

# Background

*Samdech Decho Hun Sen's Vision – 100 Scholarships* is part of The University of Cambodia's Scholarship Program aiming to reward exceptional students who have academically excelled in their high school studies and will help promote human resource development in Cambodia. It has been inspired by the efforts of Prime Minister Samdech Decho Hun Sen and the generous support of Dr. Rikhi Thakral, Executive Director of the Thakral Group of Companies in Singapore.

**Samdech Decho Hun Sen** has repeatedly supported the enrollment of Cambodian students in schools and universities nationwide. He has articulated his goal of enhancing human resource development to reach sustainable development in Cambodia and integrate the country into the region and the world.



**Dr. Rikhi Thakral** holds a deep conviction that university-educated Cambodians allow Cambodia to be an equal competitor in today's globalized economy. He especially wishes to focus on educating students from poor, rural areas.

Generously funded by Dr. Rikhi Thakral, his colleagues and his family, this project will undoubtedly contribute immense improvements to Cambodia. From promoting future leadership to rebuilding intellectual and human capital, it will help Cambodia make lasting strides in development and allow it to compete in today's global society.

Students competed for the scholarships by taking a national scholarship exam administered by The University of Cambodia on general knowledge and English. Scholarships were awarded based upon test scores, merits, and gender and geographical balance.

# Objectives

*Samdech Decho Hun Sen's Vision – 100 Scholarships* provided a total of 100 scholarships for students who graduated from high school in 2008.

The distribution of these scholarships achieved the following objectives:

- To contribute to intellectual development of Cambodia, especially after the significant loss of Cambodian intellectuals during the Khmer Rouge's genocide, 1975-1979
- To promote education at the university level, enhancing capacity and human resource development and allowing Cambodia to better respond to the current process of globalization and integrate into the regional and international community
- To educate, train and prepare tomorrow's leaders of Cambodia
- To provide enhanced educational opportunities and access for students from rural areas who otherwise have no means or options to pursue higher education in Cambodia
- To contribute to poverty reduction in Cambodia through expansion of educational opportunities as well as employment for students during and after their studies
- To contribute to Cambodia's national reconstruction, sustainable development and development of brain pool



# Vision

The funders of and contributors to *Samdech Decho Hun Sen's Vision – 100 Scholarships* envision the empowerment of a young generation who will grow both academically and intellectually and become equipped to contribute to Cambodian society and humanity as a whole through human resource development.

Twenty years of war, conflict, and genocide nearly stripped Cambodia of its intelligentsia. Currently, only 3 percent of Cambodia's population is enrolled at the university level, much of this is contributed to the students' lack of financial resources.



We hope that each batch of 100 scholarships leads to the following opportunities for its recipients:

- That 1 out of 10 students could become either a member of parliament or a member of the Royal Government of Cambodia;
- That 1 out of 2 students could engage or employ at least 1,000 people in his/her lifetime, thereby contributing to a reduction of unemployment and poverty in Cambodia.
- That all 100 students could set aside 10 percent of their gross earnings for the future growth and prosperity in Cambodia.
- That 1 out of 100 students could make it to the Forbes Rich List.
- That 1 out of 100 students could receive a Nobel Prize nomination