

# Background

*Samdech Hun Sen - Handa National 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 combined efforts of Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen and Dr. Haruhisa Handa, President and Founder of the International Foundation for Arts and Culture and Chancellor of The University of Cambodia.

**Samdech Hun Sen**, a strong proponent of higher education, has repeatedly underlined his full support and strong desire to see more Cambodian students enrolled in schools and universities nationwide.



He has articulated his goal of enhancing Cambodian human resource development, as it is important in the context of Cambodia sustainable



**Dr. Haruhisa Handa** has demonstrated his unfailing devotion to support and promote education and the well-being of the people of Cambodia since 1995.

For Cambodia, human capital has been the essential factor for national reconstruction and development. Through Dr. Handa's generous funding this project will give the younger generation of Cambodians, particularly the high school students, a chance to pursue higher education in order to benefit the Cambodian society and humanity as a whole.

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

The *Samdech Hun Sen - Handa National Scholarships* provided a total of 500 full-tuition scholarships for students attending The University of Cambodia beginning in 2008. Added to the 500 scholarships provided in 2007, one-thousand students have benefitted thus far.

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 more educational opportunity and accessibility for students from rural areas who otherwise have no means of pursuing 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 intellectual society

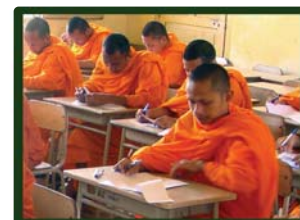


# Vision

The funders of and contributors to the *Samdech Hun Sen - Handa National 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.



The goal of the *Samdech Hun Sen - Handa National Scholarships* is to distribute the 500 scholarships equitably throughout the country, attempting to reach students from the rural areas in more than twenty provinces and municipalities in Cambodia and placing an emphasis on targeting both genders. It is the hope that this scholarship will encourage young, female students to apply and increase the enrollment of Cambodian female students in tertiary education.