

CAMBODIAN SCHOOL PROJECT

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Progress Report for Fall, 2011



We have had a difficult rainy season. Poup Steung, our first school, was under water and 245 family homes were flooded. Parents, kids, cows and ducks moved to high ground to live under tarps. The new rice plantings were ruined and the poorest families were running out of food. Here you see boats tied up to the school, and a flooded



classroom. Our school is built on many loads of fill, on higher ground than any of the homes in the village.

We contacted friends and friends-of-friends and were able to raise \$5,000 for flood relief. With this, we bought enough seed rice so that the poorest families could each replant one hectare. This will grow enough rice to feed a family for a year. We provided food rice for the poorest families. The water is down now and school finally opened on November 14th. Here you see the schoolyard with the outdoor kitchen in the background. The kids are waiting for their desks to dry out and for school to open. On the 15th, four friends traveling from Canada visited the school. They had a fun English lesson with the students and donated notebooks and pencils for all 271 children.



In the meantime, through all this rain, we were building the new technical school with the JHP Skola group from the Czech Republic. The rain slowed construction considerably. Fortunately, the road stayed passable and we did make progress, as you can see here. This picture of Sarith at the new school in mid-November was sent to us by Michael Pondelicek of JHP Skola. We just forwarded funds to add much-needed fill for the schoolyard. We will put in the new organic gardens after we add the fill.

Our other schools are all north of the road to Thailand and did not flood. They opened on time and are full of students. Jasmine, one of the Canadian visitors, said she was impressed by how much English vocabulary the students had learned. We hope other visitors will also come and engage the students in conversation - they love interacting and practicing their English. Let us know if you are visiting and would like to do that!



At the left you see precious bags of food. Straw seals the opening of these bags of rice harvested last year. Each 100 kg bag costs \$55 and holds enough rice to feed a family of six for two months. To the



right, you see what this is all about. Each of our 1,500 students will get a new school uniform, a notebook and pencil again this year. We, our students and their families thank you generous donors for all of your help. *Aukuhn sharahn.*