



These 3 children were playing by the river, and obliged us by posing for the camera.

Helping the People of Cambodia

Dear Doctors,

We are **PROJECT LOKUN** from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS).

The aim of our project is to set up a medical clinic in **Pursat, Cambodia** to service the surrounding communities who are in dire need of medical attention. The clinic will focus on four major aspects:

- 1) **Providing care for acute conditions (e.g. abscesses, head lice, parasitic infections, gastroenteritis, upper respiratory tract infections, malaria) and also to provide long-term and sustainable healthcare.**
- 2) **Malnutrition/deficiencies and water sanitation.**
- 3) **Health education (e.g. dental care, proper washing of hands, HIV awareness).**
- 4) **Collecting proper epidemiological data on our community to facilitate running/ planning of effective interventions.**

Our operations will be based in CROAP (Centre of Research of Agriculture Practices) Social Services Centre (www.croap.org). From this central base, regular medical trips will be made to reach the surrounding floating villages: Kampong Luon and Chnon Tru with a population of 5,000 and 2,000 respectively. These villages have poor access to both primary and tertiary healthcare as a result of poverty and distance. We hope that

our clinic will help to alleviate this problem.

Due to constraints from our academic timetable, we can only return every six months. However, in the six-month periods between expeditions, villagers who have been trained by us can continue to provide necessary basic healthcare. We also hope to identify promising individuals in the village and offer them scholarships to become fully qualified nurses who can help us run the clinic.

Presently, we have a team of 20 medical students, ready to depart for a two-week pioneer expedition in early June, with support from the Dean's Office and the NUS Medical Society. On our trip, we will also be accompanied by qualified doctors and dentists to ensure proper medical and dental healthcare.

Project Lokun believes that a little aid from richer countries can go a long way in places like Cambodia. Access to proper healthcare is a basic need that we have found sorely lacking in these villages. There is a private clinic in the area, but the fees are too high for most villagers to afford. Moreover, it is lacking in many medicines. As such, villagers only make the long journey to the hospital in Phnom Penh when their medical condition is very severe, and at a stage when medical intervention has limited effect. We hope that our clinic will be able to provide medical attention to the villagers in Pursat at an earlier stage, and if necessary, to advise earlier admission to the hospital.

◀ Page 31 – Helping the People of Cambodia

We are currently raising funds to obtain medicines and equipment to sustain the clinic for at least six months. In the future, we also hope to be able to set up a permanent building for the clinic, and to provide scholarships to train nurses. Hence, the money we are raising now is not only for the present trip, but also to sustain and further develop the clinic in the future.

Our **fundraising target is \$50,000**, so both Project Lokun and the villagers in Cambodia would greatly appreciate donations from you! Any amount would be appreciated, but we hope that you will donate **at least \$100** to our cause.

We would also greatly appreciate donation of equipment like **thermometers (electronic/rapid ear testing), glucometers, B/P sets, stethoscopes, tendon tappers, otoscope plus, fundoscopes, tongue depressor, weighing machine, torches, hemocount, urine labstixs, dengue/malaria**



A jolly boatwoman hawking her wares down the Tonle Sap.



Fishermen dock their boats at the river banks and wait for the right time to make the evening catch.

diagnostic kits, disposable proctoscopes/ permanent metal proctoscope, disposable vagina speculums, resuscitation sets (including drip sets and resuscitation drugs) and Air Viva.

Project Lokun will also be selling attractive postcards featuring photos of the villagers we are serving, at four for \$10. Orders can be placed for these at projectlokun.orders@gmail.com or on our website at www.freewebs.com/project-lokun. Please state your name, contact number, clinic address/hospital and department, and number of sets ordered. We will personally deliver the postcards and collect payment then! If you have any special requests, such as delivery and payment via the department secretary, please state so in the order.

In appreciation of your kind donations, we will send you a short report and photos upon our return.

Individually our contributions may be small, but when we pool our resources together we can make a big difference. So please join us in our quest to improve the quality of life of the people in Cambodia!

Thank you very much, and we hope to hear from you soon! ■

Zhuang Qing Yuan
Team Leader, Project Lokun

For monetary donations, please make cheques payable to “**NUS Medical Society**”. Please also write “**Project Lokun**” on the back of the cheque and mail it to: **NUS Medical Society c/o the Dean’s Office, YLLSOM, NUS, 10 Kent Ridge Crescent, Singapore 119260.**

For other enquiries related to donation/sponsorship, please contact **Denise (9189 0494 or denisetanyan@gmail.com)** or visit our website at www.freewebs.com/project-lokun.

To find out more about Project Lokun or participate in our trips, please contact **Qingyuan (96515 609 or sandman1983@gmail.com)**.