



Newsletter

Clean water, a human right not a luxury

WFC Newsletter Issue 22

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Water for Cambodia loves hosting volunteers from all countries and all ages! The past 3 years have been very lonely, but they are coming back!

Since the very beginning, in 2006, ***Water for Cambodia*** has benefitted from the presence and generosity of legions of volunteers. These enthusiastic visitors have funded and built thousands of bio-sand filters and made uncounted friends in villages across Siem Reap Province. Sadly in 2020 as the COVID pandemic began to shut down the world they too had to stop visiting. The staff are very excited to welcome them back! With the end of travel restrictions and resumption of air traffic to the newly opened airport they are returning.

Singapore International Foundation has been sponsoring volunteer work groups since 2009.

Pannasastra University of Cambodia students have volunteered as bio-sand filter builders and installers, have been mentored by WFC BoD member Kevin Curry and have worked with our lab for more than a decade.

Staff from the local office of Manulife Insurance Cambodia began building and installing filters before COVID descended on us and have also returned.

Rich Cromwell and Getting Water Right was back this year for his 3rd adventure bringing clean water, sanitation and community enrichment from Bath Maine Rotary to several hundred families across the region.

Groups large and small, families and international schools are providing support, volunteer filter builders, and meeting new friends. They take away unique experiences, a wider global vision and a sense of having made a real difference in the lives of new friends.

Water for Cambodia seeks to provide continuous training opportunities for all team members. In December we welcomed CAWST to Siem Reap

CAWST, the **C**enter for **A**ffordable **W**ater and **S**anitation **T**echnology is the center for bio-sand filter technology and an internationally recognized primary source of **WASH Water And Sanitation Technology**.



Periodically they sponsor training cadres which travel to key areas of implementation to share experiences and learn what is working in the field. In December ***Water for Cambodia*** hosted the CAWST trainers and representatives from other operations with similar goals from around

Cambodia. The topics for this session dovetailed perfectly with the day-to-day project activities engaged in by the **WFC** team. The sessions always include full team engagement as well as individual coaching and field visits to assess effectiveness where it counts.



News of two significant personnel related matters

Water for Cambodia staff and board members wish to bid good-bye and extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to Massimo Maio for his contributions and outstanding leadership as he leaves to return to Italy for personal family obligations. His final day with us was March 29th. Massimo was a close friend and deputy to our former Director Luigi Giani. He stepped in seamlessly at the time of Luigi's unexpected death. Massimo's tenure as Director began two years ago during the darkest days of the pandemic and he ably led the team through to a robust recovery. His role will be immediately and confidently filled by SAN Sophal. Sophal is currently the Project Manager of all active WFC in-country manufacturing and field projects as well as all local and national government interface. He will be profiled in a later newsletter.

The Board of Directors, **Water for Cambodia** staff and friends wish to extend their sympathy and all support possible to Miniea, his father Samley and family. Miniea was very severely injured in a vehicle accident in mid-March. He was driving his moto at night and collided with an abandoned truck in the middle of an unlit rural road. He was transported to a hospital in Siem Reap, stabilized and transferred on



to a hospital in Phnom Penh. Medical staff there surgically repaired both fractured femurs and did vascular surgery to his lower left leg. After a few days it became clear that the lower left leg was not responding to treatment and may need to be amputated. His family sought a second opinion and transferred him by ambulance to a hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. Medical staff there performed further vascular surgery on his lower left leg; however, it was not successful and it had to be amputated. Currently he remains in Viet Nam and is now stable. Samley is on extended medical leave and with Miniea.

Miniea has worked for **WFC** for nearly 2 years, joining in June 2022. He works as a Bio-Sand Filter installer.

Meet SEYHA Anusamuny accountant and admin for both Water for Cambodia and the Rikreay Lab



SEYHA Anusamuny has been a highly regarded member of the **Water for Cambodia** team since 2019. Though born in Battambang she received her training and university education in Siem Reap where she now lives. She is married with one daughter.

Muny earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance from a prestigious university in Cambodia and is currently pursuing an MS in Finance and Accounting.

Muny has previously worked as an accountant and financial officer for several hotels as well as local and international NGOs. She brings extensive experience in accounting, finance, and administration to both **Water for Cambodia** and Rikreay Laboratory. Muny is fluent in English, both written and spoken, and regularly communicates directly with the US board.

Muny is a valuable asset to the **WFC** team. She is dedicated to her work and is always willing to go the extra mile to solve the day-to-day challenges. She is a real team player and always willing to share her knowledge and expertise with others especially when mentoring interns.

March 22nd is World Water Day... a good time to remember the more than 2 billion people living without clean safe drinking water every single day

Visit us at: www.waterforcambodia.org or contribute directly at

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