OFFICIAL REPORT

FRENCH VOLUNTEERING DAY
2018
CAMBODIA

SPEED-MEETING NGO ROUND TABLE
PHOTO EXHIBITION CONFERENCE
LUCKY DRAW CONCERT

FRENCH INSTITUTE OF CAMBODIA
2 P.M. 10 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH
FREE ENTRY

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Supported by:

[Logos of various organizations]
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France Volontaires organizes the French Volunteering Day (FVD) every year. The sixth edition in Cambodia was held at the French Institute of Cambodia in Phnom Penh on Saturday, October 20th 2018.

During the whole afternoon, several activities and shows took place and more than 400 people attended the event: French and Khmer authorities, French and international volunteers, NGOs’ beneficiaries, Khmer students (French-speaking or not), French students, NGOs and social businesses’ staff and representatives, journalists, expatriates…
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank local and French authorities for their presence, their support and their contribution during the event:

- Her Excellency **Mrs. Eva Nguyen Binh**, French Ambassador in Cambodia
- **Mr. Chhiv Try**, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Tourism in Cambodia
- **Mr. Laurent Triponey**, First Counsellor of the French Embassy in Cambodia.

Thank you to our institutional partners: the **French Institute of Cambodia**, the **French Embassy in Cambodia and the SCAC** and the AFD. Thank you to **Eau du Kulen** too, our main sponsor, and to **AGS**, our sponsor dedicated to goodies. Thank you to our non-profit partners and to our lucky draw contributors.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Mr. Rémy Hallégouët, France Volontaires’ Regional Representative in Asia and facilitator of the round table related to the commitment of volunteers to the tourism sector in Cambodia. Thank you to the panelists too: Mr. Chhiv Try, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Tourism in Cambodia, Mrs. Julia Miallet and Mr. Quentin Arnould, who are respectively advisor for the development of community enterprises and in charge of ecotourism projects for NTFP-EP, Mr. Bunly Say, Tonle’s general manager (vocational training center run by the NGO CRDT) and Mrs. Sreypich Sinh, “Ecosystem for the research center” program assistant at the Royal University of Agriculture and former reciprocity volunteer at the Maisons Familiales Rurales. Thank you to Mr. Jean-Michel Filippi, linguistic expert, for his conference on Cambodia’s history. Thank you to Selapak for the Khmer martial arts show and thank you to Kok Thlok for the concert. Thank you to Le Bistrot for the cocktail. Thank you to the French Institute’s technical staff for the logistic assistance they provided.

Last but not least, thank you to all volunteers involved: some of them shared photos for the exhibition, others got a booth to introduce their work and they were numerous to attend this event organized in their honour!
GOALS FOR 2018

• To **contribute** to the recognition of France Volontaires and the French Volunteering Center’s work

• To **promote and value** all forms of volunteering and international solidarity commitment

• More specifically, to **highlight** the contribution of volunteers to the **tourism sector** in Cambodia

• To **discover** the activities and projects of our partners in Cambodia

• To be a place for **exchanges and meetings** between volunteers, authorities and attendants

• To facilitate **networking** between volunteers and NGOs
The contribution of French volunteering to the tourism sector in Cambodia

A lot of French volunteers are committed to ecotourism and solidarity tourism projects in Cambodia: this is why we decided to choose this theme for the FVD in 2018. Vocational training in hospitality and catering were also related topics to discuss. This theme was addressing the issue raised by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal n°8:

“Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.

Indeed, the tourism sector has become an increasingly important pillar in Cambodian economy: it represented 14% of total Gross Domestic Product in 2017 and is forecast to rise by 4% by 2018. However, mass tourism often do more harm than good to hosting countries and their inhabitants: therefore, this growth must be controlled and Cambodia must have the appropriate infrastructure and human resources to do so.

The French Volunteering Day 2018 highlighted the key role volunteers play to contribute to this issue, when they commit in NGOs working in the tourism sector.
The FVD started at 2pm with the official opening speeches of Khmer and French authorities. Then, we did a tour of the booths with them, which gave the volunteers and our partners the opportunity to introduce their activities and their projects. Thanks to the speed-meeting activity, the audience discovered the work done by NGOs. They described their activities and exposed their products during the whole afternoon, thanks to their booths located in the French Institute of Cambodia’s garden.

Afterwards, the audience attended the round table related to the commitment of volunteers to the tourism sector in Cambodia, then to Mr. Jean-Michel Filippi’s conference on Cambodia’s modern history. A Khmer martial arts show took place in the garden between these two activities, as a sportive and cultural break.

In the evening, the public danced to Kok Thlok’s beats, whose concert started at 6pm. After the famous lucky draw, a cocktail closed the event.
In Cambodia, the FVD was sponsored by 2 businesses and 2 institutional partners:

Eau de Kulen
AGS (goodies)

SCAC
AFD
16 NGOs and social businesses and 11 lucky draw contributors participated in the FVD and supported us.
After a few words from Mrs. Voleak Sok, National Representative of France Volontaires Cambodia, Her Excellency Mrs. Eva Nguyen Binh, French Ambassador in Cambodia, and Mr. Chhiv Try, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Tourism, officially opened the event with their speeches.
From the 20th November until the 27th, volunteers’ photos were exhibited in the French Institute of Cambodia’s garden.

In front of their camera or behind it, 13 volunteers, mostly International Solidarity Volunteers and Civic Services sent by the DCC, the Guilde, AVSF and France Volontaires, showed their hosting structure’s activities and their role within it.
In the afternoon, 17 NGOs and social businesses displayed some communication materials and products on the booths. They also had the opportunity to meet other stakeholders involved in the field of development and international solidarity.

The official tour done by the authorities, the French Ambassador in Cambodia and the Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Tourism, was really appreciated by our partners. Indeed, they took time to discuss with each one of them.
In the middle of the afternoon, Mr. Rémy Hallégouët, France Volontaires’ Regional Representative in Asia, facilitated a round table on the following topic: « the commitment of volunteers in the tourism sector in Cambodia: impact and perspectives ».

First, Mr. Chhiv Try, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Tourism, presented some key data showing the increase of touristic activities in Cambodia. He reminded the audience that there are 400 natural touristic sites in the country. The Ministry of Tourism is trying to promote and to develop these sites in a sustainable and responsible way.
Mr. Bunly Say, Mrs. Julia Miallet and Mr. Quentin Arnould, respectively representing the NGOs CRDT and NTFP-EP, introduced the concrete actions taken by their structures to develop community-based ecotourism, as well as vocational training to improve tourists’ welcoming. They also highlighted the key role played by volunteers working in these organisations: they have specific skills and build the capacities of their Khmer colleagues.

Finally, Mrs. Sreypich Sinh, who just came back from volunteering in France thanks to our reciprocity program, presented the agrotourism project that she intends to implement in her home province, Banteay Meanchey.

In the end, the floor was given to the audience, who asked some questions to the panelists.
KHMER MARTIAL ARTS SHOW

After the round table, a khmer martial arts show was held by Selapak in the French Institute of Cambodia’s garden.

2 performances took place, with and without traditional weapons, in front of an amazed audience.
Mr. Jean-Michel Filippi, linguistic expert, gave an introductory conference on Cambodia’s modern history in a packed room.

From gaining its independence from France on November 9th, 1953, to Paris Peace Accords (1991) and to the biggest United Nations Operation that ever happened (1992-1993), Mr. Jean-Michel Filippi analyzed Cambodia’s modern history. 40 years during which 7 governments came one after the other along with coups, civil war, revolution, and foreign intervention...

This conference gave the volunteers the opportunity to better understand the history of the country where they are working.
Gift baskets, vouchers for meals and hotel nights, ethical and responsible products… **11 partners** contributed to the lucky draw by offering **26 gifts**.

They have been distributed in 10 prizes that delighted 10 lucky winners!
A **cocktail** was held inside the French Institute of Cambodia’s **Bistrot**, while the music group **Kok Thlok** was playing in the garden.

The FVD was a **real success**. It attracted a diversified audience: French and international volunteers, Khmer students (French-speaking or not), NGOs and social businesses’ staff and representatives, expatriates, tourists… A very nice event, filled with experience sharing, networking and moments of conviviality.
The whole team of France Volontaires would like to sincerely thank every media and institution that supported us:

Thank you to **Cambodge Mag**, to **Petit Journal du Cambodge**, to the **French Embassy in Cambodia** and to the **French Institute of Cambodia**.

Thank you to the photographers too: Marie Joanny and Adèle Tanguy (**Cambodge Mag**).
17 booths

400 attendants

4 sponsors & 29 partners

600 Facebook Likes
Our team is available to respond all your inquiries; do not hesitate to contact us!

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