

Editorial

Children's rights: to everyone it may concern!

In the 19th century, children started being recognised as beings that should be protected. However, it was not until 1941 that the Declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted. In 1989, this international document was expanded into the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Adopted and ratified by Cambodia in 1992, the CRC is nowadays applied worldwide (except in the USA).

This year, Phare was keen to organize a special event dedicated to the children and their rights to lead them to have agency over their protection through advocacy activities and social mobilization.

Our collective Child Sponsorship Program allows the most vulnerable youth to benefit from our Child Protection Program and to thrive in their lives and studies. We invite you to spread the word to people around you so that more children can also benefit...

The most glaring example to be spotlighted is this new generation of freshly graduated students, all ready for the big leap from education to working life. Thanks to their strong determination and your support, these young professionals in performing, visual and applied arts are a source of pride for their communities. We wish them the best success in their artistic careers!

With gratitude for your support and on behalf of the Phare students and team,

Osman Khawaja
Directeur Exécutif
Phare Ponleu Selpak



Phare celebrates the Children's Rights!

On June 1st, a party was held on campus for the celebration of the 69th anniversary of the International Children's Day. With the youngest population in Southeast Asia (66% of the population is under the age of 30), the International Children's Day has been classified as a public holiday. On this special day, all the children at Phare took part in shows, fun activities and breakfast. The purpose of organizing the shows, speeches and activities was to help them understand their rights and the different ways to protect not only themselves, but all of the other children in their community against potential abuse.

Four children shared their feelings with us after the event:



Channa, 11, 5th grade - Dance

I was very happy on this day because it was my Day of Rights, I ate some cake, saw a circus show, played games, joined the traditional dance show, made new friends and laughed a lot!



Sela, 11, 4th grade - Dance

There were many things that I enjoyed on this day: the speech about children's rights, and all the educational performances, especially the traditional dance.



Linda, 10, 4th grade - Dance

It made me feel that people really care about my rights, even if I am just a kid. I really liked the circus show and the clowns who made me laugh so much...



Yuin, 10, 4th grade - Dance

What I liked the most was dancing with my group, the educational shows, teaching new students, eating cake and having fun with my friends. I cannot wait for next year!



Meet Reaksmey, Outstanding Student of the Year!

In September, three child club members from eight Cambodian NGOs were invited to join a two-day workshop about Child's Rights and Child Advocate Network.

Reaksmey, a 17-year-old dance student at Phare Ponleu Selpak was chosen to be the Provincial Child Advocate Network leader.. She also participated in a workshop in December about the National Child Advocate Network in Siem Reap province, where she was selected as the Network treasurer. Currently in 10th grade, she is the Child Club Leader and she was awarded Outstanding Student of the Year thanks to her involvement, solidarity and school results.

"Being a leader of Phare's Child Club is very important for me. It is a huge opportunity to help other children, especially by raising problems such as school dropouts, immigration, labor and drug abuse, alcoholism, child trafficking and health sanitation guidelines," she explains.

The young girl has been studying traditional dance for over 7 years. She is one of many students that are a part of the Social Sponsorship Program, which provides her lunch, a bicycle and a monthly stipends. It allows her to study in good conditions.

"It is so important to raise these issues to the authorities and community leaders in order to help all children overcome their difficulties. I hope that my engagement in the Child Club will inspire the other children to reach for a bright future, become good students and contribute to the development of our nation," says Reaksmey.

Her goal for the next two years: to work harder in high school and get the top grade. Additionally, as she is also passionate about dancing, she expects to become a professional traditional dancer and teacher!

Phare opened its doors to the communities

On July 6th and 7th, the 2018 Open Days Festival welcomed around 1000 visitors and showcased the work of our talented students, alumni and teachers. It was an opportunity for everyone to discover the state-of-the-art training opportunities offered by our different schools, as well as the other artistic, educational and social programs ran by the NGO.

During two days, everyone was invited to discover Phare's beautiful campus in Battambang, specially decorated by the students, staff, artists and teachers. Visitors took workshops in dance, music, animation, graphic design, theater or circus, discovered the skills of our students through watching one of our exhibitions, had fun and expressed their creativity on one of our expression walls, were amazed by our students' show, took pictures with the Open Days' mascot, had a talk with our graduates, took a campus tour... There was something for all tastes and ages.

At the same time, 22 Animation, Graphic Design, Visual Arts, Circus and Music students became our 2018 graduates. Congratulations!

All the pictures are on our [Facebook page!](#) @PharePonleuSelpak



Let the Music play!

Phare Ponleu Selpak is training the next generation of Cambodian musicians, sound designers and composers.

In 2014, a section of the old music school fell apart and for safety reasons, the whole building had to be destroyed. Since they don't have any dedicated space to learn and create anymore, our young musicians find themselves forced to train and perform where they can find some space where to play and organise jam sessions without disturbing the other classes. Most of the time, they gather under the campus' big trees, at the mercy of the unpredictable Cambodian weather...

Our music students more than ever need a new space and music equipment to create, perform and collaborate!

That is why we initiated the construction of a brand new building made of five classrooms and a central pavilion stage to perform and gather. All that made on a sustainable way by the famous architect Stuart Cochlin, with two landscape garden corners, and covered by a bamboo canopee to protect our students from Cambodia's burning sun and heavy rains.

Contribute to the funding of this project and help us change lives through music and arts!

More information and pictures by visiting [our website](#).
Watch our video on [YouTube](#)
To donate, please visit our [SimplyGiving platform](#)



Thank You!

