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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 FCS)



20 years !

J.-M. Bouchard
President

"Bravo and thanks to all of you!" This was the title of the first edition of your newsletter in March 1996. Christian and Marie-France, who were to become "Papy and Mamie" had come back from the first "tour". They had driven all over France in their "Nain-Bus" (the first one): 16 towns ... 48 sponsors. They told us in the newsletter: "By now we have been getting on well with the necessary administrative steps, have found a big house in a deprived area to set up the counselling centre and the classes, we have bought a second hand vehicle, and hired the Cambodian supervisory team. While waiting for the final operating permits, the team is preparing tirelessly to receive the children." Shortly afterwards, PSE welcomed ten children to this rented house. PSE's activities in Cambodia were launched!

In March 2016, thanks to more than 8,000 sponsors, we welcome more than 6,500 children on to our different programmes. More than 4,000 young people have entered working life and gone from "from destitution ... to a vocation". The lives of more than 10,000 children have been transformed!

"Bravo and thanks to all of you!" This title is still topical, since, without you, nothing would have

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What has become of them? For all these children, it's a success story. Thanks to you, they have definitively escaped from destitution. What a joy! Here are a few examples picked from so many...

Sok Vannath.

In 2015 the subsidiary of Porsche in Phnom Penh employed three junior technicians who graduated from our School of Mechanics.

Among them, Sok Vannath is the very first technician in Cambodia to have achieved the Bronze certificate level

in Porsche's global certification programme! The other two are likely to achieve this level during the course of the year; Vannath, now in his stride, is aiming for the Silver level.

Good luck to all three of them as they rise to the challenge due in a large part



to their hard work and motivation!

PSE on the Mekong



30-year-old **Va La** comes from an early generation of

our former students, since he graduated in 2006. Coming from the countryside with his family at the age of 12, he was a scavenger and was sleeping in the street until he was looked after by PSE in 1998. His family commuted from Phnom Penh to the countryside in order to work in the fields during the rainy season. Having obtained his diploma, he started to work as a waiter, then as a super-

visor and manager. Next he changed job to become a barman and English speaking guide on a boat which takes tourists on cruises to discover the Mekong between Phnom Penh and Saigon. Now married and father to two little girls, he is about to become the Director of the cruise ship. This news came via friends who met him on his boat. You can imagine how much we are moved to hear this kind of story!

Srey Mey, another former student, aged 29, also works on a boat as the supervisor. She recently got married, on 10th April. Her family has been looked after for a long time, with such problems that she and her two sisters have been boarders.

Srey Thach is a teacher and is in charge of the students at our School of Hairdressing and **Srey Phal**, who has just graduated from l'Université de Lettres Françaises, has been hired by the Ministry of Tourism.



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been possible.

The 2016 tour ended a few weeks ago. The adventure has never stopped, and we know we can rely on you for it to continue. While pursuing the indispensable work in the field, we are going to take a moment to celebrate this anniversary. The branches are preparing; we will talk about this again in the next edition!

And as the timing has worked well, "Les Pépites", a film by Xavier de Lauzanne on the path of our founders and the PSE adventure – is coming out in cinemas on 5th October.

What a lovely present for our 20th birthday! It will be the chance for you to see some previously unseen pictures and to introduce PSE to others via a magnificent film. Happy PSE birthday ...to us all!

Chamroeun, a nephew aged 16, and four boys aged 12, 11, 8 and 6, **Davith**, **Davuth**, **Daval**, **Sathie**, as well as a girl aged 9, **Sreivorn**. Another family who are not able to feed themselves and have got into debt simply to survive. The father is ill and cannot work and the mother sells meatballs in front of the house. We send the children to school and provide, of course, the indispensable rice.

What has become of them? Other friends, on a cruise, have sent us a photo of four of our former students of whom three are chefs and the fourth is a waiter.



Fabulous!

On February 12th, a splendid Gala Concert was given in the Salle Gaveau in Paris to celebrate the 20th anniversary of PSE, entirely organised and funded by our friends Agnès and Bruno, who spent a year and many sleepless nights to ensure they would fill the hall and persuade the sponsors. 7-minute film "Discover PSE" was shown onto a 6 x 6 m screen and was applauded for a long time by the audience. 2/3 of the thousand people didn't know PSE. A drinks reception followed and provided an opportunity for a lot of conversations with the PSE team, identified by their badges. It was very friendly. Beyond the musical success and the success for PSE's communication, it was also an outstanding financial success!

Know your children

May, 18, **Rann**, 14 and **Sreimao**, 13, live with their sister **Nak** and their brother-in-law **Sophat**, who are both scavengers on the new rubbish dump. Their parents and several others of the 11 children in the family had to return to the province of Prey Veng as they could not pay the rent for the land where they had their little hut nor could they pay for food or healthcare. Two of the youngest children have stayed with **Nak**, **Sophat** and their own children, but **Sophat** drinks and with an irregular income they are not managing to survive. That's why we have



offered to take **Rann** and **Sreimao** as boarders and to enrol them in our Remedial Centre. As for **May**, he is studying here for a Bac Pro.



The mother is a widow with 2 children: her son **Mom**, 16, and his sister **Kanha**, 11. Without a home they live with relatives in an ill repute and unsanitary neighbourhood. The mother does not earn enough, especially as she got into debt taking care of the grandmother. Currently, she has no more income and has applied to train as a cook with us in order to find a proper job. During her training she will have



a small daily allowance and, of course, PSE will provide rice and send the children to school.

Medals for PSE !

We have been very touched and honoured that PSE received two medals, during the last tour. In front of packed rooms, **Dany**, who has come to present her incredible story, received on the behalf of all of us, the medal of the town of Bordeaux, which is one of our important partners; and **Pich**, our director, the medal of the town of Meudon, which has been our base in France for 30 years, which has helped us also greatly and where we still have many friends.

These medals come down to all those who work for the children, in recognition of the work carried out to save them from destitution and change their lives.

Real fireworks!

We have already told you about the wonderful film our friend and director Xavier Lauzanne has made about PSE. It is called "Les Pépites" (*The Nuggets*) and will be released in cinemas on October 5th. The feedback from the first private screening are enthusiastic.

At the same time as the movie, another old friend, Thomas Goisque, photographer and reporter, is to publish a 10-page article on PSE in a major national magazine.

But that is not all. A beautiful photograph album, also called "Les Pépites" (here is the cover page) will be published at the same time by Albin Michel.

It tells the story of the first 20 years of PSE and will allow you to experience, through texts and nearly 200 gorgeous photos, the children's lives, their suffering, their hopes, their successes, since the start on the garbage dump right up to today. It is a book to keep in your living room or offer to your friends, with pictures you would have like to take yourselves.

Since now on, you can reserve one or more copies of the book, using the form on the last page of this newsletter. You will be informed, later on, about subscription and payment.



Bloco Malagasy

A friend from the early days of PSE, who had cried in front of the garbage dump, was inspired by what we were doing and went on to create a similar association (again a "small child of PSE") in South Madagascar, to support and educate disadvantaged girls there. They also learn to play percussions. Each year some of them do a tour to give demonstrations, and never fail to visit PSE.

What pleasure, these youngsters with bright smiles and full of cheerfulness, dancing at furious rhythms, beating their big drums fastened around their hips. We were all overwhelmed by the quality and professionalism of their show which passes on their incredible enthusiasm and their joie-de-vivre.



What luck!

Our small School of Cinema, the first in Cambodia, now has a prestigious partner.

Piseth and Lita, 2nd year students in our School of Media, are not only talented but also very hard working. Coming both from extremely poor families, they were parachuted in a world completely unknown to them: 5 weeks on internship at the famous École Nationale Supérieure Louis Lumière in Saint Denis, near Paris.



Thanks to one of the teachers from this school, who volunteered here to teach lighting, we are lucky to have been able to sign a partnership agreement with Louis Lumière and will host, in exchange, French students who will come here in December.

What a wonderful opportunity for our students and for our school! A huge thank you to all those who have helped establish this partnership.

A nice opportunity to help PSE

Something that is not widely known: since 2009, PSE has been able to benefit from donations under ISF, thanks to the support of the Amanjaya Foundation. Taxes are never pleasurable ... but if they can help contribute to our programmes, then you make thousands happy! If you or any of your relatives are impacted, please contact Élisabeth who will be happy to explain the process to be followed. But the deadline is approaching: depending on the legacy, Amanjaya must receive donations by June 11th! Thanks for your support!

Élisabeth de l'Épervier : 01 39 67 17 25 or secretariat@pse.org

The accounts for fiscal year 2014-2015

The accounts for the Fiscal year 2014-2015 (year-end August 31st August 2015) have been approved by the AGM on March 19th 2016.

The year was marked by the rapid decline of the € against US\$ (16% down on average) which weighed heavily on our costs.

Most of our income is from the Eurozone, while over 90% of our expenditure is in Cambodia in US Dollars. Therefore, the appreciation of the \$ has inflated our costs in €. However, this effect has been partially mitigated through the use of currency hedges put in place during previous years.

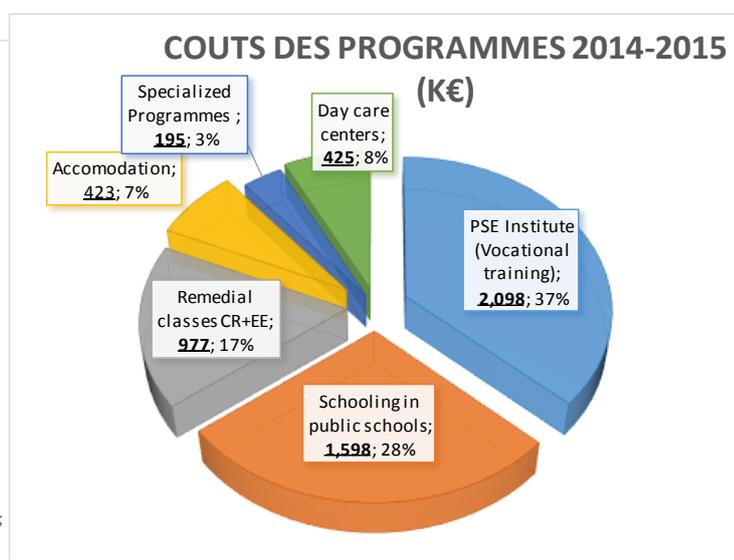
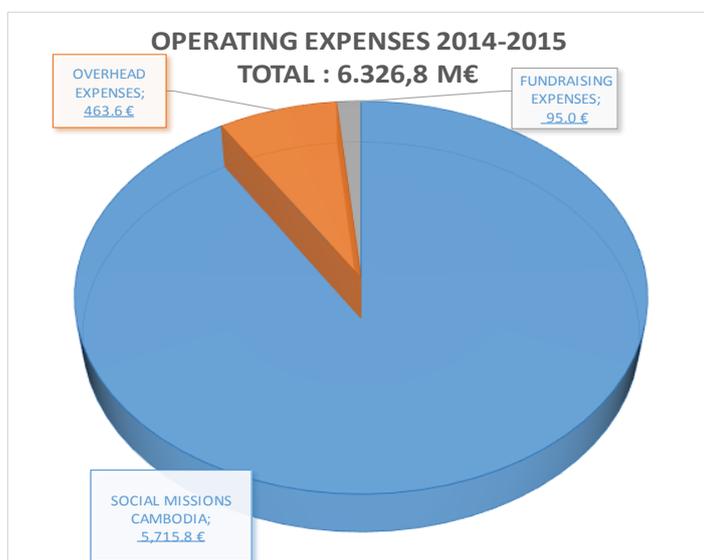
The operating resources, (excluding financial and foreign exchange gains) amounted to K€6,941 in 2014-2015, increased 4% compared with the previous year.

Regular sponsorships, that ensure the long-term caring of the children over time decreased 2% to K€4,112.

Financing of social missions in Cambodia, financed as a priority by sponsorships and programme funding had to be supplemented by non-allocated donations.

Investments, in particular the construction of the building for the School of Business amounted to K€706.

The cost of the social missions (K€5,716) increased by 9%, which remains however far below the \$/€ exchange rate (+16%). A slight decrease in the number of children looked after over the year (-271) and savings in operational costs in Phnom Penh (-\$290K) have allowed reducing the impact of the highly unfavourable exchange rate.



A dynamic branch.

Over the past few years, forty people from Hong Kong, both families and youngsters, come to spend a week with us over Chinese New Year.

They have a full agenda, minutely planned, helping in the Pailotes, French and English lessons, at the Business School, in sports and with the small children, etc ...

"To be part of the trip, it is mandatory to sponsor a child, as it is the only way to enable a child to escape destitution, in the long run".

That is the prerequisite set by our friends Claire and Mathieu Jacolin, outstanding organizers.

Charlie's project for February 2017

"I am particularly touched by the cause of poor children; I am also aware of their situation in Cambodia.

In fact, last year, I did my internship, in this country, in an advertising agency. In the mornings and evenings, when I was in the car, stuck in traffic jams, I remember having seen very young, poorly dressed, barefoot children with desperate faces coming to beg at car windows.

This touched and disturbed me a lot. This year, I did my TPE project on the exploitation of children in Asia.

This made me want to act, to change things ... to understand how PSE works in the long term to have children definitively escape destitution and to offer them a future".

To be aware.

According to the €/ \$ exchange rate, the average cost of caring for a child in our programmes is closer to €60 than to €47...

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