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... there are few areas of the world where one witnesses so brilliantly the transformation from little ragamuffins into schoolchildren ... for a better, more fruitful life ... (Mr James Morris, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme, after his visit to PSE),



Editorial

Ghislaine Dufour,
President

On 18th October, PSE received the IDEAS certification, which recognises the quality of governance, financial management and follow-up of the efficiency of the action for charities and foundations. Obtaining the certification required us to meet demanding standards which involved, for over a year, the active participation, beside our General Secretary, of our teams, both in our headquarters and in Cambodia.

This approach of certification which is based on many years of rigorous performance, is a long-term measure, requiring constant monitoring toward the continuous improvement of our practices.

We are committed to it, towards you, our sponsors and donors, without whom nothing would be possible. You will find a presentation of our strategic plan for the next 5 years attached to this newsletter. Faithful to the vision of the founders, we wish to amplify our activities in the big cities of Cambodia where the poorest flow, while taking care to focus on the most vulnerable and to reinforce the quality of our programmes and of our governance. We care about retaining both our local teams through continuous training and our network of volunteers who, thanks to you, constantly expands and ensures that 90% of the funds raised by the association go directly to the social programmes.

On the occasion of the Christmas season, why not come together, as a family, to make our children and grandchildren aware of the value of sharing with those who do not yet have access to school? Why not put a sponsorship in the stocking, as a gift?

Thank you for your loyalty!

Start of school year 2018

On 3rd September, at 6:30 in the morning, the teachers of the Remedial School in a guard of honour along the aisle, welcomed for the new school year, their students who arrived, passing through the gate decorated with balloons and a large welcome banner. After breakfast and a shower, it was time for the flag honour and for the introductory speeches for the year during which I launched into wishing the children a beautiful school year ... in Khmer!

On the 6th, it was the turn of the students enrolled in Vocational Training and preparatory classes to resume their studies. And on the 17th, it was the return of the Support Classes, ahead of the start of classes in State schools that do not resume until November.



What a joy to start a new school year, since it is our goal, to offer the children schooling and vocational training so that they can find gainful employment that integrates them into society and allows them to lead dignified lives and to help their families!

Changes in the management at Phnom-Penh

Managing Director, Borithy Lun, left us for health reasons. And, in the meantime, we have again welcomed, on an interim basis, someone you already know, our friend Betty Bardon, a member of the Board of Directors for 15 years, who has already acted in this position for 15 months and therefore knows perfectly all the workings of PSE. Moreover, as PSE has grown, to lighten management load, we created a new position of Deputy Managing Director, into which we recruited Christine Gaulier who has worked in Asia and some Mediterranean countries for 18 years. She has very good experience of working abroad and an excellent career path. She arrived 3 months ago and has already created a consensus around her. A new HRD has also recently joined us, Yong Hoeung, with good expertise. Thierry Riga, working alongside Makara Men, at the head of the PSE Institute of Vocational Training, took over from Fabien Dutasta, whom we thank for the beautiful 3 years he spent with us, and Sopharith Kong who took over the direction of the sewing workshop that Alice had remarkably developed. We welcome them to PSE for the good of the children. They come to join our "pillars": Leakhena, at the Social Department, Daravy, our financial manager, Kosal at Administration, Rithy at General Education, Sarath at Health, etc.

*A beautiful cohesive team,
and strong because they are
cohesive.*



Know your children



Sl. and Sn., 2 little girls aged 9 and 4, and N., an 8-year-old boy. The father, who is often violent, is a tuk-tuk driver, a highly irregular job, and because he is also a drug addict, he does not bring much home. The mother, pregnant with the 4th, works at the factory and also takes drugs. They rent a small room, there is not enough money to feed themselves and, of course, the children don't go to school. It's a new family that the Social Team has just discovered in the neighbourhood. The programme is simple: remedial schooling at the Centre for Sl. and N., day-care for Sn, who otherwise would be alone at home (aged 4 ...) now that her elder siblings are going to school. And, of course, 10 kg. of rice a week.

PSE's mission is far from over ...

What has become of them?

Ou Srey Mom, 29, and her sister, Ou Srey Heang, 26. Some of you know Srey Heang, who came to dance on our 2010 tour. When they were small, they lived in an extremely poor community. But the mother, crushed by debt, regularly disappeared, leaving her 2 daughters alone with the step-father, a highly dangerous situation ... As soon as we discovered this, both of them became boarders. After school, Srey Heang passed the BTS in Human Resources of our School of Business. Engaged, she will get married next year and works at the Sales Department of a company. As for Srey Mom, married and mother of a 1-year-old girl, having trained in Accounting / Administration in our School of Business too, she has stayed there and today works as coordinator organising student's internships.



Two paths without incident but that, without PSE's and your help, could have ended very badly ...

We are very proud of them!



* **Two students from our Business School** (SoB), holders of a Bachelor, have been admitted to Masters programmes at the Faculty of Economics. **You Kimthong** (left), graduated with average grades of 75.29, starts a Master in Entrepreneurship and Project Management and **Chhin Sornyoearng** (right) with average grades of 72.23, will be pursuing a Master in Risk Management in Insurance.

We have just created this option to pursue further studies for those leaving PSEI with high GPAs and exemplary behaviour



* **Deux étudiants de notre École de Cinéma** (SoM),

Sophan Naanmorn



and

Srey Eam,

1st-year students, who start studying photography before going on to study film making, have just won a photography competition that was aimed at both amateurs and professionals.

Congratulations to these new students!

The theme of their competition was:

Green Travel, Local Travel.



Papy, who created this school, seems to still be following it closely!

Some practical messages

* The deduction at source is being implemented from January 2019. But that will not change anything for your donations to PSE! You keep your tax benefits and can, without concern, continue to support us!

* For sponsors wishing to receive their tax receipt for the year by email, please let the secretariat know! It's good for the planet and it saves money for PSE! The tax receipt will be sent to you in mid-March 2019.

* If you or one of your relatives is subjected to the wealth tax on property, we have solutions to offer.

Do not hesitate to contact us on +33 (0)1 30 24 20 20!

PSE-I, a solution for young people from the countryside



This year we welcomed many young people from the countryside to the PSE Institute for Vocational Training (PSE-I). They come from very poor families and have so far been able to go to school on and off up to a certain level, but the resources of their families do not allow them to go further. Depending on their academic achievement, many may join at different levels of our Preparatory Classes or enter directly into the PSE-I Schools. A number of these young people even manage to graduate from secondary school but because their families lack financial resources cannot go further and would have to go back to the paddy fields if there were not our post-secondary school training programmes. Some have family in Phnom Penh, who can house them, but others have no one. That is why our boarding school in Phnom Penh is currently full to its maximum capacity and houses nearly 500 youngsters.

It brings me great satisfaction to welcome youngsters, whether they graduated from secondary school or not, who have great abilities and who will not see their dream cut short simply because their families can't support them higher.

Our Boarders

Nearly 500 boarders and residents, at the beginning of the school year. Boarders and residents, these words look like synonyms. But in PSE terminology, they do not cover the same reality, even if all are hosted at the Centre.

The boarders, since the beginning, are children at risk in their families. Initially, we had only girls because we were not equipped to host boys as well. At that time, when boys were in danger, we entrusted them to foster families. But today they have their own boarding house.

The residents are those who are at least 16 years old and deemed able to enjoy more autonomy but who need to live on the premises in order to complete their education, because their family lives far away. They have more freedom than boarders, that is why the level of maturity is the essential condition for moving from the boarding house to the resident's hall.



They are my life companions!

The best school for the poorest of the poor



Chetra, who cannot use either his arms nor his legs, had reached the end of the 8th grade. But as he cannot write fast enough, he finished the year slightly below average, which might prevent him from going further in General Education. However, we thought he had the intellectual capacity to continue. So, with the help of Robraw, our pedagogical manager, Sophea, the director of the disability programme, Thierry and Makara, head of the PSE Institute, Rithy, our director of General Education, Jennifer, a volunteer osteopath, Ghislaine, our President, who is an educational psychologist, etc ... we put in place an entire organization to help him get to 9th grade: a computer equipped with the necessary software and a joystick to replace the

mouse, meetings with his teachers, not used to disabilities, to explain them how to manage this special student, contacts the Ministry to make sure that Chetra could pass the national exams with special conditions actually well planned by the Exam Board, etc ... And we made it, he has started his new school year!

Marie-Lysa, was abandoned as a baby on the bench of the Social Team and, with a spina bifida, would not have made it without an immediate major surgery. She has now made enough progress to be able to go to school. She has just entered 1st grade, over-the-moon to be able to study like the other children. She was even able to ditch her wheelchair that her classmates were still pushing laughingly a month ago and, with the help of some still necessary apparatus, she walks to her classroom on her own.



When I see those 2 children amid all others, I am delighted that we are right here at the heart of PSE's mission.

Special thoughts

* **For Papy**, who passed away on 24th September 2016. Two years already! Still, he remains very present in the hearts of the former students whose lives he changed and who consider him a 2nd father. Again, this year, many of them gathered for ceremonies, a little sad, of course, but also quite beautiful, touching and comforting thanks to this very palpable communion of PSE children gathered around their Papy. In France too, a ceremony was held at the Champs-sur-Marne pagoda

* **For Claire**, a young volunteer married last July who, with her husband Benoit, wanted to start their life together by volunteering. This bright couple had come, for 10 months at the Foyer Source of Life, to work with our children with significant disabilities. Unfortunately, the complications of an extremely rare form of Dengue fever proved stronger than Claire and brutally took her from us, at too young an age... *The big PSE family is not protected from hardship, even the most incomprehensible ...*



Non-nominative sponsorships



At PSE, we decided on this policy for several reasons. We did not want that some children have extremely generous and attentive sponsors and others more forgetful ones or who simply have more modest finances. These children have been through enough suffering, not to be exposed again, at the Centre, to inequalities that would hurt them again.

Furthermore, communication between a sponsor and a child that does not speak the same language is not easy. It would require the work of translators, which means significant additional management and important costs, which we did not want to put in place. Moreover, a child who knows his sponsor will he not become a little "beggar" on his birthday or a celebration? Perhaps he will consider his future to be in a country he imagines to be a land of plenty, with a sponsor whom he considers a wealthy uncle in America? We raise our children to help develop their country, not to be drawn somewhere else. At the start, and after much insistence, we tried 2 or 3 nominative sponsors with the promise to only send their sponsorship and a few letters. Yes, yes, that was OK. The following year however, one of these sponsors gave us an envelope to give to his "child". In fact, there was money in the envelope ... We made it clear then that we would not give the child this money not commensurate with the little pocket money the boarders received ... We also didn't grant the request to organise a small party "on behalf of" his child, what would have artificially put him forward, with a treatment different from the others. We cancelled this nominative sponsorship and the two others as well.

Actually, when you come to meet them, all the children are yours, all of them would come and speak a little French or English to you. Finally, you sponsor all of them and his way avoids many injustices and frustrations.

And in case a sponsor withdraws, or a child drops out of school, it allows more flexibility of action. As for news, the quarterly newsletter provides them.

This is our choice. It is neither better nor worse than any other. But it's ours.

We are a group of friends aged 74 to 95. Every Sunday we get together to play scrabble.

This activity isn't just a distraction.

Every participant pays 1.50 euros, which allows us to pay for one PSE sponsorship.

The participants
Pau, 11/10/2018



We are looking for: In France, 1 volunteer audit consultant.
In Cambodia, 1 volunteer teacher experienced in painting

When you receive this newsletter, it will be December. So, we wish all of you a
wonderful Christmas and festive season.



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