



New Horizons Society

សមាគមដើម្បីជំនួយដល់ពិការ

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នា ធ្វើការជាមួយអ្នក!



NHS was invited to take part in the Disaster Preparedness and Development Forum organised by Kampong Chhnang Provincial Authorities from 3-4 December 2009. All local authorities and ministries, together with all active NGOs were invited, with 360 delegates in all. **NHS** was represented by 12 of its Governing Council members, plus its Executive Officer and the Child Advocacy Group, with 18 members, gave a special presentation at the main dinner party. This was **NHS's** first public event since winning funding from **Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland (SKN)** to assist 300 poor vulnerable and disabled children. The SKN logo appears in yellow and blue on the new shirts.

NHS was one of just three NGOs, and the only Cambodian one, invited to give a key note presentation about its work. In accordance with its principles of its members self-advocating, this was given very ably by senior beneficiary Mr Theng Sophy (Tuok Phos). He was complimented at the closing ceremony before HE Governor Touch Marim for **NHS's** clear plan for vulnerable and disabled people in the province.

The Child Advocacy Group supported the main theme of the conference plus two of their own. They acted out a drama and sung *"As the Saints go Marching In"* to illustrate the disaster in New Orleans wreaked by Hurricane Katrina. They gave a very graphic display of

The **New Horizons Society** is an organization of federated self-help groups dedicated to promoting equality; ending poverty, and securing life-changing opportunities for our membership of mainly disabled people.

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the heavy rains and floods which led to New Orleans' famous music halls going silent for the first time in hundreds of years. Rich and poor countries are affected by disasters and the lessons the US authorities learned for better preparedness in future apply equally to Cambodia.

The second message reinforced Mr Sophy's description that the network of self-help groups of mainly poor disabled people was already an important local resource in disaster and development plans.

The third message is the main one for **NHS's** existence, i.e., to promote and maintain full social inclusion of disabled and vulnerable people in communities. Kosal's solo song has words to this effect. He has now sung that song throughout Cambodia for over 5 years, giving him appreciation and prominence far from his humble origins. As such it is appropriate that he and Sar Ismak, (the small girl seen with her sister) are the first two children and young people to be assisted with the SKN grant. Kosal has asked for books for his schooling. Ismak just wants her first school uniform. Both need further rehabilitation to overcome leg disabilities.



NHS wishes to thank HE Governor Touch Marim and his staff, especially Ms Khiev Sophat, Senior Advisor, the conference organiser, its principal donor SKN, and the US Embassy for its message of support and encouragement for the "Katrina" story.



**"The Day the Music Died in New Orleans"
United States of America, after Hurricane Katrina struck.**

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