



**His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath
NORODOM SIHAMONI
KING of CAMBODIA**

to Ms Chenda Chhi Smead
Vice President of Public Relations of the
Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation
Member of the Board of Directors of the CEE Foundation
Member of the Board of Advisors of the Harpswell Foundation

Ms Vice President and dear Compatriot,

Just before leaving Phnom Penh, I received your thoughtful letter dated 28th January 2009, along with a copy of your report on your remarkable work in Cambodia which you had the kindness to address to your supporters all over the world. I express to you and your delegates my profound appreciation.

I am indeed very pleased that among so many areas of need in Cambodia you bring Education into focus. It should be pointed out that one of the most efficient ways to help a country get rid of poverty is to educate the children. I have nothing but praise for what the Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation and the Harpswell Foundation have done in Cambodia: their contribution to improve quality of education.

With the completion of a computer lab and assistance from an IT expert, I am certain that the 1,500 students at the *Seng Kheang Middle School* (your very first project) are beginning to feel the benefit of a good education.

I was gratified to hear that the *Harpswell Foundation* which already provided housing for 36 college women who were selected based on their leadership potentials and high academic standing, is starting construction, this February 2009, of a second dormitory at the *Dormitory and Leadership Centre for College Women* to house an additional 48 college female students.

I highly appreciate your vision for the *Learning Centre in Phnom Penh at the Bright Future Kids Home* (the first of many that will be built throughout Cambodia), and I quote, "*These learning centres will provide vocational training to local populations to foster self-sufficiency and economic survival. As people learn, they in turn can teach those around them. With enough centres this model can truly change life in Cambodia*".

By granting, this year, 131 college scholarships to both male and female students, in addition to the 161 college students already receiving scholarships who were selected based on their economic standing, financial need, and leadership potential, the *Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation* is making a crucial commitment to not only educate the 292 students, but also provide leadership and social responsibility training.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to you whose vision and hard work has led these projects to a successful completion. Rest assured of my full support to your future Philanthropic projects in favour of the Cambodian citizens.

I formulate sincere good wishes for your personal well-being, as well as for the happiness of your delegates, and further success of the Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation and the Harpswell Foundation.

Please accept, Ms Vice President and dear Compatriot, the renewed assurances of my high and affectionate consideration.

With my deep gratitude,

Norodom Sihanouk

Beijing, February 18, 2009