



# Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group

for the promotion within Parliament and Whitehall of the PREVENTION OF LIMB LOSS and the provision of prosthetic, orthotic, wheelchairs & special seating and other vital rehabilitation services/technologies for ALL PERSONS WITH LIMB LOSS in the UK and Internationally.

## News Release

### THE CAMBODIA TRUST DOUBLE GRADUATION SUCCESS!

***APLLG Shares the Good News of its International Associate Member, The Cambodia Trust***



Cambodian School of Prosthetics & Orthotics 2009 Graduation Ceremony

The Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group congratulates its International Associate Member, The Cambodia Trust, on the outstanding achievements of the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, typified by the double graduation success achieved during 2009, their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.

On September 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 the *Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (CSPO)* held a special double graduation ceremony where 10 students graduated from CSPO's internationally accredited Category II training course and a further 9 students graduated with Bachelor's degrees from a joint program run by La Trobe University Australia and CSPO.

High profile guests, including H.E. Andrew Mace, British Ambassador (pictured right) and H.E. Margaret Adamson, Australian Ambassador, joined staff and students at the graduation ceremony in Phnom Penh.

“What the students and CSPO have achieved in this, the Cambodia Trust’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, will have long-lasting and far-reaching implications,” said Cathy MacConnell, CSPO Director. “The CSPO and La Trobe education programmes are ensuring that sustainable local capacity is built in the prosthetics and orthotics field in the developing world. This is having a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities who require prosthetic and orthotic services.”



H.E. Andrew Mace, British Ambassador

The students graduating included men and women from Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Nepal.

Further information on the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (CSPO) can be found below:

- *CSPO* was established in 1994 by UK NGO *The Cambodia Trust* and the *American Friends Service Committee*, in response to an urgent need to train local specialists to prescribe and fit prostheses and orthoses for disabled people - including people disabled by landmines, UXO and polio.
- Between 1994 and 2009, 143 students have graduated and are now working in rehabilitation centres in Cambodia and other developing countries such as Lao PDR, Burma, Timor Leste, Iraq and Sri Lanka.
- The *Cambodia Trust*, UK Registered Charity No. 1032476, was established in Oxford, UK in 1989 and celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009. In Cambodia, the *Trust* runs rehabilitation centres, community-based rehabilitation projects and CSPO. The Trust has also established Prosthetics and Orthotics education centres in **Sri Lanka** and **Indonesia** and a rehabilitation project in **East Timor**. These are partnership projects, which will eventually be handed over to government management, once sufficient capacity is built.
- The *Cambodia Trust*’s aims to empower disabled people so they can break the cycle of poverty and live self-sufficient lives, with equal access to education and employment opportunities. The Trust does this through rehabilitation, advocacy, capacity building, training and community-based rehabilitation.
- *CSPO* is accredited by the *International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics* as a Category II training centre. *CSPO* is the only school of Prosthetics and Orthotics in the world to hold ISO 9001:2000 certification.
- *CSPO* is run in collaboration with:
  - *The Royal Government of Cambodia*
  - *Handicap International Belgium*
  - *Handicap International France*
  - *International Committee of the Red Cross*
  - *Veterans International Cambodia*
- The *Nippon Foundation*, *UK Government (Department for International Development)*, *Australian Government (AusAid)* and *United States Agency for International Development (USAID)* are core funders of *CSPO*; the *International Committee of the Red Cross* and *Handicap International Belgium* provide components for the students. The *Nippon Foundation* and the *New Zealand Government (NZAID)* are funders of the La Trobe / *CSPO* Bachelor’s Degree programme.

- CSPO is making progress towards managerial and financial sustainability. Many students attending are sponsored by their Governments or by other NGOs such as the *International Committee of the Red Cross*, thereby contributing to the running costs of the school. CSPO is gradually phasing out expatriate staff as Bachelor's Degree graduates are gaining the skills and qualifications to take over as lecturers and managers.

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