

Newsworthy

A NEWSLETTER OF THE HCD INSTITUTE
Connecting you to child advocacy and development



A Khmer girl in Siem Reap
(Photo: CB Kok/2010)

Newsworthy contains news and information about our work and also the fellowship of the student alumni. It is published three times a year in English.

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The Holistic Child Development (HCD) Institute of the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS) is a department for training, research and networking in holistic ministries to children. We seek to transform and enable the Church to do child advocacy and development through Christian-based theological education, research and awareness raising. The Seminary is part of the Global Alliance for Advancing Holistic Child Development, a network of theological institutions seeking to promote HCD programs worldwide.

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A few words...

Dear friends,

Greetings!

For the past few months, the HCD Institute has literally been on an avalanche of events. In June, we had our 2010 HCD session which went well despite unforeseen hitches. We also had the graduation of our Chinese language Child Studies students in Kuala Lumpur. When the HCD students left early July, preparation of training materials, translation, and coordination began for China. In August, the HCDI team "took a break" to Phnom Penh and worked alongside Voice of the Children and EFC CC at a Pastors' conference. In Sept, a "4/18 Window" workshop was held at the 6th Transworld Baptist Mission Conference in Taipei. The China HCD Module also took place in Sept.

As I reflect on the intensity of the schedule, the Psalmist reminds me that *"blessed are those who have set their hearts on pilgrimage for when they pass through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs"* (Ps. 84). I thank God for the privilege of work; this is the purpose of the HCD Institute – to be a blessing to the children advocates in the region and to walk alongside each of our network partners.

Blessings,

Rosalind Lim-Tan

Director, HCD Institute

Enhancing the Christian response to Khmer children

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

IN August 2010, a team of five from the Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS) went to Phnom Penh to participate in a local process to grow and enrich the HCD movement in Cambodia.

Meeting with EFC CC

On Thursday Aug 21, the team met with key leaders from the Evangelical Fellowship Cambodia Children's Commission (EFC CC) to discuss the implementation of a 2-year diploma program, expected to launch in March 2011. This is a Level 2 HCD course based on topics offered in *Celebrating Children (CC)* which relate to child advocacy; especially ministry to children at risk. CC is a training course developed in 1987 by a consortium of Christian trainers and practitioners in childcare to equip people to work more effectively with children living in difficult circumstances.

ICC-VOTC workshop

The following day on Friday Aug 20, the team convened at Sunway Hotel Phnom Penh to facilitate a one-day workshop for some 135 church pastors

and leaders from the province. The event began with a short devotion led by HCD Institute personnel Kok Chik Bu, followed by a word of welcome from Voice of the Children (VOTC) project manager Maria Finnevidsson.

In the first session on *'Children and God,'* MBTS academic dean Dr Sunny Tan stressed that God wants children to grow holistically; therefore, churches must find every possible way to contribute to the holistic growth of children. Compassion SE Asia child advocate Toyditz Cosico then spoke on *'Children and Community,'* and pointed out that a community can help to build up children by appreciating them for who they are, giving them space to speak, learning from their experience of God's faithfulness, and also respecting their capacity to respond to spiritual matters. Meanwhile, in the *'Children and Family'* session, HCD Institute director Dr Rosalind Lim-Tan spoke on the roles of families in caring for children. She emphasized that churches can bring hope and help broken families raise children holistically.



The one-day workshop was the first in a series of training planned by VOTC. It is hoped that through the workshop, the church leaders would gain sufficient knowledge that they can apply in their families and villages they live in. At the conclusion of the workshop, one participant commented, "I've learned a lot from this workshop. The speakers were great, and your project is really impacting life."

The ICC-VOTC is a joint project between International Cooperation of Cambodia (ICC) and EFC CC. VOTC aims to improve child safety standards and enable children to exercise their full rights, by training churches and families in the Kampot Province as well as ICC and EFC CC staff. ■



From top:

- Meeting with EFC CC in Phnom Penh.
- The ICC-VOTC workshop at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh

More information:

ICC-VOTC www.icc.org.kh
Celebrating Children
www.celebratingchildretraining.info



Left to right, from top: Kim Hong, Vandeth, Eva, Ivone, Elizabeth, Natz, Chik Bu, Sunny, Rosalind, Tryphena, Theresa, Grace and Goson..

Meet the S E Asia Torchbearers

ONE goal adopted by the South East Asia team for the HCD Global Alliance is to identify at least two “HCD torchbearers” to “promote, speak, and resource” the HCD movement in the region.

It is with great joy that we are able to identify and confirm those who will be at the forefront advocating the HCD movement in their respective countries. These people not only believe in the vision and value of training in HCD but also willing to give their time and effort to make the cause a reality in their own countries. They are:

- **Cambodia** – Kim Hong and Nou Vandeth (Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia – Children’s Commission, Phnom Penh)
- **Hong Kong/China** – Eva Ching (Asian Outreach / Hosanna Foundation)
- **Indonesia** – Ivone Palar and Elizabeth Ronda (Sekolah Tinggi Teologia Jaffray, Makassar)
- **Malaysia** – HCD Institute (Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Penang)
- **Philippines** – Dr Nativity Patellar and Dr Theresa Lua (Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary & Asia Graduates School of Theology Philippines, Manila)
- **Singapore** – Grace Lim (Quiver of Arrows)
- **Thailand** – Goson Boonyuang (Compassion Thailand, Bangkok)

An SEA Torchbearers retreat is planned to take place in 2011. If you are interested to champion the cause of children in your country, please write to us.

CHINESE CULTURE & THE 4/18 WINDOW

PARALLEL to the 4/14 Window held recently in New York, Taipei had its own version of the 4/18 Window in one of the plenary workshops at the 6th Transworld Chinese Baptist Mission Conference. The 4/18 Window is a contextual version of the 4/14 Window. Why depart from the norm?

First, the phrase “4/14” in the Chinese language resonate negative vibes of death. Hence, “4/14” as a catch phrase for evangelism in the Chinese Christian world will not gain momentum. Instead, “4/18” has a very positive connotation. The phrase sounds like “continuous prosperity,” suggesting that evangelism to children will assure continuous wellbeing for the Chinese churches.

Secondly, although “4/14” in the western mindset includes children up to the age of 18; the phrase itself is limiting. In Chinese translation, we use the sentence, “*err tong yee ching shao nian*” which means young children and adolescence. Hence, “4/18” is more age-inclusive for the Chinese mind. The age ceiling is also in line with the UNCRC definition of children up to the age of 18 years.

Last but not least, the Chinese people love numbers, especially auspicious numbers. What better way to influence the Chinese churches to take up the cause of the children than to suggest the 4/18 Window!

Equipping Christians to teach HCD in China

Since 2008, there have been plans to initiate the HCD Teacher Training program to equip mature men and women to be our HCD program trainers in China. God met our hearts' desire. In March 2010, the first batch of candidates was identified. These candidates are graduates of our Child Studies program. The training program which includes mentoring, self-study, and on-campus module will test our creativity in how we implement training programs in a semi "close context."

The on-campus module to be held at MBTS in October will be the highlight of their learning. Twenty candidates will go through two weeks of intensive learning on the finer points in lesson preparation, teaching skills, assessment procedures, and role of a teacher. They will also go on a field trip to observe various teaching-learning situations. If you are reading this update, give thanks to God for the way He is opening doors in China and making His presence known.



PREPARING FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

The HCD Institute has several programs lined up to equip Christians to be involved in mission and ministry to children.

- **Certificate in Child Studies** – 12 credits hours of learning to equip the individual with basic knowledge of ministry to children in general. No prerequisites are required. Classes are held one Saturday a month.
- **Diploma in Child Studies** – 24 credit hours of learning to equip the individual with knowledge and skills to engage in mission and ministry to children; with a special emphasis on setting up preschools as mission ventures in rural settings. Candidates should possess an SPM or its equivalent. This is a full time one year on campus program, inclusive practicum.
- **Bachelor in Theology majoring in Child Studies** – 130 credit hours of theological and ministerial studies to equip the individual for church related ministries with a major in ministry to children.
- **Graduate Diploma / Master of Arts in Holistic Child Development** – A 40 credits "professional degree" in child studies with emphasis on advocacy for children at risk. This is a modular program and best suits practitioners who are already engaged in the field. Candidates should possess an undergraduate degree or its equivalent.

Depending on the student intake for the year, the above programs can be offered either at the Penang campus or Klang Valley branch campus. If you are interested in any of the programs listed, please email us.



From left: MA in HCD students with faculty and staff, June 2010; Child Studies (Chinese language) graduates, July 2010