

# L'Ecole du Bois

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## Activity report – 2016

### Highlights:

- Creation of the association/recruitment of the Administrators assembly/election of the Board of Directors
- Separation of the Association ESK/Transfer of assets-recognition of the association in Cambodia
- Strengthening of the teams in Cambodia
- Revival of the training of the upper levels and of the workshop
- Renovation works of the buildings

### Grants obtained:

- Fondation Solidarity Accor Hotels
- Fondation d'Entreprise Air France
- Association Sourires

### Events:

- Course des Heros , 19 June 2016, St Cloud Park, France
- Wig Christmas Market, 27 November 2016, Phnom Penh
- Amalydes dinner, 3 December 2016, Paris 13<sup>th</sup>
- Visit of the association PPA at the school, 12 December 2016, Kompong Speu

### Missions:

- 9May/11June, setting up of Jérémy Lipreau's duty and submission of the application file of MoU with the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2oct/20oct, reception of the new intake and graduation ceremony for the graduates of previous years, work on the application for Agreement of the Cambodian Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training
- 30nov/21 Dec, guidance of Jeremy's end of mission, planning of the relay at the school

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L'Ecole du Bois tutors young Cambodians in fine wood working skills while encouraging them to become environmentally responsible tradespeople.  
L'Ecole du Bois forme de jeunes Cambodgiens au métier de menuisier, avec l'ambition de leur transmettre un savoir-faire exigeant, tout en les sensibilisant au respect de l'environnement.

## **Highlights**

### ***creation of the association “L’Ecole du Bois – EDB” (wood-working School).***

*EDB was created on 5th December 2015 and the establishment of the teams and organisation occupied us throughout the year 2016. Following the holding of the General Assembly on 7th May, meetings of the Bureau of 5 June/29 Jul/27 Nov, the team of administrators is stabilized as follows:*

- *Kénory you, President*
- *François Berquin, Vice-President*
- *Vicko Ouk, Secretary General*
- *Marie-Eugénie Fourteau, Treasurer*
- *Simone Douce, assistant*  
*Denis Brunet, project manager*  
*André Joie, project manager*

*among whom the members of the Bureau were elected (● )*

### ***Separation of ESK***

*The separation of EDB program from ESK Association was decided at the end of 2015 to allow the wood-working School to develop independently and passed by ESK’s General Assembly of 9th April 2016. I joined the Association ESK in 2005, of which I was president from 2006 to 2011. ESK hosted the project of the wood-working school that I designed, carried and managed since then. ESK has thus diversified and developed its activities, initially centered on the support of children in centres. The separation will only be achieved in February 2017, after many exchanges between ESK and EDB, but also between ESK and the partners and sponsors of the wood-working School project, in order to guarantee ESK the transfer of responsibilities in parallel with the transfer of the assets.*

### ***Recognition in Cambodia***

*Once the “L’Ecole du Bois - EDB” was created in France, we were able to present to the Cambodian government authorities applications for accreditation, previously granted to the Wood-working School project, via ESK Association. We therefore obtained a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Cambodia (MFA), signed on 29 June 2016.*

*The agreement of the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training of Cambodia (MLVT), our Ministry of Guardianship, will be signed on 28 February 2017.*

*These agreements are not indispensable to a foreign association to work in Cambodia, but in exchange for the constraints of regular reporting, information, compliance, they bring us visibility to the local authorities, support through the validation of the diplomas that the school delivers, through facilities for the importation of goods and equipment necessary for the project and legitimacy.*

### ***Strengthening the teams in Cambodia***

*Mrs Cécile MALTERRE, General delegate of EDB Association in Cambodia early 2016, unable to provide sufficient presence and all the missions we wanted to entrust to her, was replaced by Mrs UNG Polyna, recruited on my mission in January 2017.*

### **Revival of the training of the higher years**

*First year teaching at school (C1, according to the nomenclature of the MLVT) is entrusted to the Cambodian Masters, trained by voluntary cabinetmakers in 2007. They benefited a refresh in their knowledge in 2013, thanks to a voluntary cabinetmaker, Simon Bouju.*

*The training of the upper years (C2 and C3) takes place in a workshop, under the responsibility of a confirmed cabinet-maker. At the departure of the workshop manager, in August 2015, this training had to be suspended. It could resume in June 2016, with the recruitment of a Companion du Devoir, Jérémy Lipreau, as part of a contract of international solidarity Volunteer (VSI). The course of this training is based on the realization of products, support for an in-depth learning by putting into practice the various techniques acquired in C1. Production requires a budget (wood, materials, apprentices' wages) that must be covered by the sale of the products. This pattern reinforces the professionalizing character of the C2/C3 training by preparing apprentices to cope with the diversity of client needs and economic constraints. Training of C2 and C3 levels is therefore intended to be self-financing by the achievements of the apprentices. When a surplus is released, it is fully invested in financing C1 training. This is our next target, after having passed the professional insertion of young, impoverished Cambodians from the rural environment.*

*To better meet the needs of the local economy, energized by tourism and building industry and train carpenters in greater numbers, we have gradually increased the capacity of the site: expansion of the workshop in 2015 thanks to a partner association, Sourires, acquisition of new machines in 2016 and increase in the number of beds for the boarding in 2017. 4 new second-hand machines, purchased in France, have therefore been transported and installed in September, thanks to the grant of Solidarity Accor Hotels Foundation.*

*These investments, the return of partners and potential customers to the announcement of the revival of the workshop and the return of experienced carpenters from the school should have ensured the success of Jérémy Lipreau's mission. Despite that he resigned in December. We accompanied his departure from the school and prepared the transition with the team of carpenters.*

*This leads us to seek, to reach the second stage of our ambition, more actively, local support, in human resources and skills, in sponsorship, partnership ... The context is more favourable today, thanks to the evolution of Cambodian civil society, the opening of young Cambodian graduates on Western culture and the presence of our general delegate.*

### **Renovation works of the buildings**

*The buildings on the site have been spread over time:*

- *The main building which houses the classrooms, dormitories, refectory, kitchen, office of the director and apartment for foreign teachers was completed in 2008, financed in particular by Fondation Air France, Region Ile-de-France, CDC Development Solidaire.*
- *The workshop, built and financed by Laminak intake of ISA-BTP, a School of construction engineers in Anglet, was delivered in 2009 then enlarged in 2014 thanks to the Association Sourires*
- *The Sala, a building on the water, intended to host events, school production exhibition, class oversize, was completed in 2013, funded by the CDC and the Forim.*

*They require renovation in electricity, plumbing, roofing, sanitation and plantations.*

*Grants obtained in June, that of Solidarity Accor Hotels Foundation, to finance the revival of the workshop (machines, equipment, tools, materials ...).*

*In August, that of the Fondation Air France, long-time sponsor of the project, to finance the renovation of the buildings and the site.*

*These grants were partially paid in 2016, the remainder will be paid in 2017, on the reporting.*

*In September, that of the association Sourires, partner since 2009.*

### **Events**

- *Course des Heros at St Cloud Park: This charitable event allows registered associations to collect donations. We would like to thank once again our heroes of this day and their donors, our donors who made this event a success. Present: François, vice President, Vicko, Secretary-General and myself. This year it will be held on Sunday 18 June.*
- *Christmas Market of the Association Women International Group, organized at the Intercontinental Hotel in Phnom Penh: The association was represented by Jérémy Lipreau, Py and Kakada, apprentices C2 and C3. An opportunity to be visible through the sale of small objects and to establish contacts.*
- *Gala dinner of Amalydes, friendly alumni of the Lycée Descartes of Phnom Penh, at the restaurant Chinatown Olympiades, Paris 13th. The association was represented by Vicko. Thanks to Brigitte, President of Amalydes, for her loyal support.*
- *Visit of the organisation Phnom Penh Accueil at the School: this association of expatriates has helped the school in the past by providing uniforms to 2 student intakes. During this full visit of the premises followed by a lunch, the sale of small items allowed the visitors to leave with a souvenir.*

### **Conclusion**

*2016 was an important year for the foundation of the "L'Ecole du Bois - EDB", rich of events in France and challenges in Cambodia since it was necessary to manage all the operations from France with a Delegate not enough present and an experience that has turned short with the recruitment and resignation of the young chef of workshop.*

*Moreover, our young graduates are always very much demanded on the market by the design firms, architects, furniture stores, carpentry workshops, etc....*

*All this stimulates us, encourages us not to spare our efforts and confirms us in the added value of the school to the development of the skills of disadvantaged young Cambodians and their contribution to the economy of their country.*

*I would like to thank you for your presence on our side, your trust and your support. Without you we would not have taken all these steps and we can be proud collectively of our success by giving these young people access to a valued know-how and pride to be self-sufficient.*

*Kenory YOU, President*