

Quarter Overview

During this quarter, the PEPY team has increased our reach and services by forging new collaborations with NGOs and by providing training. Our Partnerships and Development team and Youth Innovators' Space and Incubator Program spearheaded events for entrepreneurs in collaboration with active incubator programs in Siem Reap. This includes SAHAK, Enterprise Vision, and SHE Investments. With combined forces, the exhibitions have been massive, **with over 700 people attending each event!** This enables us to network with investors, introduce our program to entrepreneurs, and spread awareness about PEPY. Additionally, PEPY staff have been supporting NGOs by providing their staff with training and skills development support. This includes helping teachers improve their skills and helping other organizations learn how to fundraise.

We also had some incredible support from our donor community this quarter. **We thank iHerb Charitable Foundation for providing full scholarships to 15 of our 2022 scholars!** We would also love to show our appreciation to **Child's Dream Foundation for funding the Learning Center Program for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.**



Photo of participants from our recent exhibition.

PEPY Program Updates



Community Student Outreach Program

Dream Management Project

The Dream team has led several fantastic events this quarter! In Sen Sok High School, **155 students, faculty, and officials cheered on and supported the final 10 contestants in the Student Speaking Contest.** The team was grateful to have the support of the school staff every step of the way and the event really helped them come together and build an even stronger partnership. In Kralanh High School, **306 participants joined their recent Sharing Event,** connecting students with inspiring speakers and mentors focused on helping them plan for their future studies and selecting the major that best fits their interests. All schools also conducted Study Tours for students in Grades 10-12, **giving over 700 youth the chance to tour universities and vocational programs while learning more about enrollment processes.**



Montra, is a Grade 12 student from Kralanh High School. Years ago, her father left and married another wife. This caused her two brothers to drop out of school and migrate with her mother to Thailand to work in construction. The mother started a new family and stayed in Thailand and stopped supporting Montra's education. Now, her brother is the only one who continues to motivate her.

Montra shared, *"when I was in primary school my mother forced me to drop out of school to work with her in Thailand because my family [...] could not afford to send*

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project

The scholarship team is making great progress on the 2022 scholarship selection process! The team has identified the final selections from Varin and Kralanh and will be identifying the top candidates from Taing Kork and Kampong Leang in September. The team will announce the 2022 scholars after students finish the national exams in December. Besides the selection process, the team put together another successful PEPY Championship Football Tournament that started on August 14th and will end with the final round on September 4th. This event brings hundreds of PEPY community members together, including staff and alumni, to either play in the tournament or cheer on their friends from the sidelines.

Our scholars currently have a lot of reasons to celebrate. **The employment rate of eligible work scholars is holding steady at 91%** with 194 employed full time, 4 in internships, and only 8 out of work. We are also pleased to share that with the added support from the Mentorship Network and Tutoring Corner, **86% of 131 scholarship students enrolled in school received a 3.0 GPA or higher and 19% of them received a 4.0 GPA.** Furthermore, **the overall attendance rate of the 131 scholarship students is 99%!**

children to school, but I refused to drop out because I want to go to school like other children in the village. Living alone is very difficult, when I am sick, no one cares, no family worries, living in fear. When I go to school, I have to walk from home to school around 2 kilometers every day."

When Montra first joined Dream Class, she often isolated herself from others. After being involved in the project for almost 3 years, she now leads teamwork activities, conducts presentations, does volunteer work in the school, and sets her own goals. She told the Dream Officer, *"I never compare myself to others, all I can do is work on myself so we can walk towards my dreams."*

PEPY Program Updates



Learning Center Program



We were so happy to continue the Cambodia Ireland Exchange Program with two Irish teachers, Aoife and David, coming to the Learning Center in July! During the exchange, they had many opportunities to learn about Cambodia's culture and history through tours and sharing sessions from our students and team, while they shared about Ireland's geography, dancing, and culture with PEPY students. The students loved having the opportunity to learn from them and interacting with people from another country. The Irish teachers will take what they have learned from the Cambodian teachers and students to apply it in their future work and in their classrooms.

The Learning Center team was also very thankful to welcome two new virtual volunteers to the program, Ashley and Marta. They will be supporting students' English conversation and learning with group sessions held between students' English classes! We are really excited to see students' progress in English comprehension in the coming months with the volunteers' support.

English Learning Project (ELP)

In English class, **5 additional lessons were provided to students this quarter** focused on grammar and sentence structure. Students have made great strides in their English comprehension and speaking with the additional help of our local and Native English-speaking volunteers. The Cambodian student volunteers, supported by SE Asia Foundation, provide additional support and class time to students who are struggling in class and keeping up with the content. Tommy, the Native English-speaking volunteer, comes to class multiple times a week to focus on enhancing their conversation skills and on specific grammar structures. Online volunteers, Ashley and Marta, also help with basic conversation and comprehension through their small group



activities. Outside of the classroom, the students visited the Australia Center for Education (ACE) in June to learn about new and additional opportunities to study and master English after leaving the Learning Center.

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Project

In ICT class, students continued to study video editing using Kdenlive and started lessons in Microsoft PowerPoint and Excel. **Attendance in the class averaged 98%** with students really enjoying the sessions and looking forward to coming to class.

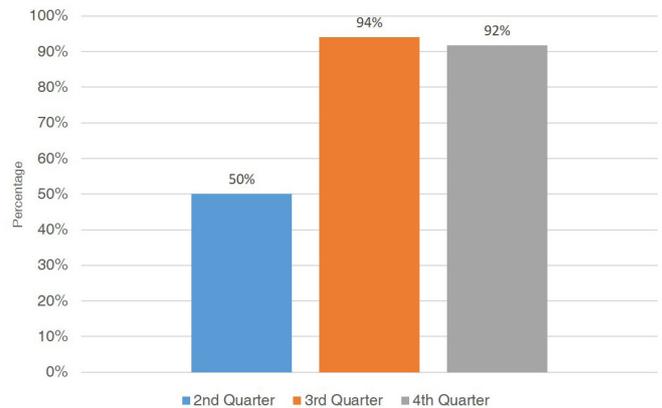


Figure 1: ICT class attendance rates by quarter.

The ICT Teacher provided more opportunities for them to join relevant workshops and training sessions with our partner organizations. In July and August, students went to Media and Information Literacy workshops from the Cambodian Center for Independent Media. The two topics covered were Using Social Media Safely and Cleverly, Social Media Security and Vlog, Social Media Advertising, and Photography. Learning Center student, Sieb Phalla, shared, "I have learned many things and got a lot of new experiences from participating in these training. I would like to have this workshop training again, so I can gain more knowledge about the disadvantages and advantages of social media. Cambodia Center for Independent Media has many good workshops. I hope the ICT project has outside workshops or trainings."

>> Future is Bright Lab and Library

This quarter, **32 current students and 11 alumni borrowed from the Bright Lab and Library 79 times**. The team voted to change the policy so that current students who are unemployed would only have to pay half the rental fee, enabling many more Learning Center students to rent computers. As a result, despite reducing rental costs for some of our participants, **we raised over \$50 more compared to the previous quarter** (this quarter we raised \$136.75 in contribution fees whereas last quarter we raised \$85.50)! This shows how high the demand is for computers and tech for our current students. We want love to thank Team4Tech, REVIVN, and individual donors on GlobalGiving for making this feat possible!

Youth Empowerment (YE) Project



PEPY Program Updates

The Civic Engagement Projects led by the Learning Center youth are making fantastic progress this quarter! The 5 groups focused on Solid Waste Management had two meetings with local government officials and stakeholders in Kralanh Market to begin proposing solutions for the excess waste and use of plastic in the community. In total, **there were 103 participants who attended the meetings**. The event was well received by the government officials and the youth groups anticipate working in partnership with them to lay out an awareness and action plan in the coming months. The 5 groups focused on poor education resources and support for children in grades 5-6 also had a very productive meeting on August 8th with 59 stakeholders who agreed to support their library and school building initiatives.

PEPY student, Sieb Phalla, said, *"I am feeling so glad to have the opportunity working as a group to take part solving community issues focused on improving environmental management of the local level. We really want to raise community awareness to understand their roles and responsibilities so that they can actively and collaboratively participate in our project."*



To relieve students' stress and build their teamwork, confidence, and leadership skills, **the team organized 10 football and 10 traditional dancing classes** during this quarter. The students thoroughly enjoyed all the activities! After completing the dance classes, they will have opportunities to do group performances in future PEPY events and sharing sessions. Lastly, the team ensured the students participated in two outdoor events for networking and learning new topics. In the University of South East Asia, they joined a Nature and Biodiversity activity and the PEPY Learning Center also organized a low-skilled pre-employment forum.

Youth Innovators' Space and Incubator (YISI) Program

The YISI team has done an incredible job re-engaging and attracting new Youth Innovators this quarter! Through the launch of their Social Enterprise Incubator Short Course and the continuation of their IT for Business Courses, **they gained 31 additional participants this quarter** (70 participants in total for 2022 after 9 youth had to drop out due to scheduling conflicts). They have also led the region's first entrepreneurs' exhibition, bringing together active incubator programs and additional PEPY team members. The purpose of the event is to give entrepreneurs of Siem Reap the opportunity to engage with and collect valuable feedback from their customer base as attendees sample their products and fill out surveys. The first event was held in July and was a massive success **with over 700 participants coming to visit the entrepreneurs'**

booths, listen in on panels, and enjoy artists' performances. Future exhibitions will be even bigger, with more incubators and co-working groups/organizations getting involved. We are so proud of the YISI team's efforts to find new and dynamic ways to attract entrepreneurs to the YISI Program and our events and of the entrepreneurs working hard to produce quality products and services that are exciting to our community.

Social Enterprise Incubator Program

In late August, our Youth Innovators had their mock pitch event for a panel of judges to get valuable feedback on their business concepts ahead of pitching to YISI and outside investors. After the pitching event, **5 groups were selected for the final pitching round in September** where the top 3 pitches will be provided with start-up funding! We are looking forward to announcing the winners in the coming weeks.



While Youth Innovators are preparing to pitch their final business concepts, **their ongoing mentor support, in-depth research, and workshops have led youth to achieve average course exit scores of 75%**! Their pre-tests scores averaged 53% and even dipped during their progress tests down to 49%, so we are thrilled to see their renewed commitment and energy in the recent months.

There were 3 key workshops and training during this quarter. **The Sales and Customer Service Training led by Chea Vybol, the Director of the American Corner, was conducted twice reaching 58 participants.** The focus of the training is to provide youth with the best practices of customer service, learn how to maintain a good relationship with their customers, and to ultimately increase their sales. The second was **our Obligation and Business Registration Training with Mrs. Kim Leakhena from ATCAM Consulting company was also provided twice to the community, engaging 66 participants.** The training gives an in-depth understanding on how to register a business, categorize a business, and ensure the business is in compliance with government laws. Lastly, a **WeBusiness Talk was held on July 31st, 2022** to give 22 youth the opportunity to connect with Mrs. RY Thany, the Founder of Norea Angkor Handicrafts Company, and Mr. SOTH Vannak, the Co-founder and Director of Australia Pacific International School (API), to discuss the lifelong learning and engagement opportunities for entrepreneurs.

IT for Business Course

The youth finished the year strong, preparing for their pitch presentations and building their marketing strategies and brands for their businesses. With the ongoing support and learning opportunities youth received from their mentors and the YISI team this quarter, participants' exams scores have surpassed our expectations! During the pre-test in the beginning of the course, they received an average score of

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12% and their mid-term exam had an average score of 53%. **We were ecstatic to see the results of the exit exam, which was an average score of 84%!!** This shows that the youth were able to cover and comprehend so much more IT lessons and content as compared to the previous year, so we are so happy that the changes we implemented proved to be effective for the youth in our program.

3-month IT for Business Professional's Course

The **course participants had fantastic exit scores this quarter averaging 69%**. During the last batch, the exit score was 61%, indicating that our teaching methods and workshops are improving. We look forward to the next batch of youth reaching our 75% target. The participants also had some fantastic sessions and workshops. On August 13th, SHE Investment's Sovann Panha, provided a workshop on the Kotra Riel application that enables users to better manage their personal and business cash flow, as well as generate income and expense reports, and business evaluations.



Mrs. Pan Sophanny, is a 37-year-old woman in our 3-month IT for Business Professional's Course (Batch II). COVID-19 had a massive impact on her, her family, and her business.

Sophany started Tiem Angkur in February 2020. Tiem Angkur is a local and natural rice products business that produces high quality rice using mill machinery. Her business started out very

successfully, but in September 2021, her family got infected with COVID-19, and her father and her sister in-law and her sister in law's baby died from the infection. Her two nephews then became her responsibility and her business was temporarily inactive for four months until February 2022.

For the first couple of months, she opened the store as normal. Then, she decided not to continue renting the shop so that she could save money since the number of customers walking in steadily decreased over time. She then moved her rice products to stock at her house and changed her selling strategy to online.

By joining the short course and workshops in the PEPY's YISI Program, she has gained knowledge and skills on designing posters and producing videos on Canva, improved her strategy on scheduling posts on Facebook, and learned the process to register her business. Now she feels more confident about using e-commerce and marketing her business online. We cannot wait to see what she accomplishes over the next year as she identifies business partners and expands her network.