



GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Vision 2009

Our vision for the year 2009 is to open centers in all 24 provinces in Cambodia. This vision was realized from the desire to reach out to youths in rural areas because that is where most help is needed. To work towards this vision, we are pushing all trainees and students to have good English and build on their leadership and character building skills.

Our goal is so that more youths would realize the importance of education and having the necessary training to achieve a better future.

Year 2008 was a special year for us as we co-operated with the International Organisation, SOLS 24/7, to improve the quality of our education and to organize and exchange program for junior and trainee volunteers from Cambodia and East Timor. In 2008, we also had 2 graduation ceremonies to give a special send off to our graduates as they enter into the real world. Many more goals of 2008 were achieved and here is the list of achievements:



School Photo

Student Statistic

The year ended with nearly 800 students having gone through our full-time educational program. Over 700 students attended our 3-hour or 1-hour P-T English course.

Educational Program

To increase the quality of education, GDI is used an improved English Language Learning System. Using 2 revised Formula and Practice books called Formula and Logical Practice and Formula and Everyday Practice, students could learn basic English in just two months. There was more focus on practice. Every hour, only 15 minutes is spent learning the English formulas while 45 minutes is spent practicing making English sentences. With more practice time, learning has become more effective as students could gain more during their learning time.





Opportunities are necessary to develop young youth leaders. Because of that, the short period of 3 months for our trainee program has been extended to ½ a year to give more training and experiences to our future youth leaders. As a trainee, they become teachers, teaching assistants or take small departmental responsibilities such as managing the school store, assisting in the school administration and external affairs work. Outstanding trainees were sent to the province. All these experiences in doing service, going through difficulties and finding solutions to solve problems builds both important leadership and character skills which are necessary for them to go through the challenges in the real world once they graduate from GDI.



Trainees co-ordinating Saturday consultation



Province trainee, 4th from left

Volunteers

Bringing with them more knowledge and experiences, 3 International Posters; Mr Say Ranny, Mr Rouern Dan and Mr Rous Saron returned from their International postings in East Timor. East Timor was a great challenge for them as they had to run the school in a country which just came out of war. Sometimes there were gang fights and shootings outside the school. Students felt afraid and some even cried. But with great challenges, the reward is stronger determination, faith and strength to serve others. In Cambodia, they are now holding higher leadership positions in the organisation. Their allowances were also increased and 2 brand new motorbikes were bought as a gift from the organization for a good job well done.





In co-operation with International NGO, Science of Life Systems 24/7 (SOLS 24/7), 4 International Program Volunteers; Mayumi Ishii (Japan), Naoko Ebara (Japan), Makoto Ebara (Japan), Nur Hafishah (Singapore) arrived in Cambodia to join the team to assist in providing better quality education to Cambodian youths. Both husband (Makoto Ebara) and wife (Naoko Ebara) have returned to East Timor while Mayumi Ishii and Nur Hafishah are still in Cambodia.

We have also co-operated with SOLS 24/7 in an exchange program where 13 Cambodian Volunteers left for East Timor in early and late 2008. This has given them an international experience where they stayed in 3 countries; Malaysia, Indonesia and East Timor. They are now undergoing higher level training with the director of SOLS 24/7 which can promote them to become board members or take on development projects in different countries.

As part of the exchange program with SOLS 24/7 East Timor, 12 trainee volunteers from East Timor arrived in Cambodia in September 2008. From being only teachers in East Timor, they now take on more responsibilities to build their leadership and character skills. They are everyday busy with managing; students, the school's physical arrangement, classes, kitchen, administration etc. Their exchange program is for one-year. After their experience they will either return to East Timor to lead the school or they will go to other countries to be part of different projects.

5 graduates, of our 2-year comprehensive training program became volunteers in Nov 2008. All 5 were accepted based on character, English and their desire and determination to go for higher goals and happiness in life. One volunteer Srey Pov, aged 23 compared the real world with the positive environment of the school. She said that the world outside is not so easy and the school is a better place for learning and personal development. They are currently teaching and in-charge of different departments in the school.



Cambodian Volunteers



International Program Volunteers



Timorese Trainee Volunteers



Cambodian Trainee Volunteers



Events

To congratulate the completion of our 2-year Comprehensive Training Program, 2 graduation ceremonies were held in August and November. Most of our graduates have jobs in service industries, businesses, schools, and organizations due to their English and business management education. The soft skills such as believe in self, discipline, being responsible, having co-operation etc. that had been build in them during their training in GDI has enabled them to get jobs fast and some even earn high salaries of USD\$200 and above. Results show that GDI's educational system is effective in providing a better future for youths.



Province Center Updates

2 province centers; Prey Veng and Kampong Tom province have been running for more than 2 years. Set up so that GDI would be able to reach to youths in rural areas, students spent 3-6 months during their 1st semester of their 2-year comprehensive training program. 2008 ended with nearly 200 students having gone through their 1st level training in the provinces. After their 1st level training, they can then move to the 2nd level training in Pochentong, Phnom Penh.



Ending Notes

Year 2008 has been a year in which we have made several constructive improvements to the different areas of our school. We were especially privileged to work closely with SOLS 24/7 to provide more training to volunteers and enhance the educational quality of our programs. We hope to continue this strong co-operation and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the year and may year 2009 bring more blessings and happiness to everyone within and without the organization.