

ACTIVITY REPORT - 2018

Highlights: - Consultation of members organized as a workshop, January 13

- Building renovation work: ended in the 1st quarter
- Launch of an ambitious project: have the Compagnons train a few woodworkers from the Ecole du Bois, in May

Organisation: installation of a new team at the application workshop, starting in September

- Training: Update on the outbound class of 2018 / arrival of the new class of 2019 students

Grants: - Air France Corporate Foundation: balance paid early 2018

- Laminak Anglet: renewal of support
- Applications filed with AMP, EDF, Solidarity Accor foundations

Events: - Heroes Race, Sunday 24 June 2018, St Cloud Park

- France Volunteers fair at IFC, Phnom Penh
- WIG Christmas fair, at CIS, Koh Pich, Phnom Penh
- PPA Christmas fair, KWest, Phnom Penh
- Stall set up at the Smiles association's ten-year anniversary event, at Le Vernet

Duty trips: - France: Anglet (FCMB) and Nantes (ESB)

- Cambodia: from March 14 to April 12 then from October 10 to November 18

Revenue / Expenditure: - 2018 Operating Account

Editor: Kénory YOU, President

HIGHLIGHTS

Member consultation

The consultation focused on the medium-term strategy and ambition that members may be ready to support. We were pleased to welcome eight of our members / sponsors and five members of the association's Board of Directors. They brain-stormed in 3 subgroups and concluded mainly:

- To maintain our ambition as a training organization (C1)
- To develop the upper levels (C2 / C3), notably by further training in France
- To involve the alumni in the further training
- To develop the income generating activity through the workshop
- To give us the means of this ambitious project: by appealing to patrons and organising fundraising events

Renovation work on the site

Renovation work had started in 2016 with plumbing, electricity, continuing in 2017 with the entire roof renovation and painting on all the buildings. It ended in 2018 with the raising of a low wall along the back of the land, with a view to protecting us from floods emanating from the neighbor's land, in the rainy season. The wall duly kept its promises last summer.

Training Project in France

This project was launched in May, with the admission to the IFC (French Institute of Cambodia) of five hopeful candidates to the training program in France. They enlisted in this French language preparation, including the school's director, Mr. Chhay Samnang. Given the distance between the school base and the Institute, the courses available to the applicants are the quarterly sessions on Saturday. The target level is A2, which they should achieve by the end of August 2019.

At the same time, we confirmed the proposal made to us by the FCMB school (Fédération Compagnonique des Métiers du Bâtiment) in Anglet to host and train our graduates for a period of 11 months, from September 2019 to July 2020. The program was discussed and refined, especially with regard to general topics, and to the budget discussed by means of exchanges via email and at a meeting on July 25, which was attended by André Joie, project manager for EDB, the vice-president and myself, together with Jean-René Dithurbide, Director of the school of Anglet and Etienne Boissière, Principal teacher and in charge of this project for the FCMB. Enthusiasm is present on both sides, so much so that the FCMB is calling this project "Franco-Cambodian Exchanges in Carpentry"! We are much honoured.

The goal in fact for EDB is to transmit to young Cambodian carpenters, trained by EDB, the level of excellence of the Companions and to allow them to start the strains of Khmer master-carpenters so that they may transmit in their turn. And for the FCMB, this will enable them to have a pilot in Cambodia where the French Fellows may be welcomed, thus extending the boundaries of the "Grand Tour".

Organisation: a new team at the workshop

In January, the head of the workshop, Aurélie Lenne-Onana, terminated her contract, leaving a vacancy. To replace her, we looked to Simon Bouju, who was one of the original volunteer-workers who participated in the creation of the Ecole du Bois in 2007. He continued his work, as an unpaid volunteer in 2008/2009, then in 2013/2014. We were happy to rehire him again for the position of manager. The couple arrived and settled in late August.

At the same time, we recruited a young volunteer engineer, Lisa Li, to assist Simon as a marketing relay in Phnom Penh and to teach French at the school. The team is working very well and Lisa is very committed and efficient.

Although Simon has worked very well with Samnang in the past, their return may have created some upheavals in the established order. Samnang's motivation seems to be weakening.

The training of C2 / C3 was resumed, with 5 apprentices and the orders for work came in quick succession: from the IFC, from an architecture firm and from a hotelier - without managing however to reach a level of financial equilibrium.

C1 training

The outgoing 2018 class was made up of 13 students. After their 2 weeks internship in April, including 2 students at Artisans d'Angkor, and their exit exam, they all found a job, for a monthly salary approaching \$ 200. With the exception of three who stayed in the school to perfect their skills in the workshop, as apprentices: BICH Phirun, CHEAM Sovannara, LY Dalin. These three are all candidates to come to France to be trained by the Companions and to them we must add YONG Sron, former graduate, who is also a candidate.

The start of the 2019 class was delayed by one month because the Director, Samnang, was overwhelmed by the organization of the graduation ceremony, scheduled for October 2018 and eventually postponed to this year due to new requirements from the Ministry. The school had only five students in November and six in December with a new recruit.

EVENTS

The Heroes Race at St Cloud Park on Sunday, June 24, 2018 brought together 5 runners : three new Heroes, Bopha, Isabelle and Didier, as well as Simone and François (for the 4th time!). We were able to raise 3680 €, 1000 € more than the previous year.

We are doing it again this year as we need to make a return on our registration with Alvarum, the platform which organises the event! We must mobilise ourselves so as to do even better this year than in 2018: please donate to our Heroes' fundraisers on our site and spread the message around you!



Our 2018 heroes



Our students at the personal development session

MISSIONS

For a change, François and I travelled in France, as part of the EDB carpenters training project at the Compagnons: the Franco-Cambodian Exchanges in Carpentry.

One mission took us to Anglet, to the school of the Federation Compagnonnique des Métiers du Bâtiment, to meet our interlocutors, Jean-René Dithurbide and Etienne Boissière, refine the program with them, make a list of donors to approach, visit the local training and accommodation facilities where our carpenters will be coached and housed. The teachers assigned to them, Nicolas Casenave and Antony Lizandier, were introduced to us.

We are also seeking to establish links with the Ecole Supérieure du Bois in Nantes, a school of engineers, with whom we explored several possibilities of common projects: consultations on technical subjects that can be studied in the ESB laboratories, internships of ESB students in Cambodia, engaging first year students of the ESB to devote their "Challenge", which is a compulsory activity in their syllabus, to the EDB. A first visit allowed us to meet the Head of International Projects and the Head of Works before the start of the school year. The second visit, at the beginning, allowed us to present the association to the First Year students, so that they might choose us as the beneficiary of their Challenge. As a result, one group, Fest Wood ESB, has committed to helping us.

Our missions in Cambodia were reduced to two.

The first, in the spring, followed the action plan from the members' consultation session in January and was essentially devoted to finding sponsors, preparing next year's recruitment of students to the school by way of a reminder to NGOs likely to send their young charges at the Ecole du Bois and the identification of hotels in anticipation of the solidarity trip of October. We had unfortunately no results on any of these 3 topics! In terms of potential sponsors, companies in Cambodia are focused on short-term profits and the notion of social responsibility is certainly a big deal, but does not yet impact the Cambodian economic fabric.

At the school, we announced the training project in France and identified the candidates. We were introduced to Mr. Guillaume Narjollet, Cultural Adviser at the French Embassy and Director of the IFC, who agreed to grant us preferential rates for the registration of our students.

The second mission, in the fall, was designed to check the installation of the new team, the Bouju family and Lisa, and their integration into the existing team, to welcome the students of the new class,

to follow the progress of the candidates to the training program in France and collect necessary information prior to departure.



The US Ambassador's wife visiting our school

CONCLUSION

The year 2018 heralds a pivotal period when we put training and production back on track with the recruitment of Simon, who is making a long-term commitment, and Lisa, a valuable recruit.

We launched the ambitious project of training at the Companions of the Tour de France. The phase started in 2018, dedicated to training in French language skills, has represented a low cost expenditure thanks to the preferential conditions granted to the association by the IFC. But the continuation of the project is reliant on obtaining sufficient subsidies.

This project should prepare us for the shift towards autonomy of the process and its evolution towards an economically balanced management, led by Cambodians – which is a dream for any NGO!

It is a difficult challenge and we need you and your ideas more than ever, in order to achieve success.

On behalf of the students of L'Ecole du Bois and the Board of Directors of the EDB, a very big thank you !!!

As usual you can peruse our website www.lecoledubois.org for more pictures and stories.

L'ECOLE DU BOIS		
Actual Budget in USD		
	OPERATING EXPENSES	2018
60 - PURCHASE		
601	Goods-raw material	5 323
602	Other supplies	1 422
606	Water, energy	1 045
	Boarding school costs	5 960
	Small equipments	930
	Office supplies	247
	Machinery equipments	606
607	Goods	-
61 - OTHER EXTERNAL EXPENSES		
613	Rental	2 808
615	Maintenance and repair	594
618	Seminar, conference costs	95
62 - OTHER EXTERNAL SERVICES		
621	External manpower	-
622	Intermediaries fees	1 422
623	Advertising, leaflets, brochure	837
624	Transportation of goods and staff	448
625	Travel on duty, reception	4 463
626	Communication network	316
628	Misceleanous	451
64 - STAFF COSTS		
641	Wages	16 559
645	Insurance	245
648	Other staff expenses	1 226
65 - OTHER OPERATION EXPENSES		
66 - FINANCIAL FEES		
67 - NON RECURRING CHARGES		3 870
68 - DEPRECIATION/PROVISIONS		
TOTAL		48 865

The amounts in foreign currencies (US dollars) were converted on the basis of the average dollar rate for each of our bank transfers made during the year, i.e. 1.17 USD for 1 Euro.

Compared to the 2018 budget presented at the last GA, we spent 4000 € less and the revenues were higher by 1000 €, allowing us to improve the result by nearly 5000 € compared with the forecast. More than half comes from improved fundraising at the Heroes Race, new memberships, sponsorships and donations.

We cannot move ahead without you!