

Quarter Overview

We had many exciting developments this quarter! On August 1st, we onboarded a new Scholarship Assistant named Korng, who is also a 2021 PEPY scholar. He will help Channra, our Scholarship Officer, provide support to our scholars and alumni. In June, we hosted a multi-day exchange with students and facilitators from TESIS Switzerland, and had half-day exchanges with Global Ed Allies and with the Riverside School in Prague. Additionally, we had a transformative art and mental well-being workshop led by Jess Scutella, an avid PEPY supporter and a talented tattooist. In July and August, we led a three-week exchange with Irish teachers through our Cambodia-Ireland Exchange Program. The teachers were Ms. Saoirse, a student teacher from St. Patrick College in Dublin, Ms. Sinead, a teacher from Holywell ETNS, and Mr. Micheál, a brilliant educator who often participates in our exchanges. We would also love to highlight our new and returning partners. Long term PEPY supporter, iHerb Charitable

Foundation, granted us 10 scholarships! Now more young people will have the resources to pursue their dreams AND uplift their communities. Prudential Cambodia Life Insurance provided the space and IT for our YISI Office and our new Community Computer Lab. Lastly, new partners, Rotary District 7170 and the Rotary Club of Dryden, New York gave us a \$5,000 grant for our Dream Project in Varin High School.



Photo of Irish teachers with PEPY students and staff.

PEPY Program Updates



Community Student Outreach Program

Dream Management Project

This quarter, we ended our classes with over 800 Dream students. We also either met or surpassed our annual Dream class target at each school of 45 lessons per year. We also led several events including two study tours to Siem Reap City universities and vocational training centers for close to 300 Grade 12 students from all three schools. We held a combined Kralanh and Sen Sok High School Speaking Contest for 12 finalists from Kralanh and four finalists from Sen Sok who bravely faced an audience of over 400 attendees. Additionally, we had 41 Dream Talks this quarter (10 in Sen Sok, 21 in Kralanh, and 10 in Varin) featuring PEPY scholars and community members who shared topics with the students. Through our data tracking, we saw that while graduation rates are fairly consistent, the percentage of Dream students accessing higher education is close to 30% higher than non-Dream students. This has further motivated us to help our partner schools so ALL students will have the resources to continue their education and achieve their goals.

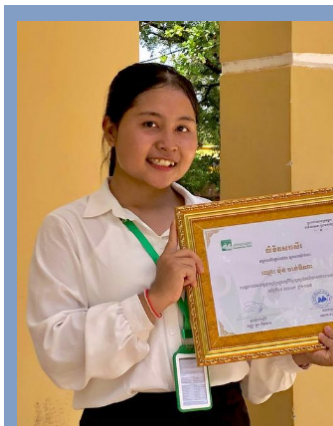


One of the finalists in the Public Speaking Competition.

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Project

The PEPY scholars and alumni are aiming to strengthen the PEPY community. This quarter, they organized a team-building retreat at Bouk Mountain. During the retreat, there were icebreaker games, opportunities to network, and sharing sessions. One memorable topic was from the scholars who recently traveled to Ireland. They shared their lessons learned and advice to scholars also seeking experiences abroad. The group included Sengheng, Chev, and Sokpheaktra – who is also PEPY’s Accounting and Admin Coordinator. Seventy-eight scholars and alumni joined the retreat.

The team also conducted a very successful round of employer visits this quarter. We visited the work offices of 28 22’ scholars who are employed or interning at eight companies in Siem Reap City. We were pleased to see that 100% of the employers rated our scholars’ work as satisfactory or higher. Lastly, our employment rate for the 2022 scholars is at 90% and 100% for all previous generations of scholars and alumni. We look forward to getting the employment rate of the 2022 scholars up to 100% in the coming months!



Chandyna is a 2022 scholar from Taing Kork District, Kampong Thom Province. Despite facing many financial challenges, her parents are very committed to supporting her and her siblings’ dreams. Chandyna is the eldest in her family. She told us that she never imagined that she could pursue her dream of becoming a nurse after

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finishing high school due to her family's inability to help her. She applied to many scholarship programs, but she was rejected by all of them except for PEPY. Currently, Chandyna is pursuing an associate in nursing at Angkor University and she is a freshman. She loves her major and hopes to become a nurse in a public hospital and run a small clinic in the future. She is very grateful to PEPY for this opportunity and for giving her the chance to accomplish her dream.



Learning Center Program

This quarter, a familiar face returned to the Learning Center. In June, **Dena, a 14' PEPY scholar and former PEPY team member, started her new position as our Youth Empowerment Officer.** Kim Ann, our Youth Empowerment Project Coordinator, moved onto a new and exciting position in our YISI Program so we spent some time last quarter searching for an officer to lead our Youth Empowerment Project. After gaining years of program planning and facilitation skills in her recent roles, Dena has been an amazing asset to the Learning Center team and to the Youth Empowerment Project.



Photo of our team conducting a employer visit.

The Learning Center team visited our alumni at their work offices in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh this quarter. The employer visits are an opportunity for our team to assess whether our courses are adequately preparing young people for skilled employment and to determine what type of additional workshops and support services we can offer to the alumni. So far, **we have conducted performance reviews with our alumni's employers and provided the alumni with individual feedback.** Speaking of our alumni support efforts, we are pleased to share that on June 4, we organized the first official Learning Center Alumni Association Oath Day. During the gathering, **80 PEPY staff, scholarship students, and alumni convened at South-East Asia University to identify the association's leaders, their key goals, and their fundraising and project plans.** We are looking forward to seeing what they will accomplish!

English Learning Project (ELP)

In the ELP, the students have made great progress in their grammar and vocabulary. In fact, **all of the classes have completed at least 12 units of their textbook.** In addition to our classes, our remote volunteer, Ashley, provided students with several sessions focused on grammar, reading comprehension, pronunciation, listening, and conversation starters. They have also become noticeably more confident in

their English language comprehension by participating in regular group discussions, presentations, and sharing sessions. These improvements were reflected in **their recent progress test, where students had an average score of 68%, which is a 35% increase from their pre-test!**



Photo of PEPY and TESIS students.

This quarter, the students participated in meaningful exchanges. From June 12th –16th, **students and teachers from the TESIS School in Switzerland visited the Learning Center.** During their visit, students were able to practice their English listening and conversation skills. From August 7 - 25th, **three Irish teachers came to the center and led various lessons including Irish culture and education, problem solving, world geography, and empowerment.** The students really enjoyed the different teaching style of the Irish teachers, which was very participatory and humorous. By exposing our students to many different accents and cultures, we are helping them prepare to work comfortably in diverse working environments.

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Project

In ICT Class, **eight key lessons were covered this quarter.** They were 1) Google Drive, 2) Microsoft PowerPoint, 3) Microsoft Excel, 4) Organizing Files and Folders, 5) Backup Files, 6) Cybersecurity, 7) Video Editing, and 8) Introduction to Scratch Programming. Scratch is a much-needed addition to our curriculum as coding has become increasingly in demand globally and in Cambodia. We also had some key learning opportunities and workshops organized for the students. On August 11, PEPY's ICT team conducted an ICT Talk. **The ICT Talk featured Sighapaul Lee, a young IT savant from the International School of Siem Reap, who has been working on advanced scratch programming since he was 10 years old.** All the students felt inspired by Sighapaul and more encouraged to study coding.



Photo of Learning Center students with Sighapaul Lee.

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>> Future is Bright Lab and Library

There were **103 tech borrowers (26 alumni and 77 current students) this quarter!** The students and alumni reported that they borrowed tech materials for their studies and for their work. Many of our current students borrowed our IT materials to do continued project research for the Civic Engagement Projects after class and enhance their tech skills. When asked about the importance of the Bright Lab, student, Chheangmai, shared, *“The tech material has provided many benefits and facilitated my studies such as practicing my homework and lessons, researching new lessons, and doing various tasks that can support myself to improve my studies in all subjects. The project is very important for students.”* **We received \$310.50 in contributions from the students** to go toward future tech needs and other programmatic costs.

Youth Empowerment (YE) Project

In the Youth Empowerment Project, the students are making progress on their Civic Engagement Projects. They are working in 10 groups – seven in Kralanh and three in Srei Snam. Four groups in Kralanh are focused on waste management and other environmental challenges while three groups are conducting library renovation projects. The groups in Srei Snam are focused on reducing the dropout rate in secondary schools. So far, **all the student groups have completed their project needs assessments by collecting data and insights from their community stakeholders and presented their findings to relevant leadership** (local authorities, teachers, principals, etc.).

This quarter, we also organized a Youth Panelist Discussion on “Youth and Community Engagement” on June 11th. **Seventy-eight participants joined the panel event** and there were three speakers - Mr. Kat Bunheng, the Decentralization Advisor at German International Cooperation, Miss Muy Nara, a Cambodian Women Entrepreneurship Association Board Member in Siem Reap and CEO of Angkor Land Property and Management Co Ltd, and Mr. Mean Lux, the Executive Director of PEPY.



Photo from the Youth Panel Discussion event.

The YE Class covered seven topics: 1) Conflict Resolution, 2) Effective Communication, 3) Debate, 4) Gender Inclusive, 5) Globalization, 6) Urban Development, and 7) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). **The YE team provided one-on-one counseling sessions to 29 students** to discuss the academic and personal challenges they are facing. Many of the students shared that they do not feel smart enough to succeed and question their abilities. We took the time to assure them and help them reinstate a proper study schedule and plan to increase their motivation and strengthen their study habits. Through our efforts this quarter and the implementation of the student projects, we have observed that **students have significantly increased their confidence and general knowledge of global issues and events.**



Youth Innovators' Space and Incubator (YISI) Program

This quarter, we completed the third cycle of our YISI Program. We started the quarter strong with the addition of new volunteers and staff. **Kim Ann, PEPY Learning Center Program's Youth Empowerment Officer, joined YISI as our Program Officer.** We had the support of a two-month volunteer, Rizza, from the University of Richmond, USA, and two two-month term interns from the Australia Pacific School in Siem Reap named Ranue and Socheata. They helped us execute several of our key events this quarter. One of the first events was the WeBusiness Talk led by One Window Service and Survival Swimming Club covering the topic of business registration. **There were 39 total participants who joined the talk.** We also held the fourth Youth Innovators' Exhibition at Angkor Green Garden on August 5-6. **Forty-seven businesses participated in the event and there were over 750 attendees.**



Testimonial from our Recent Exhibiton:

“Thank you for organizing an amazing event on last weekend at Angkor Green Garden. As you may have seen, 20 of our youths/

interns participated in your event, sightseeing all the exhibits and sharing sessions with business owners in Siem Reap.

As an organization working to support the community, we, the REACH team, are so glad to lead the young's students to experience such an innovative program. One of them expressed his excitement to me about how many innovative ideas he acquired from attending the event and how he hoped to create his own business/restaurant in the future. [...] We sincerely hope that through all of these tiny and diverse cooperation [opportunities], our students will end up enrolling in your various courses when they are ready.”

- REACH NGO team

We launched our Community Computer Lab at the Prudential Cambodia Life Assurance's Siem Reap Building this quarter! Our official launch day was on August 25. **We hosted 69 participants,** who were representatives from partner incubators, community organizations, and eager future users.

Social Enterprise Incubator Program

This quarter, **we provided 23 participants with an “Obligations and Procedure of Business Registration” workshop** by Mrs. Kim Leakhena from ATCam Consulting Co., Ltd on June 3. We wrapped up the course session in June and held the course completion ceremony on June 24. **Thirteen Youth Innovators who completed the course and the IT for Professionals Course participants joined the ceremony.** **We completed the final round of the Entrepreneurs' Pitching Contest with 96 attendees** on July 15. The first place

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(\$1000K USD) winner was Miss Oeng Vangdy, the founder of DD Fashion (a contemporary fashion store). The second place (\$700 USD) winner was Miss Soeurn Sokpheaktra, Co-Founder of Visakha (a tailoring business for hand-woven fabrics). The third place (\$500 USD) winner was Mr. Houn Hen, the founder of Banana Center Cambodia (teaching foreign languages through innovative curriculums).

IT for Business Course

The Youth Innovators studied three applications this quarter. The first application, Canva, helped them learn how to produce high-quality advertisements. Then, they had several sessions in Capcut to learn how to edit their videos utilizing a simplified and effective application. Lastly, they learned how to use the Kotra Riels App, which was developed by our incubator partner, SHE Investments. The app is a cashflow management application that ensures our participants are learning to regularly track and manage their purchases and expenses.

>> **IT for Business Professional's Course**

This quarter, the participants in the course focused on exploring the topic of Ecommerce vs. Social Media Commerce. By the end of our sessions, we were particularly impressed with the participants' increased knowledge and comprehension of IT this quarter. **Their average pre-test score was 35% while their post-test score was 83%!** This means that they improved their knowledge by 48%. Mr. Phan, a recent graduate of the course shared, *"By joining the IT for Business Professional's Course, I've learned so much. I can create my own Gmail account and know how to keep my account secured. I learned about online social media like Facebook and how to create and protect it from being hacked. I look forward to joining another course at PEPY."*

Lastly, **18 Youth Innovators in the IT for Business Professional's Course successfully completed the course** and joined the full-time participants in the celebration ceremony on June 24.