

Audit:

Sok Sabay's audit for the financial year starting from May 1st 2003 and ending on April 30th 2004 has now been completed. This third audit of our NGO has been carried out by Price Waterhouse Coopers and the current year's is underway.

Welcome to Sok Sabay:

In the past weeks, we welcomed wonderful visitors who, each time, brought with them their experiences, their willingness to communicate and their creative energy, adding a plus to our children's lives. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish to thank them for the energy and time they have chosen to give to Sok Sabay and for their contributions which enable us to continue our work.

Visitors, like the Demoulin-Bourdon family and the Steenks, have expressed their support and were able to exchange directly with the children, making their visit to our Centre a very rewarding experience indeed.

We also received quite a few visitors from our long-standing friend: The American School of London (ASL). On March 25th, Janet and Peter Reilly and their two children Evan and Dana, came along with the Henderson family, consisting of Doug and Kerri Ratcliffe and their four children Shane, Miceala, Tegan and Riley. Both the children and parents enjoyed the visit that allowed them to get a true picture of those children they have been helping for a long time. Virginia Beaulac and her daughter Srei Peak also took the time to visit us in late March. We were glad to meet people who have been working with us so closely to ensure the ever-strengthened collaboration between Sok Sabay and the American School of London.

We were equally happy to receive Justine Liard, director of NEAT Creative. Justine was instrumental in bringing us in touch with the Times Magazine and her visit was opened avenues for a new project of collaboration with her enterprise for the creation of a Sok Sabay brochure.

Mr. Amjad Ghori also visited us for the second time from April 2nd to April 7th, reaffirming his strong support for Sok Sabay and making a generous donation in the name of Aziza Ghori Charitable Foundation, a foundation established in February 2003. This donation was used for the renovation of the Boys Department and will finance partly a project of an art book whose benefits will all go to Sok Sabay's. We wish to thank him and the AZIZA Foundation for the positive difference they will be making in our kids' lives and we are looking forward to seeing him again in late May.

On February 23rd we had the pleasure to welcome Katharine Bostick for a day in Sok Sabay. As she said herself, she was touched "to see the joy in the kids' eyes" and she clearly expressed her desire to support our efforts. It is through her connection to Michael Stephen of Singapore's Commerce Chamber that we got to know her and then Deborah McGlaulin and Lori Foreman of Microsoft Asia-Pacific. During her visit to Sok Sabay, we worked together for the acceptance of a proposition to involve MICROSOFT in the financing in part of the training of teachers and pupils at the informatics unit of our future Centre for Education. Thank to the immense assistance of those three wonderful women and also thanks to the help of Antoine Weber, from Luxembourg, Microsoft agreed to the proposition and Sok Sabay thus received an

extra support that will provide a full community with the resources to access and take part in global affairs.

Finally, we had, on April 19th, some visitors from the SCEGS Redlands High School, from Sydney in Australia. Indeed Wendy Lindeman, deputy principal, brought along her young daughter Sara as well as 17 of her senior students for a short but fruitful visit to our Centre. The young people had the chance to spend a few hours with the children, leading activities of drama, arts, computer or English. It wasn't only enjoyable for the Sok Sabay children but also a very rewarding experience for students of SCEGS, who were amazed by their "joie de vivre". It was their first visit to the Centre and Wendy's second and all of them have expressed the willingness to come back, maybe for longer, next time. We hope to pursue this new collaboration in the future and we thank them for their time as well as the resources they brought with them.

Thank you!

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our friends and sponsors, to thank all those compassionate people who have come forward to help us with the financial and moral support that the Sok Sabay children need. Their generosity and genuine concern are a gift that we will forever be grateful for. So once more, because it will never be enough, thanks to all of you!

Thanks to the Pande family, Raj, Susan and Trisha, for their extensive involvement with Sok Sabay and their resourceful initiatives.

Thanks to the Lorentzen, Sissi and James and their children, for their financial contributions and their devotion to Sok Sabay.

Thanks to Rob Nemett and Stephen Granovsky at Karabus for their support and personal as well as professional commitment to our organization.

Thanks to Suzanne Michellod of World Council of Churches and to Mathews George, of the WCC Asian desk, for their steady help and dedication.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Walcheren (Holland), Liesbeth van Bouwdijk Bastiaanse, President of the Community Service Committee, her daughter Nooa and all its members, particularly Leo Nagtegaal of Moduspec, for their spirited commitment and substantial financial support to Sok Sabay.

Thanks to another generous donor, Mr. Frank Wester, whose donation will serve to pay the salary of a much needed maths teacher for the Sok Sabay pupils.

Thanks to Jane Lanciault and Valerie Rosset for their genuine interest and concern as well as Dr. Caroline Nixon for her immensely appreciated donation of antibiotics.

Thanks to Seven Oaks School and Sarah Fordham for their help and concern. The institution's significant donation, collected during their very successful Charity Week, will go to the renovation of the Centre for Education that will benefit a hundred new Grade 9 students.

Thanks to Veronica McCaffrey, principal, and Alison Martin, parent, both from the American School of London's Middle School Department, for working tirelessly to promote pedagogical exchanges between Sok Sabay and their school. They have both been influential in arranging ASL donations and projects, such as the patchwork, the hydroponics rice project and the sponsorship of the annual rice for Sok Sabay and the most needy children's family. We thank them again, as well as Surgul Gonul and Jean

Hughes, for having been so dedicated to assist our children, personally (Allison is the Godmother of Anna, one of our young girls) and within the ASL administration. We are looking forward to receiving a group of their students in Spring 2006.

Thanks to Janette Fawcett and her students at the International School of Phnom Penh for their active fundraising campaigns and for the time they dedicate to Sok Sabay and its Community Library as a part of their social service program. The international community of Phnom Penh can be proud to see its children enthusiastically involved to help their Khmer peers.

Thank you also to Mr. Vital Heurtebize, President of Poetes sans Frontieres, and his association with whom we are now closely collaborating, for providing such an essential assistance to our children.

A new President for Sok Sabay:

In accordance with the 1901 law, Mr. Jean Bartholo has become the new president of Sok Sabak Paris, French organization recognized by the Official Journal of the French Republic on May 25th 1995, in Paris. Mr. Pierre L'Himi and Mrs. Françoise Mersch are still holding the respective position of secretary and treasurer. Also in our Paris office are Mrs. Caroline du Rusquec and Mrs. Valentine Huet, staff recruiters, as well as Claude Gilbert, in charge of public relations.

Sok sabay in Singapore:

This month of March was an exciting one for the children of Sok Sabay. Along with Marie Cammal and their art teacher Seyha In, 16 Sok Sabay children got the chance to fly to Singapore to present their exhibition "Art from the Heart". This trip, lasting from February 28th till March 6th, was a tremendous opportunity for them to travel and discover another part of the world, another culture. Being hosted by families, whom we wish to thank profusely for their warm welcome and generosity, in particular Mr. Sigrid Witzensburg for the coordination, as well as meeting their sponsors, those second parents for them, was a heart-warming experience. It was a unique occasion for deep cultural exchange between our young Khmers and the Singaporean community, and it was an experience our children and even their teacher are certainly not yet to forget...

Art from the Heart

From March 1st to March 5th 2005, was held in the Alliance Française of Singapore a painting exhibition entitled "Art from the Heart". There couldn't be any more appropriate title for this exhibition of the paintings of the children of Sok Sabay and of a few selected Khmer artists, Pech Song, Chhim Sophy and Pen Savath... Indeed, our young artists poured their heart in their beautifully executed water colours and ink drawings, expressing their emotions through talented interpretations of traditional Khmer themes.

The children had already been developing their skills under the supervision and guidance of the Khmer artist Seyha In, who was and is still conducting daily classes in our Phnom Penh Centre. Many of their pieces, recording the children's artistic development, have been adorning the walls since a long time, but this exhibition was probably the first time the kids got recognition from an outside public.

The fun and pleasure that our young girls and boys get out of their drawing and painting exercises is one thing, but the rewarding feeling of their work being appreciated and praised by the very people they admire and respect is simply one of a kind. It was a booster for their self-esteem and confidence, proving to them that they are indeed full of talent and potential...a reassurance they were unfortunately never given elsewhere.

They discussed the techniques used and the themes explored in their different pieces with their sponsors, who got to know more about those children they have welcomed in their hearts. The links created there are will undoubtedly be long-lasting and we wish to thank our children's current and the new sponsors for their ever formidable support.

The exhibition had a great turn-out as many of our friends from Singapore responded to the invitation. A lot of funds were raised by selling the paintings and the benefits of those sales will partly go to the project of a second Centre for Education that we are working on. We thank all the buyers and donors as well as all the visitors for giving their time to support Sok Sabay and its talented children. This exhibition would not have been possible without the extraordinary assistance of Pascale Fabre (Executive Director) and Serene Yap (gallery manager) of the Alliance Française of Singapore. Equally, we thank Maryse Truchi for being at behind this wonderful idea and Daniel Truchi, CEO of the SG Private Banking (Asia Pacific), Robert Nemett of the Canadian enterprise Karabus, as well as Bill Gentry of Positronic Asia for making the exhibition "Art from the Heart" such a success.

We thank, by the way, Jean Bartholo, Pierre L'Himi and the team of Sok Sabay France for their sincere devotion and active involvement for founds rising in Europe. Thanks to Jean Bartholo who introduce us to Vital Heurtebize, president of the Club des Poetes. Vital Heurtebize has decided to devote all their humanitarian actions to Sok Sabay. The Club des Poetes will organize public manifestations (theatre plays...) in different cities of France. Those manifestations will give the opportunity to inform the public about Sok Sabay and the benefits will be used to diffuse Spirit of Cambodia.

Vital Heurtebize and his Club have generously lend to Sok Sabay their printing workshop in order to print Spirit of Cambodia, papers and envelopes with the logo of Sok Sabay. We thank them all a lot.

For those who would like to have information or who would like to buy the book, contact us on soksabay@online.com.kh.

Marie Cammal in Tokyo:

As soon as the "Art from the Heart" exhibition of the Sok Sabay children's paintings in Singapore was over, Marie embarked on a brief but busy trip to Tokyo, Japan, from March 6th till March 11th. This visit, planned and organized by Raj Pande and Susan Ridley of the USEntity (Cambodian Children's Fund), allowed Marie to promote Sok Sabay and seek support for its children as well as discussing the different issues to which the Cambodian society, and particularly its children, is confronted everyday with students from different international high schools.

One of the highlights of this trip was a meeting at Paul Hastings organized by Raj Pande and John H. Steed, during which many new contacts were made and some sponsors found. We want to thank them, particularly Kaoru Umino and Momoto Ogata, but also Yukihiro Terazawa and Miwako Ogawa, for their openness and their generosity. It is always inspiring to witness the expression of such support for our children and we only wish they could have been there to show their gratitude in person...

The Canadian Club of Tokyo also offered Marie the possibility to meet more interesting people during a morning coffee on March 8th at the Canadian Embassy. This friendly brought together about 20 people who assembled to find out more about Sok Sabay. Thank you to all those who attended, particularly Bernie Krisher, Michelle Yuan, Tsukasa Takagi, Jessie Martin, Kim Goldstein, Loretta Corbeil, Rochelle Battistelli and, of course, to the investigator of this lovely get-together: Susan Ridley.

The American Club of Tokyo, too, was a major collaborator in promoting Sok Sabay in Japan. Thanks to Janet Wainwright and Miki Ohta, Special Events manager, Marie was invited as a guest speaker during a big buffet organized on the evening of the 9th. Marie spoke for almost 1 hour, and though it could be argued that it's short to describe her life-long involvement with the Cambodian children and the Sok Sabay organization, the response was tremendous and many valuable contacts were made there. Thank you also to Nick Jones, editor, who wrote a beautiful article on Marie Cammal and Sok Sabay in the May issue of In Touch, the official ACT magazine.

Another important part to the trip was the bond created with 2 particular schools, the American of Tokyo (ASJI) and the International School of the Sacred Heart (ISSH). Marie was invited to give a speech to the Grade 10-12 and talk about her work at Sok Sabay and about those children under her care which are somehow similar to all other boys and girls on this planet, apart from the fact that they were never allowed the innocence and happiness of childhood... Her words certainly touched and inspired many students some of whom have come forward to express their desire to do something concrete for those brothers and sisters living in Sok Sabay. In ISSH, Nao, Marina, Maya, Tomoko, Lisa, Emmie, Ayumi, Alex, Mai and Abby were among those compassionate students who really showed their wish to build on the links created through that meeting. Special thanks to Yvonne Hayes, for enabling Marie to get in touch with all those young people, as well as to Cheryl Brown, guidance counsellor, and Steve Tootell, head of the creative and performing Arts department at ISSH, for their help and support.

In ASJI, a similar enthusiasm was raised by Marie's visit and Trisha Pande, Grade 11 student and daughter of Raj and Susan, even decided, with some classmates, to form a club dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Sok Sabay. They have been active in planning fundraising activities and recruiting new members. They have expressed a particular interest in starting a correspondence with the Centre's children and that opportunity is already being exploited by Sok Sabay's English teachers who will be helping the kids to acquire all the necessary letter-writing skills. More than pen pals, some of them are even planning to come and volunteer in our Centre next summer. We are very proud of that initiative and we hope those young people will set an example and inspire their peers to use their time and energy to help other children in need around the world.

Overall, these trips to Singapore and Japan were very worthwhile visits, allowing Marie and Sok Sabay to meet old friends and make new ones. We do realize how valuable is all this exposure that our organization got in those two countries and we are extremely thankful to Pascale Fabre and Daniel Truchi, in Singapore, and Raj Pande and Paul Hastings, in Japan for their enthusiastic interest and concern.

Cambodian travel diary:

It all began in November 2004 when Marie Cammal met up with two long-standing friends, Lydie Raimbault and Marie-Lys Bailleul. From that effervescent meeting was born the idea of producing a Cambodian travel diary the benefit of which would go to Sok Sabay.

Lydie Raimbault, a French professional photograph, had already produced her first picture book entitled "Mosaics; Colours of Singapore" as well as a second one "Singapore by foot", both presenting a personal outlook of her adoptive country. In the same way, Marie-Lys Bailleul had accumulated a lot of experience in her own field: Art that, apparently, had always been in her blood with parents themselves students of the School of the famous painter Ingres. For a while, she had been looking for an opportunity to work on a project with Asian themes and she found the prospect of creating paintings for a cause definitely exciting. Soon after two trips to Cambodia, she had produced so many water colors, pastel and ink drawings that it became evident that this project was achievable.

A few months later, thanks to the volunteer public relations work of Lydie Raimbault, looking for editors in Singapore, and Marie's Cammal intensive research of sponsors internationally, the project is finally taking form. Indeed, the bilingual English/French Cambodian Travel Diary, with a preface from the Cambodian King Preah Bat Samdach Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, has just found a publisher. The first payment, of forty percent, has already been made thanks to the energetic response of our sponsors, the AZIZA foundation and the Lorentzen's family, and the 2000 copies ordered should be ready in early September.

2005 being a year officially dedicated to Arts in Sok Sabay, the Cambodian Travel Diary project comes in good time and its benefits will contribute to the financing of our future educative projects. Keep an eye open for an announcement on Sok Sabay's webpage (www.soksabay.com) through which we shall inform all our friends of the book's availability!

Japanese Theater Troupe in Sok Sabay:

On a follow up to Marie Camal's visit to Japan, we were delighted to welcome the KFC (Kigurumi Friendship for Students) theatre company from the Japanese city of Fukuoka. This is an organization that has dedicated huge efforts and time in the assistance and benefit of various NGO's in Laos in Cambodia through their art. The children of Sok Sabay greatly enjoyed watching their colorful and lively performance that included the use of huge costumes that represented various world famous cartoon characters. You can imagine how exciting it was for us to have them so close; an experience of a lifetime indeed! We want to thank KFC once again for having visited us. We'll be looking forward to their next presentation for sure!

PEDIATRE DU MONDE – Paediatricians Conference:

From Saturday March 19th to Tuesday March 22nd 2005 was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, the First Conference on Paediatrics of Development organized by the French organization Pediatres du Monde in collaboration with the humanitarian action group of the French Ambulatory Paediatrics Association (AFPA).

We wish to thank Brigitte Michelot, who first contacted Marie Cammal, as well as Michel Bardaine and his team who invited Marie as a guest speaker to discuss the situation of abused children in Cambodia and her work experience, particularly with Sok Sabay, during a full day devoted to street kids. The aim of this Conference bringing together French, Moroccan and Khmer paediatricians and experts was to come to a better understanding of "humanitarian paediatrics" as opposed to "clinical paediatrics" that is currently practiced in France.

It was a very important conference for Sok Sabay, which is now a renowned team. We also hope to develop in the near future a partnership with Pediatres du Monde that would allow Sok Sabay to welcome paediatricians and receive advices and medicines from those who will be willing to take part in our effort to help the mistreated children of Cambodia.

Finally, we would like to thank Elizabeth Souweine and Isabelle Prompt for their idea of presenting Sok Sabay to the Lions Club France. We will remain open to all collaboration...

Tours Student Nurses visiting in August:

For the second consecutive year, 5 nurses following their Red Cross nursing training in Tours, France, will be visiting Sok Sabay in August to take part in health activities of our Centre for a full month. That experience, really successful last year, will bring once again a breath of fresh air and we hope this year's exchange will be as enriching for us and as educative for them as last year's. Thanks in advance for their energetic presence... We are looking forward to seeing them soon!

Volunteers in Sok Sabay:

These last two months, Sok Sabay's children and teaching staff have been greatly benefiting from the help and continued support from different volunteers from Singapore. Eline Steenks, a graduate from the Overseas Family School in Singapore, has been giving English and Piano lessons since March 2005. Sok Sabay is very grateful to Eline for introducing a new stem of art and, though she is leaving us very soon, we hope to continue building on that special relationship we have created.

Gap Students from the United World College of South-East Asia:

Along the same line, Sok Sabay has been hosting for two weeks now a group of five volunteers from United World College of South East Asia. Although they are only two weeks old in Sok Sabay, they have eight months of volunteering experience which they did in rural western Kenya just before coming to Cambodia. There, they were actively involved in teaching, ranging from academics to extra curricular activities, children of the same age as those in Sok Sabay in 4 different schools of their village. Therefore, getting actively involved in Sok Sabay's community has not been a problem for this group. At the moment they are teaching English, IT, Dance and Drama and are already working on introducing interdisciplinary projects to the children.

It goes without saying that the children are very excited and happy to have them around and furthermore learn from them. The volunteers have already gained the trust and the love of the children. This amazing Gap Year experience, almost entirely sponsored by the school, is a pilot project and we are proud that they chose Sok Sabay as their next destination. This would not have been possible without the efficient organization and enthusiastic approach of Matthew Raggett, Gap Year supervisor at UWCSEA. Sok Sabay greatly depends on volunteers as their positive impact on the kids is profoundly evident in their interaction and once again, we wish to thank those who have continually supported Sok Sabay by sending volunteers and useful materials.

Trip to Kratie and Kampot:

During this Khmer New year season, instead of going home to visit their families as they normally do, the children made two fun and very enjoyable trips to different parts of Cambodia. Accompanied by Marie Cammal, six volunteers and their Art teacher, the children had a good

time getting to know a new part of their country and culture. Although usually, they don't travel as a group since they are quite a number, this time round however, it was much easier.

Our first trip was to the north eastern town of Kratie. The children went to a temple as is customary for Buddhists at New Year celebrations, the décor and artistic presence in the temple was awe inspiring. On the Mekong itself, we went for walks along the beach and also had a boat ride to go dolphin watching. Fresh water dolphins are visible on some parts of the Mekong and this is one of them, the few glimpses we got of them were enough to send the children squealing in pleasure. On the way to and from Kratie, the children were introduced to Cambodia's problem of deforestation, large tracks of land on either side of the road, have been cleared for timber sale. This was quite disturbing, but what was even more surprising was the understanding that one 8 year old boy had of this problem. Little David's gestures to demonstrate cutting of trees and authority-laden words, 'not good!' to show how he felt, left us with little doubt that we were in the company of one of Cambodia's great future activists.

The second trip was to the Southern coastal town of Kep, this time it was much shorter for it was only a one and a half day trip. Again it was a good experience not so much because of the place itself, but more because of the chance the trip offered them. Being out of their normal surroundings, the children got a chance to relate to each other in a different way which helps them become more confident and sure of themselves.

At each of these trips the best parts have been getting to know the kids better. The trips provide a platform for them to open up and when they do, they leave you astounded not only at what they have gone through, but more so at how they have managed to overcome all that and are in fact looking forward to a very bright future!