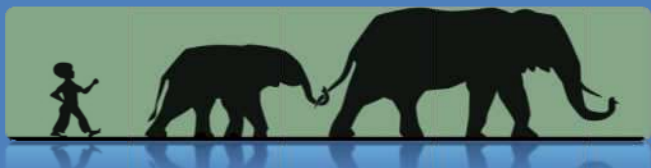


JOURNEYS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY



*See a Problem,
Solve a Problem...*

JWOC Newsletter June 2011 Rainy Season Issue



A young girl in Thnout Chroum enjoys a cup of clean, safe water from her family's new water filter. Thnout Chroum was the ninth village JWOC worked with, ensuring everyone in that community has easy access to clean water

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“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“To me it means when we see the poor people or communities' needs we provide them with help to reduce their poverty in order to develop our country.

Hun- Project Intern



Welcome!

Dear JWOC supporters

Welcome to my first newsletter as Managing Director. It seems strange to be introducing myself now when I feel like I am already very much settled in my role as part of the wonderful team here at JWOC, as well as friends with many of you! My first seven months have flown by and I am thrilled with where JWOC is as an organisation and how it continues to thrive.

I have been the very fortunate position of taking over a great team and well developed projects. The hard work and dedication shown by the previous Managing Directors, Andrew and Camilla, in consolidating and strengthening JWOC's work meant I was truly able to hit the ground running.

Some of the highlights over the last seven months have been- working with our biggest ever Clean Water village (1060 villagers, all now benefitting from easy access to clean water), opening the Community Library, refining the Microfinance Project and going past the 700 student mark in our Free Classes Project. While this has kept me busy it has been immensely enjoyable and rewarding.

Even though joining JWOC wasn't a difficult decision to make, I still found that my expectations were exceeded. From the commitment shown by the scholarship students to the design of the Clean Water Project and the facilities at the school I was, and still am, impressed. In the last seven months we have continued to embrace See a Problem, Solve a Problem and I am excited to continue the amazing work in line with our motto.

I came to JWOC with a background in education for development and several years experience in international project management. I have lived in Asia for 4 years previously, though was mostly recently working in Madagascar for another grassroots organisation. You can read more about my work history on this [page](#) on our website.

Looking ahead for the next few months, we have the excitement of graduation for 18 of our scholarship students plus the pleasure of meeting the new students. There's also the Summer Camp, a new Clean Water village and a new Microfinance loan cycle starting.

In this issue of the newsletter you will get to learn more about the team in Siem Reap, find out about the scholarships, read about the goings on in the Free Classes Project and more.

I'd like to thank you personally for your support of JWOC, we couldn't do what we do without you.

With best wishes

Nicola



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“It means as we are people living in a community, not as individuals, we should work together to participate in solving the problems we find.”

Bora – JWOC Microfinance Project Manager



SPECIAL REPORT:FREE CLASSES ACTIVITIES

Over the last few months there has been lots going on in the Free Classes Project. This report highlights some of the special activities that have taken place.

Library Opening

With the hiring of Librarian Somath in January the Community Library could really get started. It was time to get books out of boxes and get posters up on the walls.

Now, 4 months after the official February opening, the library is in full swing with more than 40 children and young adults using the facility each day.



The Giant Puppet Project

For the second year JWOC took part in the Giant Puppet Project and Parade in Siem Reap. This annual event organised by local and international artists is a highlight of the dry season. The parade is an opportunity to showcase local organisations, draw attention to local and national issues and most importantly, a chance for children to participate in a creative and confidence building activity.

A team of 30 children from our free English Classes joined with other local children to create a huge puppet, under the guidance of Jig Cochrane- one of the master artists involved.

From the beginning stages of cutting and gluing to the parade itself the children were enthralled and excited at being part of something so big.

TOEFL Preparation

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required by many universities and employers as proof of English ability. To help put students on their way to gaining a pass JWOC recently ran a TOEFL preparation course. The picture below shows a few of the students receiving their certificates.



Photo Exhibition

With the help of photographer Jesse Mojica JWOC ran Children’s Photography Workshops which culminated in our first photo exhibition. For many children it was their first time to use a camera so there was great enthusiasm...and some great results! You can see some of the pictures on our [blog](#).



Above On the day of the opening staff and volunteers each ran an activity for the visiting children. It was great to see new faces at the event.



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“It means we have to find out ways to solve those problems for people, especially those who are poor and don't have opportunities of education. We can help them by motivating, encouraging and supporting them.”

Bouakham- Scholarship Student in Laos



PROJECT FOCUS- THE SIEM REAP TEAM

Siem Reap, Cambodia, is home to JWOC's head office and the base for our biggest projects.

The team in Cambodia is currently 16 strong. It includes the project managers, part and full- time teachers and trainers, librarian and the auxiliary staff. Take a look at the photo to put names to faces!



Back row, left to right- Heng, Sokha , Hun, Saroum, Sreylin , Khoern, Ro, Bora, Sokpheak, Sokhorn
Front row, left to right- Nicola, Phong (Sokha's son) Somath, Man , Somit, Vantha, Andrea W.

Team Building

Last month we held a full team building day. It was a great success, allowing everyone to get to know each other better and also to strengthen our ability to work as a team.

The day involved a morning of activities designed to encourage team and cooperative thinking. In the afternoon we took a boat out to visit one of the floating villages within Siem Reap district. This visit prompted useful discussion about different community issues.



We asked the team why they enjoyed working for JWOC, here are some of their replies-

I like working for JWOC because...

...it offers a good working environment and capacity building opportunities. It helps poor people and helps to develop the community.

...we are a good organisation, helping my society and providing the great benefit to many people.

...I can work together to develop my country I can improve my knowledge and I am happy with my work environment.

...it is fun and I gain a lot of new experience. Also the people are friendly and helpful.

...everyone is willing to learn new techniques and skills to invest in the community and develop the country.



Sokhorn and Hun working on their 'Problem Tree' in a recent workshop

Staff Development

As part of JWOC's commitment to developing human resource capacity in Cambodia and to ensure our projects are run to high standards, there are regular training sessions for staff.

A recent workshop saw the project managers learning how to use 'Problem Trees', a visual and participatory project planning method.



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“It means that there is hope - hope in our ability to recognize a need and when there is a problem and hope that we can be part of the solution. It speaks of the ongoing commitment and joy that comes with helping each other.

Hannah - Clean Water Project marathon runner



Microfinance Update

The December 2010 loan cycle recently ended, with an amazing 100% repayment rate!

This means all our borrowers were able to collect their savings bonus (a proportion of what had been paid as interest). This bonus is the incentive used to encourage repayments as we do not ask for collateral. The picture below shows Vanny receiving her savings from Bora, Microfinance Manager



Clean Water Update



The Clean Water Project has recently benefited from the support of Perkin Elmer as part of their commitment to Cleaner Water. The company has made a generous donation which has helped JWOC to provide clean water for the residents of Duon Keo Village.

Laos Update

The rural school in Phik Noi village has recently received new classroom desks (right) and a new library thanks to the kind support of two JWOC donors. These contributions to the school make a world of difference to the young learners.



Free Classes Student Profile

One of our students tells his story with the help of a translator...

My name is Sopharet and I am 17 years old. I have been learning English at JWOC for over four months at the Starter-Beginner level and I love it.

My dream is to be an electric engineer in the government sector and studying English at JWOC is helping me with this.

I study at JWOC because I don't have enough money to pay for private lessons near my house.

I really appreciate that the teacher speaks more English than Khmer because it keeps the class challenging. My teacher adds extra exercises to the lesson so I can practice the new language more.

The picture above shows Sopharet, left, with his teacher Hen. Hen is a scholarship student in Siem Reap majoring in English and also a very dedicated teacher.



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“It means not getting overwhelmed by the big picture and creating solutions one issue at a time. When you ‘see a problem, solve a problem’ you don’t get overwhelmed by feeling the need to solve all the world’s problems, you simply solve the issue at hand.

April – JWOC Ambassador



SOUTHEAST ASIA FOCUS: SCHOLARSHIPS

JWOC offers scholarships to able students in three countries- Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos. While the programme varies slightly country to country to allow for local differences the outcome is the same- students from disadvantaged backgrounds gain degrees and work experience that will enable them to get jobs to help both support their families and aid the development of their countries.

The Scholarship Programme creates a group of students who have the ability and passion to make a difference. The work experience they gain as part of their volunteering shows them they are capable of great things and also helps them secure jobs in the future.

Laos Student Profile –Neng

Neng represents a group that has recently begun to excel in the education system, women from the ethnic minority group of Hmong people. Neng is currently studying English Teaching at the Teacher Training College. She came from a remote village in the countryside and had to leave her family at an early age in order to continue her studies. Neng stands as an inspiration to young women in Laos by showing them with enough courage and drive they can expand their life choices and make a positive impact on future generations.



A message from Sok- 4th Year scholarship student in Cambodia

I can't wait to hold my B.Ed. Spending four years at the college is not short. I really enjoy the time working for JWOC. It provided me the basic skill of working with the community, and I take a small part in reducing illiteracy and empowering the community basic needs.

I am grateful to my sponsor's generous donation and support which help me achieve my degree in education. I sincerely thank their effort to support the poor student like me. I never dream I come to this day. Their support means a lot to me. Therefore I must do something to help others who have no chance to access to education by sharing what I know.

I will use what I have learned to help share with my country. As you know the standard of education in Cambodia is still low. I want to be one of the main resources to pull it up. Like one statement says, today's students are tomorrow work force. It's really true.

I am so pleased to have been given a chance.

How you can help JWOC

If you would like to help JWOC and find a unique gift, consider giving a JWOC Gift. By choosing a JWOC Gift for friends and family, you are sending something special that not only shows you care but also helps communities in SE Asia. **Whichever gift you choose you can be certain it will directly help those in need. Follow this link to find out more-**

<http://www.journeyswithinourcommunity.org/support/jwoc-gifts/>



Remember JWOC is also registered with iGive so you can raise money for JWOC when you buy online. Just register with **iGive** and shop at any of its 800+ participating stores and JWOC will receive a portion of the sales! It's easy, free and win-win. Just shop at hundreds of online stores like Amazon, eBay or Barnes & Noble and they'll send us a check! We'll even get money if you just search! Please check it out at www.iGive.com/JWOC and thanks for helping.

Donate Now!

