The Need for International Leadership

The need for leaders who are familiar with international issues and divergent cultures is more acute now than ever before. We live in an interdependent world, and without knowledge of one another’s cultural experience, communication and understanding cannot take place.

The Center for International Studies is devoted to expanding knowledge and understanding about people and culture. Its goal is to help solve the problems that the world is facing by increasing awareness and empathy of the deep and rich cultures of the world among leaders who make decisions and make a difference in the lives of everyday people. Dress, mode of transportation, economic activity, and smiling faces speak volumes about a culture, a standard of living, and, yes, happiness. Study can open up minds about alternative ways of approaching common problems.

The Center for International Studies cultivates exploring diverse and uncommon ways and manners of organizing society and solutions to society’s problems. It is a catalyst for change.

About the Wilsons

Kenneth and Verna Wilson established a quasi-endowment at Texas State University in order to promote faculty and student exchanges between Texas State University and universities, research centers, and non-profit agencies in Southeast Asia. Their hope is that the educational efforts will produce and promote mutual understanding, knowledge, and international cooperation between the people of Southeast Asia and the United States. Kenneth Wilson is a Texas State University alumnus who majored in biology and ultimately earned a PhD in biochemistry from Texas A&M University. Verna was born and raised in Switzerland where she met Ken and raised a family. The couple is actively involved in Texas State University’s international outreach programs and resides in Austin, Texas.
Wilson Fellows Program

The Program entails work and study in Cambodia, including teaching and working at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and possibly various other NGOs in Phnom Penh. (The need is for ESL but other subjects are possible.)

The endowment pays all costs including:
- Airfare
- Tuition and Fees
- Room and Board
- A small daily stipend

Students are required to apply for a Study Abroad Scholarship from Texas State as a part of the award.

Quick Facts on Cambodia

Country Name: The Kingdom of Cambodia
Location: 11° 33' N, 104° 55' E (Phnom Penh); Southeast Asia, bordered by Vietnam, Thailand and Laos and the South China Sea
Land Area: 181,035 km2
Climate: Tropical with distinct Dry and Wet Seasons
Population: 13.1 million
Capital: Phnom Penh
Government: Constitutional Monarchy
Religion: Theravada Buddhism (97%), Islam, Christianity, Animism, Atheism
Tourist Attractions: Angkor Wat, Bayon, Temples of Angkor, National Museum, Royal Palace, Killing Fields, Beaches, Eco-tourism
Major Geographic Features: Tonle Sap Lake, Mekong River, Tonle Sap River, Bassac River, Mt. Oral
Life Expectancy: 57 years (at birth)
Literacy: Roughly 67.3%
Economy: Agriculture
Primary Exports: Rice, corn, rubber, wood/wood products, garments, rubies
Money: Riel (US $1 = 3975 riel as of 11/29/07)
Time: GMT +7 hours
Country Calling Code: 855

“Angkor Wat reflected in the sacred pond.”
Courtesy of Jessica Wang. UBP. ARR.