

Quarter Overview

This quarter, we have been focused on staff development! Almost all departments have joined in a skills training or a workshop either internally or through a PEPY partner. Last month, 10 PEPY team members participated in PEPY's first Tour Guide Certification Workshop led by our Partnerships and Development Manager. All trainees got the opportunity to learn our tour standards and guidelines, and practice giving a tour of PEPY to enhance their confidence and public speaking skills. Going forward, all staff members who are Tour Guide certified will take turns leading school and visitor tours. This certification training will take place every 4-5 months for interested team members!

We also welcomed Van Leat, our new Incubator Officer. We are very pleased to bring an officer on board with a

wealth of experience in participating in and supporting an incubator prior to joining PEPY. We look forward to seeing the YISI Program continue to grow under Van Leat's and our current Incubator Manager, Srey Pov's, leadership.



PEPY's first Tour Guide Certification Training

PEPY Program Updates



Community Student Outreach Program

Dream Management Project

The Dream team has made several amazing achievements this quarter, despite facing challenges from their high school counterparts. **Over 25 lessons were provided to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12** in Varin and Kralanh High School, while 17 lessons were conducted in Sen Sok High School. Since we work with Teacher Partners to deliver Dream Class lessons, we rely on their commitment to Dream classes and our training to make the partnership a success. Some teachers are not coming regularly, so we will continue working with school leadership to find the ideal partners. Some classes were delayed in Sen Sok High School due to a teacher getting into a car accident, but we are pleased to share they are now in good health and returning to their work!

31 recent high school graduates from the community were invited to speak in last quarter's Dream talks and shared motivational stories and uplifting messages to the high schoolers to encourage them to continue pursuing their goals. In addition, **Sen Sok High School conducted its first-ever Sharing Event with 300 participants!** Kralanh High School also held a Sharing Event this quarter with 400 participants. We are thrilled to see youth re-engaging in school activities as we work to identify and support at-risk students and

motivate dropouts to return to school.

Meet Rathanak, a 2021 scholar from Taing Kork District, Kampong Thom Province. He has difficulty speaking, which makes it hard for others to understand him. Even though he cannot



Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project

On May 29th, we held our first **Scholarship Graduation Recognition Ceremony** for all **113 former scholarship students** who successfully graduated from their chosen university or vocational institution. Pha Phon, a 2017 scholarship student and event speaker highlighted the importance of this event, sharing, *"I am the only person in my family and one of the very few in my community to have the opportunity to continue higher education, so the scholarship means a lot to me. I can become the person I am today because of PEPY, and without PEPY, I would probably migrate to work in Thailand or somewhere else to earn money just like my siblings."* This marks PEPY's 10-year commitment to providing scholarships to outstanding rural youth.

Currently, **91% of eligible scholars have found employment** giving us another reason to celebrate! In addition, **96% of employers expressed high levels of satisfaction with our scholars** and are interested to hire additional PEPY scholars in the future.

speaking well, he is committed to learn. His teachers and friends really admire him for his hard work and commitment toward his studies. Rathanak said, *"I used to feel very upset and think about drop[ping] out from school when people told me that I would not get a job after high school because no one is going to hire a person who could not speak well like me. But then, I did not listen to them, I did not give up in high school and studied even harder when I started thinking about my family because I wanted to help them earning money. Since then, I could graduate from high school with a good grade, and I now could continue higher education with PEPY scholarship."* Now Rathanak is a freshman pursuing a Bachelor's in IT at the University of South-East Asia. He hopes to become an IT Expert and IT teacher to prove to people all dreams are possible.

PEPY Program Updates



Learning Center Program



PEPY exchange group with the Technological University Dublin Department of Social Sciences

The Learning Center team had some exciting developments this quarter with the return of our Cambodia Ireland Exchange Program! The Learning Center Program Manager, Channa, traveled to Ireland for 3 weeks with two former students and PEPY's Dream Officer, Mara. While in Ireland, they visited schools and organizations to share Cambodia's culture with the Irish community as well as share updates about PEPY and our work. This is the first exchange since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreaks so everyone was thrilled that we were able to finally make it happen! We are looking forward to Irish teachers coming to Siem Reap in July for conclude the 2022 exchange and share their culture and lessons with our Learning Center students.

Additionally, our team held a reflection session with students to consider how we can improve the Learning Center courses to better address their academic and personal needs. Through the discussions, we will be looking to add more learning materials in the classrooms, have more variety in our teaching methods, and establish a proper place for students' bikes and helmets.

English Learning Project (ELP)

5 lessons were provided to students to improve their English language vocabulary, comprehension, and listening skills. For example, the lesson *Family and Friends* focused on vocabularies such as parents, grandmother, sister, brother, and others. The ELP Teacher, Soury, is being supported by SE Asia Foundation scholars as well as Maria, a remote volunteer in Ireland, and Tommy from the United States, our first in-person volunteer since the start of the pandemic! We are thrilled to have the support and energy of all the fantastic volunteers.



Tommy with students in English class.

The students also took their **mid-term exams with an average score of 68%**! This midterm score is **4% higher than the mid-term test last year**, indicating that the volunteers and the return of in-person classes are helping students learn more effectively.

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Project

4 main topics (Computer and Its Social Impacts, Google Drive, Microsoft Office (Word), and Video Editing (Kdenlive)) were provided to students. These classes prepare students for various job opportunities that are in demand and help them have a more competitive edge when applying for work. **Attendance this quarter was 96%, which is a 10% increase compared to the last quarter!**

Students also attended the ICT Forum on *"The Power of Picture"* for two days in April. The event was hosted by Cambodian Center for Independent Media and PEPY. All 60 students were taught the techniques of picture advertising and how social media images could negatively or positively affect society, as well as participated in a discussion on social media privacy.

>> Future is Bright Lab and Library

The new initiative is continuing to grow in demand with 40 borrowers in the last quarter alone! **We received \$85.50 in borrowing fees** for maintaining and fixing any broken materials in the lab. If this continues we will be able to run the initiative in perpetuity through fee collection. We are very excited to have received so much support for the initiative from partners like Team4Tech, REVIVN, and the individual donors from GlobalGiving enabling us to provide technology access more efficiently than we ever imagined.

Future Is Bright Computer Lab & Club
Check in/Check out

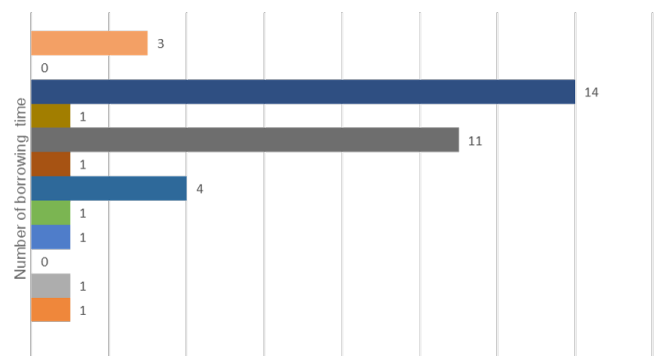


Figure 1: Bright Lab borrowers' data for the quarter

Youth Empowerment (YE) Project

There were **3 key workshops with outside consultants**: the First Aid training on March 3rd-4th, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) training on March 10-11th, and the Financial Literacy training on April 5-6th with all 60 Learning Center students. These workshops help youth in our program gain important skills and competencies to contribute positively to their society and to better support themselves as adults.

Another major event this quarter was the Public Speaking Contest. All 60 students were trained in public speaking and were given the option to compete. 48 students signed up, and after the qualifier, the top 20 were selected from video submissions. From there, the PEPY team put together a panel to select the top 5 candidates! This event was an amazing opportunity for students to build their confidence and presentation skills and students shared they would love PEPY to hold similar events in the future.

Reflecting on the event, Learning Center student, Sopha, shared, *"I did not do this to compete with others, but much more it was all about winning myself. It was a*

PEPY Program Updates

surprised and huge motivation to take steps forward when passed the Qualifiers Round to the Semi-final Round. I felt really happy and excited! This opportunity pushes me to work much harder than before until I was granted to the Grand Final. Even I did not win as a top 5 in the contest, I have improved my self-confidence significantly and being able to structure my speech a lot better. And I am very proud of this achievement."

Youth Innovators' Space and Incubator (YISI) Program

Since adding the additional online course and short-term professionals' course, **the YISI Program has expanded quickly with 39 regular participants!** The program faced staffing challenges, as the team had to find a new Incubator Officer while continuing the weekly courses. With the support of our Executive Director, the classes continued to run smoothly while the Incubator Manager covered events, workshops, and reports. We are very pleased to end this quarter with a new Incubator Officer who is a great fit for the position. Van Leat is already taking a lot of initiative inside and outside of the classroom and has a lot of skills to contribute to the program.



Our new Incubator Officer, Van Leat

Social Enterprise Incubator Course

This quarter, the Youth Innovators were introduced and paired with their mentors! Now, as they work on their business plans and research, they can connect with industry leaders in their respective fields to determine if they have a viable business concept. We are pleased to have **recruited 10 mentors this year who have all agreed to conduct a training or workshop** during the course to help develop the young entrepreneurs' skill sets.

The YISI team has done an incredible job of establishing PEPY as an authority on business development. During this quarter the team led a sharing event with youth from Young Entrepreneurs Association of Cambodia (YEAC), People Center for Development and Peace (PDP), and Journeys Within Our Community (JWOC) to consider what challenges young entrepreneurs are currently facing. The results of the meeting will be used to have the team improve the curriculum and make it responsive to the needs of our participants.

Lastly, on Saturday March 26th, 2022, the team conducted **the first We Business Talk in 2022 on the topic of "Role Model Leaders in Business" by Mr. Ieng Sotheara.** Mr. Sotheara is a very successful business man and is the

founder of several local business. He offered advice, experiences, and recommendations in starting and operating a business to the 56 participants. The event was so well received it was extended for an additional hour so the participants could continue asking him questions.



Mr. Sotheara providing leading the WeBusiness Talk

IT for Business Course

In the IT for Business Course, the Youth Innovators are learning marketing applications and how to promote their business online! The participants' dedication to the course and their skills development has been very impressive to the team. At the beginning of the course, they had an average pre-test score of 12%. This quarter they took their mid-term exam and had **an average score of 53%!** The team believes with continued support they will achieve an exit exam average of 75%, reaching our annual target for our participants.

3-month IT for Business Professionals' Course

17 youth successfully completed their 3-month IT for Business Professionals' Course this quarter. The course content was tailored to meet their needs, and they gained knowledge in communication applications for their customers and audiences (using Gmail, Instagram, and Facebook Messenger), financial management tools (using Excel and Kotra Riel App), and Branding (using Canva and logo design websites) to optimize their work productivity and efficiency. Their average pre-exam scores for the course was 32% and they nearly doubled their IT comprehension with an **exit score of 61%!** In just 3 months, we are thrilled with the results of our pilot course and look forward to following their future successes!