



Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a luxury

This issue of the Water for Cambodia newsletter features our staff in Cambodia. Every day they put into practice our promise to provide clean safe water. Together with YOU they change lives.



First a brief explanation of how Water for Cambodia is organized and operates:

Water for Cambodia (WFC) is registered as a local NGO (non-governmental organization) under the Cambodian National Ministry of the Interior. WFC operates under the laws of Cambodia and is committed to respecting its culture and customs. The Director of Operations (Luigi Gianni) reports directly to the US based Board of Directors and is responsible for all in-country activities. The US based International Executive Director and Treasurer both work directly with our Director of Operations and accountant (SANG Sopheakdey "Pheakdey") on a monthly basis and review financial performance annually.

All but our Director of Operations and Lab Consultant are Cambodian and most of our staff members have been with WFC for many years.

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Water for Cambodia's core activity is building and installing bio-sand filters. All filters are built at our office/factory in Siem Reap City and all materials are sourced locally. Volunteer groups often take an active role in both building and installing filters.

Our expert builders PAN Ty and SOU Tao assisted by BOU Uon are shown here instructing students from Bridgewater State University how to build bio-sand filters. Later they will help our staff install them in local farming villages. Each bio-sand filter is constructed in a steel mold and after curing it is stenciled to identify the donor; then, the field team and volunteers assist the receiving family to properly install it.



CHHE Sophoan “Phoan” who has been with Water for Cambodia for 10 years building and installing filters and training families is explaining how a bio-sand filter works to Yukio a visiting Japanese donor. As a member of our field staff he plays a key role as an educator for both the families receiving filters as well as visitors and volunteer groups.



SIN Sisovann “Sovan” is the Community Organizer for Water for Cambodia. Sovan is the primary link between Water for Cambodia and the local commune and village leaders. In this role he works with the leaders and members of the families to introduce the bio-sand filters to the community. Sovan meets with each family to explain the benefits and operation of a filter. He is a primary advocate and educator as well as the coordinator of orders, distribution and installation scheduling.



The goal of Water for Cambodia is to bring clean safe water to families thus helping to change a way of life. Our staff works to ensure that each installation is done properly and that each family receives coaching to improve family sanitation, hygiene and health methods. Family members are also trained to properly store filtered water to prevent recontamination.



BUO Uon, on the right, our Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer, is examining a village well. Uon is responsible for evaluating the condition of local water sources, general hygiene practices and regularly monitors the performance of new filters as well as the effectiveness of client training. He also visits old installations to assess their condition and to assist with refresher training. A major component of M & E is gathering demographic as well as performance data to enable Water for Cambodia to continue to improve how we deliver services and education. Uon regularly helps as a member of the installation team.

Singaporean students assist family members and installer KONG Hun with a filter set up. Hun or another member of the installation team works with families to install their filter and demonstrate the simple maintenance steps to ensure proper operation.

Since there are no moving parts, filters are simple to maintain and will provide safe clean water for many years. Our staff also provides basic hygiene and safe water storage information to help each family to maximize the benefits from their new filter.



Demonstration, participation, follow up and careful attention to detail has proven to be the most effective way to bring the full benefits of clean, safe water to thousands of families.

Our water-testing lab provides an important and unique addition to the capability and mission by objectively demonstrating the quality of water delivered to each family.

The Siem Reap Water Quality Lab was established in 2007 to provide the capability of testing the water delivered to village families ensuring that *Water for Cambodia delivers what it promises.*

Our laboratory technician CHHUN Sothreak “Southy” conducts a full range of tests evaluating bacteria, mineral and physical properties. Over the past 10 years this work has firmly established the effectiveness of the bio-sand filter allowing WFC to concentrate on testing the quality of stored water after filtering. This information is used to help families keep their filtered water safe.

The laboratory has also become a community resource by providing testing services to other NGOs, hotels, guest houses and restaurants in Siem Reap. Earnings from this service have funded new lab equipment, expanded the scope of testing capabilities and now supports the cost of all village quality testing .



This newsletter highlights several member of the Water for Cambodia staff and some of the key activities they perform everyday. Pictures of the entire staff are featured on our website.

What they enthusiastically do everyday to improve the lives of nearly 120,000 people is entirely due to YOUR generosity and support... THANK YOU

Our mission is to provide clean water, hygiene and literacy education to rural Cambodian families, improving their health and helping to break the cycle of poverty.

Water for Cambodia a Middletown Rotary Charitable Trust is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization

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