



Teachers Across Borders Australia

Annual Report

26 November 2014

Deputy Director's Report to the AGM 2014

As we enter the tenth year of Teachers Across Borders, Australia I continue to be inspired by the dedication of a small group of individuals committed to sharing knowledge regarding the education of children in Cambodia. The strong links established between the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, the Provincial Departments of Education and Teacher Training Colleges have allowed us to conduct nine workshop programs in Battambang, eight workshop programs in Kampong Thom and five workshop programs in Kampong Cham.

The third Project Agreement (a third, five years) will be signed in January by Brian Allen which will take our tenure to a fifteen year project. By the end of fifteen years we hope to have assisted the Khmer teachers not only with the philosophies and practicalities of educating children in Cambodia, but also the development of skills for ongoing professional development to occur between and among themselves.

During the course of the past 10 years our group has developed skills in flexibility and adaptation in response to variable cultural parameters experienced between the two countries. As soon as the problem is identified both parties work hard together to reach a solution that has the best outcomes for both the Australian Workshop presenters and the teachers in Cambodia. We really need to thank Mr Sok Samnang and Mr Sam Sophorn for their continued hard work assisting both parties in understanding the cultural issues and working toward solutions.

As we approach the third contract we look forward to working more with the teacher trainees at both Primary and Secondary Teachers Colleges where possible. Thanks to the Kampong Cham Workshop 2014 there is a set of guidelines to follow for further expansion of this programme. In addition the Train the Trainer programme has strengthened and we look forward to this expanding to allow for the greatest possible adoption by the Khmer teachers towards the end of the third contract.

The program in Battambang has been able to work with the rural teachers who are bussed to Battambang which allows a larger group of teachers and students access to our programmes however this has not been possible in Kampong Thom and Kampong Cham to date.

Another initiative that was useful in Kampong Thom was to allow Cambodian teachers to split the morning session in two, thereby undertaking a session in ESL and a session in Maths. At the Primary level this was considered very beneficial.

Some further areas to consolidate include communication with translators prior to the workshops. With greater internet access than 10 years ago, it will become ever more possible to communicate with the translators prior to the workshops to send material to them and perhaps Skype or at least Facebook back and forward regarding upcoming workshops.

It may be useful to consider sending a team in for a feedback session as we did after the first 5 year contract.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian and Marg Allen for establishing, directing and guiding Teachers Across Borders Australia for the past 10 years (including the establishment period). Brian has encouraged new ideas and programmes within our project agreement to allow for the best possible outcomes for education in Cambodia.

Susie Lachal Acting Director November 2014

Battambang Report 2014

All presenters were volunteers who came at their own expense paying for airfare, accommodation and food and who gave their time and expertise to assist and share with members of the Cambodian Education community in Battambang. The costs of the workshops were funded through fundraising and donations in Australia. All presenters from Australia paid their own way to come to Cambodia.

Presenters:

There were 28 presenters from Australia and 5 assistants.

Program:

Name	Workshop Title	No in Class
Marg Allen/Linda Ludeman/Rosemary Brown	Early Years Language - teaching Khmer in the primary school	30
Krystal Ryan/Trish Ball	Early Years Language - teaching Khmer in the primary school	20
Nicola Forrest and Brendan Dunlop	Strategies to enhance student engagement in Maths primary to lower high school.	25
Penny Round and Nicole Bottriell	Strategies to enhance comprehension across the curriculum primary to middle years.	25
Steve Durkin	Leadership and Administration	25
Pauline Taylor	Leadership and Administration	25
Sue Slater	Leadership and Administration	30
Bronwyn Van der Meche/Irene Ryan	Classroom methodology and Thinking Skills	20
Sue Clements/ Rosemary McDonald/	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	25
Trish Stewart /Marina Leeks	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	25
Liana Udris/Annette Muldeary	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	25
Karly Thaw/Vanessa Pratt/ Alice Walker	Middle years language – teaching Khmer in the middle school	25
David Shelton	Biology	22

Wednesday 8th January Opening ceremony was conducted at the Regional Teachers Training College with Mr. Yi Songky Deputy Director of Provincial Office of Education

The thirteen workshops were presented over 7 half days from 7.30 - 11.30 am each day. Participants included school directors (principals), teachers' training college lecturers, teachers, Provincial and District Office of Education staff.

50 teachers and directors came from Moug Roussey district and 50 from Ratanak Mondul district. This is the second time that teachers from the districts have been included the Battambang program and it was a success. Two coaches were hired to bring the teachers to the RTTC. This should continue as part of the program for the next two years.

Train the Trainer (TTT) Program:

This was the fourth year of the Train the Trainer program. Our work in building the capacity of our Cambodian colleagues to share knowledge gained in the Teachers Across Borders workshops was evident in the TTT program. Sue Slater and Jo Marveggio provided training in “How to conduct effective workshops” for 19 participants”. Trainees attended TTT sessions on 4th and 6th January. They were then asked to co-present TAB workshops from 8-15 January. This was to further develop their skills and confidence. The Australian TAB presenters were impressed with the TTT participants finding them enthusiastic, knowledgeable and very keen to demonstrate what they had learnt. It is highly recommended that this program be part of the Battambang workshop program in 2015

Proposed dates for 2015

TTT PROGRAM

5th & 6th January for full days

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

8- 15th January 2014

Brian Allen

Workshop Program Coordinator

January 2014

Kampong Thom Report 2014

The eighth TAB Programme was run in Kampong Thom from Monday 7th to Friday 11 July, 2013. (TTT commenced on Saturday 5th July)

No. of Workshops: One 7 day program – Train The Trainer (TTT) program) & seven 5 days programs

No. of workshop presenters and assistants: 14

No. of Khmer workshop presenters: 1

No. of translators: 15

No. of participants: 182 = 101- 1st year Provincial Teacher Training College students and 81 Teachers

Workshops Offered

A very special thanks to Jenn Wardrop and Ann Cunningham for running the programme during the week.

1. Principals Programme – Leadership and Administration – Pam Kinsman
2. Primary Maths – Jane Endersby and Amanda Schraer
3. Early Years Literacy – Sally Cunningham and Liz Halpin
4. “Peace of Mind”-Better student results through improved teaching strategies. - Victoria Blakston and Jennifer Murray
5. Teacher trainees - Primary English – Clare Davis
6. Teacher trainees - Music – Geoff Hayward
7. Teacher trainees - Physical Education – Glenda Didier and Susie Lachal
8. Selected teachers - Train the Trainer – Brigid O’Keefe and Sam Sophorn

The Primary Maths and Early Years Literacy Workshops

These workshops were intended for the rural teachers. And many of the participants had never had any professional development it was decided to run half sessions. This meant that the participants would spend half their time in Literacy and half their time in Maths. Despite thorough attempts to bus rural teachers to Kampong Thom this was not successful and the teachers came from the town. The workshop presenters felt that this was a good initiative and we will attempt to emulate this next year.

This method of presentation was also used for the PE and Music workshops. This way the participants got the continuity of a week’s programme but an introduction to two subjects.

Rural Teachers

Despite our best efforts to arrange for the rural teachers to attend the programme it did not happen. TAB has attempted to determine the reason for this and it is thought that the administrator in charge of the rural areas is not keen on allowing it to happen. It was established that TAB can ask the Provincial Office of Education to not send teachers who have been to the workshops previously. This will be put in place next year.

TAB will also request that teachers known to us from the rural areas attend, for example the Principal of Narit’s school.

Translators

This year the translators were organised by Ho Sivuthy (Thy). Fifteen translators arrived to work with the presenters. The quality of the translators was very good. Ideally in the future the translated material will be emailed to Thy to print out and give it to the translators prior to the programme for discussion at the presenter/translator meeting.

The translators’ lunch was at Arunras, upstairs in the air conditioned room and with a set menu.

Money

For the second year the money was handled by Jenn Wardrop. This was a fantastic help.

Sok Samnang and his wife Thavery organised the stipends and the dictionaries and calculators were bought in Phnom Penh for the workshops.

Roughly, \$7,000 was spent on eight programmes and the group will have raised approximately \$10,000.

TAB will support Khmer teachers to attend the **CAMTESOL** Programme again with \$1000 required. This will allow 10 teachers to attend the conference in January.

\$1,000 on was allowed for Narit's school to complete this project.

Administration

Jenn and Ann ran the programme on a daily basis from Monday to Friday. This freed Susie Lachal up to teach the trainees. This worked really well and it is hoped this will continue this next year.

Sok Samnang had exams during the week of the programme and was not in attendance for Monday through Thursday inclusive. It was decided that if Samnang is unable to be in attendance, Thy will be responsible for the coordination. This needs to be established well ahead of time so that the lines of responsibility are clear.

Train the Trainer

Brigid O'Keefe ran the Train The Trainer (TTT) programme this year and with workshop leaders have identified teachers who will be invited to attend the TTT workshop in 2015. Brigid and Sophorn commenced their programme on Saturday and ran three sessions prior to Monday, one on Saturday and two on Sunday. This was a more effective programme and Brigid would like to continue with this timetable for 2015. All of the TTT participants were able to prepare and present a short lesson within a workshop. Sophorn was available for Saturday, Sunday and Monday and we really appreciate his input.

'Brigid and Sophorn' were very appreciative of the time facilitators gave to TTT presenters. The time to present to the workshop, guidance in developing their workshops and both verbal and written feedback was valued and appreciated by all – Thank you

English Curriculum for Grades 4-6

Both Madam Phally, director of the PTTC, and Chea Pum, lecturer, asked TAB for help with the new compulsory English curriculum that is being rolled out commencing this upcoming academic year with Grade 4 and progressing with a new grade each year. Madam Phally provided a copy of the curriculum and as expected it is quite prescriptive including resources required.

Madam Phally asked that a workshop be run for her trainees next year covering this new curriculum and Chea Pum asked also for a workshop for all PTTC lecturers to attend covering the new curriculum. This would need to be supported financially by MOEYS.

Chea Pum has been put in contact with Sally Cunningham, a previous workshop presenter, to help him on an individual level. Perhaps someone from TAB, trained in this area, could gather all of our resources together to match up with the curriculum to be used for future programmes. Next year's workshop could develop and make resources for the teachers to use in their classrooms.

Vegetable Garden Establishment

The vegetable garden has been let go! When Susie Lachal visited in February there was a large planting of morning glory some capsicum and red chillies. It has deteriorated and Madam Phally has asked TAB to try and recruit a presenter to run another workshop. Madam Phally has been unable to provide time to oversee the garden to ensure the garden's success.

Excursions

The Australian presenters chose to attend the Learning Walk that the Principals group completed at Moholy's school, Anuwat Primary School, opposite the PTTC. The presenters are not keen to continue with the excursions for workshop participants and we will need to discuss this at the strategic planning meeting.

Narit's School – The purpose of this visit was twofold; to show the new workshop leaders what a school looks like and how it functions and to help him by providing an activity for the children and assisting with resources. On Monday afternoon almost all of the group visited Narit's school. Three teachers had prepared activities to share with the children. For the second year a workshop presenter worked with Narit to purchase shoes for

each member of the class. Each presenter was also given 1-2 bags of clothes from Auburn South to bring to Narit's school for the children. (Half of these clothes were given to Hoart's school.)

The group feels that the work on improving Narit's school is now completed. 10 benches were purchased for the children to sit at their desks. They are currently sitting on stumps of wood. We also ordered 20 primary school desks and bench combinations and a teacher's desk and chair from the same carpenter used last year for the cabinet and blackboards. The carpenter was making primary desks for another school when we were there. The 2-3 year renovation has cost approximately \$3,000 contributed by a number of different sources. The works completed: pump in the well, toilet built, 3 classrooms repaired (posts, rafters, tiles and painted) tiling on a quarter of one floor, cabinet, book shelves, blackboards, benches, desks, teacher's desk and chair. And exercise books, pens pencils, chalk and erasers.

TAB will continue to visit Narit's school and support him but it is believed the focus should be moved to another school for these mid-sized projects. It is suggested interested donors spend the next 2 years attempting to renovate 1-2 classrooms at Thy's school, Kampong Thom High School. There is a wing requiring repair. It is also a high school rather than a primary school.

We were due to visit Hoart's school this year. Susie Lachal had visited his school in the dry in February and it was a real adventure taking over an hour to travel each way. It required a moto ride, boat ride across the Stung Sen and a walk through the rice paddies to get to the school. In July, with the onset of the wet season volunteers were unable to get to the school as Hoart said it would take one hour in a tuk tuk to get to a point where we were due to catch a boat which would also take one hour. Four hours of travel and one hour of teaching was not reasonable to ask of the presenters when they needed to be up the next morning teaching in their workshops. Hoart was given half the clothing brought from Australia and an exercise book pen, pencil and sharpener for each of the 130 students in his school. There are 2 teachers in the school. The school was built by AEON, a Japanese company. The school is extremely poor and the World Health Organisation provides food daily for the students, hence the 80 % attendance rate. The children are fed 150g of rice each day that is prepared and served to them in the morning. 58 students are fed each day in each alternate month and 79 in the alternating month. Meaning, the children that come to school in the morning get fed. The children in the afternoon session do not get fed. The students alternate the morning and afternoon sessions each month.

Kampong Thom – 2015

The dates for next year's programme are Monday 29 June through Friday 3 July. The TTT programme will commence on Saturday 27 June. Our programme was moved by a week this year to suit the ministry due to exams. However, it suits Madam Phally, the Victorian teachers and the program coordinator better to have it in the week prior. Madam Phally will be able to have her second year trainees as part of the programme, the Victorian teachers will work in the first week of their 2 week break.

Conclusion

This was one of the most enjoyable programmes. The group was smaller and the individuals were very supportive of each other.

Points of Discussion Arising From the Programme

1. Translators – Early contact by email between translator and presenter would be the ideal.
2. Encouraging more Khmer workshop presenters
3. Transcribing the curriculum – where are we at – what do we need to do?
4. Workshops for the RTTC and PTTC trainees
5. Translations from 'Context' versus 'Pyramid'
6. First Aid kit – trained First Aid person on site
7. Excursions
8. Half Programmes : two subjects
9. English Curriculum for Grade 4 - 2014-15, Grade 5 - 2015-2016, Grade 6 – 2016-2017.

Kampong Cham Program Report 2014

The program in Kampong Cham evolved with a different focus to previous programs. It became apparent that volunteer presenters would be limited because of the September date which was a deterrent to secondary teachers, especially those teaching years 11 and 12. Because of this uncertainty it was decided that as Mr. Sim, the Director of the Regional Secondary Teachers College (RTTC), was keen to have a workshop program for trainee teachers, this would be offered. Planning was further complicated with The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS) shifting the program date to the second week of the September holidays. At the eleventh hour, MOEYS also decided to delay the start of the school year that also included the teacher trainees. Mr. Sim was very unsure how many students would return early from the holidays. It was therefore with some trepidation that the team set off for Cambodia.

The majority of the presenters had been to Cambodia previously as part of the TAB program. Marita Nicholas, Maryann Brown, Paula Connolly, Jenny Osler were joined by Chris Wines and trainee teacher, Georgina Brown, as well as Marita's son Hugh. We were also joined by three Khmer teacher colleagues as co presenters: Chhea Phanet from Battambang, Ho Sivuthy (Thy) from Kampong Thom and Kang Povpiseth from Phnom Penh. Sok Samnang ensured the organizational side of the program ran smoothly and assisted with translation. Thy's younger brother, Chenny, a student at the RTTC, assisted with translating and the physics lecturer from the RTTC, Ly Piseth, translated for the physics class.

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the program, and Mr. Sim's request that all second year students be given the opportunity to participate, a general program was planned for three days and specialist classes for only two days. He was confident that the students would return before the end of the holidays to take part in the program. Thanks to Mr. Sim's wonderful efforts of the 173 students more than 150 returned early from their holidays to participate. A grant \$US\$5 was given to each student to assist with the costs associated with their early return to Kampong Cham.

All students participated in the general skills sessions as a member of one of the five groups. The students remained in that group for all of these sessions. The presenters all ran the same skills session at the same time, using material developed by the group. The educator, Glen Pearsall had given Teachers Across Borders permission to have his E book "The Top 10 Strategic Questions for Teachers" to be translated into Khmer and distributed as part of TAB workshops. This formed the cornerstone of much of the skills sessions. Specialist sessions were conducted on two mornings. Unfortunately we were not able to provide this across all subject areas. The students who were not included in these sessions were given first choice for the elective sessions in the afternoon.

Program Outline

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 7:30-11:30	Welcome by Mr Sims (brief) Skill 1 Engaging Students Master Class (All participants and all TAB presenters)	Skills 2 Lesson Planning Skills 2 Classroom management, especially of larger groups.	Curriculum: Geography Physics/chemistry Mathematics TESOL Literacy Biology	Curriculum: Geography Physics/chemistry Mathematics TESOL Literacy Biology	Skill 3 Assessment-formative & cumulative Closing & presentation of certificates in class groups.
2:00-3:30		Electives: Conversational English Creating teaching resources. PE & games Using computer		Electives: Conversational English Creating teaching resources. PE & games Using computers	

As always there are highs and lows with any program. The real strength of this program was the collaborative relationship that existed between all the presenters. Because the program had common format for three of the five sessions each evening the group met to finalise the program for the following day with the writer of the particular skills session taking the rest of the group through the proposed session. . This gave the Khmer presenters a real chance to make comment and have input into the program. It also meant that they were familiar with the material in a way that made it natural for them to contribute to each session and work as part of the team.

An advantage of running a program for second year trainees was that they were generally at the same level of experience and it was possible to draw more particularly on that shared experience. It also provided an opportunity to get a better feel for the training program being run for secondary trainee teachers for Years 7-9.

As one of the presenters wrote "The real benefit of the recent program was the collaboration and learning together. I loved the fact that we were able to team teach with our Cambodian colleagues and friends. The program was much richer because of that, I think. I also think we have the opportunity to make a more far reaching impact when we work with pre-service teachers."

Recommendations:

- Consideration be given to running a program for second year trainee teachers in Kampong Cham in the future, and that this be run for three days: morning & afternoon with presenters taking either the morning or afternoon session. (the students were keen to work a full day)
- Careful consideration be given to the timing of the program in Kampong Cham including the possibility of January after the Battambang program. Mr. Sim is willing to adjust the RTTC exam time table to accommodate this.
- Translators are needed in TESOL classes in Kampong Cham as the level of understanding of spoken English is not as high as in other areas.
- Better communication about the program to students by TAB including a written timetable & greater clarity around the elective program.
- Further development of the skills sessions on assessment and classroom management as these were both areas that the trainees were keen to develop. It was felt the trainees only had a limited understanding of assessment and the role of questioning as part of that process.

I would personally like to thank all presenters, both from Australia & Cambodia for their contribution, enthusiasm and hard work prior to departure and whilst we were in Kampong Cham. Thanks to Paula for managing all the finances. A special thanks needs to go to Mr. Sim who encouraged his students to return from their holidays to participate in the workshops-no mean feat.

Thanks also to Vermont Secondary College Leos Group who donated \$500 towards this program.

Jenny Osler
Program Coordinator
October 2014

2014 TAB Membership Report

There has been a steady growth in membership during the past year, largely volunteers participating in the programs in Cambodia. There are currently 196 members.

J Osler 29/8/14

Summarised Financial Report 2014

SUMMARISED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014	2014	2013
Revenue	\$	\$
Donations	39,965	34,810
Fundraising	3629	18,402
Membership	239	299
Interest income	1145	882
Term Deposit	13,699	13,171
Expenditure		
Workshops	20,000	40,855
Administration	8,070	4,399
Mason Memorial Fund		9,096
A copy of the full financial statements is available upon request.		