



Veterans International Cambodia
A Project of The International Center

The Handa Rehabilitation Center Opening Ceremony Summary

As part of the VIC sustainability plan, VIC has begun a sliding fee for services (started in 2012), the handover of the management of the three centers to MoSVY, and the establishment of private clinic, The Handa Rehabilitation Center (THRC). For the establishment of the private clinic, VIC contacted and communicated with Kevin O'Brien, the director of The Handa Foundation, seeking support. The Handa Foundation and VIC signed a MoU in mid-2012, in which The Handa Foundation agreed to pay for the costs associated with a rehabilitation clinic while VIC would provide rehabilitation staff and would take the profits as a donation. 90% of Profits from THRC will go to support the services of VIC.

During the opening of the new clinic, VIC staff worked closely with The Handa Foundation (THF) in staffing and installing equipment. A clinical manager was recruited to work at the center after its informal opening on November 12, 2012. At the beginning, VIC assigned two Physiotherapists, Mr. Seiha and Mr. Sarun, to work part-time in the morning and come back to Kien Khleang in the afternoon. The full operation is expected to begin in February 2013 after the rest of the equipment has arrived. The official opening was January 31, 2013. VIC invited the minister of MoSVY, Dr. Handa, and senior staff members of The International Center, to preside over the opening ceremony.

In organizing this event, VIC staff members, including Mr. Song Sit and Mr. Rithy Keo, worked with Mr. Jacksun and Mr. O'Brien of The Handa Foundation to prepare the Inauguration Ceremony of the Handa Rehabilitation Center on January 31, 2013. All expenses for the ceremony were paid by THF.

The guests of honor were:

- **H.E Sem Sokha**, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)
- **Dr. Haruhisa Handa**, the founder of The Handa Foundation and a great friend of the Royal Government of Cambodia.
- **Dr. Kao Kim Hourn**, Chairman of The World Mate Foundation
- **Mr. Kevin G. O'Brien**, Country Director of The Handa Foundation
- **Mr. Robert L. Schiffer**, A Member of Board of Trustees, and former Executive Director, of The International Center
- **Mr. Ma Channanth**, Deputy Director of the Persons with Disabilities Welfare Department of MoSVY and the Manager of the ICRC component Factory
- **Mr. Sok Chanthol**, Deputy Director of the Persons with Disabilities Welfare Department of MoSVY
- **Mr. Mom Sothara**, Deputy Director of the Persons with Disabilities Foundation
- **Mr. Rithy Keo**, Country Representative of Veterans International Cambodia

The program of the opening ceremony:

Time	Program	Responsible Persons
7:30-8:30am	Arrival and Registration of national and international guests	Thaura and HRC Receptionist
8:30-9:00am	Welcome of guests of honor	Rithy Keo and Kevin

9:00-9:05	Introduction to the inauguration program, national anthem, and condolences for the King	Song Sit, master ceremony
9:05-9:20	Welcome Speech by Dr. Haruhisa Handa, the founder of The Handa Foundation	Dr. Haruhisa Handa
9:20-9:30	Welcome Remarks by Mr. Robert Schiffer, former Executive Director and current Board Member of The International Center	Mr. Robert. L. Schiffer
9:30-9:45	Opening speech by H.E Sem Sokha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)	H.E Sem Sokha
9:45-10:00	Ribbon cutting Ceremony by Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Mr. Robert Schiffer, and H.E Ith Sam Heng	Song Sit, Phan Hiep and Jacksun, Kevin, Rithy
10:00-10:30	Visiting the Handa Rehabilitation Center by Guests of Honor	Song Sit, Phan Hiep and Jacksun, Kevin, Rithy

There were 80 national and international guests who were from national and international NGOs, public and private hospitals, MoSVY, PWDF and staff of VIC attended this ceremony. There were three guests of honor who gave the speech during the ceremony:

1. **Mr. Robert L. Schiffer**, a current member of the board of trustees, and former Executive Director, for the International Center, briefly summarized the history of establishing the Handa Rehabilitation Center to all guests. The purpose of establishing this center is to provide rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and patients who are able to pay for all of their care, with the understanding that all surplus revenues will be donated in full to VIC and the Persons with Disabilities Foundation for providing rehabilitation services to the poor and needy.
2. **Dr. Haruhisa Handa**, a founder of The Handa Foundation, expressed his great support for VIC in establishing the Handa Rehabilitation Center in Cambodia. The key word in the mission statement of The Handa Foundation (THF) is the word “sustainable”. Therefore, THF aims to provide the funding to sustain the rehabilitation services that VIC is providing to persons with disabilities in Cambodia.
3. **H.E Sem Sokha**, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), congratulated the fantastic work of VIC in creating the first modern rehabilitation center (the Handa Rehabilitation Center) in Cambodia, and he appreciated the great support of Dr. Haruhisa Handa, the founder of THF, in the foundation of the center. On behalf of MoSVY, he illustrated the strong support and collaboration of the ministry in establishing and implementing this center in Cambodia.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Haruhisa Handa, the founder of The Handa Foundation expressed his comments that, over the coming months and years, hundreds and thousands of men, women and children with disabilities would come here for treatment to relieve their pain, build their strength, and walk again. He continued that this new center is a great example of cooperation and noted that the people who helped to build this clinic came from many different places, including Cambodia, America, Japan and Australia. They represent a number of remarkable organizations like Veterans International Cambodia, The International Center, the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth rehabilitation (MoSVY), Curtin University in Western Australia, the Cambodia Physical Therapy Association, and others. Dr. Handa also mentioned his impression of the Cambodian staff who manage this center, saying he was excited by their hard work and professional expertise in producing financial support for disabled Cambodian who could not afford to pay for their own care. At the opening ceremony, the Secretary of State for MoSVY, H.E Sem Sokha, said that this center is to provide rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and will help those people to have a physical independence to work and participate in their communities, help them to live in a barrier and discrimination-free society.



Meanwhile, Mr. Robert L. Schiffer, former Executive Director and current Board Member of The International Center, said that, for 20 years, VIC has provided rehabilitation services to over 26,000 persons with disabilities. At the centers alone, VIC provided 16,465 new prostheses; 18,705 new orthoses; and 5,626 wheelchairs and seating systems. VIC also has conducted 235,506 physiotherapy treatment sessions to PWDs in catchment areas. VIC has also repaired 6,065

prostheses; 4,806 orthoses; and 3,251 wheelchairs. Yearly, VIC provides rehabilitation services to approximately 7,000 persons with disabilities. The new Handa Rehabilitation Center works in partnership with the existing Kien Khleang Rehabilitation Center, and began seeing patients in November 2012. By utilizing a proven sliding fee scale fee system, the quality of care enjoyed by the patients of both facilities will be dramatically improved.