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studaid

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

Dear sponsors

Dear friends

In Cambodia, universities are scheduled to reopen for „in person“ classes in October. We take this as an opportunity to report about the progress of the STUDAID program and to point you to articles in the [news](#) section of our website, which is regularly updated.

During the visits of Norbert with his family in February and Chris in March, we again held events for all students. Old and new STUDAID students got to know each other better. We were happy to see that they also help each other and the community.

Fine examples of this are ...



... a food distribution campaign together with LRDE to children in need in May on Chris' birthday (see also video in our May [news](#) on our website).



... our alumni Nisai, who used his IT skills to procure and set up laptops locally for new students.



... three students who tutor our two high school students with additional lessons in math and physics.

The pandemic presents Cambodia and therefore also our students with special challenges. It is easy to imagine what the economic consequences will be, for a country that is mainly dependent on tourism and the export of textile and fashion goods. This is associated with income reductions or even losses.

In person teaching was canceled in mid-March. Universities and private schools - including the ACE English school, which most STUDAID students attend - switched to online teaching. Since there was no work in Phnom Penh, many students went back to their families in the province. In addition to poor internet connections (via the G3 and 4 mobile network) there, during the rainy season from May to October, the rain pattering loudly on the tin roof can lead to problems when following lessons.

Unfortunately, personal and family problems also led to two drop-outs in our program. We sincerely regret this. Now, with the two open spots we have the opportunity to support two other students who need help to finish their studies. We have already received some inquiries from the STUDAID community, which we will check.



In September, Cambodian families celebrated Pchum Ben, one of the most important religious festivals in Cambodia. To give our sponsors an inside in this tradition, our Master-student Phally

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has written a document where she explains the meaning and rituals. You can find it in the September [news](#) on our website.

One of our challenges for the future is, how we can reduce administration in Switzerland. For this we have divided the support responsibilities into support groups among the three of us (Beat, Chris, Norbert). This gives us the opportunity to recognize and support earlier if one of our protégés gets into problems, and also to find solutions more quickly, together with the respective sponsor / mentor. Beyond this, it is currently difficult to organize further community events in Phnom Penh without someone from Switzerland being there. However, we already have some initial ideas and will be happy to provide you with information at a later date.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all STUDAID mentors and sponsors for the solidarity! We were again very touched by how generously, quickly and easily additional financial support was provided, e.g. to buy laptops for students to take part in online classes.

Since we only write a few newsletters in this form, we would like to point out again that regular news can always be found on our website www.studaid.org.

Kind regards

The STUDAID Coreteam

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