

"A Return to School of Thoeb Sokann"

By Yin Yong Yang, Youth Star Volunteer based in Kampong Thom



Sokann on her first day of school

In this contemporary world, education is crucial for all human beings, especially for all children who are supposed to get access to education under no condition. Still, there are seen to be a number of children dropping out of schools for various reasons.

Being a 12-year old girl who is yet a 5th grader, Thoeb Sokann is one among other girls being confronted with dropping out of school. Sokann studies at Krous primary school in Krous village, Doung commune, Prasat Ballank district, Kampong Thom province. Born into a poor family, she needs to tend cattle every day, which prevents her from going to school regularly like other children in the village. Since having been away from school for such a very long time and feeling ashamed of her friends, Sokann decided to drop out of school.

After being told about the story of Sokann by the kids, who are my students, in February 2020, I went to meet Sokann, intending to encourage her to return to school. In shabby and muddy clothes after returning from tending cattle, she smiled slightly at me while sitting. I then had a conversation with her and asked for permission from her mother to take her back to school. First, I asked her **"Sokann, will you return to school with me?"** She remained silent as her response. Then, her mother said that **"now the teacher is here awaiting you, so there isn't any better option but you should return to school with her."**

I continued to explain and encourage her to come to study with me again and again. Yet, she was still hesitated to tell if she was willing to come with me. A moment later, she decided and agreed to return to school.

On 1st March 2020, she showed up at school. In the class, her classmates paid full attention to her that she seemed so happy playing with them. Not to mention, she even attended my English tutoring class and participated with me in mobile library activities.

I am so happy with my contribution to helping children in this rural community, especially when I saw Sokann return to school. What I am even prouder of is that I can teach other kids to love, respect, motivate, and make Sokann smile without any discrimination.

Office Relocation Notice

We are pleased to announce that the Youth Star Cambodia office has been relocated to the following address as of 2021:

- #64, St 430, Sangkat Phsar Derm Thkov, Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

We will continue to use current contacts:

- Phone: (+855) 23 900 162
- Email: admin@youthstarcambodia.org

9 Bikes Donated to Out of School Students in Kampong Thom

In partnership with Aide et Action Southeast Asia through The Cambodian Consortium for Out of School Children, Youth Star Cambodia brought bikes to 9 students in Kampong Thom in February, 2021.

Improving and ensuring education for out-of-school children plays a key role in achieving SDG4. Through the consortium program, we keep our focus on ensuring that all girls and boys in marginalized communities complete free, equitable, and quality primary education. They were so excited and grateful to receive our bikes because it enable them to much easier to go to schools.

Thank you to Aide et Action Southeast Asia for your support!



The school girl receiving her bike

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Meeting Prey Veng - Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sports

On 9th February 2021, Youth Star Cambodia's Executive Director, Mr. Luy Tech Chheng together with our partner organization, Sipar Cambodia, met Mrs. Phai Sokunthea, the Deputy Director of Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sport of Prey Veng and relevant departments to provide more insight of Youth Star Cambodia's program ac-



Group photo after the meeting

tivities and impacts achieved by our volunteers.

In the meeting, our Executive Director presented the number of Youth Star volunteers who have been serving in the remote communities in Prey Veng.

In addition, our director also mentioned the partnership and support between Youth Star and Sipar Cambodia on both technical support and materials for assisting Youth Star volunteer in teaching and running a mobile library.

Mrs. Sokunthea expressed appreciation to Youth Star Cambodia and its partner organizations for its work for children, and specifically Out of School Children in the remote areas. She encouraged Youth Star Cambodia to continue collaborate with Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sports to cope with children's education challenging in the target area.

Youth Star Cambodia thanks the Prey Veng - Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sports for the warm hospitality and productive discussion.

SUPPORT US

Donating to Youth Star Cambodia

Partner with Youth Star in bringing transformation to the lives of our volunteers and the communities where they work.

Sponsor a Volunteer

Your sponsorship will provides greatly needed funding in an underserved field. Beyond the ability to engage with and develop a volunteer, your contribution directly benefits the lives of hundreds of children with precious little else. At costs of (US)\$3,500 per volunteer per annum, Youth Star provides living allowance, necessary training, supervision and support, in addition to recruitment and placement. Whilst costs can be calculated, the potential is immeasurable.



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