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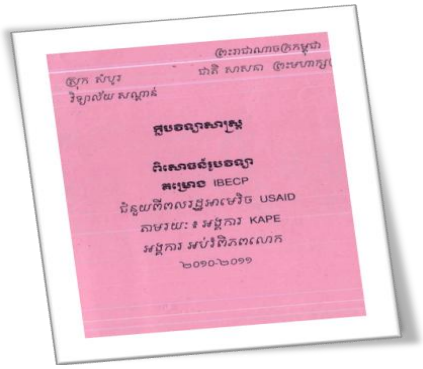
CASE STUDY

A Science Club in Kratie Demonstrates Experiments that They Researched on Their Own



A science booklet produced by the Science Club at Sandann High School in their Computer Lab

Dara and his classmate demonstrate how to make an electro-magnet at the recent Project Work Fair

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Mean Sov Dara is a student in Grade 9 at Sandann High School in Kratie Province. It is a rural high school in the northern part of the province that was the second school to receive a computer lab with support from USAID. This happened about three years ago now, but the lab is still in working order. During these three years, Dara has learned a lot about computers and he has also used his digital know-how to greatly advance his knowledge about science, which is one of Dara's special interests. Because the lab runs off of solar power, his school has no problem with operating the lab on a regular basis, so that students like Dara have frequent access to the computers there.

This year, Dara was one of the driving forces behind setting up a science club at his school. He is the chairman of the club and has spent a lot of his time researching different scientific experiments in the lab. He and his classmates have been documenting their research in the computer lab on *Open Office* and together they have produced several scientific booklets about how to do specific experiments (see picture above).

For this year's Project Work Fair, Dara had an opportunity to share his work with students from other schools. He did a PowerPoint Presentation and demonstrated a number of different experiments that he has learned about. His favorite experiment and the one that he demonstrated is about making an electro-magnet with a nail, some wire, and a battery. Dara said he is very hopeful about finishing high school and going to university to continue his studies in science. With his knowledge of computers and all that he has learned through them, he is sure that he is a match for any other students that may have studied at an urban university in Phnom Penh. 'Thanks to USAID, we have computers in the rural schools now, too,' Dara said.