To celebrate Khmer New Year, heat is definitively back to Phnom Penh, and we take this opportunity to wish you a happy Khmer new year!

We all seize the occasion to get some rest and recharge our batteries!

This month’s beautiful piece of news: Thul, one of our youth with autism, gave us a nice surprise: he had written, on his own, the names of all Cambodian provinces! We are so proud of him!

**PSE Charity Party**

We have been invited, for the fourth time, to Pour un Sourire d’Enfant Charity Party. This year, the event was happening in the Olympic Stadium on 1st and 2nd of April.

Every year, PSE organises an event matching with its reputation: huge.

Several dozens of organizations were represented, displaying their products and informing about their actions. The goal was to have as many representations of Asian countries as possible.

We participated both on Saturday and Sunday, sharing our booth with the Bante Priep Church crew and their tasty coconut-based sweets.

Our youth enjoyed the food, trying food in different booths; they were amazed by the several shows organized.

The surroundings of Olympic Stadium had turned into a real restaurant & concert room!

The booths, offering their countries’ culinary specialties and the dance shows just won our hearts and guts!

The entire crowd was in awe of the colorful uniqueness of each performance.
The scene was then given to the trendy Khmer bands of the year; then the pit filled really fast and our youth showed everybody that no disability can stop them from dancing when they recognize the songs they love!

A huge thanks to our partner PSE for this memorable event!

Baptiste’s departure

A.C.H had to let Baptiste go in mid-April. Baptiste had been a volunteer since end of September, while studying law at l’Université Royale de Droit et des Sciences Economiques of Phnom Penh. At only 21, this young man brought a ton of energy into the family. For several months, he showed a wonderful capacity to adapt, learning khmer to make sure of understanding everybody’s needs and to communicate with both the team and the youth.

Always ready to help and compliment, “Tintin”, as many of us like to call him, easily felt at home here, adding new sisters and brothers from another culture to his family tree.

SreyKa, one of our youth, even contributed to the mantra now famous here, in which she asks where Baptiste is, to what we always answer that he is “at school”. We all got so used to it that we could even make a rap song of it!

A huge thanks to Baptiste and to everything he’s done for our family, and for all the wonderful moments together!

Luckily for us, our lovely ex-volunteer will stay in Phnom Penh for a few more months, which will give us the opportunity to see him again soon!

Birthdays

On Saturday 7th April, we celebrated Baptiste’s departure with some friends.

A downpour had shaken our hopes for a nice barbe-cue but as in Cambodia sun is never far, the evening was warm and enjoyable.

That was also the opportunity for us to celebrate 3 birthdays! Sokkouch, Vannara and SreyNoun were born on April, they were the kings and queens of the night!

As musics changed, feet got unchained and hit the beat on the alternate rhythms of khmer and western musics.

A great cultural mix that ended in one of the capital’s dance club!
Some news from Chear, our Foyer Manager. Beginning of April, she had to get a surgery, then had to get rest for 2 weeks. We missed her a lot and our youth asked a lot about her. We were so happy to get her back!!

**Khmer New Year**

Happy Khmer New Year!!

Each year, Khmer New Year is the most important festivity of the country. You’ll be happy to know that we just entered the year 2561. Usually, celebrations start on 13th or 14th of April and, this year, finished on 17th (as 16th was a Sunday)

We also needed holidays, so our jam factory was closed from 7th to 17th night for well deserved holidays!

On 8th morning, we went to give offerings to the Vat (pagoda) and almost half of our youth went back home for holidays. Some traveled to Siem Reap and other places, others stayed in Phnom Penh with their relatives.

The holidays were relatively quiet, spent between rest and games, with only 8 of our youth.

**Travel to Kep**

To finish the celebration of Khmer New Year, we took our youth to the beach. Thanks to Father Damien from the Church that lends us the local for our jam factory, we had a mini-van to bring us to Kep.

A sunny journey that started with a picnic in a beautiful place, an hour from Kep. Baptiste chased papayas and finally brought one back, and we also found some ‘drumsticks’, fruit of the Moringa Oleifera, that has lots of benefits for health, that we cooked the next day along with their leaves in a yummy soup.

Then we headed to Kep and its crowdy beach where everybody enjoyed the sea!

After a few hours of playing in the salty water, enjoying ice-creams and games, diner time came!
As faithful clients of street food, everybody had fun testing the different food offered on Kep’s beach.

On the way back home, we were all quieter than when we left! We hit home around midnight, and took a good rest one day before starting work again.

Ever since, our routine started again, working at the rhythm of knives and pot cooking our Irrésistibles!

Microkinés

We were pleased to see the team of Microkinés back to the Foyer! A pleasurable time and a moment to share that we always cherish, especially when it allows us to understand the change of behaviors in some of us. What’s more, the Mission 2 Mains team noted some really positive changes among some of our youth, particularly on Roitkun and Phan, the two more autistic of them.

A huge thanks to Audrey, Denis and Michèle!
Event at Kampuchea Balopp

Our partners from Kampuchea Balopp, thanks to whom our people go to rugby on Thursday nights, invited us on April last weekend to assist to their yearly tournament.

A sunny Sunday under the sign of fun and sport; the organizing team was proud to show that mental differences are no reason to avoid sports!

We had so much fun that when we came back to Foyer around noon, everybody when for an almost three hours nap!

A perfect Sunday!