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DON BOSCO TECHNICAL SCHOOL KEP PROVINCE

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Newsletter January - March 2024

Dear friends, we are now at the end of another Khmer new year that in the Buddhist calendar is the beginning of 2567 of the year of the wooden dragon. As you know, we have three “new year” celebrations in Cambodia: The international Gregorian calendar (2024, in January), the Chinese New Year (wooden dragon in February) and the most important one for the Cambodian traditions, the Khmer new year. We finish the year with the traditional thanksgiving day, where children pay respect to their parents, grandparents and teachers by bathing them, asking pardon for any offense and giving thanks for the gift of life. In our Don Bosco Kep it became a very important celebration and after it all students and teachers go home for holidays until the last week of April.

April is also the hotter month of the year in Cambodia, with temperatures reaching even up to 40°C or 104 F. You can understand why Khmer new year is also celebrated by spreading water on the streets.

The first three months of 2024 has been very busy for all of us at Don Bosco Kep and we are really happy and motivated to continue our mission for the good and wellbeing of so many children and young people who come to our gates looking for better opportunities in life. A big thanks to our benefactors, volunteers, friends and even to the local government of Kep province, for supporting this project of Don Bosco in this special part of Cambodia. This year we are committed to increase our attention for the environment with our Don Bosco jungle-garden campus, the promotion of indigenous young people and to empower our sustainability. We are working on our websites to make them more dynamic and updated in such a way that you can find right and timely information all the time. Thanks for being with us and blessings from Kep Province,

Fr. Samnang Albeiro Rodas, SDB

January 2024

15: Ms. Uti Hennecke from Senior Experten Service (SES) of Germany, came to Don Bosco Kep for six weeks to lead a seminar on leadership and pedagogy to all teachers. She is also a benefactor of some students, especially indigenous youth from Ratanakiri. She also visited the “Wolfgang Bauernfeind Audio Studio” inside the Media Communication Department that was dedicated to her late husband Mr. Wolfgang Beuernfeind, who was also a regular volunteer for the social communication department.



23-24: Fr. Samnang meets Fr. Booblert, superior of the THA Province (Thailand, Cambodia and Laos) at Don Bosco Sihanoukville, because he could not make the way to visit Don Bosco Kep personally this time.

25-30: Mr. Mark Saludes, Filipino reporter of the Asian Catholic news agency Licas, visits Don Bosco Kep to underline the project as a space of Laudato si and the care for indigenous youth of Cambodia.

26-30: Fr. Harris Pakkam, director of the Salesian News Agency (ANS) visits Don Bosco Kep to attend the Voices program for Cambodian indigenous youth.

27-28: Celebration of the Voices Program at Don Bosco Kep, dedicated to listen to the voices of 8 Cambodian indigenous peoples represented by a young person and an elder. Delegations from Ratanakiri (Lun, Kabet, Tang Poun, Prauv, Kachak, Kreng and Jarai) and Oddar Meanchey (Kuy) talk about the need to protect the environment, the ancestral traditions and wisdom and to promote education for young indigenous. At the moment there are 12 students from Ratanakiri at the Don Bosco Kep Technical School from Jarai, Tang Poun and Kreng indigenous peoples.



February 2024

3-5: Mr. Hector and Mrs. Ellen Loontjens of Sawasdee Foundation, visited Don Bosco Kep and met the children and members of Don Bosco Children Fund from villages in Kep, Kampot and Takeo.



5: Child members of DBCF and sun children of Kep Province, came to Don Bosco Kep for a day of sports and to meet Hector and Ellen Loontjens. They received an academic kit to start the school donated by Mr. Gerard van Hal to 270 children.

16: Graduation Day ceremony with the visit of H.E. Som Piseth, Governor of Kep Province.



20-22: Dutch band the RAFFLES visit Don Bosco Kep to donate a workshop & public concert for the academic community. The activity was a donation by Mr. Gerard van Hal, who came also during the same time to visit the school and he offered dinner to all teachers and members of the band.

25-28: Ms. Uti Hennecke, benefactor of Don Bosco Kep indigenous students, visited Ratanakiri province with Fr. Samnang to know the Jarai community and to promote their support for more indigenous youth coming to the Don Bosco technical schools. During the visit Sr. Juanita Navel and Mr. Mom Sopheatra visited the Jarai children of Cherong Village, Bokeo District, Ratanakiri Province, who are supported by DBCF.





The visit to the Chreng Village, Bokeo District in Ratanakiri Province was also the opportunity to make an official end of the project Brother Sun Indigenous Children supported by Sawasdee Foundation for the years 2021 to 2023, where more than 20 youth were supported to be able to stay at school and get a better opportunity in life. In the photo, some of the youth are already attending professional or technical education and they got a laptop computer for their studies.

March 2024

8: Celebration of the Women’s International Day at Don Bosco Kep, with the visit of Ms. Our Sokny (អ៊ូ សុភ័ក្តិ), director of the Kep province department for women’s affairs.



9-21: Media Production short course for indigenous youth from Asian countries at the Don Bosco Kep Media Communication Center. There were 30 participants from 10 Asian countries: Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, East Timor and Papua New Guinea.

