



Donation

SHINING SUCCESS, KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENTS AND SOLAR WOES

If pics don't open click Display Images above



Leng so proud of Tey and Saanchhai with their awards and in the school graduation robes.

We have many intelligent children amongst our 1660+ students. Sadly, for most it's a roll of the 'dice of life' if they can realise their true potential or even attend government school at all.

ODA's free English schools give them a tremendous head start and along with our yearly fund to supply 100 needy students from each of our seven remote schools (700+ students in all) with the mandatory government school uniform, more bright village kids are able to have the important education start they need.

A very proud Leng was there to witness students Tey and Saanchhai receive awards when they graduated from Year 9 recently. Tey earned a special award after he travelled to Phnom Penh to compete against top students. If all continues well with ODA, they and others like them, will be able to realise their full potential and as supporters, you know the important role you play in these children's lives. We couldn't do anything without you and it's what drives ODA and our students to do well and try hard.



With most families of six to nine children, working the important rice fields and surviving takes all their efforts. For centuries they have worked alongside their parents from very early ages and with the parents not having experienced school themselves, they often don't see any need. With farming machinery now beginning to replace manual labour, ODA and its teachers have to influence them to allow their children to gain at least a primary school education that could potentially help the entire family out of poverty in the future.

**THE INTELLIGENCE IS THERE IN ABUNDANCE.
CAMBODIA JUST NEEDS ITS CHILDREN TO BE EDUCATED
AND THEY WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY.**

AMAZING ODA'S KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENTS LATE 2019.



ODA has 628+ young students in our eight kindergartens that see class sizes range between 50 and 107. The school with 107 students astounded us at assessment time recently.

Where do they all come from?

Thankfully, children are very respectful with just one teacher to each class.

All Kindergarten teachers had their students enthusiastically singing English educative songs. Kids chanted the alphabet – one school also chanted it backwards! Most students counted from 1 to 100. Then, amazingly, the teachers have taught them all to write the lesson for the day in near perfect English writing. Our teachers speak in English and the children understand enough to follow instructions. The earlier they are exposed to another language, the easier they absorb it so kindergarten level learning produces the best results for their future.

The teacher with 103 students apologised as she had three new students who didn't know very much as yet. The teacher with 107 students had them all in groups with team leaders who act teacher support and assist in teaching how to write and ready their group for various activities. Training teachers of the future?

The age of our students range from very young to 9 and 10. Parents leave at dawn and return at dusk so children as young as 6 years old can be looking after younger siblings so it makes for a very easy two hours each day for them to all come to kindy! They are safe, secure and occupied, and they all love it.

We try to provide toothbrushes for all of our kindy kids when they begin with us. This isn't easy, at \$1 each a pop – that's \$628USD! Kids in older classes ask if they can have them as well, but we just don't have that kind of money. Instead, we advise them to use salt and their finger.



Individual attention even with 107 students



Bright youngsters - the future of Cambodia

ODA's Kindergarten and English teachers come from very modest backgrounds in these villages and most often are graduates from our classes.

Through our wonderful volunteers, they have exposure to more modern interactive teaching techniques which encourage the students to participate in the lessons rather than the old teacher lecture method. Our students love this and enthusiastically soak up and involve themselves in the classes. They are then wonderful candidates when we are requiring more teachers, usually beginning teaching at the Kindergarten level. Once through our training period, they have the opportunity to further education under a wonderful USA family's ODA University Support Program.

So many of our teachers would never have been able to even attend secondary school, let alone attend University. It gives us great joy to see their growth over the years and their influence on students (and village parents) provides local

role models for children to see a different life ahead of them in the changing aspects that are becoming the new Cambodia.

THE ALL IMPORTANT SOLAR POWER

Can you help us replace our solar batteries?

Donation



Founder/Director Leng and the Run Village Chief who is very supportive of ODA's free classes for his young people. Note Solar panels on the roof, this school offers IT classes.

At \$350USD per battery with 4 batteries per school and 6 total ea for the four schools which provide computer classes, this is a huge but very necessary cost for ODA.

Solar power runs lights, fans and computer education videos at all of ODA's outlying village schools, plus helps to educate up to 25 students in each IT class. Interestingly, due to the constant heat, (ranges from 30 to 45 daily over the year) we have been advised to store them close to, but not on the ground, in a cool place so air can flow around them and this gives us a three year life span. Electricity is now available in some villages but Solar is far cheaper over the three years.

Like clockwork – we now have some schools that can only supply around two hours of education and then the classes are blacked out. This signals their life is almost completed. We are trying not to use fans in the afternoon Kindergarten and night classes to try to conserve power to help us get through the daily five hours of classes, but March is when we can have 40+ temperatures for the next couple of months so fans are critical then. Our last

classes for the day will have to be cancelled soon if we cannot fund new batteries. Batteries must all be replaced at the same time or the new batteries will be drained faster by the old ones.

After blackouts, Teachers' use their mobile phones at night to provide light to see students out of the school and lock up. Technology helping in the villages!

Our teachers and students would be so grateful if you could help. If you can, just note 'Solar' on your donation PayPal form (see the Donate button above and follow the prompts) and we'll get these classes back up and running again as soon as we have full sets of batteries.

Our teachers and students would be so very appreciative of your assistance to replace batteries. Please be assured, funds go direct to the battery replacement.

ODA is looking forward to continuing to pass on your vital financial and volunteer support to our Teachers and students over this 2020 year. All amounts add to our pool.

**Akun Tom Tom (Thank You Big Big)
We wish a Healthy and Happy New Year to you all.**

ODA is registered with the Cambodian Government and Siem Reap District Education Authority as an Education NGO (Non - Governmental Organisation Non Profit designation). Accountants for International Development UK (AfID) partner ODA with monthly accounts support.

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