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Improved Basic Education in Cambodia (IBEC) Project SUCCESS STORY

Scholarships Help Dreams Come True

IBEC scholarship assistance allows a determined student to continue her studies and achieve her dreams.



PHIYAS WITH HER MOTHER AND BROTHER.

The IBEC Project seeks to promote better educated youth with increased access to a quality and relevant basic education through an approach that emphasizes holistic programming, stakeholder-driven development, and improved educational relevance and management. To learn more, visit www.ibec.worlded.org

On December 11, 2009, students, families, government officials, teachers and commune leaders gathered at the Ponhea Krek High School in Kampong Cham province for one of an on-going set of scholarship distribution ceremonies for the USAID-funded IBEC Program. During this ceremony, 57 students received a scholarship package containing a bicycle, school materials and a school uniform which will enable these young students to continue to attend school. Students from Ponhea Krek Lower Secondary School, Ponhea Krek High School and Kandal Chrum Lower Secondary School were among the scholarship recipients.

One young mother, May Yan, from the minority Cham community shared that she had told her daughter, Math Li Phiyas, ever since she was in the 4th grade, that it would be difficult for her to be able to continue her studies. As a family with four children and with both parents unable to read or write, Phiyas' parents wanted her to assist in income generation for the household. Every time her mother asked her to leave school, Phiyas refused. Instead, she decided to study even harder and continued to attend school while helping her family by working in the fields in the hours and days that she was not in the classroom. She worked her way to become one of the top three students in her class.

When applications for the scholarship distributions were announced at her school earlier this year, Phiyas sought out the school director to request an application, which she filled out and submitted on her own. She is thrilled to have received the assistance necessary to continue her studies. Now 15 years old and in Grade 7, Phiyas hopes to complete her studies all the way through Grade 12. She states that no other Cham students in her village have been able to complete Grade 12 and she wants to be a role model so that other children will be able to aspire to do the same. Phiyas hopes to one day become a teacher and to help the other Cham children in her village to receive an education.

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