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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

Although the school year is ending in Europe, at PSE the holidays only start at the end of July; but our teams are already busy preparing for the new academic year in September. The PSE Remedial Centre was at full capacity this year, and we needed to make room to accommodate an additional 1,000 children from State schools, who attended the part-time tutoring programme. The year 2018-2019 will see both the construction of new classrooms and the renovation of the White Lotus, the training restaurant of the Hotel School. The Lotus is turning 20, too!

In April, a team of young people from the organisation "Apprentis d'Auteuil", who are students at the Château des Vaux, accompanied by their teachers, came to lead renovation projects of a dormitory and a "paillote" - our nursery school huts - hand in hand with students from our construction school. The start of a beautiful partnership!

The 2018 tour, 2<sup>nd</sup> March - 16<sup>th</sup> May, encompassed 37 evenings, nearly 10,000 km, and many new sponsorships. Marie-France, accompanied by Sary, a former student who is now a professor at the School of Media, could convince, once again, of the urgency to lift more children out of destitution and stay with them until they get a skilled job. Together, we will get there. Thank you!

## Review of the Tour

Nearly 10,000 kilometres and 37 presentations later, our materials returned back to storage. I would like to thank all those who worked to make this tour a great success:

**\* My two sisters, Marie-Christine and Maryvonne** who, in turn, were in it for the long haul. (Can you believe that within one week in April, we travelled every other day, once 600, another day nearly 400, then 500 kms twice more! Perhaps it was a little too much ...)

**\* All the friends who opened their homes to us.** You helped lighten the fatigue of this marathon. You made yourselves available, so incredibly hospitable and friendly. You spoiled us with such treatment!

**\* All of you, the organisers and your teams,** for the wonderful work you did ahead to prepare for this 22<sup>nd</sup> tour. I know the magnitude of work this represents, to find a free room, to mobilize friends and acquaintances, to inform the local media, to ensure all is organized and goes to plan for the event ... I also know your anguish on the D day, when the time approaches, and you start wondering "are they going to come? ..." And then, I felt bad to make you experience all these worries ...



You made the halls to be beautiful, warm, friendly. They supported me and helped me to talk about our children, although I was not talented at this, and willingly hid behind Christian, always leaving him speaking ...

**\* All of you who came** to listen to us and **the new sponsors** who joined the PSE family.

I have now returned to Phnom-Penh, happy to meet up again with our children and our boarders who were there at the airport with roses in their hands. Happy, also, to know that many other children will be able to join them.

It was a joy to meet again with many friends, even if it was always too briefly ..., a joy to discover new friends and to see how our PSE family is growing, a strong emotion to find so much generosity and enthusiasm, with the desire to embark on a 23<sup>rd</sup> tour in 2019, but a little shorter! I am already awaiting your proposals and suggestions.



## Sary's tour

I would like to congratulate Sary, who had the courage to beautifully tell his story every night in a language other than his mother tongue!



He worked on his French daily, constantly noting new words or idioms, and made enormous progress. He learned to open oysters, discovered the Mont St Michel, snow and cold, cheese and wine, the Alps, the Cité de l'Espace in Toulouse, highways, the Rummikub ...

He was deeply moved by the hard work our friends are undertaking for PSE's children, most of whom they have never even met, by all the events they organize year-round, by the way we were welcomed everywhere we went. Experiencing such motivation and kindness helped him offer his testimony to thank and to convince new people that it is worthwhile to help PSE in its

efforts to continue raising children out of destitution.

He was also invaluable

in setting up the projection in the halls as well as for

the daily lugging and transportations of the material, the luggage and all the stuff that kept spilling out from the trunk onto the rear seat of the car.

And to end on a joke - Sary has a good sense of humour - when we were returning to Paris, here's how he summed up this tour: "Marie-Christine is: *always pretty*, Maryvonne is: *Sary, let's go for a walk!* Mamie is: *Where is my computer? ...*"

Thank you, Sary. You were a great tour companion, and you frequently made me cry when it moved you so much to say Papy's name ...



A team of 11 young people from [Apprentis d'Auteuil](#), came for ten days with their mentors to work with 11 students from our Construction School. They renovated one of the former student houses turning it into a study hall for our boy boarders, next to the houses where they sleep. A beautiful experience. And it is only the start of a partnership since our values and our actions are so well aligned.

## Youth exchanges

14 young French from the [CFA Saint-Herblain and St Bevin](#), in vocational training for a Professional Certificate (8 in masonry

and 6 in plumbing) came for 12 days, accompanied by an executive assistant from Nantes CFA and 1 teacher for each skill. Their goal was to renovate the masonry and plumbing



facilities of 3 of our old student houses. The exchange was very fruitful for all the young people, PSE students as well as the French ones, of whom some have already committed themselves to helping with the activities of the [PSE Loire Océan](#) branch.



## Know your children

A family of 6 children. They have an only room, in a narrow lane with bad frequentations. The father, a construction worker, has low and intermittent pay. The mother stays at home to care for the 3 youngest (7, 5 and 4 years old). The oldest lives at her aunt's house. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> are schooled by PSE in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. They live on 50 cents a day per person! Sometimes, there is nothing to eat, and neighbours lend a hand. In such a situation, it is not surprising that disputes between parents are frequent and that school isn't the top of priority. So, in addition to the schooling that PSE already supports, we donate rice (more than the usual amount) and educate the 3 youngest: a 7-year-old girl in Primary school with extracurricular time, in one of the *paillotes*, during her half-day without school and, in the same *paillote*, pre-school for the 2 youngest of 4 and 5. It's possible this will allow the mother to find a job although ... without any qualification, it isn't certain she will succeed. Perhaps our Adult Education programme (FLIP) might help her if she really wants and is motivated.

This is yet another family that could not catch up the development without a boost from us.



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## What has become of them ?



**Loeung Sambo** is 29 years old. He is the eldest in a family of scavengers who worked at the dumpsite and in the streets of Phnom-Penh. PSE met them in 2001. Sambo was 12 years old then and he remembers how happy he was to join PSE. He had dreamed so much of having enough to eat, being able to study and play and to finally be able to smile ... After the remedial programme and his vocational training, 10 years later, he graduated from our School of Hospitality, specialising in Front Office. He now works as a guide on a boat, for the company "4 Floating", based in Koh Kong and earns \$350 per month. And, in addition, he is creating a resort there, with 4 bungalows and 10 tents. His wife, Bao Khmuchi, also a PSE alumna who graduated in 2012 from the Food and Beverage Management training, is now head of Service at *Tatai Marina* with \$350 a month. They are parents with two little girls, of 2 1/2 years and 1 month.

The siblings have done well too: Nimol, head of Service at the Raffles Hotel, married to a former student from Don Bosco, earns \$1,200 a month. And Thim, an electrical engineer from the Cambodia School of Technology, works at EDC and earns \$500 a month.

What continual happiness, to see all these young people once without hope for the future, now married, parents, with good jobs and even starting their own businesses! No, we are not wasting our time ...

Only Ratanak, 17, with a mental problem, is in our adapted teaching class which, despite his disability, gives him opportunities he would not have had otherwise.

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## Supplementary classes

This programme has become one of our priorities. Indeed, for 20 years, we have educated scavengers and it was "relatively" simple. But today, young people are increasingly confronted with drugs and prostitution, with the result that more of them drop-out of school because of a need to earn money, especially when the school does not offer adequate help. After having started a 2-month pilot project last September and October, for Khmer and maths, the school support programme started in November: 20 Primary classes and 12 Secondary classes for the children whom we send to State schools because they are not behind in their studies. Elementary students take courses in Khmer and maths, while physics, chemistry and biology are added for students in Secondary level. At the end of March, they were more than 1,000 coming here every day, some in the morning, others in the afternoon. Results have been conclusive: in November 75% of Primary students passed the exam and in March, at the end of the first semester, it rose to 83%; for Secondary level, the average went from 32% in November, to 53.25% in March. In view of these early results, it is more than obvious that this programme must continue, and even expand.

One example among others: Liza, 12, is a PSE student, in 6<sup>th</sup> level at a State school. But she was sad to get a grade average of only 4.5 out of 10. Since November, in addition to part-time school, she comes to the Centre, the rest of the day for tutoring classes and everything has changed for her. Her grades improved considerably and growing up to 7.5! Her support teacher refers to her as a good student who applies herself and always does her homework. She shows interest and asks questions as soon as something does not seem clear to her; she is even considered a model for others. And the sad little girl now tells us with a big smile that she hopes finally to realize her dream of becoming a doctor ...



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## In France

### The young people of Stan - St Raphaël

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, the young people of Stanislas - St Raphaël College have run for the PSE children with exceptional results. This year, the race had been scheduled on the day the Tour came to St Raphaël and would take place in the city that evening. Many teachers as well as the school's director were able to run also, thanks to the parents who served as controllers and supervised the run. With Sary, we had the chance to participate and be there at the arrival. 1,000 children from the levels 4 and 5, as well as college and high school students, gathered under the Meridional sun, all dressed in white t-shirts, drenched with perspiration, and bearing the PSE logo. A moving moment!



## Adélie



I am 9 years old and I am in level 5. After visiting PSE Centre, I wanted to help the children. I organised a booth selling cookies and glasses with strawberry jam and chocolate, at my school fête, with two friends (Louison and Eden). My goal was to raise money for PSE. And, in my class, I did a presentation, with Mum, about Cambodia and we watched part of the movie "Little Gems". Thank you for what you do for all these children.

## Félicia



Impressive to see the absolute commitment of a young teenager of 16 years, Félicia! Following a tour session, she decided to sponsor up to 18 € per month, all of her pocket money ...

## Accounts for 2016-2017 financial year

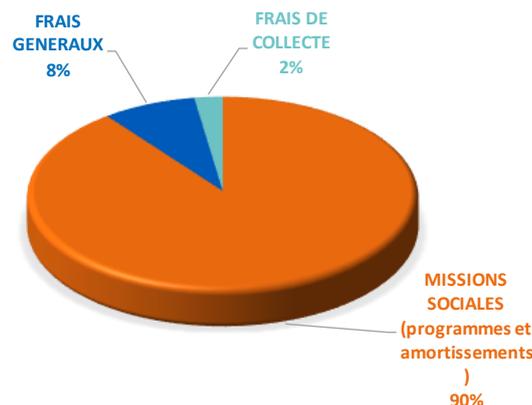
This reporting period will have been marked by unique and exceptional events in the life of the association, both in terms of revenues and expenses. We must therefore consider the results below as a one-off because they are related to the very particular context of this year.

We lived through the mourning of Christian, who died on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016. And then, that same year, the film "Little Gems" came out, giving PSE increased media visibility never achieved before. As a result, operating resources, excluding financial income and foreign exchange gains, reached M€ 8.6 in 2016-2017, up 17% compared to the previous year.

In Cambodia, the gradual change, during the year, of the management team, the phasing out of a second start of year to the schools of the Vocational Training Institute and the cautious approach because of the Euro's continued weakness against the dollar at the beginning of the year, had the effect of reducing the number of children in the programmes and reducing the cost of social missions (-12%). But as of this year 2017-18, the number of children is again around 6,500, the same as the level of year 2015-16.

Overheads and fundraising costs represent 8% and 2% of operating expenses. Overheads were impacted by non-recurring communication expenses to support the release of the film *Little Gems*, which contributed significantly to the association's revenue.

RÉPARTITION DES DÉPENSES 2016-17



RÉPARTITION DES DÉPENSES PAR PROGRAMME AU CAMBODGE 2016-17



**Children sing for PSE.** Dans le cadre de la journée mondiale des Droits de l'Enfant, nos antennes de soutien se mobilisent. Des concerts de chorales d'écoles - intitulés "Sourires en Chœurs" - sont en préparation !

Si vous connaissez une chorale d'école, n'hésitez pas à en parler à l'antenne PSE la plus proche de chez vous (liste sur [www.pse.org](http://www.pse.org), rubrique L'Association). Merci !



**PSE and your personal data.** As you probably know, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on May 25. The opportunity to remind you that, in the family spirit that has animated us for 22 years, your information is intended solely for our association and its branch network. They are not, under any circumstances, communicated to third parties. Given the size of our team in France, that we maintain lean on purpose, you will understand that it is difficult for us to contact each one of you to ask you to confirm your consent to continue receiving our communications (including this newsletter). But, as it has always been our policy, you can notify us via post, email or by phoning our secretariat, if you want to be removed from our mailing lists and files. Thank you for your trust and your loyalty.

## We are looking for

**In the Paris region** (voluntary position):

**An engineer / construction**

**A recruitment specialist** (for the voluntary program in Cambodia).

**In Cambodia** (Volunteer for International Solidarity):

**An experienced hairstyling teacher** and **a painting instructor** for our Vocational Training Institute.