

JWOC Vocational Classes



Intermediate Sewing Course
(August - October 2009)



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JWOC is very proud to announce that its second sewing course in Siem Reap has now reached its conclusion. In mid-August JWOC decided to take a number of its original students from the first sewing course on to teach them more advanced techniques. At the same time JWOC was able to start some new students on a basic sewing course, which ran in parallel. Once again using the expertise of a local seamstress and the assistance and skills of a recent graduate of the *Life and Hope Association* Sewing Course (sponsored by *Hotel de la Paix*), JWOC was able to run an extremely successful course, teaching invaluable skills to the sewing students.

The course was this time managed by JWOC's own scholarship student Sreylin, who had assisted in running the first project. As project manager, Sreylin has been learning new skills (report writing, budgeting, staff and student management to name just a few) and has excelled in her role. We greatly value the opportunity to pass on these skills to our own scholarship students, and have been very impressed with Sreylin's desire to help her community and to run a professional and high quality project.



Intermediate Practice

In this course, the students moving on to more advanced skills have been concentrating on the intricacies of making various types of clothes such as shirts, trousers and skirts. A large part of this has been dedicated to learning and beginning to master the more difficult techniques such as collars, sleeves and, at the end of the course, hemming (JWOC was able to buy a specialized hemming machine for this purpose which the students learnt to use after practicing by hand). In the final weeks of the course, the students were also encouraged to begin working with better quality fabric.

Student Profile: Seyla Thoeurn



Hi. My name is Seyla. I am 22 years old and I was born in Kokkrasrang Village, Svaydangkum Commune in Siem Reap. I have six brothers and two sisters and in my free time I like to read, learn new things and help my family by doing housework.

I left school after the 7th grade and have been working as a traditional Khmer Dancer but my dream is to become a skillful tailor so that I can have a good job and support myself and my family. I was very happy when JWOC advertised a free sewing course because sewing has always been the thing I wanted to do as a job. I could never afford to pay for classes to learn about it though.

JWOC's sewing course taught me lots of new skills such as sewing by hand and on a machine, making simple bags and pillow cases and especially how to cut and sew new clothes. I also really enjoyed learning some new English words about sewing during the course.

This course gave me the chance to learn things that I did not have the opportunity to do before. Thank you JWOC for giving opportunities to the poor people in Cambodia who want to learn new skills.

Seyla has now completed JWOC's Basic and Intermediate Sewing courses.

Basic Practice

For our students taking the basic course, the six weeks of training focused on the building a foundation of knowledge about working with fabric, measuring, cutting, making basic items (pencil cases, bags, pillow cases) and learning basic techniques such as sewing buttons and zips.



We are delighted to say that all of the students on this course have taken advantage of this opportunity with JWOC by demonstrating their desire to learn and improve their lives through gaining new skills. With their hard work they have put in every day and every week during this project, they leave the class at JWOC with more hope and more skills for a brighter future.

A ceremony was held on 9th October 2009 recognizing the achievement of our sewing course graduates which was attended by JWOC staff, family members and scholarship students.

Course Summary

- Week 1:** Drawing and cutting women's shirts. Practicing sewing by hand and on the machines.
- Week 2:** Students were set a project to complete 4 women's shirts and began practicing the difficult techniques of collars and sleeves. Basic sewing course students began to make small bags and pillow cases.
- Week 3:** Students were taught how to design and make men's long and short sleeved shirts. Basic sewing course students began more complicated items such as simple women's shirts, pillows and bags.
- Week 4:** Finishing making shirts and learning the technique of making pockets before moving on to making trousers.
- Week 5:** Students began to make trousers and used better quality fabric to make more shirts and shirts.
- Week 6:** Finishing clothes and other items to a high standard.

JWOC would once again like to thank the contributions of the following donors whose generous sponsorship has helped make this course possible.

John and Lydia Dean
Magnus and Heather Kilian
Marilyn Lembcke (in memory of her mother)



Channak shows off the shirt she made during the course



The students learn how to measure and draw trousers on fabric.