



## Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, Issue April 2018

Dear members, dear godparents and supporters,

We would once again like to start with two organizational remarks:

1. Since Michael is on home leave in Germany in June, we plan to organize a meeting in Cologne. After a short presentation of the achievements of the last months, we want to take this opportunity to answer questions from our supporters and develop project ideas for the next year together.

All Kidshelp members are cordially invited to this meeting. We gather on Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm in Cologne. Please let us know by May 15<sup>th</sup> if you want to join us, so that we have enough time to find a café or restaurant that offers us the necessary space and quiet atmosphere to conduct such a meeting.

Please send your RSVP to [info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org](mailto:info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org)

2. One of our supporters complained that we had not responded to an e-mail from him. We are very sorry about this. In view of the many queries we receive via e-mail and Facebook, this can happen. We kindly ask you to consider that our board members and all other helpers in Germany work on a voluntary basis and that they have full-time jobs.

If you have a request that remains unanswered for a longer period of time, simply resend the corresponding message. That's usually enough to get our attention. Thank you very much.

Back to what's happening in Cambodia:

April is a very popular month both for the locals and many of the barangs (Khmer for foreigners) living here. At least if you disregard the extremely high temperatures.

Why? Because of the many holidays and that is by no means focused around Easter alone. Much bigger and more important here is the Khmer New Year Festival. Similar to Easter in Germany, these celebrations bring several holidays



(three in total) and students and pupils get a week's holiday. Traditionally, this time is spent with the family in the countryside or you take the opportunity to go on joint vacation. And since the streets are therefore hopelessly overcrowded, many families leave in the week before the actual New Year's festival (this happens in Germany as well).

Phnom Penh is like a ghost town for a few days. Where in the evening thousands of cars and motorcycles normally block the main traffic routes, you can suddenly go for a walk in peace and quiet.



Ghostly atmosphere on Khmer New Year at Diamond Island amusement park.

But especially the barangs in the city have started to develop a taste for this. Many of them use the long weekend for holidays in the city. This is why each year more and more restaurants and markets remain open. A visit to Phnom Penh during Khmer New Year is therefore slowly becoming an insider tip.



### **Our first student as an intern at DHL Express Cambodia**

If you've been following us for the past few years, you've probably noticed that we frequently work with Deutsche Post DHL. This is due to the fact that some of our members are current or former employees of the company and that these people show extraordinary commitment when it comes to supporting us.

Over the past two years, we have established a partnership with DHL Express Cambodia, the local branch of the Deutsche Post DHL Group. During various meetings between the management of our organisations and during a tour for our students (see newsletter 07/2017), the DHL Express Cambodia team has repeatedly stated that they are always looking for talent for their various training- and youth-programmes.

We believe that our scholarship holders are ideal candidates for DHL because they have already mastered many challenges to get where they are. For this reason we are very pleased to announce that in February 2018 the first student supported by us joined the internship program of DHL Cambodia:

Ker Soviseth is currently in his second year of IT studies at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and started working as an IT support intern at DHL.



**Soviseth in his new employer's office.**



Soviseth's mission is to help anyone who has problems with their hardware or software. In order to be able to develop professionally, he receives "on the job training" from his colleagues and his supervisor.

He says: "I learned a lot of things in the company and what it feels like when to work in a big company! Being responsible, being on time and being nice as well!"

Boutros Roth a second of our scholarship holders has also recently joined DHL Express Cambodia. Soviseth had told him that DHL was looking for student help and a little later he already had his first working day.



Soviseth and Boutros during the Khmer New Year celebrations at DHL

We hope that during their time at DHL they will continue to learn and grow and that in the future many of our students will explore the diverse career opportunities that DHL offers.

### **Tom and Siglinde hand over to Jutta and Laura**

And again three months have passed like nothing. In Tom's case, it was even six months. He and Siglinde did a great job as volunteers at the school and complemented each other well. Both of them had pushed for the trip to Oudong which they organised together with their classes at the beginning of





the year. The trip was an opportunity to be able to properly say good-bye to all the children they had worked with. The kids and us are going to miss you guys.



Thank you very much for your commitment!

Coinciding with their departure, our second "Granny" Jutta and Laura moved into our volunteer rooms at the school. By now, both have already spent almost two months with us and have not only taken over the classes of Tom and Siglinde, but also keep on coming up with fresh ideas and small projects.



Welcome to Kidshelp you two!



### **Easter Workshop and movie night at the school**

Jutta and Laura have already carried out some activities with the kids during their two months with us. Besides a handicraft workshop at Easter (you can find many more pictures on our Facebook page), they also continued the movie nights at school introduced by Matthias and Phil. This time the Disney movie Moana was shown.



Snapshot of the handicraft workshop

### **New School Uniforms for our Students**

Thanks to "RTL - Wir helfen Kindern" we were able to buy new uniforms for the most needy children at our English school in January<sup>1</sup>.

Uniforms of this kind are compulsory in state schools. Since the families have to bear the costs for the purchase of the clothes themselves, the uniforms of children from poorer backgrounds are often worn out and full of holes.

When one of our supporters informed us of the opportunity to participate in RTL's annual fundraiser, we had the idea of making these children happy by providing them with new uniforms.

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<sup>1</sup> RTL - Wir helfen Kindern is the foundation of the German TV station RTL



During the Christmas season of last year we received the wonderful news that our project would be supported. In January we bought 116 new uniforms, school supplies and backpacks and distributed them to the school children. Once again a big thank you to "RTL - Wir helfen Kindern" as well as to everyone who initiated and carried out the project.



Some pictures don't need a title. Thanks to all the helpers.

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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 –