

Last news from Agir pour le Cambodge

December 2011

With education and vocational training programs, Agir pour le Cambodge contributes to the poverty reduction and to the fight against human trafficking in Cambodia.

Interview "Technical knowledge and attitude cannot be separated: it's the key to success" Huy Serey

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« Technical knowledge and attitude cannot be separated: it's the key to success. »

Huy Serey is the Human Resources Manager at the Somadevy Angkor Hotel. As part of the general culture lectures held on Friday afternoons, Huy Serey talked on Ethics and Behavior on the workplace to adapt in the professional world. His speech was expected by the students for different reasons. As a Human Resources Manager, he knows well the expectations of their future employers and the training students were anxious to listen to his advice. Furthermore, having reached a managing position from bottom up, he represents the image of hope for these young people. Some were on their way to their first internship on the industry, the first step in their professional life.

"I am very happy to talk to Sala Bai students because, like them, I come from a modest background. I have been lucky enough to have good trainers for my first professional experience and since I was really shy, it was quite a trial. If my speech today had only one purpose, it would be that the Sala Bai students believe in themselves and in their aptitude to build their future. For that, they have to know their qualities and know how to adapt their behavior.

I am all the happier to come at the beginning of their training. The culture shock is so huge between the rural area they come from and the hotel world where they will start their training in the coming days that I would like to give them the keys to help them cope with this new environment, encourage them to improve, learn how to communicate and be confident. I am really surprised by their aptitude to adapt.

I use games to illustrate my speech. The maze game teaches them that to succeed they have to choose a path and have a goal. Once they have it, they will always find a way to reach it. The Pilot game brings in light the necessity to trust your colleagues and your boss. Trust is determining to go on. We cannot separate technical knowledge and behavior. This is the key to success."

Window on the outer world: Friday conferences

In Sala Bai, 11% of the training is devoted to general culture with conferences. The Management and the social workers of Sala Bai have scheduled them on Fridays, often with lectures from people outside.

A few examples: the awareness on child abuse conferences are given by the team of the Childsafe program from Friends International, the awareness on HIV/AIDS by the Ngo RHAC, but Road Safety conferences are given by the social workers' team that have been trained by Handicap International.



News from Sala Bai

Free check-up

On November 19th, almost 80 persons, students, Sala Bai staff and relatives, benefited from a free medical check-up. Thirty doctors, general practitioners, pediatricians and dermatologists that came as a group with Bioderma Labs, wished to support Sala Bai program, not only by giving hygiene products and medicines but also by offering their skills to the School. To ease the check-up process, medics were assisted by interpreters.

Among the students and some of the staff they noted rather important deficiencies in vitamins, iron and mineral salts, as consequences of malnutrition they suffered in their childhood.

More than training skills, it is a holistic support of students, health care included, that is offered at Sala Bai. During their training, health care expenses are entirely covered by the School.



News from Sala Bai

Opening of the Training Hotel and restaurant

Located at a five-minute walk from down town Siem Reap and a 20-minute tuk-tuk drive from Ankor site, both Training Hotel and Restaurant are essential tools for the training of the students. They can practice in real conditions.

Since October 17th, the restaurant has been opened for breakfast and lunch from Monday to Friday. With Asian and Western Cooking, menus change every other week to respect the students' curriculum and practice. The Training Hotel proposes three standard rooms and a suite. They all have access to Wi-Fi now.

By staying at Sala Bai or by having lunch there, you not only add another dimension to traveling in Cambodia, but you actively allow young Cambodians to be trained and contribute to their professional experience. Last year's benefits generated from the Hotel and the Restaurant have financed the training of ten students.

To know more http://www.salabai.com/html/restaurant.php?p_lang=en



News from Sala Bai

Running at Sala Bai

On October 23rd, a race was organized for the Sala Bai students. 82 out of 100 of them and 12 out of 24 staff took part in it, as a way to thank all the sportsmen and sportswomen that have raised funds for them this year.

News from Sala Bai

Trainees in 18 of our Hotel partners
Out of the 11 month training, four are devoted to internships. Half of the promotion started on October 31st in one of the 18 Hotel partners of the School.

Amansara, Angkor Century Resort & Spa, Angkor Miracle Resort & Spa, Angkor Palace Resort & Spa, Bopha Angkor, FCC Angkor, Heritage Suites Hotel, Hôtel de la Paix, Karavansara Hotel, Résidence d'Angkor, Meridian Angkor, Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor, Ree Hotel, Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort, Sokha Angkor Resort, Somadevy Hotel, Tara Angkor Hotel, and Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa have taken in Sala Bai students in Cook training, Restaurant, Front Office and Housekeeping training. Most of them are greeted by Sala Bai graduates who work in these hotels and will guide them in their first professional experience. Here at Sofitel Angkor Resort



News from Sala Bai

The key to employment

Learning English is a must for the students that want to work in the hospitality and tourism industry. It is the key to employment. The challenge is all the bigger than Sala Bai takes in young people that have been out of school sometimes for more than ten years. The School management has wished to support the weakest.

Though representing already 14% of the training, a new English teacher has just been hired as a part-time job at Sala Bai. He teaches extra one-hour classes on weekdays and four-hour classes on Saturdays and Sundays. 49 students out of 100 have benefited from this support for the two first months before half of them went off to the industry for their first internship.

News from Sala Bai

To be coming: the 11th intake recruitment

The information campaign on the beginning of the recruitment process of the 11th promotion will start with posters, leaflets and radio announcements on next January 9th. It will be the first step of four of a selection process that will end on June 29th with the posting of the names of the 100 selected students of the 11th promotion.



Your donation in action

In the September Newsletter, we had asked your help for the renewal of 30 bicycles needed by the students to go to school and to their internship place. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to buy them all. Thank you!

Give us a hand

Books on Health and Hygiene



As part of the awareness to Health and Hygiene of Sala Bai students, we would need the support of 100 books on the body and health as an illustration.

Published by the French organization to fight illiteracy, SIPAR, these books will enable the trainers to explain the students the functions of their body and address them questions on health and hygiene. Real pedagogical tools, these books are thoroughly illustrated and are written in Khmer language with a simple vocabulary. Each book costs \$1,50.

If you want to support us, it's possible to :

- make an online donation on Sala Bai website : www.salabai.com

- send your contribution to Agir Pour le Cambodge: 120, avenue de Suffren 75015 Paris.



They support Sala Bai Success of the four-hand dinner with Régis Marcon and Andrée Rosier

“To be a cook, I practice this skill with passion and it is with the same passion that I transmit it. The training I taught at Sala Bai is part of my best memories of my professional life. I hope you will have the chance like I did, to discover this unique Hotel School,” said Régis Marcon at the end of the fund-raising dinner he cooked for the Sala Bai students, together with Andrée

Rosier, first “meilleure ouvrier de France” and patron of the Sala Bai 10th promotion. The dinner was held at Ferrandi School with the help of its students. Indeed a nice partnership between a French Hotel School in Paris and famous chefs for the benefit of a Hotel School in Cambodia meant for the underprivileged. This fund-raiser will finance the training of seven students.

They support Sala Bai

Sala Bai at the ANEPHOT Annual Congress

During the Annual Congress of the Private Hotel and Tourism Schools Association held from November 23rd to 25th at Sainte Jehanne of France High School in Lyon, an evening event was dedicated to Sala Bai. The raffle organized then will cover six months training of one student.

Hotel Schools, Restaurant owners, you wish to organize a dinner, contact us:

Anne-Charlotte Carré in Paris: contact@agirpourle cambodge.org

Emmanuelle Dethomas in Siem Reap, Cambodia: info@salabai.com

They support Sala Bai



Production of a Documentary

The itinerary of Khatna, a young woman coming from a poor family in Mechrey, a floating village on the Tonlé Sap, will be the thread of a documentary on Sala Baï. It is financed by Touch Sala Baï and is produced by a team of journalists coming from Singapore. It will be released by mid-January.

They support Sala Baï

435 days riding for Sala Baï

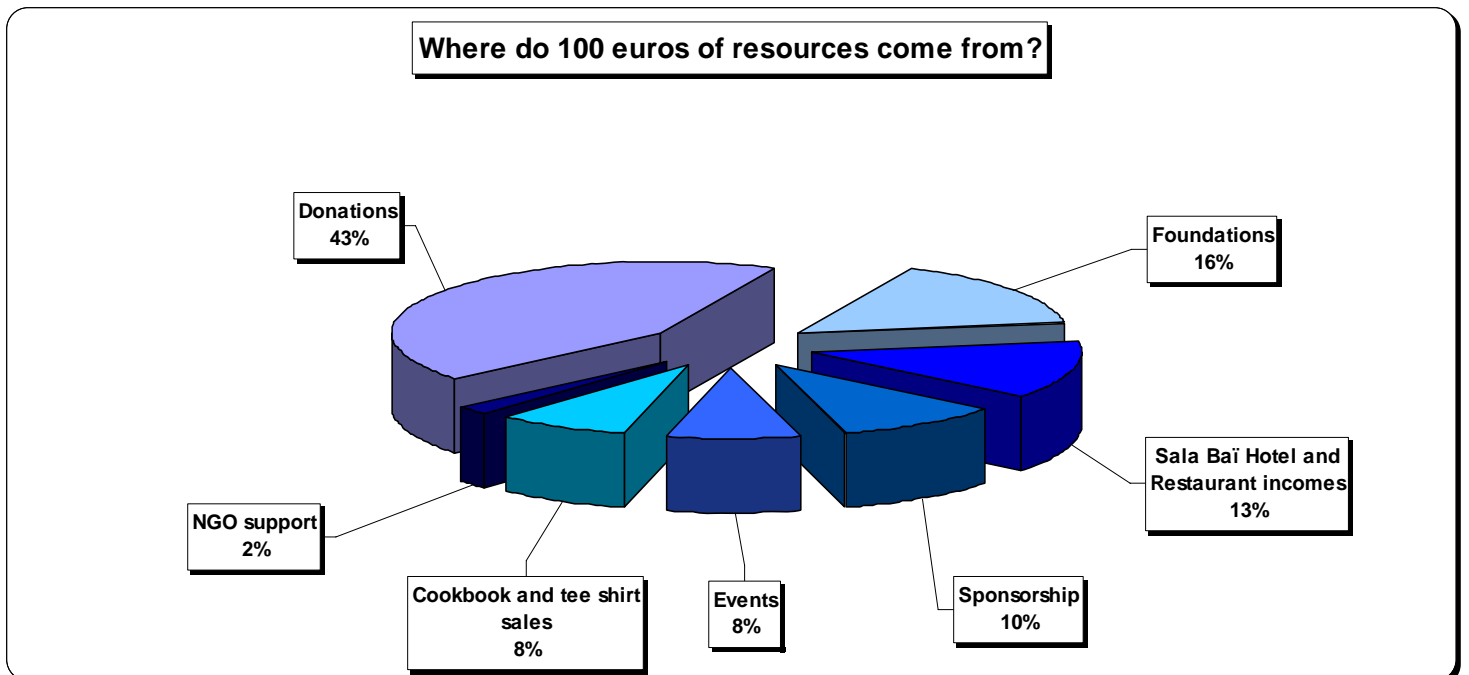
From Notre-Dame in Paris to Notre-Dame in Paris, Anne and Hadrien, alias the « vélooptimistes » have just closed the loop around the world riding their bikes in 432 days. Passing through Cambodia, they discovered Sala Baï and decided to support the program. Sala Baï students thank them for this nice and generous commitment.

They support Sala Baï

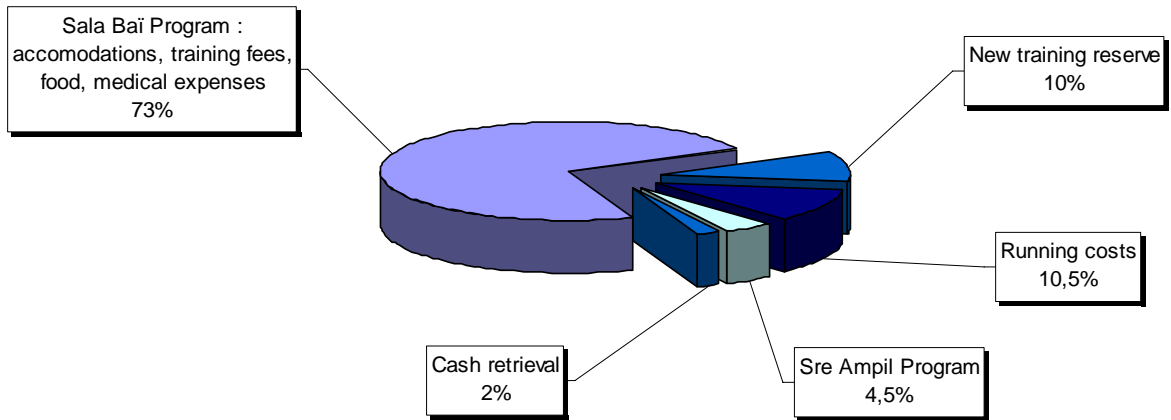
Régis Marcon enters the Board of *Agir pour le Cambodge*

Régis Marcon, a three-star chef and also in charge of the Training Mission, joined the Board on November 19th. To know more: www.agirpourlecambodge.org

Agir pour le Cambodge in figures



How are 100 euros of resources used?



**Thank you for the support you will bring to us.
Without you, nothing would be possible.**