#### RURAL EDUCATION EXPERTS CAMBODIA

### WHY DID I START REEC? - A Letter From Sytha Nan, Founder of REEC



Hello dear friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to demonstrate the purpose and reasons why I established

# Rural Education Experts Cambodia (REEC).

I am deeply committed to the power of education. My mission is to help and contribute to the revival of my nation's education system after being devastated by Vietnam war we got heavily bombing from the United State war action with Vietnam the war was got nothing to do with Cambodia but it has destroyed our infrastructure and killing a lot of human resources in my country badly, then the civil war, the Khmer Rouge genocidal regime arose and destroyed the foundations of education led to zero EDUCATION.

In the rural areas of Cambodia, there are a lot of people who live in the poor lifestyle who has very little to survive especially in the north east part of the country near the HO CHI MINH TRAIL where there was a sensitive and active fight during the war there are different group of indigenous people living out there who got affected with it and left them with nothing and lost a lot of lives , I often see them living in extreme poverty, with their houses made out of thatched, bamboo or made out of locally sourced wood.

They live on traditional farming which relies only on rain water to irrigate their crops, and they do not have the tools or machinery to help them at all, they have to do everything by hand. Their lives here are a testament to endurance, perseverance and extreme poverty.

Some of their children do not go to school because they do not have a school or the state school is too far away from their home.

Every day I am seeing these difficult and challenging lives. I feel sorry for them and it makes me want to help them. I think the world is unfair, some of the children having more resources than they need to study. Some of the children have nothing and others even miss out on the educational system that they should get in their whole life.

These are the factors that make me want to help these children to be educated to have a bright future, I want to give them as the new generation the opportunity to be educated and avoid the poverty in their lives through education. At least I can help some of them to get a basic level of primary education.

I have 15 years of experience working on education in remote areas, and building numerous schools for children who have no access to education.

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I believe in education, only knowledge can make people's lives better. I am committed to helping those children who do not have access to education by sharing my knowledge, my time and using my personal resources that I have from my own family.

My priority is to focus on children who are living in rural areas of Cambodia who are living in poor conditions and do not have adequate or no education at all.

My vision I believe that every child, no matter what their circumstances, deserves at least one chance to learn in life, grow and aspire to their bright future.

Sincerely, Sytha Nan, Founder of REEC