

SMILE HANDICRAFTS

*To provide handicraft skill training and continue employment
for persons with physical and intellectual disabilities*

Try Suphearac

Watthan Artisans Cambodia (WAC)

(A cooperative of Cambodian handicraft producers with disabilities)

Cambodia

Contents:

- I. Overarching Goal
- II. Concrete Objectives
- III. Expected Outcomes
- IV. Activities in progress
- V. Budget and Expenditures

I - Overarching Goal

To increase employment and improve quality of life of persons with disabilities in Cambodia as well as to participate in the development of our country.

II - Concrete Objectives

(1) To provide quality handicraft skill trainings and stable employment for at least 80% of the 20 graduates of persons with physically and intellectual disabilities within two years.

Progress: Wood Carving training started on Feb 2008 with 10 trainees (*5 are deaf, 3 with physical disabilities and 2 from poorest families in rural*). Within past five months, trainees are able to produce most of woodcarvings that can be sold in local shops.

Tailoring training course started on April 2008 with 13 trainees (*2 PwD and 11 from waste picking families who live at the dumped place*). Within two months, most trainees are able to produce some simple bags and purses that can be sold in local shops.

Also three of new trainers were promoted from our artisans with disabilities.

(II - Concrete Objectives)

(2) Graduates could earn at least minimum income standard (\$45) after three months employment so that they can become financially independent in the next year.

Progress: Ten of last year graduates earn around \$75 monthly.

(II - Concrete Objectives)

(3) To increase handicraft employment for PwDs within WAC as well as to increase production capacity within this 2 years project so that large quantity of orders can be fulfilled.

Progress: The project has just started, Watthan Artisans Cambodia (WAC) recently has increased its sales to 20% which means WAC employs 20% more than current staff and artisans for trainers, and artisans who work in place and from their homes.

III. Expected Outcomes

(1) To get 10 trainees with physical and intellectual disabilities to be trained in each two years.

Progress: 23 trainees are being trained in woodcarving and tailoring training courses. 10 of them are persons with physical disabilities and 13 of them are persons who live with the most difficult situation (2 from poorest families in rural and 11 from waste picking families who live at the dumped place).

(III. Expected Outcomes)

(2) 80% of the graduates will be employed within WAC or work at their homes or employment in the open labor markets.

Progress: Base on current market demand of employment of handicraft skills, there is a positive sign.

(III. Expected Outcomes)

(3) After 3 months employment, employees (graduates) are able to earn income at least the minimum rate (\$45/m).

Progress: Base on WAC current situation, last year graduates earn around \$75 monthly.

IV. Activities in progress:

Old WAC Buildings have been improved for the training courses and production as in photos below:

Repairing Wood Carving Building



New Wood Carving Building



New Wood Carving Building



Wheelchair Accessibility





Old Tailoring Building





New Tailoring Building



(IV. Activities in progress)

A. Wood Carving Training:

Wood Carving Training started in beginning of February 2008 with 10 trainees (*5 are deaf, 3 with physical disabilities and 2 are from poorest families in rural*). 2 trainers with physical disabilities were promoted from current artisans. It is a one year course with real practicing on wood and drawing designs with theory. Trainees receive monthly allowances of us\$30 per trainee with a set of carving tools which will be given to them at the completion of the course.

The course has trained from introducing to tools and equipments needed to use for carving production, then sharpening tools, fundamental design drawing and carving to marketable designs. Since then trainees are able to produce most of woodcarvings that can be sold in local shops.