

## JOHN LOWRIE - Brief Resumé 2017

John Lowrie was born near Alnwick, Northumberland, England in 1951, graduating 1973 from Kingston University with a 2.1 degree in Business Studies. He was in public service for 12 years in **Surrey**, **Devon**, and **Dorset** county councils. In 1977, he completed post graduate professional studies in **personnel management** including a dissertation on personnel management in education. In Dorset he was chief personnel advisor for education, police, fire and social services.



1985 John left UK to live and work abroad. He completed a consultancy in **Saudi Arabia** to introduce modern personnel methods in a new hospital group. This enabled him to spend the next six years on **Saint Helena Island** in a largely voluntary capacity. He still keeps in close touch with Saint Helena, a heavily dependent territory in the throes of development. There he carried out personnel and business consultancies as well as diversifying his skills and experience into **teaching**, **community development** and **overseas aid** projects. Those skills enabled him to serve as a VSO volunteer in **Malawi** (1993-5) where he headed a large community development project in its final phase. 1996-7 he joined HelpAge International in **Rwanda** to lead their new country programme in community development, local **capacity-building** and ophthalmic services. He led **major emergency relief operations** during mass repatriation of refugees from **Tanzania** and **Zaire**.

1998, John went to **Cambodia** joining the Cambodian Institute of Human Rights as senior consultant/advisor. In four years there, he was responsible for planning and fundraising 50 projects, with 20 donors, raising over \$4 million. He initiated innovations to increase the impact of **human rights** activities including use of **participatory learning techniques**; women-only **good governance** seminars; staff development plans and constructive engagement/rights-based-methodology. He secured agreement of the Cambodian Government to open to public scrutiny by NGOs the recruitment of 1,621 new posts of commune clerks, a first step towards a neutral public service. During 2002 John provided consultancy services to nine international and local NGOs including the leading legal-aid, human rights, and election-monitoring organizations as well as the sector serving **disabled people**. UK charity LMDS asked him in February 2003 to commission their new country programme to promote livelihoods and self-advocacy skills of disabled people. This multi-funded project grew in to the largest membership-based NGO. Its innovative advocacy led to removal of malfeasance in state pensions.

2005 John joined Ockenden International as Cambodia Country Representative, responsible for livelihood improvement/capacity-building projects for **displaced people**; 9 partner NGO/CBOs; annual turnover US\$1m, with a brief to build management and professional skills for a new local NGO as Ockenden phased out in 2007. "**Ockenden-Cambodia**" was established February 2007; retaining confidence of donors and winning new funding. Best practice was adopted in the role, functions, and powers of the Board of Directors and Management Committee: with international standards in management, professionalism and real empowerment of beneficiaries through partnership working. "**Ockenden and Cambodians**" written by John is the full story of its work over 30 years.

2008, when LMDS suddenly collapsed, and staff abandoned it, John returned voluntarily to put together an emergency response strategy. This was accepted by beneficiaries (and new donors), saving the network of 135 self-help groups with 3,175 members, with their own elected, federated leadership. "**New Horizons Society**" started on 1 Jan 2009. John relinquished his final responsibilities in 2014. [www.newhorizonsunlimited.org](http://www.newhorizonsunlimited.org).

2010-16 John joined Nomad RSI to focus on neglected **ethnic minority** interests; creating the "**Mondulkiri Indigenous Persons' Association for Development**" (**MIPAD**). [www.nomadrsi.org](http://www.nomadrsi.org) and John arranges with [www.challengesworldwide.com](http://www.challengesworldwide.com) and other agencies for **voluntary technical consultants** (25 so far volunteers/interns from UK; Ireland, US, Korea and Australia) to assist emerging private Cambodian businesses, especially those with private sector solutions to development problems. Notable was a visit in 2011 by Cranfield University Business School. John has carried out consultancies for projects in **Vietnam** and **Laos** as well as **offering advice** to **St Helena**.

2012-13 John played the key role for US\$2.15m grants to equip Human Rights Defenders with latest Smartphone capability and social media skills. He campaigns for "**Smarter Foreign Aid**" through social media and articles such as "**Sustainability of development aid**"; "**Good governance/new investment in Cambodia**", and "**Orphanage/voluntourism**". He argues for real pro-poor policies like full social inclusion of disabled people and ethnic minorities, and a fairer shift of development aid to local NGOs, rather than "**the usual culprits**" the big international NGOs with professional fund-raisers who invariably get the lion's share. His blog is: <http://anorthumbrianabroad.blogspot.com>. Available are a full CV, a project/fundraising record, a list of publications, as well as videos and samples of his work. John retired to the UK but maintains interest in Cambodia and visits often. Contact John by phone +447913239101 or +85586931301 or SMS text; by personal e-mail: [lowriejohn@gmail.com](mailto:lowriejohn@gmail.com), SKYPE john.lowrie1 and [@LowrieJohn](https://twitter.com/LowrieJohn)