



## Newsletter December 2016



### The Ultimate UAC Football-Trick:

[view our video](#)

#### Dear Friends and Followers of UAC

First of all, we would like to wish all our readers, donors, volunteers and all followers of our young organisation a joyful festive season. We would like to thank you for your support in 2016. Merci beaucoup!

**Ongoing professionalization of UAC:** we are making big strides in penetrating both national and international NGO territories. We reported to you back in October that - after months of tough wrestling - we received the Cambodian NGO license. Since then, our marketing activities and thus our external

This encourages us to tackle our strategic medium-term goal in 2017 and 2018: **the qualification for the 'Zewo' license**. This corresponds to the Swiss 'Gold Standard' for charity associations and foundations. From 2017 onwards, we will have a five-member board of directors with clear allocation of responsibilities, will present audited financial statements, will invest in internal auditing as well as selective collaborations with other NGOs for bigger projects, in order to gain critical mass and diversify risk.

To experience our projects in Cambodia in a beautiful place, you can learn about us at our forthcoming **information event on**

awareness level has taken off.

Across the page, you can see a selection of national and international donation platforms as well as marketing forums, and where we have stepped it up since you last heard from us.

We are particularly proud to now be formally recognised by The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), and which provides us with systematic access to the UK philanthropic community. In the process of obtaining this license, we had to undergo a strict due diligence and passed it after six weeks of correspondence.

Our social media marketing activities are also making strides: some of our videos like the one above - have been accessed over 37,000 times.

the 20th of December, from 6 pm, at the Villa Sparrenberg in Oberengstringen. Please join in!







### A Student's Video of the Ceremony Honouring the Work of UAC:

[view video](#)

#### **Project at the Nimit School - concrete measures for 700 pupils**

**From Poi Pet, there is only good news to report.** Frankly speaking, we are baffled as to the lack of major hiccups. This to an extent that the sceptics in the team are already calling for twists to occur...

There was no such Cassandra Complex in the last six weeks: the construction part of the sanitary project finished on 28 November.

**On time, on budget and technically flawless.** Hats off to our planner Pisey Chin, our designer Blong Leakana and our project manager Thomas Gilbert.

As outlined in October, secondary schools are scarce in the province of Banteay Meanchey. We have now renovated a school house in the rural village of Nimit (10km outside the border town of Poi Pet), built a completely new WC complex with water tower and biosand filter system, renovated two existing toilet complexes, erected four drinking water installations, planted (with help of teachers and students) six small gardens with c200 flowers, jasmine sambac bushes and small trees. **The school and faculties now have 17 modern toilet places available between them.**

All this is more than we had hoped for at the start- and this we

**Now we have to pause shortly and for two reasons** before we decide on the next steps in Poi Pet.

**First, the installations must stand a reliability test**, and the teachers, parents and students need to demonstrate that they can deal with the new infrastructure. To monitor and accompany this, our local team around Pisey Chin will pay the school bi-weekly visits and offer training.

In addition, the water system and the wells drilled by us have to pass the hardest test when the dry season kicks in in April. Only then can we make the call whether it is necessary to upgrade or in a worst case refit the infrastructure.

Secondly, **the Pnomh Penh government** visited us on the site in November and subsequently **decided to participate in the expansion/refurbishment of the school complex** on a grand scale. Two schoolhouses will be demolished and replaced, one new school building is being built from scratch, as well as a on-site real estate for teaching staff (some of which live and spend the night on the school grounds under precarious conditions).

Construction work began on 15 November and is scheduled to be completed in six months. During this

principally owe to you, our donors. **Your backing of UAC's largest project thus far has been incredible.**

time our own expansion activities are suspended, because the UAC water system will be docked onto the new facilities. **This is tribute to UAC's work and makes for the sustainability of your donation to us and to students!**



[view video](#)

### **A smile - thousand emotions**

Sometimes it does not take much to make children happy

### **Philanthropic holidays - a visit from Lucerne with high impact**

Think of patrons who donate, but at the same time also provide hands-on aid. Donors who prefer to coordinate how their contribution is used, plus learn about the culture of an exciting, under-recognised part of Asia. The above pictures speak for themselves.

We would like to thank Mr. Joe Lang, a friend of UAC Switzerland and now of UAC Cambodia for his material donations:

Two school uniforms that allow a girl and a boy to take up an education: standardized clothing is mandatory at Cambodia's schools.

volleyball for two schools: the Chong Kneas day school and the Banteay Srey High School.

Not to forget 100kg of rice, food, nutritional supplements, toothbrushes and toothpaste for two families with malnourished members, various medication for the remedies of the small peasants of the country population. He also took time to help with the distribution of clothes and toys and much more.

All in all, the Swiss francs deployed by Joe have enriched and improved the lives of perhaps three dozen rural Cambodians in one way or another.

He also had the crucial mix in his luggage: a week of time, joy and



Joe furthermore sponsored two football nets, three soccer balls, a

open mind. Simply exemplary and great class! **Merci Joe**



**Children donate for children: a thank-you-letter from Bakong to Singapore**

However, my school uniform has become too small for me as I am growing. We are not allowed to enter the school premises without wearing such uniform.

Dear Alix, dear Adrienne, dear Astrie

my name is Toum. I live in a rural village in the Bakong District, some 30 km outside Siem Reap in Cambodia. I am twelve years old.

I am writing to you to say how happy I am: today your Uncle Thomas and his Khmer friend Mister Pisey stopped by. Their organisation UAC built our house and installed water supply and toilet 18 months ago.

Their organisation also looks after my mother who is very weak and cannot cook or take care of me.

I am going to the Primary School which is walking distance from our house and which is nice.

Thank you so much for giving me your savings (which I am sure you could have easily spent on nice things for yourselves) and so UAC could buy two pairs of uniforms for me, with your precious money.

I also love the toys that they brought from you and from Singapore. In particular I loved the colourful wrist band with the red heart- and I have meanwhile 'donated' it to my mum, and because she has deserved a gift from me for a long time. Her mood is very sunny since then which is not always the case.

You made many people very very happy today- but especially me.

Thank you, because you are now my friends from Singapore

Toum



Newsletter Januar 2016

**Our UAC dream - large water reservoirs and educational campus - is alive!**

We also do not lose sight of the big projects mentioned at the beginning of the year, and keep you up to date. In this respect, our architect Blong Leakana, after completing her contribution to Poipet projects, has

freed capacity to produce drawings for the large projects for us and using CAD (Computer Aided Design). Here is the link to the January 2016 newsletter where all three projects are being described:





**Have we tapped your philanthropic vein, convinced you, aroused your curiosity ?**

We are very happy to accept donations - and here *'small'* in one's imagination can mean *'tangible'* in the real world- into the following account:

**Postfinance AG**

**PC 89-680569-1**

**IBAN: CH27 0900 0000 8968 0569 1**

**SWIFT/BIC: POFICHBEXXX**

It is also possible for you to visit our site at any time, to visit our work, and even to support projects. This way, you can see in action how and where the funds flow.

[support us](#)

If you are lucky, you can go with 'Mister Pisey' (Pisey Chin speaks English very well and has the nicest of personalities) and work with him directly on a renovation project, a water project, one of his tireless inspections of 'completed' projects or even on a life-saving ad-hoc trip. Especially for those of you who long for a ride on a 'Töff' or a Tuk-Tuk!

We see you in Cambodia!

Yours sincerely

(Founder & President UAC)

