

**A trip back to JWOC's  
First Community Well  
Tau Teia Village, Pouk District  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2009**



JWOC Country Advisor and  
Board Member, Narla, tests the  
well.

**Sheena and Tony Cowell, tourists from England, visited the Self  
Help Community Centre, Tau Teia Village, Krobie Real  
Commune, Pouk District, Siem Reap Province, on 31<sup>st</sup> October  
2009, to view and report on JWOC's first Community Well.**

The Well was provided, in February 2009, to serve the needs of the local community and in particular those of the related school. Although the visiting day was a Saturday, when school was not in session, we were able to see and speak to some of the local inhabitants, with the assistance of our guide and translator Narla. We were advised that the school provides for the needs of 12 villages and now has about 700 students, ranging in age from four to sixteen. Opening hours are 7am until 7pm, Monday to Friday, with lessons being provided in 2 hour shifts. There are 5 full-time teachers and 9 volunteers provided from the local area. In addition, the Well provides for the clean water needs of 5 local families, totaling approximately 30 people.



Recycling jars at the SHCC.



Part of the vegetable garden.

While there we met a thirteen years old school pupil called Reaksa (or Rock Star to visiting tourists) who conversed with us in excellent English and introduced us to his family who live in a nearby house. His mother is the local seamstress. Reaksa conducted us on a tour of the school premises and pointed out the morning glory and zucchini being grown by the students with the help of the Well water. It was also interesting to see onions being grown in jars attached to trees in the school grounds. We were shown the school's previous Well whose water requires filtering and whose supply was inadequate for the needs of the school.

Further information on the use of the new Well was provided by a few local people who were attracted by our interest. There is little doubt, from the conversation we had with them, that the provision of the Well has been very much appreciated although its full potential has not yet been fully realized, probably due to the relatively short time since its provision and the intervening rainy season.

The Well is producing ample amounts of water and the hand pump is in good condition. We were very impressed by our visit and the attitude of the local villages to the enterprise. We wish it continued success in the future and hope that Reaksa goes on to fulfill his ambition to become a teacher.



Reaksa (or Rockstar) stands next to the Community well.