

NEWSLETTER

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Mr. Theam Rottanak, president of FUSAAC handed a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Bun Sambath, Alumni coordinator, during his farewell party



FUSAAC alumni and participants in Seim Reap posted a group photo after AEIF Workshop on Volunteerism

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*** FUSAAC = Fulbright and Undergraduate State Alumni Association of Cambodia, formerly known as Fulbright Alumni Association of Cambodia (FAAC), today includes alumni of all exchange programs sponsored by the US government through the US Embassy in Phnom Penh.

FUSAAC Members Team Up in “No Plastic Day” Campaign

Phnom Penh, December 04: Sovanna, Sorya and City Mall, all of which are the busiest malls in Phnom Penh, were packed with young students in white T-shirt handing flyers and reusable bags, and talking to shoppers about the danger of plastic bags and the possible ways that citizens can be part of environmental protection. The students drew a huge number of crowds to their booth of at least 3,000 in the three department stores. Visit the campaign video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eBkyU2ig1w>





Photos: Activities of FUSAAC alumni reception at US. Embassy on 15 September 2011

Message from FUSAAC Vice President

Dear Alumni,

I am very much honored to have been voted as the first Vice President of FUSAAC (pronounced fu'za-ac). You may have known that FUSAAC is a newly created alumni association, rooted from FAAC and other four major exchange programs funded by Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy. The intention is to team up all alumni to work on social, academic and community projects under one umbrella so that experiences are shared, resources are saved and project repetition can be avoided.

There has been some concern over the consolidation of the five programs. I can assure that the newly formed association will be even more active than years before. First, we have more, young active members. Second, we can expand our work to impact wider communities. Finally, our alumni network is bigger, making experience and knowledge sharing possible from the senior to younger alumni.

Let me take this opportunity to remind us all of the value and mission of our association. Senator Fulbright created the Fulbright scholarship for one main purpose. That is to help promote world peace through mutual understanding between the US and the other countries. The cross cultural understanding can be achieved through exchange programs where young, future leaders meet and dialogue over global issues and share solutions to the problems in their communities. In Cambodia, FAAC was officially recognized in 2000. We started moving rapidly until today. We have played a very important role in motivating younger Cambodians to achieve higher educational standard and taking pride of their contribution to their communities. While FUSAAC will continue the work on education development, we have also focused on many community projects such as environmental education, leadership skill training, and fund raising as well. Moving forward, the association hopes to conduct more international relations programs so that our younger alumni members will have more exposure to wider cross cultural experiences.

We are still financially dependent on the States government fund. For sustainability, I personally believe that the association will HAVE TO learn to grow and reduce the dependency. One of the main revenue streams every alumni association around the world depends on is membership fee. FUSAAC, if we have to take a bold step in self-sustaining, is no exception. I hope we will be able to work harder on membership fee administration as well as making satisfied returns for the alumni. Only with a great extent of self-sustaining can we proudly give lectures to our next generations that they, too, can be better and stronger.

Finally, we are working to brand our association as non-political and non-religious affiliated entity. Simply put, "FUSAAC is an alumni association that is working to contribute back to Cambodia and serve as positive role models for younger, better and stronger generations."

Again it is my great honor to be in the two-year service to serve the country I call home, and for the people I have known for all my life, the Cambodians. We are one family whose common ground is for the better of Cambodia. We welcome more of your participation to our association in the near future.

Sincerely,

Dary Dek

2011-2013 Vice President



Photos: Educational project activities of FUSAAC and contribution of alumni to students and universities in October- December 2011

Past Activities and Events

Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund program (AEIF)

Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) focus on Youth Leadership, Volunteerism and Environment. Activities exist in 6 provinces

Cambodia's hierarchical custom does not place youth in a position to lead and make decision but to follow, while most of the time youth themselves are not aware of their potential. Consequently, very few youth-led initiatives are created. BUT, we believe when youth takes action to lead, the result would be phenomenal. As such, it is important that youth capacity is realized and fully utilized.

When Youth Takes Action Initiative is a community-based, action/solution-oriented project that aims to EQUIP youth with knowledge, skills and hands-on experiences that will transform them to be leaders of tomorrow. Specifically, the project addresses the issues of economic prosperity and equal opportunity (the rich and the poor, male and female, etc), betterment of environment, and exercise of freedom to be actively involved in the development of the community, and outreach to marginalized communities where very few opportunities are at presence. **FUSAAC**



FUSAAC Mentoring Program



FUSAAC alumni posed for a photo with 10 selected provincial students for "Fulbright Mentoring Program" on November 04, 2011



Participants of "Fulbright Mentoring Program" conducted group discussion during Leadership Workshop

Visit of Fulbright alumni from Germany

FUSAAC welcomed the visit of Claus H. Rödiger, 2010 Treasurer, Fulbright Association in Germany to Phnom Penh in December 2011. A welcome dinner was held, ideas how to run a successful alumni association were exchanged. It should be well noticed that this is the second time we received visits from Fulbright Association in Germany after the last one in 2010. FUSAAC hopes to improve such regional and international relations with other Fulbright Associations from around the world! **FUSAAC**



Alumni of FUSAAC posed a picture with the United States Ambassador Carol A. Rodley and Mr. Chau Sa during the Alumni Reception on 15 September 2011.

Upcoming Events

2012 Major & Career Fair: 06 May 2012!

M&C fair of 2012 is coming again this 06 May 2012. This will be the second time we will run the event to provide counseling to high school students as well as undergrad students in choosing majors and jobs that fit to their talent. Last year, we had over 2,500 participating students and teachers, and 35 alumni guest speakers. Below is a thank-you note from one of the participating teachers from a province after joining the association's 2011 M&C Fair on 26 June 2011.

"It was a really wonderful chance for my students yesterday to be able to participate in the Fair. They told me they gained a lot of ideas and knowledge from the workshops as well as the meeting in the conference hall although with some sleepy time due to too early trip from the province. I was really surprised along the way back home; all of them suggested me to form them as a volunteering team! Your event yesterday truly worked for them. Thanks a million for helping sponsoring us all to be able to come to the Fair. Although we cannot be sponsored 100%, we gained so many more things than what we are sponsored. Thank you again for everything! Wonderful event!"

FUSAAC



10th Year Anniversary Celebration of FUSAAC: March 22, 2012

FUSAAC will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary on the 22nd of March, 2012 at the US Embassy Phnom Penh. Apart from all alumni, guests will include the US ambassador of Cambodia, high-ranking officers from relevant ministries, CEO's and representatives from top private enterprises in Cambodia. In addition to celebrating our achievements from the last decade, this evening event also aims to strengthen the bonds among all the alumni, raise our profile, and reignite our partnership with the public and private sectors that we have cooperated with. **FUSAAC**

FUSAAC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the association, formerly known as Fulbright Alumni Association of Cambodia, for those valuing education and development.

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