

- Dear Prof. Youk Sophanna,  
Vice Rector of the University of Health Sciences
- dear Dr. Winter,  
Chairman of the German Dentist Foundation
- dear Prof. Suon Phany,  
Dean of the Faculty of Odonto-Stomatology
- dear Dr. Schmidtberg,

10 years of cooperation between the German Dentist Foundation and the Faculty of Odonto-Stomatology is indeed a very good reason to celebrate. In the course of these 10 years many very positive initiatives have been taken and many very positive results have been achieved. But it would not give credit to the work of the Foundation if we were to celebrate only the cooperation with the Faculty of Odonto-Stomatology. The German Dentist Foundation has been

supporting many more medical institutions in Cambodia and thus has truly contributed to the improvement of health services in many parts of Cambodia. Only yesterday I was very happy to participate in the inauguration of the Dermato-Venerology Clinic at the Preah Kossamak Hospital in Phnom Penh. In fact the list of projects which had been funded by the Foundation as of today consists of 12 projects with a total support of 1.25 Million USD altogether.

We are all aware of the fact that the situation of the health sector in Cambodia still leaves a lot to be desired and it would be too much to expect that the contributions of a German Foundation despite being of utmost importance to the immediate beneficiary could lead to a fundamental improvement. Even the bilateral cooperation between the German Government and the Royal Government of Cambodia cannot address all the field where support

may be needed. Any input into the health sector from outside can only be a support for national efforts and only national efforts can lead to the necessary improvements on a national scale. I was very surprised to read this morning in the statistical yearbook for 2006 of the Kingdom of Cambodia, published by the Ministry of Planning, that the registered public health Personnel, that the number of doctors, pharmacists and even registered dentists had decreased from 2005 to 2006 when just the opposite would have to be desired. Newer statistical data however may in the meantime present a better picture. But this statistics prove that there may have to be structural changes in the health system to allow positive developments. I am very happy to learn that the Faculty of Odonto Stomatology now implements a new scheme called „Use Fee“ system which in the future may yield better results for the dentists, by improving their material situation and at the same time for the patients, by improving the health services they obtain.

The official presentation of 30 new dentists unit to the Faculty

of Odonto- Stomatology is another positive step in this Cooperation which we celebrate today. It provides the material preconditions for the dentists services. (May I just add at this point that the Embassy recently has supported a project to improve the dentist services to inmates of prisons in Cambodia, which is another field where there is a need for improvement.)

I would like to close my short remarks by wishing the Faculty and all dentists and health personnell working with the new dentist units every success in their work which has as an overarching goal the improvement of health services for the patients. At the same time I want to thank the German Dentist Foundation its members and supporters and in particular its chairman Dr. Winter for the very essential support they have rendered to their colleagues in Cambodia and to the Cambodian people.