PEPY EMPOWERING YOUTH

ផៃពភី លើកកម្ពស់យុវជន Empowering Youth

Quarterly Report III
March - May 2026

Quarterly Overview

Students scanning QR codes to learn more information and course programs schools during the Skills Fair at Build Bright University.

Hi there! It has been a busy and exciting quarter for the PEPY family. Across our three programs, young people in Siem Reap have been debating, studying, visiting workplaces, meeting their scholarship families, and taking some important first steps toward the futures they are building for themselves. We have so much to share, so read on and see what your support is making possible.

PEPY Program Updates

Dream Management Program

Dream Students Participate in Skills Fair, University and Career Exploration Events

PEPY partnered with Asia Pacific International School and Build Bright University to provide high school students with exposure to higher education and career opportunities through university and skill fair events. On March 14–15, 2026, students from Sreyvibolkhae, Banteay Srei, and Sna Techo 317 High Schools participated in the Siem Reap University Fair. On May 9, 2026, students from seven partner high schools joined the Skills Fair at Build Bright University.

Through these events, students explored universities, vocational training programs, scholarship opportunities, and career pathways by directly interacting with institutions and companies.

A group photo of students and Dream teachers participating in the Skills Fair at Build Bright University in May.

Thim, from grade 12, said that *"This was the most amazing day for self-discovery. I opened my eyes to different skills and scholarship opportunities I can apply for after graduating. I hope PEPY continues organizing this for the next generation. I wish everyone a successful dream."*

Dream Management Program *(continued)*

Debate competition at Sen Sok High School on the topic: "Education is a key mechanism for changing outdated mindsets."

The 1st & 2nd Round Debate Contest

This quarter, PEPY's Dream Program worked with partner high schools to organize the 1st and 2nd round Debate Contest, with five schools advancing to the final stage in July. The objective was to build students' confidence in public speaking, strengthen critical thinking, and prepare them for the final competition.

Dream teachers noted strong enthusiasm from students from the moment the activity was announced. Students actively prepared arguments, practiced teamwork, and improved their communication and presentation skills throughout the competition process.

Success Story: Taing E

Taing E is one of the outstanding students in the Dream Management Program and a high-performing student in her class. She is currently studying in Grade 12 at Sna Techo 317 High School. She lives with her family, including a younger sister in Grade 10 and a grandmother who requires daily care. Her mother is the main income provider; her father is a former soldier.

Despite these responsibilities, Taing E continues to work hard toward her education and personal growth. After school, she helps her mother with housework, takes care of her grandmother, and studies English.

On weekends, she works near her home by picking mango seeds and sometimes working in construction to earn extra income for her family.

Recognizing her dedication and positive attitude, one of her teachers encouraged her to become a part-time teacher for younger students from 5:00–6:00 PM after school. Taing E shared that this opportunity means a lot to her because it allows her to gain experience while also earning money to support her family.

Taing E dreams of becoming an English teacher in the future because she wants to share her knowledge and support children in her community. She hopes to see her community continue to grow with better access to education and more opportunities for young people.

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Program

Students' Second Counselling and Follow-Up

At the end of March, the Scholarship team conducted the second counselling session with students who had been at university for a few months. The aim was to understand how students were adjusting in their studies, living conditions, and the challenges they faced.

Students shared openly about academic pressure, financial stress, time management, and adapting to life away from home. The team offered guidance and practical support on managing time and building study habits. The sessions gave a clearer picture of where additional help is needed, and strengthened trust and communication between students and the program team.

The SHE team providing the second counselling with a student in March 2026

Scholarship Selection Process Interview and Home Visit

We received 280 applications from 12 targeted high schools in Siem Reap Province. After screening, 170 applicants were shortlisted for interviews, which assessed confidence, communication, academic background, motivation, and family support. Of these, 115 candidates (79 female) advanced to the home visit and social investigation stage, where the team worked with families, local authorities, and community members to verify backgrounds, living conditions, and commitment to education.

(continued on next page)

The Selection Committee team in Varin District interviewing a parent during the social investigation in April.

(continued from previous page)

The home visits gave the team a deeper understanding of each candidate's financial situation and level of family support, helping to identify students with strong determination despite difficult circumstances.

After completing all stages of evaluation, 20 candidates were selected for the final stage based on their overall performance, potential, needs, and suitability for the program. The final selected candidates will be officially announced after the release of the BAC II examination results.

Learning Center Program

Group photo of all participants and judges of the 2026 Youth Debate

PEPY Youth Debate Contest

The Youth Empowerment Class held the 2026 PEPY Youth Debate Contest from late February to early April across three rounds.

The contest began with 16 groups of four students in the qualifying round (1st Round). After selecting their topics, students had at least two weeks to prepare arguments and research. They spent hours in the library and online, gathering evidence and practicing their delivery. It was challenging, as teamwork was uneven and not all members contributed equally. Despite this, groups improved steadily: the strongest showed better public speaking and more effective use of evidence. The top 12 groups proved their ability to think quickly, stay cool under pressure, and advanced to the semi-finals.

The 12 qualifying groups moved to the Semi-Final Round (2nd Round) on 24–25 March in the PEPY Conference Room. Three judges were invited: Mr. You Chanarun (Data Management Coordinator), Mrs. Phonn Soury (Scholarship and Learning Center Program Coordinator), and Ms. Chek Mara (Dream Management Program Coordinator). Before the round, each group worked with a mentor to build confidence and sharpen their arguments. Students put in real effort, practicing late into the afternoon, learning to listen carefully and respond with logic and respect.

The Grand Final was held on 9 April 2026 at Build Bright University, with 115 participants (64 female). Three guest judges presided: Mrs. Nuch Kimline from AtCam Consultant Company, Mr. Son Sihak from Morodock Ceramic, and Mr. Chuon Phearun, Head Teacher of Build Bright School. Their feedback made the competition genuinely meaningful.

In the final round, students demonstrated the progress they had made across the full contest. They tackled complex global topics with confidence and left not just with prizes but with the knowledge that their voices can influence their communities.

Bunthien, first-place winner, said: *"Winning first place is my proudest achievement. It changed me from an ordinary student into a confident speaker. Before, I did not have research skills, but this contest pushed me to learn more, research more, and share more. Now, as a nursing student at Angkor University, I feel ready to help my community and my people. My dream is to inspire the next generation to never give up and believe in themselves."*

English Learning Project (ELP)

Writing Through Workshop Returns to PEPY!

From April 20th -23rd, PEPY students learned the techniques of writing poetry and short stories in English thanks to our wonderful friends at The Writing Through Workshop. Every year they join our new students and push them to create original pieces tied to a different theme. This year's theme was "Inspiration".

The final day, April 24th, we held "The Big Event" at Bambu Stage. That's when students read their original poems aloud in front of a live audience of their classmates, teachers and PEPY team, as well as a few invited guests. For students, it's an exciting way to building their seflf-esteem, pronunciation skills and confidence in public speaking.

PEPY Program Updates

Information Communications Technology (ICT) Project

Teacher Thamorn giving instructions during the Excel module

ICT Outstanding Student 2026

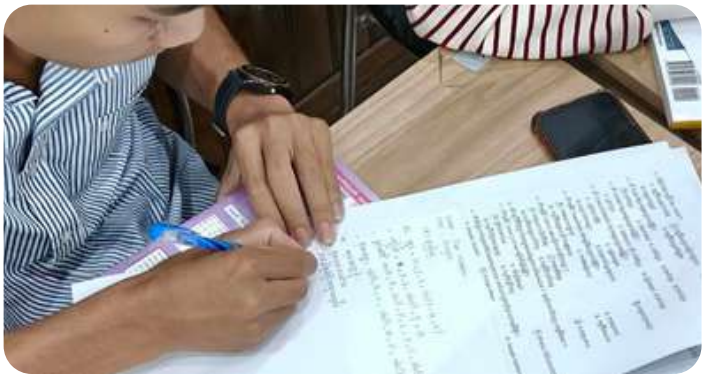
This quarter, the ICT class covered two main modules: *Advanced Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel.*

Advanced Microsoft Word: Inserting charts; typing and formatting; writing a CV form; Testing Form & Mail Merge.

Microsoft Excel: Introduction to Excel; syntax, ranges, and filling; arithmetic, comparison, text concatenation, and reference operators; core functions including MAX, MIN, SUM, and basic arithmetic operations.

Individual and group tasks were integrated throughout to strengthen understanding and enable students to apply concepts in practice. Students became noticeably more engaged, showing stronger command of the material. The end-of-April Progress Test yielded an average score of 74%, with a 98% attendance rate.

Outstanding Student Competition



The ICT Outstanding Student 2026 competition gave students the opportunity to apply their ICT knowledge through real-world projects. Topics included E-commerce, Digital Payment, and the Internet of Things (IoT). Students conducted research, prepared written reports, and designed presentations to share their findings.

The competition ran across three stages: Orientation Round (11 May), Preliminary Round (22 May), and Grand Final (5 June), with six finalist teams competing for the championship. The activity strengthened students' ICT skills and practical competencies in research, report writing, critical thinking, and teamwork. It has the potential to become an annual platform for digital skills development.

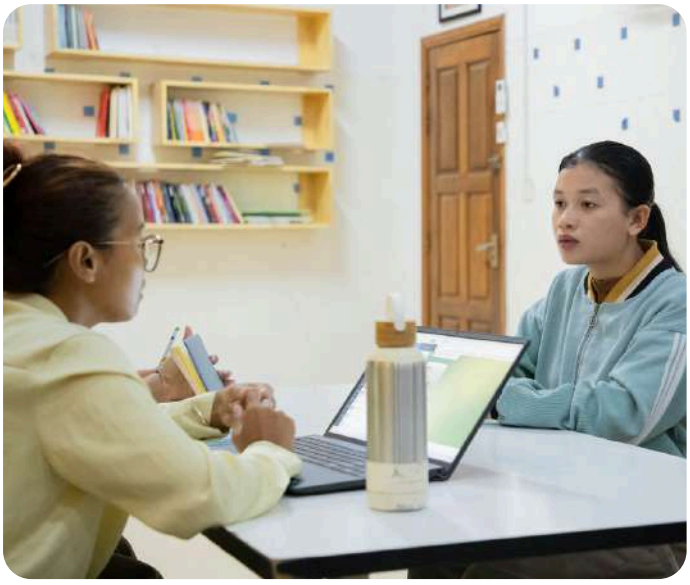
Youth Empowerment (YE) Project

This quarter's curriculum covered four core topics: *Mindfulness Leadership, Debate Skills, CV Writing*, and *Interview Techniques*. By combining self-awareness with practical employability tools, students have built a strong foundation for their next steps.

Through *Mindfulness Leadership*, students explored "inner leadership" — practicing emotional regulation and active listening, and learning that leading others starts with leading oneself. The CV and interview modules gave students hands-on experience: 60 students practiced common interview questions and worked on non-verbal communication, including eye contact and professional posture.

In the debate module, students worked in late February on research skills, argumentation structure, and clear communication, applying the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for exploring national and global issues.

The second rubric evaluation achieved an average score of 71, up from 44 at the start of the period, with a 99% attendance rate over three months.



Our team dedicated one full week to individual counselling sessions with all 60 students assessing mental well-being, academic pressures, and career anxieties as they approach graduation.