



## **Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, Issue February 2018**

Dear members, dear godparents and supporters,

Right at the beginning, an organizational remark for the sponsors of our students:

After a student we sponsor has received the results for the past academic year, we will write a report on his or her development and send it to the sponsor(s). With a few exceptions, these reports have now been completed and sent by e-mail.

If someone has not received their report, please contact Raphael, our focal person for student affairs, directly via [raphael@kidshelp-kambodscha.org](mailto:raphael@kidshelp-kambodscha.org)

It's been two months since the last newsletter and as always a lot has happened. Despite the fact that the locals have developed some unusual Christmas traditions of their own (On Christmas Day some parents send their children to school dressed as Santa Claus), life goes on as normal.

While many expats use the time to go on holiday or visit relatives in their homeland, the Cambodians continue to work in their day to day jobs. The big holidays here are Khmer New Year in spring and Pchum Ben and the Water Festival in autumn. Since there are quite a few Muslim communities, Eid - the Sugar Festival is also celebrated across the country.

But now back to what happened at school and in the dormitories:

### **Graduation Day 2018**

Traditionally, the year at Khemara Kidshelp School begins with a big highlight – the so called Graduation Day. On this day pupils and their families, our teachers and volunteers, as well as interested visitors and sponsors gather in the inner courtyard of the school and celebrate together. The celebration is centred on recognizing the best students of each class during the previous school year. Gradually they are invited to the stage and are rewarded with great applause for their achievements. But that's not all.



**Figure 1: Top students with their certificates**

A further highlight is the Speaking Competition, in which teams consisting of two students perform on stage and present a chosen theme. The topics were quite intricate. In addition to the culture and history of Cambodia, this year's groups have presented on themes such as “the dangers of drug abuse” and “the advantages and disadvantages of technology”. The winners were both very happy about receiving a brand new bike.

Aside from reoccurring games like musical chairs that were played to further lighten the mood, there were magnificent dance and show interludes performed by the students and choreographed by our teachers as well as a big playbackshow that marked the big final of the event in the evening. All in all a very happy day at school.

**Figure 2: The happy winners of the Speaking Competition**



Many thanks to our school director Khemara, co-director Tharith, the volunteers, our teachers and all the students involved in the organisation. We would also like to thank the sponsors who visited us on this occasion and, as jurors, played there part





in making this a truly memorable day for all participating students. We are already looking forward to Graduation Day 2019.



Figure 1: Some more impressions from Graduation Day 2018

### Visit to Oudong

Since the time for our current volunteers Tom and Siglinde at the English school is slowly coming to an end and both of them have grown very fond of their classes, they all went on a small field trip together.

On the first Sunday in February they travelled to Oudong, the former capital of Cambodia.



Here is the translation of Siglinde's report:

*On Sunday morning at 8:15 am, meaning relatively on time, 26 students travelled to Mount Oudong in two buses.*

*The students had chosen this destination on their own and had already studied the history of Mount Oudong in detail in class.*

*After less than an hour's drive we reached our destination, Mount Oudong, visible from far away. Here, more than 500 steps had to be climbed in order to reach the great temple on the top.*



Figure 2: Trip to Oudong

*Prayers were said by the students with great seriousness.*

*After an extensive selfie session we took another path back down to the foot of the mountain. At the bottom of the hill, everybody indulged in a big picnic.*

*On the way back to the bus we visited two more temples upon request of the students.*

*Around 3:00 pm we were back at the school. All in all it proved to be a very successful trip with a good atmosphere and lots of selfies.*

Once again a big thanks to Tom and Siglinde for organising this trip.





Figure 3: Group picture in Oudong

### **Dinner and boat trip with the students**

Since January is the month when interested sponsors and our chairman Nanette come to Cambodia to visit our projects, we invited all our students to join us for dinner in Phnom Penh. This event provides us with the opportunity to talk to all the scholarship holders in person and to catch up with the new students to find out how they have settled into the dormitories and life at university. At the same time the older students are presented with an opportunity to talk to us in more detail about current problems and their wishes for the future. But of course, this is not only about “talking business”. It is also about having a good time together and having loads of great food.

The boat tour on the Mekong, which we had organized for the following day together with our partner organisation Chibodia, had a similar goal. We run the student dormitories in which the majority of our scholarship holders live, together with Chibodia.

The dinner on the boat and the many team games we played were designed to help the new students get to know each other better. Having a network of friends and acquaintances is extremely important for the cohesion in the dormitories and the development of the students. Especially for our students from the village, who usually live in a big city for the first time in their life. The boat tour also gave us the opportunity to talk to the students who missed out on dinner the day before.

---



Many thanks to our student managers Reaksmeay and Layheak for the excellent organization of the event.



Figure 4: Some impressions from the dinner and our boat ride

More news about Kidshelp and pictures from our recent activities can be found at [Facebook](#) and our [Blog](#).

– Your Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Team in Cambodia and Germany –