

# The Scholarship

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## Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation

### Letter from the President



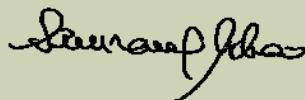
Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope this message finds you in good spirits during this wonderful and warm holiday season. This time of year has always been noted as the time where generosity springs and warm hearts are open with care and support.

This year, your generosity has made it possible for the CEE Foundation to award twenty eight scholarships to poor Cambodian students who deserve an opportunity for higher education. This support has not only brightened the holiday season spirit for the students, but also has brightened the students' lives today, tomorrow, and years to come. We are working for the common cause and belief in helping the poor students achieve higher education in Cambodia. We do not work for monetary of financial compensation; we do because we love to, and we get satisfactions as our great rewards.

Please visit our web site: [www.ceefoundation.org](http://www.ceefoundation.org) to learn more on our Foundation.

On behalf of the CEE Foundation, I wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year.



Happy New Year!

Samrang Kchao, M.D.

### Briefs

#### Tax-Exempt Status

On December 13, 2007 the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has determined that the CEE Foundation is "... exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code." Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

#### Latest News

► A scholarship award ceremony was held on December 31, 2007 at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, Phnom Penh. Read more on page 2.

► Four additional Board members have been elected during our Annual Meeting on December 16, 2007: Mr. Jean-Baptiste Chhuor (France), Mr. Sang Onn Oum (Cambodia), Mrs. Chenda Smead (USA), and Mr. Bunkorn Yun (Canada).

► Mr. Eric Thlang (California) has accepted a position as Chair of Nominating Committee.

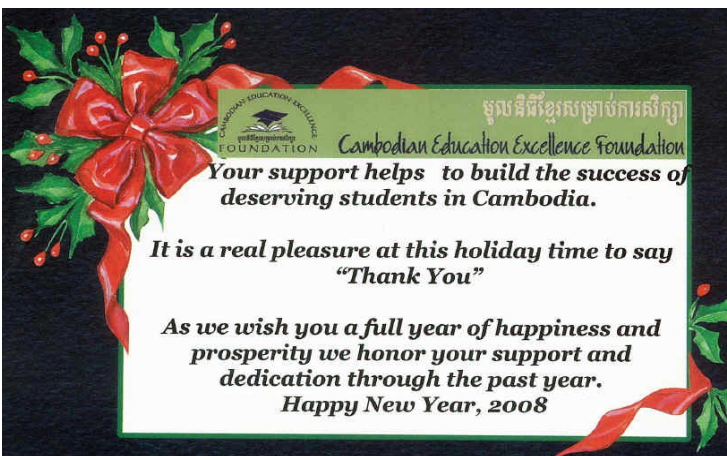
#### Ongoing Activity

Our key members — including Ben Bao, Salang Bao, Mealy Chhim, Samrang Kchao, Serey Kiman, and Sophia Tep — are busy planning a second fundraiser to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on February 23, 2008. A kick-off meeting with representatives of Cambodian community in Philadelphia was held on January 5th.

### Scholarship Award Ceremony ITC, Phnom Penh, December 31, 2007



Click [here](#) to see more pictures.



Season's Greetings From All of Us at CEE Foundation

Continued on p. 2



# មូលនិធិខ្មែរសម្រាប់ការសិក្សា Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation

ផ្តល់ឱកាសសិក្សាស្មើគ្នាសម្រាប់គ្រប់គ្នា Equal Education Opportunity for All.

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## Greetings from All of Us

Dear Families and Friends:

Happy New Year 2008! As a fresh start of the new year, I urge you to set aside a “fellowship” time and ask yourself a simple question: What were you most thankful for this past year?

Since I am the one who posed this question, it is only fair for me to start by answering it first. I am very thankful for the time that I set to make it a time for service and a time for sharing. But I did not do it alone, I did it with you! I am very proud to say that we together had accomplished beyond what we set out to do for the year 2007. Of course, part of the spirit of Christmas is giving, gifts in particular -- often ones you cannot wrap -- and “Education” is one of them. Sometimes the most meaningful gifts are the selfless acts of kindness that we extend to others. So, please share this message with your family and friends. Please extend your talents, your connections, your ideas, and your energy to serve those in need, and those less fortunate.

On behalf of the CEE Foundation, I am pleased to announce that on December 31, 2007 a ceremony was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to award scholarships to students from five leading universities: The Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE), The Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), The Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), Build Bright University (BBU), and Paññastra University of Cambodia (PUC).

This achievement would not have been possible without your act of kindness and generosity toward helping the poor and deserving students in Cambodia. Rest assured that your contributions to the CEE Foundation will serve your purpose of a “fellowship” time in the area of educational advancement for poor Cambodian students, who long for opportunities to succeed in life.

Wishing you all the best, with gratitude, from all of us at the CEE Foundation.

Mealy Chhim  
Chair, Public Relations Committee

## Scholarship Awards

By *Samudd Chhim*

Our first scholarship awards for the academic year 2007-2008 took place at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, on December 31, 2007. Recipients were twenty-eight students from five leading universities in Phnom Penh: Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE), Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), Institute of Technology

of Cambodia (ITC), Paññastra University of Cambodia (PUC), and Build Bright University (BBU). The candidates -- former high school graduates from Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnaing, Kandal, Phnom Penh, Prey Veng, and Takeo -- have been selected among some sixty-three applicants. They are currently studying for a Bachelor degree in law,

economics, accounting, information technology, computer science, and international business.

Representing the CEE Foundation—USA was Chenda Smead, a newly elected Board member and VP for Programs. Also delivered, in absentia, were the speeches in Khmer by Samrang Kchao, CEE Foundation President, and by Ben Bao, VP for Administration. Our team in Cambodia was led by Sang Onn Oum, also a newly elected Board member. Other participants in the ceremony were students, professors, representatives from relevant universities, and the media.

This award ceremony is the result of hard work accomplished by CEE Foundation-Cambodia and by the Selecting Committee in the U.S. during the past few months. The candidates were first screened, interviewed, and scored by our team in Phnom Penh. They were then submitted to the Selecting Committee in the U.S. for final selection, based on stringent criteria and rigorous scoring guidelines.

We would like to extend a special “Thank You” to all volunteers in Cambodia for their dedication and hard work. Our sincere gratitude to Dr. Om Romny, Deputy Director, and Dr. Thavarith Chunhieng, Academic Advisor, Institute of Technology of Cambodia, and other university officials for kindly granting us a venue for the award ceremony and for providing logistical and technical support to our Cambodia team. Finally, “Thank You” to the Selecting Committee-USA for a job well done!

Meet the students on page 3. Read Chenda’s speech on page 6. Click to read the following:

- [Press Release in Khmer](#)
- [Press Release in English](#)
- Speech in Khmer by:
  - [Samrang Kchao](#)
  - [Ben Bao](#)
  - [Sam Oum](#)
  - [Chenda Smead](#)

## Meet the 28 Students ...



**BOU, Monorom**  
Kampong Cham  
(ITC, Electrical Engr)  
General, CEEF



**BUOY, Piseth**  
Kandal  
(RUPP, Computer)  
Special, FLS



**BUT, Channophea**  
Battambang  
(RULE, Economics)  
Special, Anonymous  
[1]



**CHEY, Keodina**  
Takeo  
(RUPP, Computer)  
Special, Ven Kim Cang  
[2]



**CHHOEUN, Navin**  
Prey Veng  
(RULE, Computer)  
Special, CCD



**CHHON, Channak**  
Battambang  
(RUPP, Computer)  
Special, CCD



**DOR, Nida**  
Kampong Chhnaing  
(RUPP, Computer)  
Special, CCD



**EAV, Saran**  
Takeo  
(ITC, Chemistry)  
Special, Tan Chip



**HAK, Danet**  
Kratie  
(ITC, Chemical/Food)  
Special, CBS



**HEL, Chanthan**  
Takeo  
(ITC, Info Tech)  
Special, Ven Kim Cang  
[3]



**HENG, Phanith**  
Takeo  
(RUPP, Computer)  
Special, Tan Chip



**HOK, Piseth**  
Takeo  
(Build Bright, Com-  
puter)  
Special, Tan Chip



**HOK, Siem**  
Phom Penh  
(RULE, Law)  
Special, CAHRAD



**HONG, Dinovan**  
Kampong Cham  
(RULE, Economics)  
Special, Angkor Asso-  
ciation (Virginia)



**HUOT, Phirun**  
Battambang  
(ITC, Civil Engr)  
Special, CBS



**KHOURN, Khemry**  
Phnom Penh  
(RUPP, Computer)  
Special, FLS



**LACH, Dalina**  
Siem Reap  
(ITC, Rural Engr)  
General, CEEF



**LIV, Yi**  
Battambang  
(ITC, Mechanical)  
Special, CBS



**LY, Vuthy**  
Phom Penh  
(ITC, Civil Eng Tech)  
Special, CBS



**OUK, Mithona**  
Kampong Chhnaing  
(ITC, Info Tech)  
General, CEEF



**PEN, Chanveasna**  
Kampong Chhnaing  
(RUPP, Computer)  
Special, Ven Kim Cang  
[4]



**PHAL, Kimseng**  
Battambang  
(RULE, Economics)  
Special, CAHRAD



**ROS, Hemvila**  
Battambang  
(ITC, Rural Engr)  
General, CEEF



**RY, Sokean**  
Battambang  
(ITC, Rural Engr)  
Special, CBS



**RY, Thida**  
Battambang  
(RULE, Law)  
Special, CAHRAD



**VALY, Dona**  
Battambang  
(ITC, Info Tech)  
General, CEEF



**Ven. SOLL, Suvong**  
Battambang  
(Pannasatra, Int'l  
Relations)  
Special, Ven Kim Cang



**Ven. SON, Hien**  
Battambang  
(Build Bright, Business  
Management)  
Special, Ven Kim Cang

### Note:

CAHRAD: Cambodian American for Human Rights and Democracy (Ashburn, Virginia)  
CCD: Cambodian Community Day (Alexandria, Virginia)  
CEEF: Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation  
FLS: Friends of Lycee Sisowath  
[1]: In memory of Dinn Saukhon

CBS: Cambodian Buddhist Society (Vatt Buddhikaram, Silver Spring, Maryland)  
ITC: Institute of Technology of Cambodia  
RULE: Royal University of Law and Economics  
RUPP: Royal University of Phnom Penh  
[2]: In memory of General Thach Reng

[3]: In memory of Professor "Lok Krou Achar" CHHIM Soum

[4]: In memory of Kim Phath & Thach Prut

[5]: In memory of Samdech Preah Sanghareach CHUON Nat

[5]

[5]





## Letters from Cambodia ...

### **1. Dr. Om Romny, Deputy-Director, Institute of Technology of Cambodia, Email, 12/31/2007:**

*"Dear Dr. Samrang, This is to inform you that the CEE foundation .... and staffs had awarded 28 scholars to Cambodian students with successful. On behalf of Board Director and students at ITC, I would like to thank for your kind contributions and wishing you and your team all the best, happiness, and prosperities. Happy New Year 2008 !"*

### **2. Chan Veasna Pen, Student at RUPP, Email, 12/31/2007:**

*"Happy New Year ! The Scholarship Award Ceremony is done perfectly. I saw your message and advice to all Students throughout your video CD. I promise, I will try my best to reach those things. During the ceremony, We all get a lot of ideas from aunts and uncles who enjoy the ceremony. Especially, aunt who representative for CEE Foundation coming from USA. She shared a lot of experiences in her life and also provided some strategies to work out all problems in her life. It is 11:19 o'clock in Cambodia right now. I am waiting to say Happy New Year. At Phnom Penh city, The sky will fill out of the bright of firework. Really Wonderful for me. I usually look at it and close my eye softly and pray."*

### **3. Liv Yi, Student at ITC, Email, 12/31/2007:**

*"My name is Liv Yi. I am a year 3 student at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC). My major is Industrial and Mechanical Engineering. I am emailing to say "Happy New Year" to you and all members of CEE, who are working hard day and night for the purpose of helping Cambodian students, like me, feel warm about higher education-- I mean that not only the students and their parents but also all of you pay attention to our study. Here in Cambodia, we are going to say goodbye to 2007 in a few minutes and welcome the new universal year,2008. May the year bring longevity, promotion, healthiness, strength, prosperity, successes, happiness, good lucks... to you and your family members, all CEE Foundation members and their families and also to all Cambodians living there and in other countries."*

### **4. Sam Oum, CEE Foundation-Cambodia, Email, 12/31/2007:**

*"On behalf of the Cambodian team, I wish to thank you "brothers and sisters in the USA" for allowing us the opportunity to be part of CEEF and to be the arms to reach out to the needy. The ceremony this afternoon was a solid step forward. To us here, it was a big relief that what we promised has actually happened. Unfortunately not all of us were able to join the ceremony; but without the whole team dedication and contribution, we would not have this successful day. Thanks TEAM for the great job you did. Have a great New Year!"*

### **5. Venerable Suvong Soll, Student at Paññasastra University, Email, 12/21/2007:**

*"Hello president, how are you and how is your family? I am every happy that I got scholarship from Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation CEE. Thus, I have the opportunity to continue my study of Bachelor Degree as well as with my daily life. I hope that part of your scholarship assistance will improve my knowledge and my living standard. I would like to express my sincerely thanks for scholarship assistance to me. Finally, I would like to wish you and all the members in your organization, the best wish for Christmas and especially, I wish you five blesses of Buddha: life, health, strength and wisdom for always."*

### **6. Venerable SON Hien, Student at Build Bright University, Email, 12/21/2007:**

*"How are you? And how is your family? This is my transcript which I send to you. I would like to express my sincere thanks for your deeply generous who have offered scholarship to me and to the three of other monks which we can pursue our study in Bachelor Degree. I as well as the other three monks feel very happy that we have the opportunity to continue our study of BA. Finally, I would like to wish you and your family with the five blesses of Buddha: life, beauty, health, strength and wisdom for always. Happy New Year! Best wishes for Christmas! sincerely yours, SON HIEN"* (Editor's Note: Only two monks have received special scholarship awards from Venerable Cang Kim, abbot of Buddhist Monastery in Mechanicsville, Virginia, and a member of our Advisory Board)

### **7. Hong Dinovan, Student at RULE, Email, 12/16/2007:**

*"My name is HONG Dinovan. Now I am year two scholarship student at Royal University of Law and Economic Science. I am so glad that I can pass the scholarship of CEE foundation for Education. I know that this foundation is created to support the students to study in higher class. I also hope that I will be able to continue my study very well and try to be a very hard-working student."*

*Continued on p. 5*



## More Letters from Cambodia ...

*Continued from p. 4*

### **8. Ry Thida, Student at RULE, Email, 12/12/2007:**

*"I am RY Thida, a third year student at Royal University of Law and Economics, Majoring in Law. My family and I were so excited last night to be get informed that I won the scholarship of Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation. I would like to express my feeling regarding this valuable Scholarship. This is a really precious assistance that shows clearly about our Cambodian's heart although they are at oversea, they keep trying to help the poor Cambodian next generation like me, encouraging us to challenge in the study and providing this amount of money to support us to have an opportunity to continue our studies in order to help ourselves, family, relatives, friends, our Khmer people, and our country in the future. I have promised with myself. I will use this Scholarship with only the things that benefit my study. And the scholarship really encourages me to study harder and harder. As I am one of the poor students who win the scholarship, we do thanks for the people who have created, participated, and supported this Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation. We wish all of you all the best. And we do believe there will be a lot of Khmer people contributing the foundation to keep the foundation working forever to help us, the poor and outstanding students, to have a chance to study."*

### **9. Keo DinaChey, Student at RUPP, Email, 12/11/2007:**

*"We are very happy and look forward to attending and meeting other friends during the ceremony. We really thank for your big help and we promise that we will contact each other to make closed friends after the ceremony. Moreover, we will try our best to study hard to remain our scholarship in next year. Finally I want you to have successful in your life, your work and everything."*

### **10. Hok Siem, Student at RULE, Email, 12/7/2007:**

*"My name is Hok Siem. I am a student of the University of Law and Economic. I was very happy when you told me that i got a scholarship from Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation. My parents is also happy with this good news. I would like to say thank to you and all the people who work in the CEE Foundation that try to help for my study. Moreover, give an opportunity for me to get a scholarship. I am very grateful to your active support. I promise for you that i will continuous to try to study hard as you expect. When i have enough education which the social consider me as a real human resource , i will use this education to develop my country and help my family, social, friends, and myself. I wish you and all the people in CEE Foundation have a good luck, good health, and succeed for all yours works. And I also wish the CEE Foundation have a good work and succeed all the projects. Thanks you very much again for your help and support for my study."*

### **11. Hak Danèt, Student at ITC, Email, 12/23/2007:**

*"My name is HAK Danèt. I am a year fourth student at ITC. My subject is Chemistry and Food technology Engineering. I would like to say i am very happy that i get a scholarship from CEE Foundation for supporting my study. Now, i would like to send a very great thank to you as well as all the others member of CEE Foundation who are very kind to provide me on my study. And I also promise that I will use this fund accurately on my studies. Moreover , I will absolutely do all my best in order to get the good result on my subject. On the other hand, I sincerely say that you all are the very helpful person; and in the future if I have any occasion , I will do this charity in the same way you do. Finally I wish you and your family to have good health and good luck all the time."*

### **12. Dona Valy, Student at ITC, Email, 12/23/2007:**

*"Orkun! Merci! Thank you! In any language, my appreciation is genuine. You give me your time and your expert advice yesterday evening, and I am very grateful. The scholarship that I receive from the foundation is very valuable and meaningful to me and my family. It does not only provide facilitation in my study and in my living situation, but it also encourage me that trying hard to study will absolutely give a good result in the end. According to these reasons, I promise to use the money that I am given to support my study and to decrease my family burden. Finally, I thank you again Dr. Samrang from all of my heart for this generosity and kindness. For this new year occasion, may all the best wishes come to you; may joy and peace be with you all through the Year, and I wish you a season of blessings from heaven above."*

### **13. Dr. Thavarith Chunhieng, Academic Advisor, ITC, Email, 1/2/2008:**

*"I would like to say a big thank for CEE foundation kindness to our Cambodian students who have very big problem in their study in term of their family's finance. I my self appreciate you and all of CEE FOUNDATION MEMBER, who still take care their country even they live abroad. "*

## *Speech by Mrs. Chenda Smead*

*Vice President for Programs, Member of the Board of Directors*



28 years ago, I fled Cambodia running barefoot across the jungle. I was the same age as some of you now. My body was brittle from four long years of hunger and illness, my heart was broken from losing loved ones. But my mind moved my body across the jungle in the middle of the night to get to freedom. Like many other Cambodians who had to flee the country, my family and I did what we had to do to make a life outside of our homeland. I started out my new life in the U.S. with great difficulties, but now I have made a comfortable life for myself and my family. And I am standing here today by choice. I made a choice to be here today in Cambodia because my heart brought me back to my birth place where I know my help is needed. I have discovered, although it took me all these years, my true calling in life. My true calling is not in my strong career in the U.S., it is in my work I do to help make a difference in the lives of those in my birth country as well as those in my adopted country. And I am very honored and grateful that I have the opportunity to be here to share with you my joy of giving back.

That is my story. And like me, you have your stories too. Some of your personal stories are unbearable for any of us to hear. Some are heart-warming and some are heart breaking. But it is not about what happened to us, it is about how we get ourselves out of the hardships in our lives. You can rise above most of any difficulties you have. You can make the best with what you have. You can make a difference right here in your homeland. And although you might not have many material things, you have a personal power from within; your dignity, your integrity and most of all your wisdom. You can use these qualities even before you finish your education to make the place of your birth a place that you can be proud of. Cambodia is a country with rich heritage and culture, which has suffered the misfortunes of war. With strong determination from your generation, the government, and the people of Cambodia, with the help from Cambodians who live abroad as well as those from different organizations from all around the world, Cambodia will one day be at its best again. The world has a dream for a prosperous and peaceful Cambodia. You must participate in this dream and have faith in yourself, in your people and in your country.

Beauty is everywhere in Cambodia. Authentic beauty is all around you. Cambodia is still one of the world's purest beauties. Try everyday to help restore and preserve this beauty. And look for the beauty in the human souls and in your own soul. In your daily life, look not to those who have more than you, but instead look for those who have less than you and who desperately need your help. The beauty of education is not in how much money you will make when you finish school; the beauty is in your ability to make a difference in the lives of those around you. Study hard to sharpen your skills and your mind each and every day. Have a dream plan to make Cambodia a safe haven for all. This is where your ancestors, and your people created beautiful temples hundreds of years ago that are still unparalleled in the world. This is where your great grand children will reside and your spirit will roam.

A philosopher said "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." You can start by asking yourself each and every day, "Did I do something today that I feel proud of?" Think about things like, "Did I pick up some litter I saw in the street?" "Did I tell a child to go to the help center rather than begging for money in the street?" "Did I help a person who was being beaten on the side walk?" "Did I do anything to help stop a sexual predator?" Tell yourself the minute you wake up in the morning, "Today will be a good day because I am going to look for things that I can do to help others." Learn how to be giving. Follow your heart. You can start now with small things. Do what you can inside the framework of your daily lives. Take pride in your home, your neighborhood, your city, and your country. Protect and teach the children you see in the street to stand up for themselves against wrong doers. Share your wisdom with those who appear heartless and selfish. Be a role model, a hero, and show other people how they can be giving and helpful. Do not yield to malicious bullies who think only of today and only for themselves. You might say to yourself that you are not so perfect yourself; none of us are. Sometimes being the representative of hope is hard work. Many leaders have flaws and have failed, but they never gave up.

Until life is good for all Cambodians, no matter how successful you are, or how much power you hold, you must not be content. Remember we are all one and the same even though we are born to different families or in different countries. Cambodians must think of themselves as one. When one of us is harmed, we all hurt, whether or not it is immediate or direct. Eventually the harm will reach us. So have compassion for your fellow countrymen. Instead of competing with each other, work together for a better future for all.

I want to end my speech today with this last message: Create a dream of how you can best help your people and your country and stay close to that dream while you are continuing your studies. Live your life with integrity, with self respect, and respect for others. Nurture and protect those around you and return the kindness you receive. I wish you great success in your studies, but most of all I wish you equal success in voicing and living your wisdom, and in your journey to help rebuild Cambodia.

And I want to add the most important message from all the members of the CEE Foundation who work day and night, and from those who contribute their hard earned money to support this cause. We believe in you. We count on you. We depend on you. We place our hopes in you. We saw it in your writing, and I can see it now in your eyes; the great ambition, dedication and commitment, and your loyalty to your country and your people. You were chosen with great care and consideration, so make us proud.

The CEE Foundation is a U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization no. 02-0805551. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The organization is also registered with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Donations can be sent to:

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### *The Scholarship*

<http://www.ceefoundation.org/>  
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**Richardson, TX 75082**

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The Scholarship is a quarterly publication of the Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation. It is designed to keep the members of the CEE Foundation, its sponsors, contributors, supporters, and readers informed of activities and news of the Foundation. If you have any comments or suggestions concerning this or future issues, please send them to the address above.

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