

## Updates from The Operation Hope Foundation Ltd February 2008

The youth were oozing with enthusiasm and creative energy at the break of dawn. One can hear them practicing on the keyboard, muttering about the right moves to make on their chess set, and flipping through pages of colourful beading books.

The Hobby Club Room was open and the youth couldn't wait to get started! This semester, the youth are studying in the afternoon session, therefore, most of them were up working on their hobby projects before 8am.

This is the place where they could play board games, play the keyboard, learn DIY projects using software installed in the laptops, read a book, make beaded jewelry and have meetings amongst the committee members of the different clubs.



### Beading Club Debut

After two months of organizing the beads donated by Bedok Methodist Church team, the beading club was finally open!

The children were so excited and started choosing designs immediately on 18 Feb morning. The pictures above show the two beading club leaders (Sreystro and Malis) and two helpers (Chayli and SreyOun). They were packing and labeling the beads that have been weighed and recorded. Chayli was dazed by the intricacies of the workmanship he saw in the beading books.

See the two necklaces and a pair of earrings made by them. The beading club will teach the children to be an entrepreneur in small ways.

Firstly, they have got to learn to make beaded jewelry and we had the privilege of having the Bedok Methodist Church team from Singapore to train them. They learned to make a variety of accessories like earrings, necklaces, bracelets and hand phone dangles.



In order to make this an entrepreneurial project, the materials provided were limited to the first three pieces of jewelry. The children had to sell those three pieces that they made and used the profits to buy subsequent materials. In this way, they learned to grow their "business" with the small start-up capital.

It was such a great encouragement when the children sold their handiwork within a week! They were eager to improve their products and some wanted to tithe to the Lord.

Prayerfully, the beading club would help them to pick up entrepreneurial skills and that they would be thankful to the Lord and the respective people involved.

KumHong sold her handphone dangle for US\$2 and Thiery sold her pair of earrings to a visitor for US\$1!

## Hobby Centre

The activities in the Hobby Club Room were a prelude to that of The Hobby Centre. We are looking for sponsors to help build a Hobby Centre to provide at least 6 rooms for the children to develop more talents and skills.

The purpose is to give the children opportunities to unleash their talents, creativity and hone skills which are able to help them earn a living after leaving the orphanage. The Hobby Centre will include a computer room with a scanner, printer, and CD burner for the older children to learn video editing and Adobe Photoshop.



We need donors for these computer equipments, cooking equipment, sewing machines and musical instruments like guitars and keyboards. Each room in the Hobby Centre will be small, about 6m by 3m. If we can raise the funds, we would like to have a two-storey building so that we can have more rooms. The local contractor has quoted US\$14,800 for a single-storey and double the amount for two storeys. This does not include the electrical and fittings like fans, power points, lights and requisite building approvals.

For the future of the children, please continue to support this vital work. Thank you!



## Music Competition

26 February 2008 was the first Music Competition in HVPV! It was an unforgettable time for everyone!

The panel of judges was made up of a staff who graduated from the Arts School in Phnom Penh, a Singaporean visitor with a Grade 8 theory and practical piano qualification and Phearom, a committee member of the music club.

The first prize for the individual category went to Sreyniang who played the keyboard. She only started playing the keyboard less than a year ago! Likewise for Chayli, who also played the keyboard and got third in position.

The second prize went to Cheya who played the recorder. The fourth prize went to Malis who also played the recorder. Several days prior to the music competition, the children were practicing hard and it was quite noisy with all the children practicing at the same time but different songs and in different places. It was nice to know that the children took the competition seriously. And most importantly, they enjoyed performing.

The group competition was extremely entertaining. They captured the attention of all the audience and everyone enjoyed their performance tremendously!

Two 13-year-old boys (Bol Chit and Vimol), played the guitars. Pitu, a 15-year-old boy played the drum and they coordinated very well. We also included guest singers who volunteered to sing. In fact, there was such an overwhelming response that we had to turn them down.

It is a joy to watch the children immerse themselves in music. HVPV is developing them in a five-fold manner, namely - physically, intellectually, socially, spiritually and emotionally. This is hard work but with the cooperation of the local staff, OHF Singapore and mission trippers, the work is rewarding.





## Children's Gardening Opportunities

HVPV has assigned each dormitory a gardening plot where they are free to plant any vegetables they like.

The children are to cultivate their own ground and take care of their own vegetables plots. This helps them to learn planting and develop responsibility in them. May they enjoy their sweet reward during harvesting time.

## Learning English

Our youngest orphan, Moses, is learning English from a CD ROM played on a donated laptop! He is the first child to have the privilege of using the latest technology to learn a foreign language at the age of 3!

Cutie-pie Moses was looking intently at the animation and repeating after words such as 'train', 'car', 'ball' etc. He is taking English lessons from Monday to Thursday. We hope to train him to be our youngest translator and a child who can be fluent in both Khmer and English at eight years old.



## Leaky Roof at Staff Quarters

We would like to appeal for a donation to repair the leaky roof at our staff quarters. The leaking has persisted for a year and we don't have any reserve funds for its repair. All our child sponsor donations go into the operation of HVPV and not for maintenance and repair work. The contractor has quoted US\$22,500 for the replacement of damaged tiles and installation of cement boards. Your timely donation will help our staff and visitors to have a more pleasant stay when the next rainy season arrives in July.

## Finishing Well (Talk)

Do you feel bored and unchallenged? Is there a nagging feeling of wanting to do more? Is your work a daily grind devoid of meaning and purpose? Do you want a life of purpose fill with meaning and exciting challenges? Whether you are a student, a working adult or a retiree, the time is NOW – to listen and to act.

Dr David Wong, former vice-president of International Training, Haggai Institute will speak from his years of experience in training leaders worldwide. Robert Kee will share practical advice on how you can be a part of God's team to look after the poor. Come and learn how Siew Lee, a young lady who served two years as Program Manager in Hope Village Prey Veng be God's difference maker.

Date: 19 April 2008, Saturday

Time: 3 – 6 pm

Venue: Orchard Road Presbyterian Church Dunman Hall A.

**Please call 6873-2955 to register. Admittance is strictly by registration only.**