

FEDA stands for 'Friends Economic Development Association'. FEDA is a Cambodian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) working to empower Cambodian people living in rural areas, founded in 1994 by a group of local Cambodian volunteers. FEDA strives to build a prosperous and peaceful society where opportunities for education, viable work, and healthy social relationships are accessible to all people without discrimination. FEDA focuses on working with young people to build positive and peaceful attitudes in their communities.

FEDA alleviates the poverty of the people of the Chher Teal, Kompong Seima, Ksach Poy, and Chrab Krasaing villages in Wat Kor Commune, Battambang District, Battambang Province, Cambodia, by developing self-sustaining income generation projects, and by providing children with educational opportunities to enhance their participation as responsible citizens in their local, national and global communities.

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# FEDA - Cambodia

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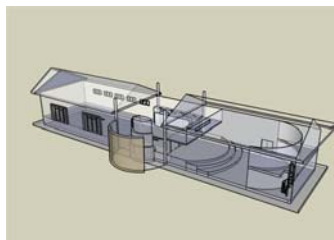
## Community Centre for Performing Art

The centre is a dream project for young people who have been studying music and art at the school "House of Light and Knowledge". The center will be a great potential for job opportunity, career development for young people and that also will be significantly contributing to community economy development and capacity building.

The centre will be used as space for training, teaching and practicing art, music and other forms of creative arts and activities. It will also be the performance theater for visitor and the general public. From time to time, the center will be used for seminar or workshop that youth, community people or NGOs

people can use to meet and discuss social, development and peace issues.

Thanks to Klaus and Gull Drewnianska from Australia who designed plan for the centre.



The sketch of the building plan

FEDA is seeking financial support to building this Community Centre. If you want to make a donation,

please contact FEDA via our Contact Address at the back of this newsletter.



## News from the Community

On May 03, 2007; FEDA participated in a celebration welcoming the newly elected commune council. All the members of the commune council are elected by residents of that commune. Commune council is the only democratic structure at grass-roots level in the Cambodian

political system; where other levels such as district and provincial authority are appointed by the Ministry of Interior. FEDA is working in close partnership with the commune council and recently, we have made a contribution to organize celebration of the new elected council. Mr. Seang

Heap, community liaison officer was our representative at the event.





The community Centre for Youth Education

Ouk Chariya, fourteen years old, born from Ksach Poy village



*"I was very happy to have opportunity to study at Pteah Punleu Vichea. Because my family is very poor, it is difficult for me to pay for my English class. This year's I have won the number one award as the student best story writer for 2007"*

Seung Sambo, eighteen years old from Ksach Poy village.



# "The House of Light and Knowledge"

The House of Light and Knowledge (P'tea Ponleu Vichea in Khmer) is a community / youth centre for the children of Ksach Poy village. The centre opened on 5 November 2005, and provides free English, Primary Healthcare, Environmental Studies and Peace Studies classes. Classes are

scheduled so as not to interfere with the local school timetable and take place either early in the morning or in the late afternoon. The children of Ksach Poy have never before had the chance to learn another language and other vocational skills. It is hoped that with more skills the children will

have more options than their parents did. More than 700 children are registered 2007.

The project helps rebuild, on a local level, the social fabric of a country that has been almost completely destroyed over the past thirty years.

## YOUTH EXPRESS

**"Making good friend for your good future"**

### View of Ouk Chariya, the winner as the most intelligent student for Year 2007 Award.

My name Ouk Chariya, female, fourteen years old, born in Ksach Poy village, Watkor commune, Battambang district, Battambang province. I am currently living in Ksach Poy village. I have five brothers and sisters, three sisters and two brothers. I am the fifth daughter. I am studying at Watkor secondary school, grade 8.

I have never studied English anywhere before, but since Pteah Punleu Vichea open to teach English, music, sports and painting; I registered to study there. I was so very happy that I have opportunity to study at this school. This year I have won number one award as the most intelligent student of the year.

Pteah Punleu Vichea has made my community proud and admire. Since the beginning of the school, has helped many children including me to learn a lot. Students at Pteah Punleu Vichea have good moral and study hard.

### The award winning story by Seung Sambo

#### Making Bad Friend

There is a family with two daughters and one son. The two daughters are all married, except the son. His name is Rith. He has just finished high school recently.

Rith was asking his parents to

go to a school party to celebrate with his friends who also have passed the final exam. There are so many people at the party. During the party Rith was introduced to a new friend by his friends.

After the party finished all have gone back to their home. Except Rith and his new friend who have decided to continue at a Karaoke bar.

This is the first time in his life to come to this place. After that night, Rith feels very strange, loose concentrate, cannot study as well as before. He always fantasizes about the good time he had at the bar.

The new friend seems to discover that Rith is interested in the experience, and he comes to ask Rith to come with him again and again almost every night. Rith begin to change, behave as if he is in a different world full of enthusiastic with pleasure. After he goes out with his new friend for a while he has known another new friend at the bar, who is not a student. This new friend is very influential more than other friends and they are afraid of this person, because he is the gang leader. Not very long, Rith has become very good friend with this out-school friend, who has seduced him to take drug. He convinces Rith that to be strong and confident one has to try new thing. Eventually,

Rith becomes addicted to drug; more and more he becomes distance himself from school and his parents. The out-school friend exploit Rith's addition by making him go to find money through stealing, snatching, bullied young children within schools' area. Oneday, his out-school friend and his gang ask Rith to steal money from his parents. Rith knows that it is immoral to do such a thing, but when he cannot endure the affect of the drug, so he decide to obey every thing the gang suggests.

His parents bring Rith to rehabilitation centre for youth and three months later he successfully overcomes the addiction. He has returned to school, his parents, teachers and especially his friends at school are very happy for him. Rith feels so much as shame of himself, this is because of his making friend with a wrong person, therefore; young must be careful and avoid Rith's path.



# Youth Appeal

— We need your supports to make our life different!



**“ True Friendship  
is presenting  
peace, true peace  
presenting  
humanity, true  
humanity  
presenting love,  
  
MAY LOVE BE  
THE CORE OF  
OUR HEARTS”**

## PROJECT ON THE WAY - Can you help?

Title	Specific	Donation sought	Beneficiaries	Possible Impacts
Rural Youth Ban	-1 Drum kit -1 Electric Keyboard -4 Loud speakers -1 Electric sound mixer -1 Mobile performing stage	US\$500 US\$800 US\$4,000 US\$500 US\$1,500	25 young people getting job, and some income will be for the school's operation cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job opportunity</li> <li>• Village Economy</li> <li>• Learning</li> <li>• Sustainability of the school</li> </ul>
Youth Internet Café and Restaurant	-Construction of the internet café and restaurant -Tables and chairs -2 Computers -1 Photo copy machine -Beverage making machines 1 Small generator	US\$3,000 US\$1,000 US\$2,500 US\$3,000 US\$500 US\$500	50 young people getting part time jobs around school schedule. Some income will contribute to the school operation cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job opportunity</li> <li>• Village economy</li> <li>• Free drug zone for young people to hang out</li> <li>• Learning</li> <li>• Sustainability of the school</li> </ul>

The detail of business plan for the about projects can be found in FEDA's website: <http://www.fedacambodia.com>

### ONGOING PROJECTS

1. Young Woman Garment Factory
2. Small Credit Scheme 100 for 1 dollar interest rate
3. Community library
4. Soccer teams
5. Drawing and painting
6. Story writing and group reading

### FUTURE PLANS

1. Day Tour around villages
2. Peace Museum Exhibition
3. Lodging and seminar facility
4. Traditional art performance and play
5. Kindergarten



**Youth Internet Café and restaurant is drug free zone for young people to hangout**



**FEDA - Friends Economic and Development Association** is based in Ksach Poy village, near the provincial city of Battambang in north-west Cambodia. It is a village of 3,000 inhabitants, the majority of whom are young people. It lies on the banks of the River Sangker, about 10km south-east of Battambang.

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# OTHER NEWS VOLUME I, ISSUE I

In March FEDA welcomed Seth Birky as a volunteer to work with the House of Light and Knowledge for six weeks. Seth, volunteered with FEDA, as part the Study and Service program of Goshen College in Indiana, USA. Seth achieved a lot in a short space of time and the whole community benefited from him time in Ksach Poy. Here is Seth's reflection on his time at the school:



My name is Seth Birky and I am a twenty-one year old Chinese-American. I am a third-year student at Goshen College of Indiana, USA, majoring in both psychology and elementary education. I am also a martial arts instructor, and have been training in taekwondo for over ten years, achieving the rank of third degree black belt under the American Taekwondo Association.

As part of the college's world studies curriculum, twenty-four American students have been sent to live in Cambodia for three months; the first half in Phnom Penh and second in the provinces. In Phnom Penh, we spent nearly six hours each day studying the Khmer language, as well as its culture and history.

For my service assignment, I was chosen to live in Ksach Pay village, both working and living in The House of Light and Knowledge public school. The school itself is one of the most beautiful schools in all of Cambodia, complete with a playground, volleyball courts, music classroom, small library, office, and guest house.

During my time here, it has been my job to both work with the staff on teaching strategies, brief educational psychology, etc. as well as to teach the students taekwondo. The teachers of the school are all wonderful people, often spending more hours than required to either help students with their studies, extracurriculars, or to simply study English themselves. They were very willing to learn about American ideology and teaching style, even with the great culture difference this would sometimes imply. Throughout our six weeks together, we worked on various methods to improve the flow of the everyday class, such as proximity, disciplinary strategies, positive reinforcement, and classroom setup. In all aspects of my teaching, the staff was very open to change, and much more accommodating than I could have hoped for.

Similarly, the students of this school are all very passionate and eager to learn anything extracurricular- before the first day, over 250 students had already signed up to take taekwondo classes! Regardless of rain or heat, students would come to learn. Because of this, we were able to learn not only the basic body movements, but also begin some self-defense and confidence training that could benefit both the children and adults in a crisis situation. These amazing children would thrive with any activity, assuming only that they have someone to teach them.

My time spent here in Ksach Pay at the School of Light and Knowledge has been wonderful, and I will keep many memories with me for the rest of my life. It is my hope that this school will continue to thrive, and that the community here will be able to continually grow as it has for the past few years.

Seth Birky



Seth Birky trains students Té Kwando



## YEARLY AWARD COMPETITION 2007

The Yearly Award competition is an annual event organized during mid April to boost motivation of the students at the House of Light and Knowledge. It happens back to back with the Khmer New Year celebration prior to a short school vacation period.

This year hundreds of students registered to participate in different subjects of the competition.

The competitions began early in April with some students went through several rounds and the best ones will end up at the final round on April 12, 2007.



Students Participating in intelligent game competition



Students Participating in physical competition



Students Participating in Khmer New Year Games