

We are so very grateful for you helping make this school possible. It was housed in a 1.5 wall, rusty, tiny, roofed area with students 6 to a desk. Our Teachers and students can't believe what they are so lucky to have classes in now. It's also opened up the opportunity to hold important extension education sessions as you will read about below.

AKUN TOM TOM - THANK YOU BIG BIG - from Leng, teachers and students - it is amazing!



## YOUR AMAZING ODA NO 1 SCHOOL



*Kids keep attending kindergarten around school times to continue English studies and enjoy the activities. This is why we have up to 70 children attend. Luckily they are keen and very well behaved!*



**1 Year on and how wonderfully your school is working. See the Honor Board showing your very kind support.**

So it's over a year now since you so kindly helped us to gather the funds to build this well planned and functional school. It's used daily for English kindergarten and night classes and wonderful to have room for class activities plus room for the teaches to walk between the aisles to check all students work. An unplanned benefit is that in the wet season, the kids gather under the lovely wide roofed kindergarten annex to play during the day, protected from the tropical downpours. Their houses are mostly tiny single room, simple dirt floor palm thatched structures, (often leaking due to age and cost to rethatch) so it's fantastic for them to have somewhere they can be dry, active and move freely around. One day we have dreams to build a climbing activity centre but for now we are soooo grateful for this dream school!



***See the attractive washable material kits - including undies to adhere them to, and soap***

You may have read the newsletter that came out this last week on the Days For Girls sex and trafficking education. Such a wonderful turnout in your school and the other one we presented it at. Great shyness for our students to participate in this subject, as no one ever talks about anything personal, and girls often think they have some severe health problem when their periods start. So we were very happy to have over 60 girls attend at each school. We wanted mothers to attend to see what we were teaching their daughters but none came. Probably due to embarrassment on the subject, maybe next time.



Your school was particularly wonderful with so much space and light. The lovely Khmer young lady volunteer presenters were so good to give up their only free day from their employment (most jobs are 6 days a week 7am to 5pm). Interesting there are electronic slides of the presentation and we have computer linked TV's in our schools – but this is so rare, they were not comfortable with using this technology – hopefully next time we can help them as they are much more visible from a bigger screen.



Half the washable cloth menstrual kits were provided free from an accredited sewing volunteer group in Australia but getting them over to Cambodia took one whole year – a Rotary Club eventually managed to have them included in a medical container, but this is rare and takes so long. If they were sent, their customs would consider them marketable and a tax, far in excess of the cost of each article, would be demanded. We had 3 boxes of pre loved back packs sent in Feb 2017 – they are asking \$600 total to release them – the backpacks can be bought new for less than that! Needless to say they are still there (or maybe disappeared by now!) Anyway the upshot of this is we must locate people who will carry things with them to bring over.

The other half were supplied by a recently accredited local group which certainly makes things far easier. We must find a way to contribute to the costs as we would like to repeat the education and personal packs for each girl at the remainder of our 6 schools and 2 Medical Centers near our schools. We would need some 600+kits to give out. Fantastic to be able to help so many girls to knowledge, and the valuable kits that make attending school in their period time so much easier.



*Leng driving the presenter girls and all the kits to the 2 schools.*



So a zillion thanks to you for this wonderful school building that ODA will be able to expand into a wider education centre over time, as we find affordable programs that are of value to these outlying villagers. Cambodia as a whole is quite narrow in their knowledge apart from farming, and these remote villages have no idea of their own cities let alone the rest of the world. Most students have never ever been to Siem Reap town – only 30-60kms away. If they have a motor bike, gasoline is over \$1a litre – feeding their families is far more important!

ODA student graduates are winning well paid secure employment with water companies, Government Provincial offices and start up export businesses - due to their English skills (plus IT from our 4 schools who can offer that). Their salaries go to support their families who remain rice farming and also it helps younger siblings to access government school and much more – they are entirely selfless! This was exactly what Leng started out to achieve when he began holding simple English classes under stilt houses with 1 globe from old unreliable loaned batteries over 13 years ago. He has only been able to grow to the over 1450+ students it supports today, through wonderfully kind people like you! He was rescued from the streets as a 10 year old and sub sequentially gained a full education, and simply wants to help as many of his young people to the same as he had.



**Akun Tom Tom (Thank you Big Big)  
Leng and the Salakrovann students are so very  
grateful for this wonderful school you have made  
possible.**



ODA is registered with the Cambodian Government and Siem Reap District Education Authority as an Education NGO (Non - Governmental Organisation Non Profit designation).

Accountants for International Development UK (AfID) partner ODA with monthly accounts support.

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