were on location at the food stand, showing how well they could work as a team.

Although the sales of sandwiches and hot dogs were far below expectations and despite the pricing being at the 'students-for-students' level, they were able to make a profit. They decided to use this profit for a joined cinema outing and to split the remainder among the students involved.

To meet the environmentally friendly requirements of the event, banana leaves were used to wrap the sandwiches. Rice straws and paper cups were used and waste was reduced wherever possible. Unsold hot dogs and sandwiches were donated to the LRDE (Le Restaurant Des Enfants), an organisation which feeds street kids, who loved and appreciated these very much.



Before year's end we will have one more skype meeting with all STUDAID students to discuss the event and lessons learnt from this small venture.

At this point, a special, heartfelt thank you to Una McCarthy-Fakhry, the director of STEM Cambodia, who continuously encouraged us to keep going, even through the difficult times, when we thought we could not make it happen. The students loved this experience and we are very grateful to her for not letting us give up. We also thank her for helping us with the cost as well as the provisioning of inventory.

New students

In 2019 nine more sponsors agreed to support further students, bringing the number of currently supported students to our goal of 20. Thank you for this, friends and sponsors, from us and from the students. You are changing lives and STUDAID wouldn't be where it is without you.

As we want to keep things small in order to ensure each student receives the individualised attention needed, we will keep our number limited to 20 concurrently supported students. Three of these spots, however, will open up by June 2021 and we already have new applicants for them.

Wehntal School donates CHF 1'240



The Wehntal School (Schule Wehntal) has sold their aged computer equipment and generously donated the proceeds of CHF 1'240 to STUDAID. We thank the Schule Wehntal, its leadership and its board.

New STUDAID team member in der Schweiz



We are very happy to report that Beat Waldmeier from Brittnau is a new member of our Switzerland STUDAID team. In autumn of 2018 he retired early at the age of 60, and has generously decided to donate some of his time and expertise to STUDAID. Together with his wife, he's been supporting one of our STUDAID students for two years. At the end of November, Beat joined Chris in Phnom Penh, to meet our program manager NHEK Kosal and our students in person. Beat will look after the sponsor community and take care of administrative tasks. Welcome, Beat!

We have said it before, and we will say it again: We are grateful to each and every one of you; thank you very much for your support.

Happy holidays and a great start to the new year!

Warm regards,

STUDAID Team

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