

Dr. Beat Richner, Kantha Bopha Children's Hospitals,
Phnom Penh / Siem Reap Angkor, 30 September 2011

Achievements of 20 years

Twenty years have now passed since I first met with a group of Cambodians in Paris as the negotiations for the Paris Peace Agreement neared their final phase. They asked me to rebuild Kantha Bopha, the children's hospital where I had worked in 1974/75 until the Khmer Rouge came to power.

What we did for a cost of 400 million Swiss francs

Since then, **5 children's hospitals and one maternity ward** (where 50 births take place every day) have been established. The children's hospitals, which include a large surgical unit that performs around 60 operations per day, have cared for over **a million seriously ill, hospitalised children** and treated more than **ten million sick children in their outpatient clinics**. Treatment is provided free of charge, because 90% of the children come from families whose income is less than a dollar a day. **All of this, including the buildings, installations, medical supplies, medication, salaries and repair and maintenance, has cost a total of 400 million Swiss francs thus far. 87.5% of these funds have been donations! Most of which have come from Switzerland.**

Without your support and the work of these hospitals and the 2,400 Cambodian staff they now employ, the lives of hundreds of thousands of children would have been lost. Instead these children have made lasting recoveries, and in innumerable cases have been spared health impairments and handicaps.

In 2010, 108,000 seriously ill children were hospitalised, and in 2011 this number will climb to over 120,000. With your help, these medical services can continue to be provided in 2012.

100 Swiss medical students participate in the 3rd postgraduate course on achieving the world's best cost to cure ratio

As part of our 20th anniversary celebration, "20 Years of Kantha Bopha", two special committed donations are making it possible for 100 motivated advanced students from all 5 Swiss medical schools and 100 advanced Cambodian students from the medical school in Phnom Penh to take part in our 3rd International Postgraduate Course (31 October to 4 November 2011). The course will show how, with the right medical know-how and experience, a hospital can be built, equipped and run, even in the most difficult of circumstances, and **one of the best cost-to-cure ratios in the world** can be achieved.

Every Swiss franc you give helps to heal and prevent illness and save lives. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Dr. Beat Richner, PC 80 60699-1