Quarter Overview

This has been an exciting and very busy quarter for PEPY. Two members of staff and two students went to Ireland to visit DPTENS school as well as Donbate Community College and St Patrick's Girls and Boys School. The PEPY team also had the honor of meeting the President of Dublin City University, Professor Brian MacCraith and we look forward to developing that relationship. The trip was a great success in terms of learning and sharing and has strengthened our partnership with Ireland. Click here for more information.

We then had the pleasure of welcoming Maeve Corish, the Principal of DPETNS Community School to Cambodia and PEPY for the first time. Maeve and her family ran sessions for the students and the students in turn took them on a sunrise bicycle ride to Angkor Wat. All staff and students thoroughly enjoyed meeting Maeve and her family and we look forward to her visiting again. Click here.

In May, we also had the honor of welcoming Reacbha Fitzgerald from the Irish Embassy in Vietnam. Reacbha met with scholarship students and received a presentation about how PEPY uses Irish Aid and the program it supports. Again, this was a very positive meeting and we look forward to Irish Aid continuing to support the PEPY Learning Center.

Added to this we have had visits from students and staff from the Packer Collegiate Institute, the University of North Florida and Brentwood School from the USA and the ACU from Australia. These exchanges provide an excellent opportunity for PEPY students to practice their English, learn about another culture and expand their network by cultivating friendships with young people in other countries.

We also held a second Sharing Event at Kralanh High School with over 300 participants and some inspiring speakers. Click here.

At the end of May, we announced that the Scholarship program was open for applications – over 120 high school students attended and PEPY will support another 30 students to continue into higher education.

We are also delighted that we successfully met our match fund through Go Philanthropic and we once again are very grateful and thankful to all our supporters.
Scholarship Program

PEPY Empowering Youth provides university and vocational training scholarships for students from Kralanh. Recipients are supported with tuition fees, study supplies, a bicycle, use of a computer, a living allowance, and access to health care. Scholarship students also attend the Learning Center for additional training.

Quarterly Overview

The Scholarship students have been very busy this quarter and as well as continuing with their studies there have been many other extra-curricular activities.

- **Community payback project**
  Students took part in conducting research activities in some of the communes in Siem Reap. The purpose of the research was to find about what was happening in those communes by talking to the people who live there and finding out about their lives.

- **Graduation day**
  On 6th March 2017 six Promotion-2 students who studied at Vanda Institute celebrated their graduation day in Phnom Penh. Two of those students achieved a grade A in all subjects – a fantastic achievement.

- **Fun Run**
  To celebrate the partnership between PEPY and DPETNS in Ireland and to coincide with a fun run taking place in Dublin, students and staff at PEPY held a Fun Run near the Learning Center. 25 students and 3 PEPY staff members took part in the run waving Cambodian and Irish flags. The students certainly had fun and really enjoyed the experience.

- **Exchange program with The Packer Collegiate Institute**
  PEPY students spent four mornings and shared several social activities with the Packer students. During this exchange program students spent time getting to know each other, a daily portrait photography project, a poetry activity, kite making, and a documentary video project as well as having fun playing games, singing songs and dancing. It was a positive experience for both sets of students with the PEPY students learning new skills and making new friends.

- **Visitors from Brentwood School**
  25 PEPY students and staff had the opportunity to meet with friends from Brentwood school, America. The Brentwood students had the opportunity to learn about PEPY and meet their pen pals to talk about their lives in Cambodia and America. PEPY students benefitted from learning about a different culture but also seeing similarities between their hopes and dreams for the future.

- **Visit from Maeve Cornish, Principal of DPETNS Community College**
  26 PEPY scholarship students went to the airport to welcome Maeve and her family to Cambodia and PEPY. Maeve ran several sessions for the students. The students in turn took Maeve on a sunrise tour to Angkor Wat and served her a breakfast they had cooked. This was again a valuable learning experience for the students especially in broadening their horizons.

- **Khmer New Year Party**
  Reap. Students, staff and friends celebrated the New Year by taking part in traditional Khmer games, Khmer dancing and singing as well as enjoying some traditional food together.

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Quarterly Overview

English Class

This quarter has seen a noticeable improvement in students’ confidence and ability in speaking and writing in English. The students can now confidently converse with visitors and native English speakers about common topics and extended introductions. Their writing skills also underwent the same development, coming from short phrases to full sentences and multiple paragraphs. Basic grammar rules can now be observed during Speaking Exercises albeit with some inconsistencies in delivery and usage. There was an average lower score in the written exam but this was due to the promotion of four students from the Beginner to Beginner+ class. Students are being trained on how to use available resources such as books, internet and peers to gather additional information by tailoring class delivery to encourage self-discipline and proper resource use.

ICT Class

ICT classes are currently being provided to 30 students 5 of whom are non-scholarship students. This quarter students have undertaken the following activities:
- Reviewed Excel Function such as function and formulas, conditional formatting & data validation.
- Learnt Graphic Design including photoshop including creating business cards and adverts.
- Learnt how to create and edit a video slideshow and they made a video, Jambok Hoas trip, which they uploaded to YouTube.

Youth Empowerment

This quarter lessons were delivered to students on project management, positive mental health, constructive feedback, stress management, and counseling skills. Other regular weekly classes were held in music and drawing delivered by Music for Everyone. Once students have an opportunity to facilitate their own session and present to their peers. This quarter’s topics included child abuse, communication, time management and memory skills. The students used PowerPoint, group activities and reflection games during these sessions. To promote students’ reading skills weekly library classes are held and his quarter there has been an improvement in students reading skills and enjoyment of reading. Another weekly activity is football in which both the girls and boys enjoy taking part in.

As well regular weekly sessions the students enjoyed a presentation from Cambodia Living Art Organization at Wat Bo Pagoda. The aim of the presentation was that to find out about CLA’s projects and students enjoyed practicing Khmer traditional dancing. CLA have suggested that PEPY students could help advertise arts to the community and work together to organize arts events together. Students also visited two temples, Baphoun and Phreah Khan to learn and research more about these ancient temples.

Learning Center Project

With employers increasingly highlighting the need for soft skills, PEPY’s Learning Center aims to increase the employability skills of scholarship students through the provision of English and ICT classes and soft skills training through Youth Empowerment classes. Students are also connected to new ideas and potential career opportunities by means of inspirational speakers, career mentorship, internships, and volunteers.
Dream Management Project

Dreams are very important to us at PEPY Empowering Youth. Many of the students we work with are only exposed to a limited range of opportunities. We believe it’s important for young people to dream big and see how they can make their dreams a reality. Through our Dream Classes, we aim to nurture those big ambitions for their future and give them the resources and connections to take the necessary steps to make their dreams a reality. In the PEPY Dream Classes, young people are given a forum to identify and discuss their ambitions for the future, and any challenges they may need to overcome. The classes provide career resources, mentorship, and group workshops. Successful Cambodian professionals present to our students, thereby giving them exposure to different ideas and aspirations.

Quarterly Overview

This quarter regular sessions were provided to the students.

Grade 10: students received sessions on the team leader role, mental health, day to day daily improvements, 10 tips to success, confidence building, being a good citizen and a session on safe cycling and driving,

Grade 11: students received sessions on how to become a successful learner, effective communication, time management, self-motivation, positive thinking, doing good deeds, influence of the West on Cambodian lifestyle and stress management

Grade 12: students received sessions on self-esteem, self-management, leadership, interview tips for the scholarship and interview practice.

The second Sharing Event was organized at Kralanh High School and was attended to more than 250 participants. The event was opened by Sarakk Rith, Executive Director of PEPY and the Principal of Kralanh High School. There followed three inspirational speakers Mr. Sokh Sotheasey with the topic “Good son and good friend”, Miss Thon Thavry with the topic of “The power of believing in yourself” and the last speaker was Mr. Soun Kheun with the topic of “Characteristics”. After that one Dream students and two PEPY Scholars from Promotion 5 shared their ideas and experiences with the audience about working hard, volunteering and learning to change.

Looking forward to:

- Welcoming students from the Riverside International School from Prague, Czechoslovakia.
- Recruiting new 30 scholarship students from Kralanh and Srei Snam Districts.
- Organizing exchange program with PEPY students and teachers from Ireland, and between PEPY and students from Concord River.