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DON BOSCO TECHNICAL SCHOOL KEP PROVINCE

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DON BOSCO KEP
 CHILDREN FUND
 មូលនិធិ ដុន បូស្កូ កែប

Newsletter December 2022

Merry Christmas 2022 and Happy New Year 2023 From Don Bosco Kep Community.

The Don Bosco Technical School and Children Fund, is a community of Salesians, Carmelites, lay mission partners, youth and children, living the spirit and method of St. John Bosco for a new civilization of love. Give young people the opportunity to get a two year technical education which gives them a better chance to get a job and thus improve their standard of living. Provide conditions for underprivileged children in Kep, Kampot, Takeo, Ratanakiri, Kampong Cham and Udong Meanchey provinces, through the Don Bosco Children Fund of Cambodia, to continue their studies up to 12th grade.



Farewell to a Great Friend of Don Bosco! Mr. Wolfgang Bauernfeind, SES Expert in Journalism and Benefactor of Don Bosco Social Communication Project. He passed away in Berlin on 13th December 2022.

This Newsletter is dedicated to all our benefactors, volunteers and friends of the Don Bosco Mission in Cambodia.

Greetings from Don Bosco Kep



KEP PROVINCE – Dear benefactors, volunteers and friends, we are approaching the time of Christmas at Don Bosco Kep. Even if Cambodia is a mostly Buddhist country, Christmas is especially sensed here as a very unique occasion to show the actions of Charity for the poorest. **Our Mission** is not about *making others believe in the Unseen*, but to *make others feel His Holy Presence*.

In this time of Christmas, our Mission of supporting poor families with their children and youth, offering to them opportunities to continue studies, to learn a skill and to cover basic needs, gets a special meaning, when we see the Child of Bethlement on a manger with cold and hunger.

In the name of our children, young people, teachers, volunteers and persons associated with our Don Bosco Kep Community, we want to say **THANKS** for all your support during the year 2022.

In the commitment for the new year 2023, that in Cambodia will be the Buddhist year 2567 and in the Chinese lunar calendar will be the Year of the Rabbit, we want to send you a regular newsletter, so you can follow the activities of our community.

Thanks for being and we hope that you will have a wonderful 2023 full of Graces and that you will keep at the side of the Cambodian children and youth.

Blessings and Merry Christmas,

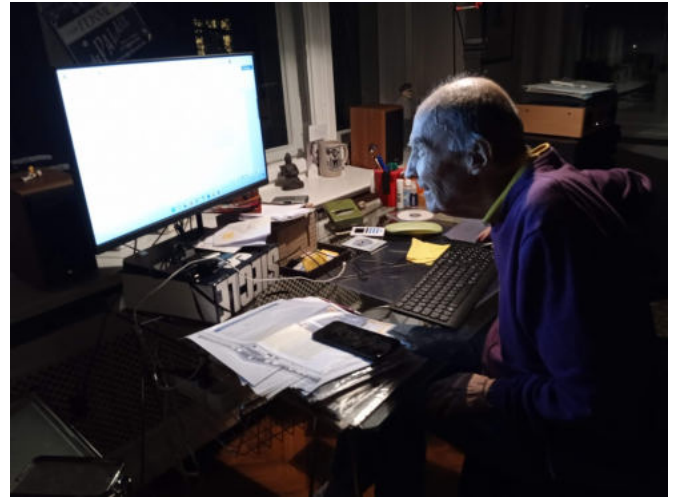

Signature
Fr. Albeno Pedat



Fr. Ly Samnang Albeiro Rodas, SDB
Director of the Don Bosco Kep Project

Departure of dear ones

During this year and very recent, we have to say goodbye to Mr. Wolfgang Bauernfeind, SES Expert in Journalism, who passed away in Berlin on 13th November. Wolfgang came to Cambodia with his wife Uti in 2008 to serve in the social communication project when it was in Sihanoukville. Since then, he came every year with his colleague Michael Ramm to train our students in journalism. He was also a benefactor, supporting the scholarship of many students of social communication, but also some kids of the Sun Children Program in Kep. I had the



opportunity to meet him last October on my way from my natal Colombia back to Cambodia after my vacation. Although sad news, it was for me an honor to meet our dear friend in his last days on this Earth, with his positivism and worry for our students. He told me that he would come in 2023 to lead the production of a video on environment awareness. He will not come physically already, but we are going to produce such a video and a homage to a very good professional and a dedicated human being. Our Condolences for his wife Uti and for his two sons and grandchildren. May he rest in Peace.

We also have sad news this month of December with the tragic deadly accident of one of our students of Secretary, Kahna Prum, 20 years old. She left Don Bosco Kep on Friday 9th December evening by motorbike with another girl companion, Samaly, in the direction to her home in Takeo Province. Few kilometers after arriving



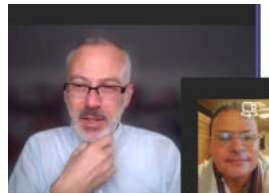
home, another motorbike with high speed crashed into her vehicle and she died immediately. Her companion Samaly was brought to the hospital and she is recovering. Teachers and students remember Kahna as a good student and friend. She was orphan of father and her mother has two girls. The youngest girl is 15 years old. We visited the house of Kahna and brought some funds for her mom. May she rest in Peace.

Thank you very much dear benefactors

Making the list of all those persons and organizations that supported us during the year 2022 is really long, but we keep everyone in our hearts and we say thanks. I am really happy that many Cambodians are already coming to donate to the Don Bosco Kep Project, so we are seeing the rise of social responsibility in the country. We have prepared some local accountants where Cambodians can send donations to the Project and it has been a real help. At the same time, we are happy with the support of international organizations like *Sawasdee Foundation*, *Stichting Scholenproject Cambodja 'Rotterdam'*, *Wild Geese Foundation (Wilde Ganzen)*, *Salesian Missions New Rochelle*, *Salesian Missions Australia*, *Kindermisionwerk*, *Kep Province Government*, *Asociación Misionera Mamá Margarita*, *Salesians of South Korea*, *ETWA* and *Education4Life*. Also with individual benefactors like Mr. Gerard van Hal, Ms. Anneke Westerhof, Frans Schuurmans, Fr. John Visser, Uti Hennecke Bauernfeind, Jaime Correa, Norina Andina, Buntha and Mony Ros, Heber Muñoz España y hermanos, Wolfgang Ott, Hans Kühle and many others. This year I visited my birth country, Colombia-South America and I could meet some of the dearest benefactors. Here some photos:



Fr. Gus and Kevin Carvajal of Salesian Missions, New Rochelle.



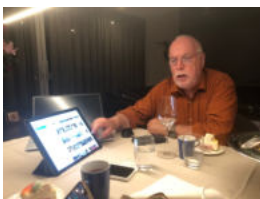
Thomas Pfaffelhuber and Sandra Hergenröther, ETWA, Munich.



Wolfgang Ott, Frankfurt.



Ellen and Hector Loontjens, Sawasdee Foundation.



Hans Kühle, Germany.



Wolfgang (RIP) and Uti Bauernfeind, Berlin.



Gerard van Hal, Hatrans.



Anneke Westerhof, Frans Schuurmans and Choun.

We thank in a special manner the Cambodian organizations and individuals that have approached our Don Bosco Kep project for support. One of these groups belongs to our own Don Bosco Family: Our own past pupils (here three of them.)



Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC).



Police Department of Kep.



Sophoal, past pupil of IT.



Past pupils Sreyneth of secretary and Theng of social communication.



Thanks to Mr. Christopher Graeme, Vice President Of Laurelton Diamond (Cambodia) Co.Ltd, for the donations to the school and interest in corporations to engage students.

Technical School

After the pandemic lockdowns of 2020 to 2021, this year we could work mostly normal in the school with a student population of 400 youth in four technical skills: Electricity and Secretary gathered the 70% and Information Technology and Media Communication the 30%. Second year students have training engagements in their third semester and we are really happy to see that most past pupils have good jobs mostly in Phnom Penh, but also in Sihanoukville, Kampot and Kep.



Frans Schuurmans with the group of technical students supported by their Dutch organization.



Anneke Westerhof interviewing technical students applying for a scholarship.



Gerard van Hal visited Don Bosco Kep on 1st November.



Fr. Andrea Maung Maung of Myanmar (center) and **Fr. Donie Duya** of Philippines (right) visited the media com center of Kep.



Technical students attending the talk on environment by Marine Conservation Cambodia.



Technical teachers and some students are doing a home visit in Kampot Province.

Students are required to make a donation to the school in such a way that we can cover expenses such as food, electricity, water, security and maintenance. As Don Bosco is a non-for-profit organization, we have to look for other ways of sustainability, while supporting the poorest families to study in our technical schools. Most students come from the provinces of Kep, Kampot and Takeo, while some youth come from further provinces such as Udong Meanchey, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Cham, Stung Treng and Ratanakiri. At the beginning of the academic year, we start the school promotion by visiting the 12th grade students of schools in those provinces. We make sure that indigenous minorities and young people who are physically challenged get the message.





Teacher Tula Pov leads a training workshop for Don Bosco Kep technical teachers this month. We focused especially on a planning mentality by departments.

The Technical School participate actively in local activities of Kep Province such as the environment protection: Planting trees, collecting garbage from beaches and roads, distributing campaigns to protect the sea, the forest and the Kep National Park and keeping the Don Bosco Kep campus green and wild friendly, following our membership at the **Don Bosco Green Alliance**.

We invite companies and organizations to visit Don Bosco Kep as a way to establish cooperations with other institutions and to guarantee that our students always have job employment possibilities. We also have all those companies, organizations and governments that have always been open to Don Bosco Kep.




Students of social communication participated at the talk on developing a social media policy by Fr. Peter Hoang of Australia at the side of social communication delegates of the Salesian East Asia Pacific Region.

Sun Children & Children Fund in Kep

Thanks to Kindermissionwerk, which has been supporting the Sun Children Scholarship Program since 2016 and many other benefactors, we have been able to continue our service to more than 50 teenagers in our student residence in Kep Province. This year, the assistants of the children have attended a regular training in child protection and safety.



The Sun Children participated with the technical students in the environment workshop.

The Sun Children Program includes also 20 indigenous teenagers of the Jarai people in Ratanakiri and it is also linked to the Don Bosco Children Fund with children nucleus in Udong Meanchey, Kampong Cham (a brick factory), Chreng Jarai Village in Ratanakiri, three children nucleus in Kampot (Chumkiri, Kos Sla and Banteay Meas) and two children nucleus in Kep Province (the salt field of Angkol and at Don Bosco campus.)

The team of DBCF in Kep is made by Sr. Juanita Navel (general supervisor), Sr. Milagros Ramírez (BA Children Education), Miss Sokhun Nget (coordinator), Mr. Sopheaktra Mom (office secretary and webmaster), Mr. Vatanak Khem (boys assistant)

and Miss Amra Nheb (girls assistant). There are also other members of the Kep academic community involved in the work, education and protection of the children in campus and in the nucleus: The cooks, guards, technical teachers invited to provide vocational introductions to the children, the driver and the administration of Don Bosco Kep.

We are thinking of engaging psychological professionals to the program. However, in Cambodia there is still a lack and most professionals stay in Phnom Penh. We will continue trying, like inviting a psychologist from the capital to visit the school from time to time.



The computer room of the children.



Cooking lessons.



The children at the public schools.



Environment workshop.



Sport activities.



Parents meeting.



Sun Children that finished 12th grade.



Mom gets funds from DBCF for her daughter.



They were small girls, but now they are taller than the teacher :)



Jarai children in Ratanakiri.



Children doing the Christmas letters.



During the home visit in Kos Sla.



Art workshop.



Art workshop.

Other activities: Carmelites' General Superior

This year, we have the **honorable visit of the Mother Superior of the Carmelite Sisters of Kep, Sr. Juana Ángeles Zárate Celedón**. It was an opportunity to thank the Carmelites for their loyal commitment to the Mission at Don Bosco Kep and at the Cambodian Catholic Church, especially for the education, care and protection of Cambodian children. At the moment we have three sisters at Don Bosco Kep: Sr. Juanita Navel and Sr. María Ramona Gutiérrez from Mexico and Sr. Milagros Ramírez from Peru since 2016.



Volunteers

By December 2022 we have two volunteers at Don Bosco Kep:



Engineer **Antonio García Miralles** from Spain, working in Belgium, came for six weeks to assist the electrical department.

Young volunteer from Kindermissionwerk **Annika Wernesbach** of Germany to assist the Don Bosco Children Fund.

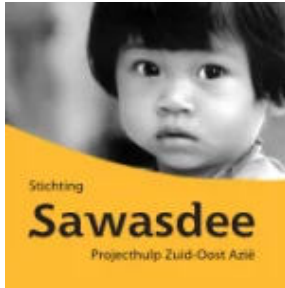


Kep Development Projects



In November 2021 the Cambodian government gave greenlight to the Kep Development Project that includes the construction of a 4 kms beach at the southwestern side of the Kep

Peninsula, touching Don Bosco. They filled the coast from Crab Market to the border of the Mangrove Forest. At the side of Don Bosco, they filled 100 meters into the sea. The negotiations with Don Bosco Foundation of Cambodia were positive, providing the rights of Don Bosco to the piece of land that was formerly seacoast, building the western fence, rebuilding the southern fence and other construction actions. The project intends to make Kep Province an eco-tourist destination. We are following how it will develop and it can also mean opportunities of sustainability for Don Bosco such as the need of technical skilful personnel, the offering of spaces for meetings and other things.



EUROPE THIRD WORLD ASSOCIATION (ETWA)



Gerard van Hal - Hatrans

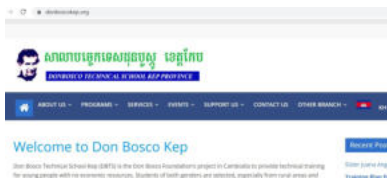


Anneke Westerhof and Frans Schuurmans



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1.16K subscribers

Visit, enjoy our videos of Don Bosco activities in Cambodia and like our content. Production by Don Bosco Kep Media Communication.



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