

Cambodia 2017 No. 2: Wells, Toilets, Bikes, XXX and — — — IT training

OOps! Forgot the new office of Lotus Outreach and the Lovely New Program of CATALYST (Cambodian Tertiary Education And Leadership YouthS Training program) girls... not funded by us but by a friend (🙏🙏) in my all inclusive title, sorry.

Because they are studying and because it was rather short notice, we were only able to meet 6 of the 11 (aiming at 16 — early days yet) CATALYST girls — but that was enough to get a clear idea of the situation:

Girls from extremely poor backgrounds who have been guided through secondary education and are ready and able for more. And what is that more? To gain the skills to become leaders and directors of Cambodia in the future.

So we interviewed them... All are at the beginning of the program but could manage quite a bit of English — longing to see how it is next year.... We asked their name, age, major and dream. and then their main problem. Please step into the lives of 6 girls with us:



Chan Na is 23 and in her last year of nursing.

Her dream is to be a good nurse. “And what is that?” i asked. “A nurse who treats all patients equally!” WoW!



Phin Sophea is 20 and just started English Literature.

Her dream is to become an inspiring High School teacher.



Ratana is 20 and just started on the long road to mastering English because she dreams of being a translator.



Konitha is 19 and is studying management.

Her dream? To be a good manager. And what is that? Someone who doesn't put too much pressure on subordinates!!!!



Thorng Yanida is 20 and studying Economics. She dreams of owning her own business: a souvenir shop!

She and her family of 5 are being evicted and so already she has to put economics to work to find a solution to their housing problem.

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Soy Rim (cute smile, no?) is 20 and studying mathematics which she loves!!!!!!

She, too, dreams of being a good teacher.



Apart from Thorng Yanida, they were all facing problems with managing their lives. Some have scholarships but still have to find around \$150 a year for tuition (nursing is \$1000 a year!) the rest of their budget is:

\$65 a month for expenses (food, books, study materials).

\$20 room rent (for those who can't live at home — often because it is too far away.)

\$8 to study English / \$35 to study computer per course.

\$5 for French for the nursing student.

They also receive 15 kgs of rice a month....

Anything else is supplemented by the family and a job. Pan Sophia works in a night market for \$120 a month and Thorn Yanida has been working as a house maid (the boss even advanced her tuition fees!) for the last 3 years for \$100 a month, for example.

And the new office? Well that IS an improvement! Of course it is new and Douglas A Campbell Foundation HAD to give a house warming.... What did they need? 2 computers for the girls to

come in and study online, English in particular, and to practice their computer skills.



Yes, we DACF, were able to supply this. Lots of thinking has gone into this final solution. Should they each have a tablet? Should we have 2 tablets that are set up and borrowed by the week? We settled for 2 computers so that they are encouraged to come in and study and meet with the staff who can monitor their progress.

Latest Development...

PNC has offered the

girls 14 Sunday afternoons of Free computer training and we took them for the first class. Here they are ready to go!
(www.passerellesnumeriques.org)



And here is our glorious alumni: PNC past and present students supported by us.



(to be continued...)