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## I. Overview

CEE Foundation is a charitable, non-profit organization for the advancement of education in Cambodia. Our members and supporters compose of a group of citizens in the US and abroad who share a common value and belief in helping the poor but deserving students to achieve higher education. Our motto is, "Equal Education Opportunity for All" and our ultimate goal is to foster an enabling environment for human resource development in Cambodia. We work entirely as volunteers, without any financial or monetary compensation whatsoever.

Our programs of educational assistance encompass three categories of funds: (1) *General Scholarship Fund*, whereby monetary grants are given to students in various fields of study based on stringent selection criteria; the fund is raised from the public at large and the donors do not specify how the fund is used; (2) *Special Scholarship Fund*, through which the donors can sponsor students or specify their own conditions for the selection of students and/or the areas of study; the donors specify how the fund is used and it can be used for that purpose only; and (3) *Education Development Fund*, earmarked for the development of educational institutions such as school, library, dormitory, school supply, computer literacy program, vocational training, etc; the fund is raised from individuals and/or organizations who specify how the fund is used.

Since our inception late April 2007, we have established a local chapter in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, headed by local Cambodian volunteers. They have facilitated the relationship between CEE Foundation and two leading public universities: the *Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE)*, and the *Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)*. We have received scholarship applications from students in different fields of study, and the processes of screening, evaluation and selection are currently underway to meet our objective of providing at least ten (10) scholarships during this 2007-2008 school year.

## II. Activities

### February 2007

Dr. Samrang Kchao, a surgeon from Westbury, New York, initiated and promoted his ideas of helping the poor Cambodian students to continue and succeed in higher education. This message got a lot of attentions among the Cambodian communities in the US and abroad. People began to give serious thoughts about the project and consequently a Google discussion group, <http://groups.google.com/group/CEEFoundation?hl=en>, was created to exchange ideas for the creation of a Cambodian Education Fund. E-mail traffics soared during this period.

### March 10, 2007

Dr. Samrang Kchao initiated a kick off conference call to discuss his draft proposal for the creation of a "Cambodian Higher Education Fund." Twenty-two people were on the initial list of our first conference, eighteen participated in the conference call: Mr. Ben Bao (VA), Mrs. Salang Bao (VA), Mr. Mengly Chean (TX), Mrs. Mealy Chhim (VA), Mr. Samudd Chhim (VA), Mr. Samrang Kchao (NY), Mr. Serey Kiman (MD), Mr. Donn Kong (AZ), Mr. Phalkun (WA), Mr. Oddam Seng (MD), Mr. Chiep Tan (WA), Mrs. Sophia Tep (VA), Mr. Boran Tum (SC), Mrs. Sovannaroth Tum (SC), Mr. Nguon Vanna (PA), Mr. Tung Yap (VA), Mrs. Mantha Young (VA), and Mr. Hean Yuth (VA),

## **April 2007**

Through our discussion group, members voted and adopted an official name for the new organization, the *Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation (CEE Foundation)*. A Certificate of Incorporation of the CEE Foundation was issued by The Commonwealth of Virginia State Corporation Commission on April 24th.

The official logo and a website ([www.ceefoundation.org](http://www.ceefoundation.org)) have been created. Flyers in Khmer, English, and French have been distributed during the Cambodian New Year celebration at Watt Khmer in Silver Spring, Maryland.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, a general meeting was held in Montgomery Village, Maryland, where many people in Washington, D.C. greater metropolitan area attended in person. Many others from different states and from France joined in by phone. We adopted the CEE Foundation's Bylaws, elected seven members of the initial Board of Directors, and elected Dr. Samrang Kchao as its first President. The elected seven Board members were: Mr. Ben Bao (VA), Mr. Mengly Chean (TX), Mrs. Mealy Chhim (VA), Dr. Samrang Kchao (NY), Mr. Serey Kiman (MD), Mr. Sar Van (WA), and Mr. Tung Yap (VA). Due to other commitment, Mr. Tung Yap later resigned and was replaced by Mr. Chiep Tan (WA) as a new Board member.

An Advisory Board has been formed and is composed of eight members from different nationalities and professions: Venerable Cang Kim, President of Cambodian Buddhist Association of Richmond, Inc.; Mr. Ed Bachrach, founder and Board Member of Build Cambodia;

Mr. Fred Lipp, founder of Cambodian Arts and Scholarship Foundation; Dr. Yves Miaux, founder of ATFALOUNA (Our Children); Dr. Alan Lightman, founding director of the Harpswell Foundation; Mr. Bernie Krisher, founder and owner of Cambodia Daily; Mr. John Price, founding Board Member of AnewAmerica Community Corporation; and Mr. Sambonn Lek, President & Founder of Sam Relief, Inc.

Donation Boxes have been placed at various locations throughout the United States: California, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.

Driven out of our passion, members continued working hard to widely promote the CEE Foundation's missions and goal. We reached out to the public at large, through personal contacts among friends, families and colleagues within the US and abroad.

## **May 2007**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the officers of the CEE Foundation were elected, namely four Vice-Presidents (Mr. Ben Bao, VP Administration; Mr. Mengly Chean, VP Information; Mrs. Chenda Smead, VP Programs; Mr. Serey Kiman, VP Finance), a Secretary (Mrs. Mealy Chhim), and a Treasurer (Mr. Serey Kiman). Also elected were the Chairperson of the following committees: Program (Mr. Sar Van), Nominating (Mr. Samnang Nos), Website (Mr. Tung Yap), Finance (Ms. Sophia Tep), and Public Relations (Mrs. Mealy Chhim).

As of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we received some 22 pledges totaling \$5,500 only. As more funding is needed, Mr. Samudd Chhim challenged members to mobilize more supporters and to match his pledge dollar for dollar up to a maximum of \$2,000 during the period ending June 30<sup>th</sup>. This match was fulfilled and exceeded the expected limit. Other organizations such as Cambodian Community Day (CCD), and Cambodian Americans for Human Rights and Democracy (CAHRAD) implemented the same matching pledges and they were also very successful.

The CEE Foundation's Bank Account was opened to deposit the pouring contributions. A new fund, *Education Development Fund*, was adopted. All positions have been filled to create a well-

functioning organization.

Flyers have been distributed at a fundraiser for Sam Relief, Inc. in Washington, D.C.

### **June 2007**

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the first student, Ms. But Channsopeha, through cooperation between CEE Foundation and Harpswell Foundation, has been accepted to stay in the Harpswell Foundation's dormitory in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Flyers have been distributed at two major fundraising events on June 9<sup>th</sup>: one organized by Cambodian Community Day in Gaithersburg, Maryland; and another organized by Friends of Friends Without A Border at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. Flyers have also been distributed at a Cambodian wedding reception in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **July 2007**

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, a conference call was held to update members on the progress reports from the Chairs of Nominating, Finance, Programs, Website, and Public Relations committees. Members decided to expand the number of Board members from 7 to 11. Searching candidates is currently underway. Members agreed to fund 10 scholarships to 10 students for the school year 2007-08. For the next school year 2008-09, we will add 10 more students if funding allowed. At the minimum, we will keep funding the 10 students already in the program. Each scholarship recipient needs to reapply for renewal, subject to stringent selection criteria as established by the Selecting Committee.

### **August 2007**

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the CEE Foundation and many other Cambodian civic organizations joined in the celebration of Cambodian Community Day festival at Ben Brenman Park in Alexandria, Virginia. We shared our value, vision, goal and programs with the Cambodian and American friends; our banner and logo were up for display in public. Also, we have displayed two cardboards filled with useful information related to the Foundation.

A local chapter in Cambodia has been formed and led by Mr. Sam Oum (a.k.a. Onn) and assisted by Ratha Seng and Davy Srin. They are our key contacts and instrumental to the success of the Foundation. Their main responsibilities are to liaise with the schools and students in all aspects of our activities, notably regarding the scholarship applications, screening, pre-selection, and disbursement processes.

### **September 2007**

The CEE Foundation has signed Memorandum of Understanding with two

leading public universities in Cambodia: the *Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE)*, and the *Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)*. Ten scholarships will be made available to ten students from these two universities for the school year 2007-08.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, our first 'Bon Phka' fundraiser was conducted at the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Washington, D.C. The event was a success and we obtained moral and financial supports from the Cambodian Embassy and four other organizations, two in the US (Angkor Association, and UCARE, Inc.) and two from Canada (Fondation Enfants Cambodgiens, and Fondation des Etudiants Khmers.) See our 'Bon Phka' report in a separate section of this Newsletter.

New locations of Donation Boxes have been expanded to Montreal, Canada, thanks to the kind offer from Mr. Bunkorn Yun, President of Fondation Enfants Cambodgiens.

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the VP for Administration, Mr. Ben Bao (see picture, second from right), hosted a dinner at his residence for Dr. Kol Pheng (third from left), Senior Minister and Minister

of Education, Youth and Sports. Also in attendance were the following members (left to right): Samudd Chhim, Boran Tum, Salang Bao, Sophia Tep, Mealy Chhim, Samrang Kchao, and Tung Yap. It was a very pleasant evening and we had good opportunity to learn about the education achievement in Cambodia and discuss the CEE Foundation activities with Dr. Kol Pheng, who strongly supported our organization.

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, our members (Ben Bao, Samudd Chhim, and Samrang Kchao) attended Dr. Kol Pheng's presentation at the World Bank, Washington, D.C. on "Recovering Human Capital: Cambodia's Educational Achievements."

Read the text at:

[http://www.ceefoundation.org/index\\_files/kolpheng.pdf](http://www.ceefoundation.org/index_files/kolpheng.pdf).

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Samrang Kchao organized a 'Bon Phka' Appreciation Party for our volunteers at Mealy and Samudd's residence in Alexandria, Virginia. Close to 30 people attended the gathering and we just had good time, enjoying good food, drink and joking among friends. View the pictures at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/samuddc/CEEFoundationAppreciationParty>.

<http://picasaweb.google.com/samuddc/CEEFoundationBonPhka>.