



Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a luxury

WFC Newsletter Issue 16 June 2021

*It is with great sadness and feeling of loss that **Water for Cambodia** remembers Luigi Giani.*



Luigi Giani

1968 - 2021

On April 24th Luigi passed away from an unexpected illness at his home in Siem Reap. By his side were his daughter Chiara and very close friend Massimo Maio. Unfortunately, due to COVID travel and quarantine restrictions neither his wife Min Hwa nor his daughter Gaia were able to be with him. His loss will be deeply felt by all of his colleagues and friends at **Water for Cambodia**: board, staff and donors as well as filter recipients.

Luigi was born in Torino, Italy where he studied Agronomy and Forestry, receiving his MS in Forestry Science in 1996. He worked in SE Asia for more than twenty years in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Since 2003, Luigi lived and worked in

Cambodia while managing major rural development and human skills development efforts sponsored by several European based NGOs.

Luigi served as Director of Operations since August 2015 and has overseen a major increase in the reach and impact of **Water for Cambodia's** role in bringing clean water, sanitation and improved water security to hundreds of villages and thousands of families in Siem Reap Province. Under his guidance the Water Testing Laboratory has gained nationwide notice and has become financially self-supporting. He led the relocation of our operations to a larger more suitable facility allowing for expanded work-space, improved laboratory

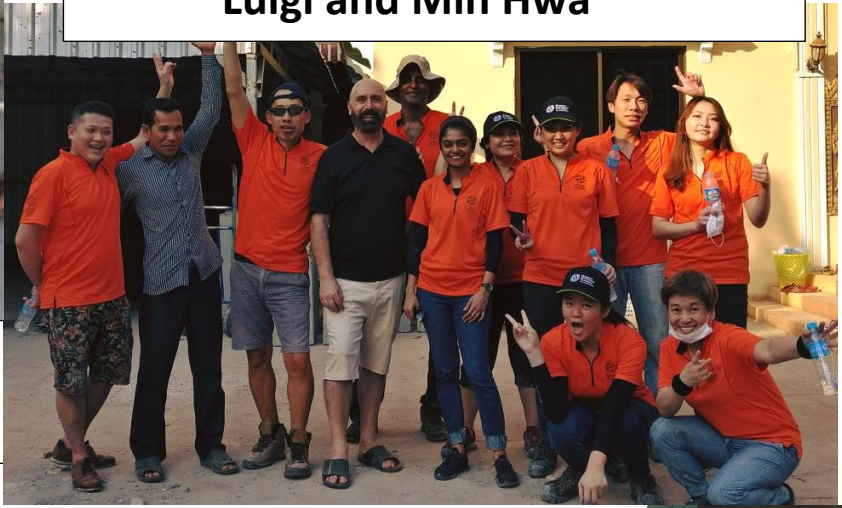
space and area to accommodate volunteer and donor groups plus room to orient and train large groups. He left the **Water for Cambodia** operation a stronger and more productive organization.



The 25,000th filter being installed at the WFC office



Luigi and Min Hwa



Succession planning is critical to maintaining competent, reliable and trusted leadership especially when operating in developing countries

The **Water for Cambodia** board and Luigi recognized the need for strong leadership depth especially in a small organization with limited resources. In 2017 Massimo Maio, an experienced water engineer who recently moved to Cambodia, volunteered to work with our lab staff. Luigi recognized his technical and leadership skills and beginning in January 2018 brought him on board as the director of lab



operations. In that role Massimo honed the skills of the technicians, expanded the lab's client base and grew the capabilities (see February 2021 Newsletter). Luigi continued to utilize Massimo's skills and broaden his role, filling in whenever Luigi was away from Siem Reap. During a several week period in 2020 when Luigi was quarantined in Italy Massimo manage operations seamlessly.

Massimo retired to Cambodia after 15 years of experience building, managing and marketing water treatment facilities in eight countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. Since moving to Siem Reap with his wife, he has functioned as the **Water for Cambodia** lab director. In this role he has successfully marketed the lab's capabilities to businesses, hotels and other NGOs in the Siem Reap. His efforts have enabled it to grow and become a self- supporting, stand-alone commercial business. As such, it now absorbs the cost for all bio-sand filter quality testing formerly covered by donor funds. This simply means more money for filters!



SAN Sophal, the Executive Director of the **Water for Cambodia** Local Board of Directors (a requirement of our registration as an NGO in Cambodia) joined the team this year to focus on management of the growing number of projects across all 12 districts in Siem Reap Province. Sophal brings strong accounting and field management skills as well as experience working successfully with Provincial and District officials.

Together they ensure the smooth and capable transition necessary for the continued success, integrity and performance of **Water for Cambodia** going forward.

After thoughtful consideration and concern for everyone's health and peace of mind, the board of Water for Cambodia has decided that it must cancel plans to celebrate fifteen years of operation and 25,000 filters bringing clean safe water to more than 150,000 people.

Visit us at: www.waterforcambodia.org or contribute directly at

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