

Quarterly Overview



Students learning about communication skills in Youth Empowerment Class

In the past quarter, PEPY's programs and initiatives achieved significant milestones aimed at empowering students and enhancing their career readiness. We have celebrated the achievements of **program and university graduates**, while also hosting and facilitating activities such as **student debates, workshops, group discussions, public speaking events** and even **competitions** that encouraged practical skill application, confidence building, networking and community engagement.

We were also excited to welcome back the **Annual Cambodia-Ireland Exchange Program**, where students and visiting educators from Ireland celebrate the links between the two countries and learn about one another's cultures over 3 weeks of fun and insightful lessons.

This quarter we warmly welcome **two new members** to the PEPY team. Dream Management Project Officer and **PEPY Scholarship Alumni Seen Yoeum** started in June. Joining PEPY in July was the new Partnerships and Development Manager **Ariel Mario Tudela**.

On a final, bittersweet note, we say **farewell to Kathryn McDaniel**, the previous Partnerships and Development Manager who is leaving PEPY after 5 tireless and passionate years helping ensure PEPY programs were effective, enlightening and properly funded. All of us will miss her tremendously and wish her the best of luck with her future projects.

All of us will miss you tremendously, Kathryn and wish you the best of luck with your future projects!

PEPY Program Updates



Dream Management Program

The Dream Management team achieved several key milestones this past quarter. We organized **16 Dream Talks** featuring **55 speakers** and reaching **751 students**. The purpose of the Dream Talks was to inspire and empower grade 10-12 students to learn insights from individuals who have a similar background to the students and have achieved success. By sharing their journeys and the lessons learned, the invited speakers motivated our students to pursue their own dreams and aspirations. In late June, PEPY organized a **Skills Fair** hosted by Varin High School which attracted **32 companies** and involved **672 students**. The fair was centered around students exploring a wide variety of career paths and with representatives from all 32 institutions while learning about training programs, skill-building workshops, and networking for potential internships and scholarship opportunities. In addition to the Fair, PEPY also arranged



Local Education Official with PEPY staff, teachers, school principal, and students at the Skills Fair Event.

four **study tours** for **198 participants** which included Dream students, teachers, and PEPY staff. Dream visited 2 institutes and 2 vocational training centers to provide students "an eye-opening experience" about real-world job opportunities in Siem Reap city.

PEPY Program Updates

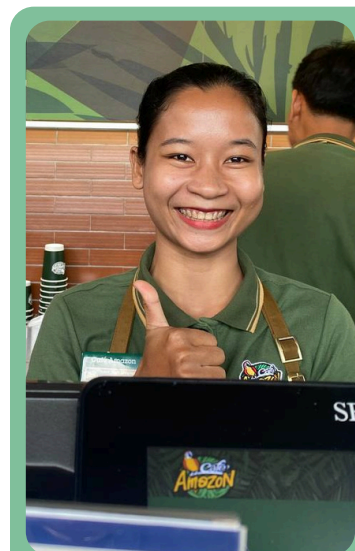


Dream Management Program *(continued)*

Dream Managers conducted the **Quarter 4 Meeting & Reflection** with 19 teachers from all 12 of our target high schools and nine principals in attendance. The meeting focused on comparing annual achievements results with objectives, challenges, solutions, and lessons learned. The 2024-2025 activity plan and the expected results were presented to teachers and schools principals alongside a valuable feedback session for better collaboration between all parties. Other highlights this summer include the final round of the **Student Debate Contest**, featuring 4 outstanding groups of contestants in grades 10 and 11 held at Kralanh High School, involving **318 participants**, 204 of whom were female. In all, **78 lessons** were delivered this quarter across all 12 target schools covering debate preparation, good citizenship, self-discipline, and a deep dive into the UN Social Development Goals.



Kralanh school teachers, principal, and PEPY staff with contestants holding certificates of appreciation and medals.



Sreyneang is the youngest of seven siblings and is a former **Dream** student from Kralanh High School. Her parents' health conditions left them unable to work – resulting in the family relying on her brother's income from raising chickens and ducks at home. Her other siblings left school at an early age and married, but Sreyneang learned from Dream class that graduating from high school and pursuing higher education would help her and her family get ahead. With the support of our Dream Officers and teacher partners, she received a scholarship from Lotus Outreach Cambodia Organization in 2021 and became the first in her family to continue into higher education.

"I never dreamed that I could finish high school and receive a scholarship to go the university. I would like to thank Dream Class and PEPY for helping me to make my dream come true. Without the scholarship support, I would end up with nothing after high school." she said. Sreyneang graduated with a bachelor's degree in law from Build Bright University in Siem Reap in 2024 and is currently working at Café Amazon to support her family. Although she did not immediately land a job in her field of study, she enjoys it because she earns money to support herself and her parents. Talking about her future, Sreyneang said, *"I dream to be a lawyer one day because I also want to contribute my knowledge and skills to support my community."* We are so proud of Sreyneang for and look forward to her many future successes!

For the full Dream report, click the [link here](#)



Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Program

In June and July 2024, PEPY conducted several key activities to support scholars and their communities. The **first Annual Parents Meeting** was held on June 23rd, with 182 attendees, including students, parents, and PEPY staff, to discuss student progress and program updates. The **Scholarship Recognition Ceremony** on July 7th honored 64 graduates, acknowledging their achievements. Scholars were honored by Mrs. Veronika Gayer, the representative of iHerb's Charitable Foundation one of the key donors to this program. Two scholarship recipients shared their personal experiences and expressed their deep gratitude in heartfelt speeches that resonated with the audience. Their stories highlighted the profound impact of the scholarship on their academic and personal lives.

In late July, the scholarship team provided **counseling** to 28 students to address academic and personal challenges, while also conducting **employer visits** to assess student performance during internships. Additionally, **12 family visits** were carried out to strengthen connections with students' families. Despite small challenges with the recent graduate unemployment rate (3%), this quarter brought notable achievements including the **graduation of 13 students from Paññāsāstra University** and **several students securing full-time jobs**.



The Scholarship Recognition Ceremony celebrating university graduates at AMATAK by Landing Hotel



SHE team conducted a visit to Miss Phan's family, 2023 scholarship recipient, in Sen Sok Village

For the full SHE report, click the [link here](#)

PEPY Program Updates



Learning Center Program

This recent quarter, the Learning Center hosted several major events to resounding success. **The PEPY Student Debate Contest** provided a great opportunity for LC students to enhance their debating skills, critical thinking abilities, and build confidence in public speaking. **Two Leadership and ICT Talks** provided deep insights into how environmental influence can shape leadership, and practical Excel knowledge for the modern workplace.

We also celebrated the return of the **Cambodia-Ireland Exchange Program** with 3 weeks of team-building activities, such as Irish traditional dancing, educational games and discussions that enhanced the students' English proficiency, and lessons built cultural awareness. This is the 11th year of the exchange, and it is showing no sign of slowing down. Every visit from this group of dedicated educators leaves LC students and PEPY feeling grand.



Above: PEPY Youth Debate Contest at The Elephant Hotel

Below: Students joining our visiting educators during the 3-week long Cambodia-Ireland Exchange program.



We also conducted four **Business Learning Visits** to better understand how our students are performing in their workplaces and internships (they're doing excellently, by the way). Then followed this with **Practical Workshops on CV and Cover Letter writing** to further enhance our students' professional development.

Five student groups in the **Civic Engagement Project** presented their assessment studies to three schools in Chi Kraeng District, Siem Reap. The groups conducted training and workshops in August on education, health, the environment, and gender equality, reaching 602 community members. One participating student shared that they learned about the "true power of collective action and community involvement."

Lastly, we received **128 new student applications** for the incoming class of 2024-25. We will select 40 candidates and conduct interviews and reference checks with parents and village representatives to ensure the best selections over the next quarter.

English Learning Project (ELP)

English Learning Project classes made notable progress across different levels using the New Headway textbook series. The Beginner level (Blue Whale Group) completed 4 units and covered various tenses, vocabulary, and grammar. The Elementary level (Polar Bear Group) finished the Beginner level book and began the Pre-Intermediate level book, focusing on comparative adjectives, tenses, and making suggestions. The Intermediate group completed the first four units of the Pre-Intermediate book and reinforced previous grammar points.

Overall, students advanced in reading, listening, writing, grammar, and speaking, achieving an average score of 63% on their English Progress test, a 23% improvement from before. Additionally, the **English Learning Club**, led by PEPY's native English-speaking volunteer Amy, covered eight diverse topics, enhancing students' comprehension, communication skills, and vocabulary through engaging discussions and activities.

To prepare for the students' **English-speaking contest** on September 5th and 6th, the English Learning Project Coordinator invited Mr. Heang Sotheareak, an expert public speaker and PEPY alumnus, to provide guidance. As the president of the Toastmasters Club in Siem Reap, Mr. Sotheareak shared valuable insights on effective public speaking, covering key aspects such as delivery, language use, body language, clarity, vocal variety, content, and overall impact.



President of Toastmasters Siem Reap sharing with students on "The Art of Public Speaking"

PEPY Program Updates

Information Communications Technology (ICT) Project



The winners of the Capcut Video editing competition receiving a laptop case as a reward for their hard work.

In the latest quarter, PEPY's ICT Project engaged students in **72 lessons focused on Canva and Capcut** to enhance their creative skills through practical applications. The program included 11 lessons on Canva, where students learned to design posters, CVs, and presentations, and 56 lessons on Capcut, which covered video editing techniques. Students collaborated in class, allowing them to inspire one another while building essential skills for future education and career opportunities.

To further encourage creativity, PEPY introduced a **Capcut Video Editing Competition**, where 59 students produced 32 videos from July 30 to August 30. Using a detailed rubric, videos were judged on content, clarity, originality, and production quality. Three winning groups from two classes received laptop cases in recognition for their outstanding efforts, reinforcing the importance of applying their new skills to make a meaningful impact.



ICT Volunteer Reaksa tutoring students in the PEPY Bright Lab.

On August 26, 2024, PEPY's ICT team hosted an inspiring ICT Talk for 59 students at the Learning Center, featuring guest speaker Mr. Ouk Dara, a Branding and Point of Sale Marketing Assistant at Vattanac Brewery. Mr. Dara, who shares a similar background with the students, discussed his journey from humble beginnings to professional success, emphasizing the importance of Excel skills in his daily work. He demonstrated practical Excel formulas and offered insights into learning on the job, which resonated deeply with the students. Attendees found his relatable story motivational, highlighting the relevance of their classroom learning to real-world applications, and inspired to further explore Excel.

Youth Empowerment (YE) Project

From June to August 2024, PEPY's Learning Center engaged all 59 students in the Youth Empowerment and Library Class, covering essential topics such as Globalization, Economic Growth in Cambodia, and CV and Interview Tips among other helpful lessons. These classes aimed to deepen students' understanding of the socio-economic landscape of Cambodia and prepare them for employment after graduation in November 2024. The training in CV and interview skills significantly boosted students' confidence, with 85% reporting improved presentation skills to potential employers. Additionally, the **Youth Leadership Talk** on "How Architecture Shapes Leadership" by guest speaker Mr. Monirom Vorapong inspired students to consider how their environments influence leadership qualities.



CV and Interview Tips Training at PEPY Learning Center

Throughout this period, students also participated in the **PEPY Youth Debate Contest**, working on their critical thinking and public speaking skills while discussing pressing issues like vocational training versus university education. **Four Business Learning Visits** offered hands-on experience in diverse industries, enhancing students' understanding of potential career paths. Moreover, five student groups presented their **Civic Engagement Projects** to local authorities, engaging over 600 community members on topics like education and gender equality. The Learning Center team also provided **counseling support to 31 students**, addressing academic goals and personal challenges, ensuring a holistic approach to their development.

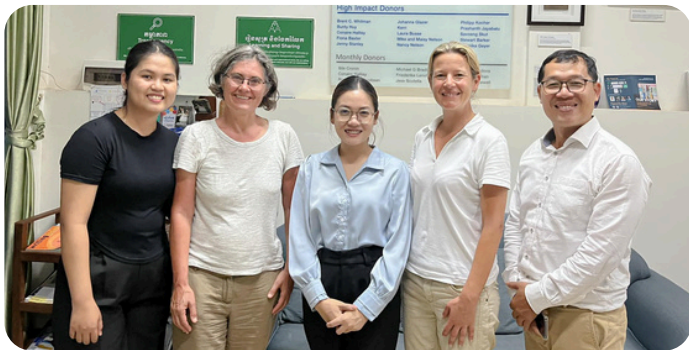


Students received counseling from the LC team members.

For the full LC report, click the link [here](#)

PEPY Program Updates

Youth Innovators' Space and Incubator (YISI) Program



Visitors from CO-OPERAID helped ensure efficient and reliable data tracking for the YISI Program

This quarter has been a transformative period for the YISI program. Notable achievements include the development of the **PEPY Launchpad comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Log Frame**, in collaboration with This Life Cambodia, which will enhance our capacity to track program impact and ensure accountability. A productive visit from the CO-OPERAID team further strengthened our partnership, allowing for valuable discussions and insights that will guide our future initiatives. These changes culminated in the successful completion of the **PEPY Accelerator 8-week training program** designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with essential skills to launch and scale their businesses. Participants engaged in dynamic training sessions covering critical topics, from "Lean Canvas methodology" and operations management to investment readiness, complemented by hands-on mentorship.



PEPY Accelerator Program participant orientation session

Excitement is also building for the **upcoming PEPY Startup Conference and Festival**, set for October 12, 2024, where we will showcase participant achievements and promote entrepreneurship from within and around Siem Reap. The event promises a rich array of interactive workshops and networking opportunities, enhancing our visibility in the entrepreneurial landscape. While we face challenges, such as the limited availability of trainers with both business experience and training skills, our commitment to providing impactful training remains unwavering. The successful **Launchpad Alumni Meeting** on business registration, featuring insights from industry leaders, exemplifies our dedication to supporting participants at every stage of their entrepreneurial journeys. We look forward to continued growth and impact in the coming months!

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PEPY Startup Conference & Festival

ព្រឹត្តិការណ៍សំខាន់ៗ
Event Highlights

12/តុលា/2024
8am-10pm

Rose Apple Square
SIEM Reap,
Cambodia

ចូលរួមឥតគិតថ្លៃ

- ការតាំងពីព័ណ័រផលិតផល
Product showcase
- សកម្មភាពកម្មវិធីតូចៗ
Mini workshop
- វគ្គបណ្តុះបណ្តាលជំនាញខ្លីៗ
Masterclass
- ការផ្ញើបទបង្ហាញ
Pitching
- ការប្រគុំតន្ត្រី
Mini Concert

Organized by Funded by Sponsored by Event Partner Event Space Sponsored

Coming in October, the first PEPY Start-up Conference & Festival to celebrate Siem Reap's entrepreneurship ecosystem

We would like to spotlight one of our alumni, Ms. Chek Mara, the co-founder of "Kravan Travel Agency" and current PEPY Dream Management Program Coordinator.



Mara recently completed the comprehensive PEPY Launchpad training program, which equipped her with invaluable knowledge and new skills.

Before joining the program, Mara had limited experience in starting and managing a business. Despite her initial efforts, she lacked a clear understanding of the essential steps involved in entrepreneurship.

Through PEPY Launchpad, Mara gained a solid grasp of the necessary processes, from conducting market research to developing sound financial plans. This knowledge has empowered her to operate her business with greater confidence. She is very grateful to have been selected for the program, as it has enabled her to build a professional network of like-minded entrepreneurs and mentors.

For the full YISI report, [click the link here](#)