



STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Newsletter

February 2008

Welcome to the February newsletter.

SISHA welcomed some new team members this month with the appointment of Dr. Donna Chung to the Board of Directors and Samnang Cheam as Aftercare Co-coordinator. Dr. Chung is a Trade and Labor Compliance Advisor for Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.'s Trade Negotiations and Legislative Affairs group, resident in the Washington, D.C. office and before joining the firm, Dr. Chung served as an international relations analyst with the Department of Labor's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. In this position she managed a number of the department's child labor elimination projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, conducted research on labor conditions in multiple countries in that region, and coordinated the office's training on forced labor and human trafficking.

Samnang Cheam is a Cambodian national who uses her first hand real life experiences of abduction and human trafficking with an unquestionable desire to help her community, especially women, by ensuring that victims of trafficking are afforded the best possible assistance and outcomes. Both of them will bring invaluable expertise to SISHA. We wish Dr. Donna Chung and Samnang Cheam the best of luck with their new roles.

SISHA would like to sincerely thank several companies this month for their generous contributions and pledges of support. 'Clarke Global Group' donated \$3000 to SISHA in February and 'ASA Group Ltd' pledged 10% of their Cambodian Office net profits at the end of year 2008.

The SISHA investigation team continued to conduct a baseline study on behalf of NGO International Justice Mission, with data collection focused on Phnom Penh city and the amount of child sexual exploitation available. Information collected thus far clearly indicates that the demand for sexual service is constantly increasing with the noticeable increase of establishments providing sexual service, in particular karaoke bars, bars, massage parlors and other illegal establishments. Child sex is still prevalent in Phnom Penh city, however traffickers and pimps are going to great lengths to hide their activities and have forced the majority of this illegal activity underground. Like all criminal activity, the process and operations that criminals use is constantly dynamic in an attempt to elude the attention and investigation of judicial process.



'Poi Pet province brothel street – daytime'



'Poi Pet province brothel street – night time'



'Poi Pet province brothel street – night time'

CASE

On the 1st of February, SISHA Aftercare staff was contacted by Srey Thuon, a 30 year old Khmer female who had run away from her husband because he had begun to physically assault her. Srey Thuon informed SISHA staff that she had left 2 young children at the family home and her husband had threatened to hide them in the provinces if she did not return. Srey Thuon was placed into short term aftercare with a center specializing in the care of women. SISHA staff in cooperation with local Anti Human Trafficking & Juvenile Protection Police attended the family home and spoke to Srey Thuon's husband and confirmed that the children were safe. After a short duration and some counseling for Srey Thuon and her husband, at the request of Srey Thuon, no charges were laid and she returned to her husband and children and is now being routinely monitored by SISHA Aftercare staff.

Court Result

In November 2007, SISHA in cooperation with Anti Human Trafficking & Juvenile Protection Police investigated and arrested a Vietnamese female for selling children to Thailand. On the 21st of February the defendant was sent to Koh Kong provincial court and after a short 4 hour trial, typical for Cambodia, the defendant was given a 'not guilty' verdict and released. It appears that the court process has succumbed to negative influence. SISHA has requested a full report from the court and will prepare a notice of complaint if necessary.