



## **Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, issue July 2016**

Dear members, sponsors and supporters,

the last months at our English school have been filled with various activities that exceed our usual programme of English and computer classes. We had a very successful project week under the slogan “Around the World”. Unfortunately, sometimes our efforts are not so successful and at times we are confronted by big obstacles, but we think it is important, that we also talk about those difficulties. Therefore the second part of this newsletter will talk about our latest pilot project, the Kindergarten classes.

### **Projekt week „Around the World“ at Khemara Kidshelp School**



During last year’s summer vacations we had our very first project week at Khemara Kidshelp School (please check newsletter 09 2015 for more information). That time it was all about garbage and we organized different workshops in order to raise awareness for this topic.

This year we had the idea to incite interest for the different regions and cultures around the world. In our work with young Cambodians we experienced that most of them have almost no knowledge at all about the world outside of Cambodia.

In order to raise their attention for the rest of the world, we had the idea to give them some basic information by some presentations about the different continents and also offer the opportunity to experience other cultures more closely in some practical workshops.

The first initiative for this project came from Claudia, our part-time employee who, as a cultural educator, has the perfect qualification for this kind of venture

There were different kinds of presentations with projectors, posters and powerpoint



We also have three very dedicated volunteers at our school at the moment, who participated with many great ideas.

There was one group for every continent. During the first two days the students attended five different presentations with the most important facts about every continent. On the third and fourth day, they had the chance to take part in one of the workshops about one continent. On Friday all the different groups finished their project and presented their results on stage.

For Africa our volunteer Leona made some drums and rehearsed a percussion-performance with her students. She got support from our teacher Boravy. For South America our volunteer Raven made a carnival dance-performance. For North America Lea and her students made a music video. Claudia made a black light dance-performance for Australia with the support of our teacher Chengneang. Raphael and Tharith made sure there was also a culinary experience for everyone with their group about Europe where they made some apple cupcakes.

As we wanted to awake the students attention for other cultures, we tried to instruct them to become creative and to develop their own ideas instead of presenting them a set programme.

Everyone had great fun and the students were very excited to present the results on the stage. We are sure that we could encourage their creativity and make them more aware of other cultures.





## Kindergarten classes



As a small NGO it is important for us to keep close contact to our members and supporters and to be absolutely transparent. As a matter of fact, we believe that we should not only focus on our achievements, but also talk about challenges and setbacks.

Every time we try something new, we run the risk that things do not turn out as we want them to, especially in a developing country like Cambodia, where the circumstances are often far from ideal.

For quite some time we have had the idea to start a kindergarten class. One of the reasons is that we believe that even pre-school children can make their first experiences with the English language in a playful manner. One of the main reasons was also the fact that learning in Cambodia is often synonymous with teacher-centered teaching. This is why it is very common to send even very small children to very dull classes for hours with the idea to make them fit for their further school career. Our Kindergarten class was supposed to show, that things can also be done differently. Especially children can learn a lot by playing and very often they just need someone who shows them how to discover things on their own and not someone who just dishes up knowledge.

Our employee Claudia Zeidler, who is a kindergarten teacher and also a cultural educator, has all the skills to train the local staff and ensure that the project could go its own way.

Thanks to the endless efforts of Nanette Langfeldt and various donors we got a lot of very useful toys in a short time. Lea, our volunteer, was also very excited to join and our team was almost complete. The only thing that was very difficult right from the beginning, was finding an appropriate Cambodian teacher. Even for our regular English classes, it is always difficult to find teachers with decent English skills. We were looking for a teacher who would be able to join Claudia's trainings in English. Another challenge was the fact, that most Cambodian teachers consider teaching children a very simple work that can be



done without much professional training. This is particularly true, when most of the activities include games and creative actions.

At the beginning, we got some help from one of our future university students, who just finished high school and had not started university back then. We were hoping to find a teacher before the start of university in November, but unfortunately our hopes were disappointed.

Even though we have learned, that very often every successful change needs a couple of failed attempts, we are especially sorry this time, because our first steps in this project were very promising.

We strongly believe that for a sustainable development this project would have to include a Cambodian teacher and therefore we had to stop it for now. We are feel sorry for all the toys that have been donated and cannot be used as planned now. We were overwhelmed by the amount of great toys we received. We will try our best to find an appropriate use for them. Apart from this the project has just been ceased for the moment which does not mean that we cancel it permanently. There might be a second attempt in the near future.

We really hope that it can continue somehow because we believe that it is a great project and even in this short period of time, we could see many positive results.





## **New homepage**

After we uploaded the German version of our new homepage a couple of weeks ago, we have now completed the English version. All of the texts have been translated by our overseas employee Raphael Weyel. As his mother tongue is German, it would be great if some native English speaker could review the texts.

If English is your first language, it would be great if you could take your time to correct some of our texts. You can just refer to our info address ([Info@Kidshelp-Kambodscha.org](mailto:Info@Kidshelp-Kambodscha.org)). Apart from that we always appreciate any suggestions or notice of errors that we might have missed.

We wish all our supporters a nice autumn and thank you very much for your support and the interest in our work!

Your Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. team in Cambodia and Germany.