



# BOOKS FOR CAMBODIA

170 Ringawhati Road, RD3, Otaki 5583, New Zealand | tel. 06-364-6602 | email. info@booksforcambodia.org

November 2008

## Our Priorities for the next Twelve months

- ✓ **Support the development of 3-4 more school libraries**
- ✓ **Expand the libraries at the two original schools**
- ✓ **Fund the costs of regular meetings of librarians in all these schools**

Up until now we have been supporting 2 schools, Kla Krohim Junior High School and neighbouring Moy U Sophea Senior High School in Takeo Province south of Phnom Penh. We have assisted with library development and librarian training in both schools. We have also funded training for 15 school librarians in the wider district..

This year, thanks to the wonderful contribution from the Hutt News Book Fair, the Trust has decided to support the development of 3-4 more school libraries. As you will appreciate the need is enormous so we've had to set some criteria to guide the choice of schools we will assist. The schools will need to have:

- local community involvement and commitment to the development of a school library,
- school leadership to be totally behind the project,
- the presence of a highly motivated school librarian who has attended the training course supported by the Trust, and
- existence of an actual physical library space.

## Your donation

Were you aware that now the Trust is registered with the Charities Commission (CC11467), all donations over \$5 entitle you to a tax rebate?

To claim the rebate you must retain your receipt and at the end of the tax year complete a form and send it to the IRD with your receipt/s attached. Prior to this current tax year there was a ceiling on the total amount of donations (\$1890) that would attract the rebate. But now you can receive ...

***One dollar back in tax rebate for every \$3 you donate!***

### Inside this issue:

<i>Our wonderful Cambodian partners</i>	2
<i>Hutt News Book Fair</i>	2
<i>Takeo librarians at forefront of school reading revolution</i>	3
<i>Who's Who</i>	4

We will also continue to expand the libraries at the two original schools. They certainly don't have an adequate number of books yet to provide for the needs of their students.

While there is interest both by the trainers and school librarians in the province for the initial basic training, the Trust does not propose to fund another similar course over the next 12 months. If there are very few books in a library and little prospect of purchasing more, there's little point in training the person in charge! Instead we will support the costs of regular meetings of those already trained. Such gatherings will create the opportunity for on-going support and skill sharing.

It is only through your continued support and the guidance of our Cambodian partners, Siphon and Mach (see p2) that these developments are possible.



If you are making a regular automatic payment, and we are very happy to receive donations that way, we will provide you with a receipt after the end of the tax year (March 31) which can be used for the rebate. We will also send you receipts if you make one-off donation.

***Why not make a donation today!***

## Our wonderful Cambodian partners

The Trust couldn't operate without Meas Siphen and Im Mach, our partners/colleagues in Cambodia. We depend on them for guidance and assistance. Without them book buying would be a nightmare and the training of librarians would not have developed to the extent it has.

Meas Siphen's contacts with New Zealanders goes right back to 1997-98 when she worked as a translator for Jennie Wilson a VSA volunteer at that time. Currently she is a teacher-in-charge of English Language teaching at Moy U Sophea High School, one of the schools supported by Books for Cambodia. There she has been closely involved in the establishment of the school library and its ongoing development. Her commitment and passion for education for her



Meas Siphen

students is unremitting and in every aspect of her life she steps forward and takes on the challenge, including the development of an environmental awareness programme for her school.

Im Mach, Siphen's husband is Assistant Director of Kla Krohim Secondary School which is also a recipient of Books for Cambodia. Following the completion of a librarian course earlier this year, Mach has recently organised a similar course for some of the school librarians in other parts of Takeo Province. He is highly regarded by the Takeo Provincial Education office for his promotion of libraries to further the educational opportunities for Cambodian students. Mach is also an active advocate for the improvement of his school environment and continues to raise



Im Mach

awareness with both teachers and students.

Mach and Siphen together with their extended family provide a family homestay to participants of Gecko Trails trips in Cambodia. The time in their home is for many the highlight of their trip..

Siphen and Mach have two children, Srei Noich 16 years, currently studying in USA and Savada who is ten.

## Hutt News book fair raises \$10,000

Hutt News 12 August 2008 Used with permission

**A sale of second-hand books in Lower Hutt has raised enough money to buy thousands of new books for children in Cambodia.**

People started lining up an hour early for the Hutt News/Books for Cambodia Trust book fair and the early rush was like a department store annual sale. As their parents were soon engrossed in running their eyes along the stacks of donated novels, travel, gardening, health and other titles, most kids seemed to make their selections quickly and find a spot under a table or perched on a carton to begin turning pages.

Thanks to the generosity of Hutt people who donated books, and those who turned up to the fair to buy, it looks like the proceeds will



clear \$10,000 once a few valuable titles are sold on TradeMe.

Books for Cambodia Trust chair Helen

Walch is delighted. She says with that sort of money, the trust will be able to extend its help beyond the two high schools in Cambodia it supports to other schools in the Takeo province.

New books in that nation cost an average of NZ\$3, so that's a lot of purchasing power.

But as trust secretary Judith Miller explains, "we won't be just chucking a whole lot of books (at them)". Later this month a training session for school librarians is to take place in Takeo, and the money raised by the book fair will ensure that librarians from the primary

## Takeo librarians at forefront of school reading revolution

Written by Priyanka Bhonsule and Mom Kunthea

Phnom Penh Post, 1 September 2008 Used with permission

FIFTEEN librarians from high schools in Takeo province have descended upon Sok An Moy U Sophea High School for a six-day library management training course.

Im Mach, the assistant director at Kla Krohem High School who organised the course using funds from the New Zealand-based trust Books for Cambodia, was inspired to train librarians in his hometown after he attended a library-training course run by Societe d'Investissements en Participations (SIPAR) last year.

"The main thing is to develop human resources. The librarians are interested - they concentrate, work hard and enjoy discussing what they learn."

One of the course attendees, Ngeth Saroeun, 36, said it was his first time studying about the workings of a library and how to become a better librarian. "I used to manage the library by following orders of my principal, and I didn't know how to persuade students to read books," he said.

Though he values the knowledge gained during the course, he said the training was just a first step. "I think that in order to improve students' knowledge we also need to

improve the library."

Im Mach agreed, saying systematic organisation and training was important for a successful library. "This is a district-level course, but in the future, we may run it at a provincial level because it's very useful for schools and communities."

### Looking to the future

Im Mach's wife, Meas Siphen, an English teacher at Sok An Moy U, said not all schools in Tram Kak district have libraries. She said most are just storage rooms, but the training course is laying groundwork for the future, adding that a recent book fair held by Hutt News/Books for Cambodia in New Zealand raised close to US\$6,990 to buy more books and help with further training in Cambodia. "The Ministry of Education provides us with textbooks. Now we will be able to acquire more books that students are interested in reading."

The winners are the readers, and the delight of those rifling through books at Moy U Sophea's library is obvious. "Whenever I have free time, I come here. I like any books that are connected to law because I want to become a lawyer," said Sreymech Keo, 17.

Her fellow student Kimlay Leav, 17, said the previous library was crammed, which made it

difficult to read.

National Library chairwoman Klot Vibolla said that while she does not know how many libraries exist in Cambodia, most schools now have a library.

"In the future all Cambodian schools will have a library because the government is paying attention to the education section."



***"I didn't know how to persuade students to read books. I think in order to improve students' knowledge we need also to improve the library."***

## Hutt News book fair raises \$10,000

Continued from p2

schools which contribute to the high schools can also be invited to attend.

"It's about supporting that whole library culture and systems." The trust is determined to make a long-term difference.

From that work with librarians in junior and senior schools, and with more books on the shelves, "we'll be helping create a reading

culture amongst the pupils," Helen says.

A most welcome feature of Saturday's book fair was the food stall set up by members of the Hutt Cambodian community. Emma Kim and husband Rith say a number of families associated with a local Cambodian music group donated crispy spring rolls, marinades, delicious satay meat, spicy vegetables and other tasty treats for the stall - and refused reimbursement for their ingredients. So after

braving the throng inside the hall, book buyers could enjoy a taste of the cuisine of the country they were helping out. The \$350 raised by the stall was split between Books for Cambodia Trust and the local music group.

## Who's Who

### Trustees

**Scott Burnett**, Nelson, also with Gecko Trails/Pacific Discovery

**Stephanie Edwards**, Wellington

**Judith Miller**, Otaki (Secretary /Treasurer)

**Marie Nicholls**, Hamilton

**Helen Walch**, Otaki (Chair)

**Jennie Wilson**, New Plymouth, also with Gecko Trails/Pacific Discovery, is the trustee who visits Cambodia most frequently and is responsible for book purchasing.

**Raymond Simpson**, Auckland, Trust Accountant

**Im Mach and Siphen Meas**, husband and wife who teach at Moy u Sophea High School and Kla Krohim respectively are our key contacts in Cambodia.

## Your Help is needed – please use this return slip

I would like to help with the purchase of books and training of school librarians in Cambodia.

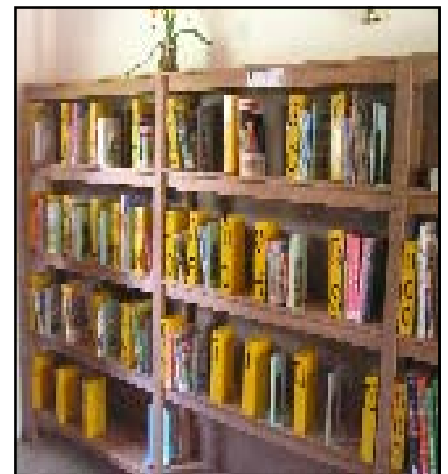
Here is my donation.

- \$21(approx 7 books) \$36 \$72 \$90 other ..... (Please indicate the amount )
- My cheque is enclosed.
- I have deposited the money into the BOOKS FOR CAMBODIA account 15-3953-0614339-30  
If you are doing this by internet banking can you please ensure your name appears on our statement so that we can send you a receipt .
- I would like to make a monthly automatic payment of \$.....  
Please send me the necessary form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



*Please help fill the shelves*

We would like to keep you informed about BOOKS FOR CAMBODIA.

If you would prefer that we did not, please indicate here.



**BOOKS FOR CAMBODIA**

170 Ringawhati Road, RD3, Otaki 5583, New Zealand | tel. 06-364-6602 | email. [info@booksforcambodia.org](mailto:info@booksforcambodia.org)