

FUSAAC First Time Cooperation with Habitat for Humanity



Mr. Leng Sovannarith, Secretary General of FUSAAC, gave opening remark

cooperation between FUSAAC and Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI).

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), a non-profit housing organization, seeks to eliminate poverty housing and has built more than 400,000 houses, reaching out to about 2 million people in around 90 countries including Cambodia. Habitat for Humanity began its work in Cambodia (HFHC) in 2002 and has assisted more than 9,000 families in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang, Kandal, Prey Veng and Takeo.

AnlorngKorng, the poorest village in Prey Sar commune, located about 20 kilometers in the South-West part of Phnom Penh city, is suffering from inadequate housing and waste pollution. "Many Homes, One Community" is a project to repair houses, perform indoor and outdoor cleaning for the community, and teach young children proper grooming. It is a first-time

Five houses, verified by chief commune as property of the poorest family were repaired and currently are in the process of renovating. Eight water purifiers were also donated from Hydro Power Enterprise for this community as well.

"I could help the villagers with the building of the house and keeping the environment clean. It was a memorable event where all the enthusiastic volunteers worked actively to help the community despite the rain," said KheanSothaboramana, a FUSAAC member.



More than expected, 450 volunteers joined the project, and they were very excited and committed to assigned tasks. "I could feel the sense of togetherness, and the sense of sharing and caring among Cambodian youths. I, along with the association's motto - Together for a better Cambodia, strongly believe that any small act of care can bring new life into our community," said LeangSovannarith, Chair of the "Many Homes, One Community" project.

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*** The Fulbright and Undergraduate State Alumni Association of Cambodia (FUSAAC) believes in a notion that, "Together for a better Cambodia".





Mental Switch



The FUSAAC mental switch program aimed at encouraging youth to question the established stereotypes and conventions in their lives. It targets urban and provincial college and high school students who have potentials in leadership, volunteerism, and cultural change. The announcement was posted on FUSAAC website and distributed to related schools in Ratanakiri, Kratie and SteungTreng, and Prey Veng in July 2012. Out of 76 candidates, 7 were selected. All selected candidates were invited to a dinner cruise where they exchanged ideas related to the new things that they tried and discussed about scholarship opportunities and their future plan. Shortly after, a meditation session followed and workshop were arranged for all candidates to learn about how to calm themselves during stressful situation. Even though the program has ended, the candidates get

to know one another and build a good network to seek assistance when they need and whom they can approach. In addition, they get a lot of encouragement to try new and beneficial things, get to know US scholarship programs, learn leadership skills, and volunteerism, all of which vital for their future.



Dinner cruise with successful candidates

NISC Outreach



FUSAAC outreached to total of 100 students at Northbridge International School of Cambodia to On October 10. We aimed to display FUSAAC's activities to the students in the hope to get their involvement

through our charity projects. On the day, we lunched an Art Show Competition for the students and asked them to write what they think they can contribute back to Cambodian society. Winners of the competition will be invited to join our upcoming charity projects to get real hand-on experience in community work.

HazanIllyasak, project chair on NISC project:

“During the booth display at NGO forum at NISC, many NGOs presented a lot of useful and different kind of social works to NISC students. I love it when they asked questions for ways to help contribute help to our society. After I told them about FUSAAC's mission and the upcoming projects, they are very interested in to join. The stickers that they wrote on what they can do to help Cambodian community mostly focuses on those who don't have good opportunities like them; they want to give them books, toys, clothes -etc. That's a kind heart. My team and I are processing a proposal to compete for the grant from NISC to run a project that can get those students involved. I hope this project happens and we can help our community.”





Social Entrepreneur Exchange

The social entrepreneur exchange program encouraged participants to observe their community problem, and explore feasible solutions. Targets of the program were university students in the provinces as well as in the city. The program, which was run from August to September, were promoted in the social media, posters at various universities as well as information sessions in Pannastra University of Cambodia, University of Puthisastra, Kom-chayMea University.

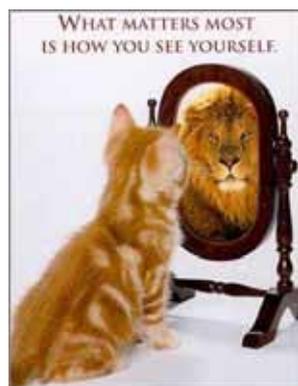
The winner is Mr Ly Kuchseyla, student from Department of International Studies (IFL) and a runner-up goes to Ms Pol Marady, student from Pannasastras University of Cambodia. Seyla wrote that students at his high school were not encouraged to question the conventional wisdom. His proposed solution is to introduce a workshop-based program to high school students to encourage them to think outside the box.

Personal Statement

by Mr. Chan Sophal, Fulbright Alumni , 2003

What is a personal statement?

As the name suggests, a personal statement is a very personal piece of writing. It is an essay that reflects your life and educational background, and your justifications for asking for a scholarship from an awarding country. Try to write an impactful essay. This means drafting and re-drafting it. How long should that essay be? I would recommend a one-and-a-half-page essay, consisting of five to six coherent paragraphs. I would also suggest that one paragraph should focus on your life backgrounds (including childhood and some information about own family). Second paragraph should be about educational background; third paragraph shall cover personal-development rationale; fourth could cover contributions-to-workplace rationale and the last paragraph shall be on potential contributions-to-the-society-and-the-wider-world rationale.



Why is it important for the scholarship application?

Personal statement is vital because it offers a summary of your own life and your dream for personal growth, your planned contributions to your workplace, and more importantly your potential impacts on your country and the wider world at large. There is a danger to write a personal statement that offers only “vague plans” for the future. Be precise and be truthful when you prepare one for a scholarship committee. Also remember that what you have written will be raised during the interview, if you are short-listed. Just be able to forcefully defend what you have written.



Both the winner and runner-up were invited for a gathering with alumni and Mental Switch's winners to share their insights

and experience in the two FUSAAC program. They also attended another FUSAAC-run program that featured presentation “People who make a difference” delivered by alumnus CheaKagnarith, a meditation session and finally a celebration lunch at Small World.

The winner Mr Ly KuchSela was sponsored for a 3 day exchange trip to Singapore where he learnt about the development and society of this small but advanced society.

“I have learned how to use words to convince readers/ listeners. Moreover, I have embraced the idea of being different, being the odd one out among the group, the society, the country, and the world. I hope my idea to change the world will inspire me to be success like Bill Gates or Steve Jobs.” Ly Kuchseyla, winner of Social Entrepreneur Exchange Program.

“The partnership with FUSAAC during the World Habitat Day activity here in Phnom Penh was a success. We aim to work very closely with FUSAAC in identifying volunteer-engagement activities to better serve and connect with low-income families. This is one excellent way of encouraging the youth to be more socially active,” said Bells Regino-Borja, Resource Development and Communications Manager for Habitat for Humanity Cambodia.

Ms. Bells Regiono-Borja added that, “There is a growing interest from the youth in Cambodia to serve families in need. The skills and developmental assets gained by young people who volunteer early in life translate to future benefits for them personally, and for society. Youth volunteers reap benefits personally, and their community reaps benefits now and in the future.”

What's next on FUSAAC Newsletter?

- Recap of FUSAAC's work over the year
- Winner of NISC Outreach Project
- Make your personal statement shine!
- FUSAAC charity & retreat and more!

Upcoming Projects

Charity & Retreat

By Soleak, Sovan, Dany, and Sopheary
Time: December 8,9,10, 2012

Radio Show - Season2

By SokIm (Advisor Chhorporn)
Timeline: Jan/Feb, 2013

Mock TOEFL and Provincial Lecture Series

By ChauSamphas and Chan Sophal
Timeline: Jan – June 2013

M & C Fair

By SenSiden and SophaRatana
Timeline: February – March, 2013



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