



# Newsletter

*Clean water, a human right not a luxury*

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Since 2007 the Siem Reap Water Quality Test Lab has grown from a competent but modest program focused operation into sophisticated regional facility able to execute a broad range of testing methods to address water, air and food safety.

It began as a way to measure key parameters like coliform and E-coli bacteria, dissolved minerals, salinity, turbidity and pH thus ensuring the bio-sand filters performed as promised. This capability and the results inevitably attracted the interest of local hotels, restaurants and other non-governmental organizations with an interest in ensuring the quality of the water they provide.

The laboratory was made possible with the support of a Rotary Club from Japan and the technical leadership of Dr. Kevin Curry, Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts and Dr. Bill Duke, University of Victoria in British Columbia. This first of its kind facility outside the capitol Phnom Penh gave *Water for Cambodia* the singular ability to demonstrate objectively that we deliver what we advertise... clean safe water.

Today the lab staff is able to conduct a broad spectrum of tests for bacteria, mineral salts, organic compounds and physical conditions to assess water quality. This capability continues to support all the *Water for Cambodia* initiatives. Success has attracted a strong and growing regional testing business. To address this demand the lab capabilities have expanded from only water testing to include food testing and screening for common diseases like Legionella and Staphylococcus Aureus. Earnings from these commercial testing programs are channeled into providing additional bio-sand filters and education to rural families, schools and health centers.



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The last two newsletters have introduced refurbishment and construction of wells as an important component of water security and the work that *Water for Cambodia* is doing to address this need. Often the field staff discovers that past efforts by other organizations to address this need have left behind more problems than solutions.



Teachers at the primary school in the village of Kouk Phnov requested assistance from our staff to solve their water access problem. Though there were already three wells in existence at the school, 2 deep bore wells and a ring well, a serious lack of available water persisted. The bore wells were broken with no capability to repair them and the ring well was functional but could not reliably supply water to the 426 students. *Water for Cambodia* stepped in and constructed a new

ring well with greater capacity and a locally designed, fully repairable Rovei pump. Now students not only have adequate water at school, they can also bring it home in their water bottles every day.

The Daun Kaev Health Center in Kouk Phnov village serves hundreds of families in this commune. It relied on two bore wells for water, one of which no longer operated and the other had a motor driven pump that was broken. A request for assistance from the government went unanswered. Again, the WFC staff stepped in and built a secure and dependable ring well with a Rovei pump system to ensure this vital community service had an adequate water supply.





*Water for Cambodia* continues to be a growing dynamic organization and this results in new initiatives, personnel growth and changes as well as an exciting move to new quarters that offer added room to host student, donor and community educational groups, expanded laboratory space and increased security for WFC assets.



During December Luigi our director, signed a lease for a new facility that will house the new WFC office, lab and bio-sand filter factory. While it is located only a short distance from the current location, this new facility

offered a more favorable long-term lease and full use of the facility rather than sharing it with the resident owner. In a truly impressive feat of logistics, the entire operation including construction of an expanded laboratory, painting, bathroom facility upgrade and equipment installation was completed by a January first move in date.





The new year has also seen some key staff changes as well.

Pheakdey offered her resignation in January. She has played a very key roll as our accountant and general purchasing agent since 2011. Pheakdey was instrumental in introducing Quickbooks and developing our Accounting Standards Handbook and has seen *Water for Cambodia* through several program audits. Her role in helping our growth as a business-like operation has been significant. She has accepted an offer for a more challenging role coordinating an international student program in Siem Reap. In keeping with WFC's philosophy of helping our staff grow and increase their skills we see this as a win both for Pheakdey and *Water for Cambodia*.



We welcome Anusamuny SEYHA (Muny) as our newest staff member and new operational accountant. She comes highly recommended with more than 7 years working as an accountant, most recently for Friends International in Cambodia since 2014. She has completed her undergraduate degree in accounting and is pursuing her MBA. Muny has strong computer skills, donor accounting experience as well as excellent English language capability.

We also bid goodbye to Veasna our Water and Sanitation Expert who joined Water for Cambodia in early 2018. Veasna, a trained Civil Engineer, became part of WFC to help the team develop the necessary skills to implement latrine and well development, design and construction. He envisioned his association with WFC as temporary and a bridge to an opportunity to utilize his full skill set. He fulfilled a very critical need for the team and is leaving behind an experience group able to move forward successfully. He leaves with the best wished of the entire staff.

