

The 5th Angkor Cup



The 5th Angkor Cup, Lead (CCF) and Top-Rope competition, was held on December 13th.

The picture above shows the award ceremony of the men's Top Rope. This time, one of the four Angkor Cups went to Laos. Mr. Kham Vangvieng won first prize. He is one of the two climbers brought by Mr. Sangthong Nieselt (the second from the left) known as Adam, who runs a climbing school in Vang Vieng, Laos. Kham raised a national flag at the winners' platform as if he expected to be a winner. The contestants who took the second and third places are from an NGO called "Peppy," supported by America. We were able to hold the 5th competition with the support of volunteers from many countries.

Information: We will make a report and show a film about a Project to Support Cambodian Youth Climbers, "Will You Come and Climb the Walls?" which was made with the support from Shinnyoen. The report and film showings will be held in the

Tama area of Tokyo from June. The first session: June 25th (Saturday) 14:00~15:30 at Monbell, Grandberry Mall, Minami-Machida

Information about the following sessions will be relayed as soon as they are planned. The 3rd General Meeting will be held on

August 27th (Saturday), 17:00~ , at Karin, Kai Ohizumi, Yatsugatake, Yamanashi Prefecture



Winners in the Open Class ↑ Winners in the CCF Class ↑ Huy Barang, a high school student, ↑ won first prize in the CCF Class which included two players trained in Japan.

Result

Class				Entry	Rank	Name	Age	Cup
CCF	M	12-14	CCF – M1	6	1	Huy Yanfai	12	
					2	Huy Yanfei	14	
					3	Sambath Pheaktra	14	
	M	Over 15	CCF – M2	8	1	Huy Barang	17	1 st
					2	Sor Seyha	20	
					3	Cho Channy	20	
	F	Over 15	CCF – F2	5	1	Loeum Vann	19	1 st
					2	In Theavy	20	
					3	Phin Sarom	19	
OPEN	M	Over 15	OP – A – M	7	1	Kham Vangleng	23	1 st
					2	Nhoeun Sakkra	20	
					3	Mak Khuy	21	
	F	12 – 14+over15	OP – A – F	13	1	Sek Sreydet	13	1 st
					2	Thoan Sothida	19	
					3	By Dina	20	
Total				39				

Bouldering Climbing Clinic for Women, December 19th (Saturday)

In early October, Ms. Jeanne Fu, a member of Bouldering Babes in New York, which aims to empower women through climbing, asked ACN to join their world tour of women's climbing clinics.

According to the plan on their website, they have already put the Angkor Wall in Siem Reap, Cambodia on the visiting list, which also includes some climbing gyms in Colorado, Chicago and other places in America, as well as Athens in Greece, Amman in Jordan, Sydney in Australia, and Auckland in New Zealand.

We agreed to the climbing clinic but the date fell on the same day as our bouldering competition, at which we expected more men participants than women. So we proposed to move the date to the day before. In addition, we also explained the situation in Cambodia where the average income is one-sixtieth of that in America. So instead of charging participants, we requested to advertise it as below, and they accepted our offer.



On the day of the climbing clinic event, Jeanne participated as an instructor, along with six Cambodians (including a boy and an English teacher from the participants' school). The climbing clinic seemed to boost motivation, as participants wanted to join the bouldering competition on the following day. Because schools have lessons on Saturdays, we need to hold this kind of event on Sundays in the future.



The Angkor Cup Bouldering December 20th (Sunday)



There are usually many children around the bouldering wall. This time, because not many children took part in the competition, all of them could choose the prizes they wanted, according to their places, from the donated presents.



Result:

Even Huy Barang, the winner, could reach only four goals. Mr. Wakae, the route setter, gave a message to the players to solve the problems within a year.

Class	Entry	Rank	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
M	7	1	Huy Barang	○	○	○	×	×	○	×	×	×	×
		2	Huy Yanfei	○	○	○	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
		3	Sambath Pheaktra	○	○	○	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
F	4	1	Soeng Chhan	○	○	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
		2	Sek Sreydet	○	○	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
		3	Bo Vannet	○	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Total	11												

Review workshop (training before the competition)

We sent an invitation letter to the objective schools and got several entries. But this year, only one school was located more than three kilometers away.

We asked the students who want to join the workshop to submit an application and agreement with their parents. It is especially important for us to try to get parents' consent for children under 18 years old. But under the present conditions, we could not get all of the



parents to attend with their children who were age eleven and under, or get enough signed agreements from the parents of students who were age twelve and over. Instead, the students' teachers brought them to the competition in place of their parents. Some Cambodian parents tend to be extremely resistant to sign their names on a paper agreement. Particularly for girls, parents often make them help with housework rather than play sports. But compared to the situation five years ago, there were fewer difficulties with parents, so we will patiently continue to make efforts to promote their understanding.

The participants in the workshops

Date			Krus	10Makara	Other	Total
11	1	Su	9	1	0	10
	8	Su	7	1	0	8
	9	Mo	8	2	2	12
	14	Sa	38	0	0	38
	15	Su	26	0	0	26
	21	Sa	3	1	0	4
	29	Su	8	0	0	8
12	6	Su	7	0	2	9
Total			106	5	4	115

This time, most participants in the workshop were children from nearby schools. Among the invited schools in Siem Reap, only six schools listed above joined in the workshop. The number of schools decreased compared with last year.

In addition, students from nearby Kros Elementary and Junior High School joined the first workshop but could not continue practicing, because the second workshop fell on the Water Festival holidays.

Another factor behind the decrease in new participants was that the Siem Reap Judo Club, whose members used to practice in front of the wall, moved to the Korean Church. How to attract more children to climbing is one of the problems we face today.

Special Thanks

This year, we were able to hold The Siem Reap Youth Climbing Festival (Angkor Cup and other workshops) with the support of many people from various countries. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone.

Our event cannot be compared to the Angkor Wat Half Marathon which has been held 20 times, but at least we could hold the event five times thanks to your support. The operation of the Angkor Wat Half Marathon has already been taken over by the Cambodian people, and ACN's students volunteer as watering staff every year. The Angkor Cup has been fixed as an annual event to be held one week after the half marathon every December. This time, Mary again came from Phnom Penh and took good care of the event as usual. Mr. Ikeguchi from the climbing gym, "Hang Out" in Chofu, Tokyo, volunteered for the climbing demonstration at the opening ceremony for the first time.

Ms. Sato from Japan and Tevy from Battambang helped at the reception desk. Adam, Apple, Mary, Mr. Wakae, Mr. Ikeguchi and Mesa took turns in belaying. Mr. Sireidy, the Chairperson of CCF (pictured on P.1, on the right), came to the awards ceremony to encourage participants. He retired as the head of the Educational Board at the end of last year and became an honorable CCF chairperson. Mr. Choun Sokvandy, the head of the PE section (pictured on P.6, the third from the right in the front row), took his place and became a new CCF chairperson. Mr. Hea made time in his busy schedule to support us as a Japanese-Khmer translator from the 1st competition. A doctor and a police officer also played important roles during the competition. Mr. Hamaguchi, Mr. Takashima and Mr. Mori in Siem Reap came to take pictures of the competition. Ms. Jeanne from New York gave a free climbing lesson to participants. Mr. Asai, the chairperson, Mr. Ariizumi and Ms. Takagi, who are board members, all worked hard to manage the events.

In addition, we would like to inform everyone that a baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wakae when Mr. Wakae was setting the climbing routes at the Angkor Wall. He came to Cambodia near the end of the term and worked hard for the competition in the heat. We would like to extend our great appreciation to him, and to his family who supported his efforts.

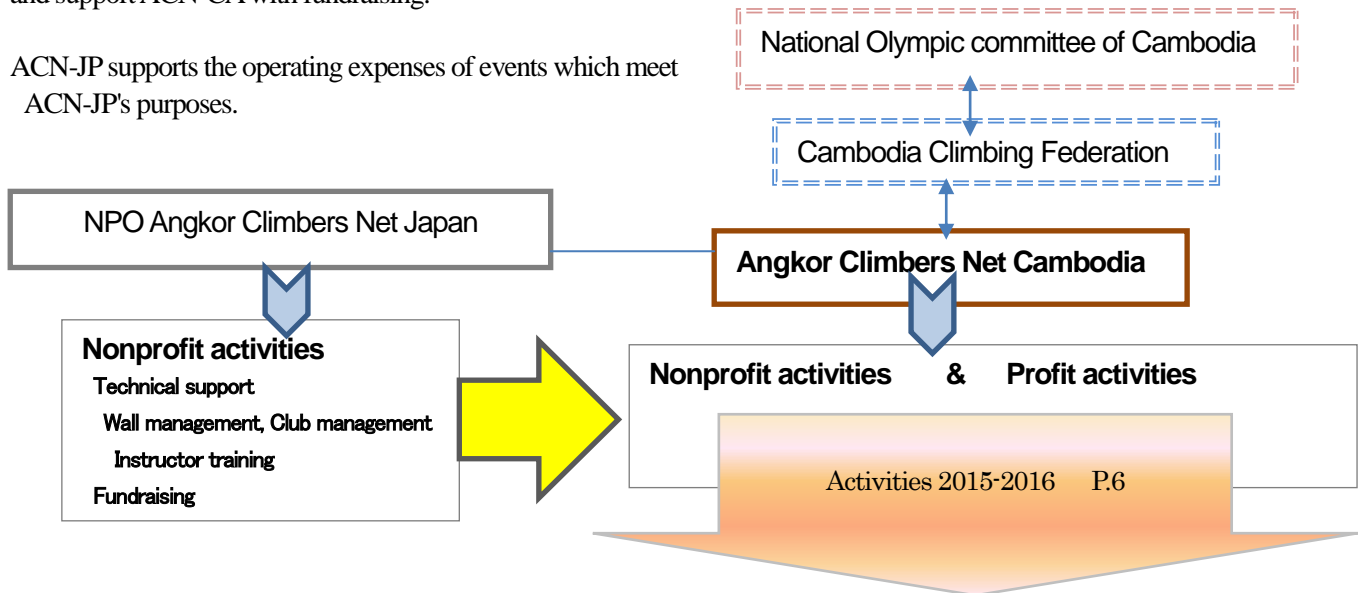


Pictured at the workshop in November

The relationship between ACN-Japan and ACN-Cambodia

In Cambodia, the New NGO law was passed in 2015. It seems that there are no enforcement provisions or changed requirements regarding the activities of grass-roots organizations. The relation between both ACNs according to the following chart (the same chart in newsletter No. 16) remains the same. Angkor Climbers Net Japan (the non-governmental and nonprofit organization) ACN-JP is operated by Japanese staff, and its main purpose is to take on training or management and technique, and support ACN-CA with fundraising.

ACN-JP supports the operating expenses of events which meet ACN-JP's purposes.



Instructor Training

Seyha and Channy got jobs with Rock Climbing Gym in Phnom Penh after they graduated from high school.

Mary and Christoph in Phnom Penh, who have participated in The Angkor Cup as belayers since it began, built bouldering walls and then opened their business on a trial basis in October, 2015. They hired Seyha and Channy, members of ACN, before their full opening in February 2016. They wished to partner with ACN by building their own climbing walls and providing employment for young Cambodian climbers in the countryside where there are very few job opportunities for them after they graduate from high school. Their wish has become a reality.



<http://www.phnomclimb.com/>



Pictures of Seyha and Channy instructing the belay course are on the Facebook page of "Phnom Climb." Seyha and Channy sometimes also guide their guests to natural walls under the experienced supervision of Mary and Christoph.



Guide Training

In Laos In order to guide climbers to natural rocky places, Kimsroy and Barang went to Laos from March 29 to April 4 and received training from Adam (pictured on P.1), the headmaster of Adam Climbing School and a pioneer in Vang Vieng, Laos. The details of the training will be in the next newsletter.

Hiking in Mt. Kulen

The training place we named "Chie Iwa" on the east side of Mt. Kulen, a holy mountain where ACN members started climbing, is now inaccessible because the area was burned on a large scale for agriculture. Despite this, the holy mountain still has a lot of potential. On February 22, we went to the west side of the mountain. Thirteen people enjoyed hiking the 16-kilometer round trip, including Kimsroy's seven year-old son, and Mr. Kurumizawa who is a director of ACN and is old enough to have experienced the evacuation of Japanese schoolchildren to the countryside during World War II.



Building the organization for sports in Cambodia at international competitions

Cambodia
Climbing
Federation

Sports climbing is one of the strong candidates for the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020. Japan has turned out many climbers whose techniques rank on an international level. JMA, Japan Mountaineering Association which supports ACN's training project, represents Japanese climbers at the international competition. JMA has translated into Japanese the international regulations for sports climbing, which have nearly 100 pages. Japanese climbers register with JMA, and then JMA registers them in the International Climbing Federation.



If a Cambodian climber improves his climbing abilities and takes part in an international competition, Cambodia Climbing Federation (CCF) takes the same role in Cambodia as JMA does in Japan.

Pictured on the left: Officials of CCF which has just begun its second year and two of its nominated climbers. The photo was



taken on April 4 when the national sports federations were assembled in the Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh by request of the Cambodian Prime Minister. However, the responsibility for traveling expenses fell on these organization, so ACN covered the costs to send its participants from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh. Each federation is requested to seek its own sponsor. When Mr. Soem Saron, the director of CCF, was asked to find a sponsor like the soccer and volleyball federations have, he was at a loss for what to do. If you know of any individuals, companies or businesses which might want to be sponsors, please contact the ACN office or a director.

Maintenance and management of facility

A new climbing wall for educational purposes is about to be built by Mr. Kimsroy, putting his experience with construction and maintenance of artificial walls to use.



The provincial stadium with track and field facilities and a gymnasium is located about five kilometers east from the

center of Siem Reap. It is just on the opposite side of the Angkor Wall, three kilometers west from the center, with the Siem Reap River between them. The new bouldering wall is under construction beside the taekwondo gym. Further information will be in the next newsletter.

-Report and Film on the Project to Support Cambodian Youth Climbing Funded by a Grant from Shinnyoen

Last year, ACN received a grant for 300,000 yen from the Buddhist organization Shinnyoen, to fund our training project in Japan for Cambodian Youth Climbers. This was the training project for Channy and Kimsroy, which we described in Newsletter 17, and we owe its success to Shinnyoen.

This year, we are planning to report and show a film about the training project and the 5th Angkor Cup in 2015. Shinnyoen again gave us a grant to carry out this plan as "The Assisting Project open for people's activities in the Tama area."

With this event, we would like to show our gratitude to the people who support us. We also want many people to know about our activities and call on them to mix with ACN members and children in Cambodia, teaching climbing to children, or climbing natural walls or going hiking there.

We will hold the first "Report and Film" meeting at Montbell Salon in Grandberry Mall, Minami—Machida. If you know of any suitable place for such a meeting (like a community center), please let us know. We will make and hand out leaflets, like the sample on the right, adding the date and map on the reverse side.

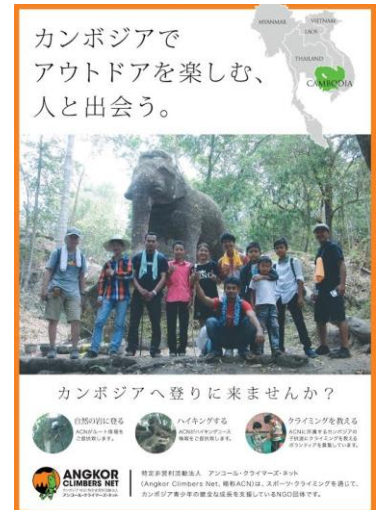
There are 41 members of our NPO right now. We would like to ask you to continuously support us by becoming a member.

If you want to join ACN, please contact us. We will send you an application form, guidelines and some other documents in accordance with the type of request. Our annual membership fee is 5,000 yen (general member).

Please make payment according to our business year that begins on July 1. Your support will surely help promote the healthy growth of Cambodian youth.

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Donated Funds and Presents

Our total donated sum comes to 8,031,633 yen, plus US\$13,660 (beginning in 2008, when we launched our NGO, though April 30, 2016). The total funds for our foster parents' system comes to 3,220,000 yen, plus US\$1,250. We greatly appreciate this support.

The following individuals, businesses, and associations contributed donations and goods from November 2015 to April 2016:

—Funds Shinnyoen

Mr. Asada Shin-ichiro, Mr. Kawajiri Yotaro, Mr. Yoshitomi Akira, Ms. Hotta Keiko, Yasuda Family and Natural Food Shop Karin, Relaxation Massage Chai Angkor, Peace in Tour Angkor, Blooming Tours Siem Reap, Ms. Hayashi Takeko, Ms. Sugishita Kumiko

—Presents

Japan Mountaineering Association, montbell, Lost Arrow, Climbing Gym Bigrock, Sakudaira Rock Climbing center, Pyramide Japan, Small Art School, Moloppor Cafe, Krama Yu Yu, Lo Yu Yu, The City Premium Guesthouse, Anacott Cambodia, Phnom Climb Community Gym, Adam's Climbing School Vang Vieng, Bouldering Babes Climbing Girls Run the World Tour, Mr. Wakae Yuichi, Mr. Ikeguchi Masahiro, Ms. Sato Ikuru, Ms. Takagi Tomoko, Mr. Ariizumi Shigemasa, Mr. Hamaguchi Hidetaka, Mr. Takashima Shigeki, Mr. Mori Shuichi, Mr. Fukujin Sanpei, Ms. Fukujin Kazuko, Ms. Ito Hiromi, Ms. Kimura Mariko, Mr. Kimura Ryo, Mr. Kurumizawa Kenji, Mr. Takagi Katsuji, Ms. Takagi Hatsue, Ms. Yamada Eiko, Ms. Shimizu Tomoko

—Foster Parents Ms. Hotta Keiko, Mr. Saihara Akio, Mr. Kurumizawa Kenji, Ms. Shimizu Fuji

★★★ Bank account for donation ★★★

■Japan Post Bank

記号 10010
番号 75286831
口座名 アンコールクライマーズネット

■Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ

支店名 : 調布支店
預金種目 : 普通預金 口座番号 : 0081781
口座名 : アンコールクライマーズネット

★★★ Contact ★★★

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tel. +855-(0) 92-336-924, +855-(0) 12-1759970
POBOX 93044, Siem Reap city, Siem Reap province, CAMBODIA

・Wall Location (No post office delivery)

Angkor Climbing Wall Krus village, Svidoncom commune
Siem Reap city, Siem Reap province, Cambodia

■ email info@angkorclimbers.net

Treasure of Cambodia, pelicans flying at Tonle Sap lake



Though the number of children who come to practice climbing decreases because of Cambodia's Water Festival, it is very important event for the local people. The lake is ten times as large in the rainy season as it is in the dry season.

Since this lake takes in water from the Mekong River in the rainy season, it is possible to prevent flooding. The Water Festival is held in the season when the water begins flowing down. Many people live on the water around Tonle Sap Lake. Children row boats to school, and people go shopping by boat. Prek Toal Nature Reserve (Prek Toal Biosphere Reserve) is located at the bottom of the lake in Battambang Province, which borders on Siem Reap Province.

Editor's note

We reported that the Angkor Wat Half Marathon, which Yuko Arimori started, is now being run by the Cambodian people. The other day, when I watched a TV program about Angkor Wat, I thought at first that the interpreter might be Mr. Ishizawa, former Chancellor of Jochi University, but it was not the person who I thought it was. A Cambodian archaeologist was guiding and explaining about Angkor Wat. ACN-Japan's aim is that someday, ACN-Cambodia will be able to stand on its own feet and carry out projects by itself. I dream of seeing the members of ACN Cambodia make comments someday like "Mountain climbing will nurture people who can think and act with thoughts of balancing and harmonizing human and nature." Oh, wait a minute. Such reflections should be made by retired climbers, and they're still active climbers!

(Chimi)

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