

Zürich, October 24, 2018

## Ladies and Gentlemen

I have privileged and honored to be here, in the Grossmünster de Zurich where today we are still grieving the unexpected loss of Dr. Beat Richner.

First of all please allow me to solemnly express my gratitude toward the President and the CEO of Kantha Bopha Foundation as well as Dr Beat Richner's family that gave us this opportunity to come and present our homage to our most respectful founder who is known as the Father of the Cambodian children.

Dr. Beat Richner, the founder of Kantha Bopha Hospitals received many titles from the Cambodian public. People recognised him as 'Cambodia National Hero', some even called him 'The God-Doctor'. Even with this title Dr. Beat Richner does not let fame changes him, he worked hard to provide much-needed care for those in needs and do not discriminate which class of society the sick children belong to.

**For the memory of the late Beat Richner (Beatocello)**, in Kantha Bopha and beyond, we sought and learned from his wise counsel.

Thanks to his leadership and guidance, Kantha Bopha hospital is now the model and most effective hospitals for children and its built-in maternity in Cambodia.

He was well known for his unwavering determination, his miracle journey to see Kantha Bopha hospitals succeeded and remained as part of his legacy.

The people of Cambodia once said that there was no doctor they admired more than the late Dr Beat Richner for "the strength of his convictions and the clarity of his views, the directness of his speech and his vision for the future of both the hospitals and the children of Cambodia".

His spirit of giving, love and sharing, and commitment to excellence will always be remembered.

His loss was felt deeply by the people of Switzerland and the people of Cambodia.

He left behind the 26-years legacy from which we saved hundreds of thousands of Cambodian children's lives. Almost 17.5 million sick children and pregnant mothers have been treated in the outpatient stations. Almost 2 million patients have been hospitalized in the Kantha Bopha Hospitals since 1992 and 263,852 deliveries were done. From today and further, Kantha Bopha hospitals became the model known for its reputation of high quality with effectiveness, good disciples and free treatments for all. The activities of Kantha Bopha contribute importantly to the lowering of mother and child mortality rate countrywide. This achievement has been widely recognized by the Ministry of Health, the Cambodian Red Cross and the Royal Government of Cambodia.

## Ladies and Gentlemen!

Without your support and continuous contributions, all of this efforts and achievements would have never existed.

**On behalf of the Cambodian children and the Kantha Bopha hospitals, I would like to thank you heartily for the kindness of the Swiss people and its government's continuous support for Kantha Bopha.**

The hospital is dependent on your donations.

May the late Dr Beat Richner rests in peace.

Thank you!