

Hope Villages

Resettlement Project Cambodia 2011

On our humanitarian trip to Phum Trea, Cambodia on 10 December 2010, we learned about the plight of the fishermen along the Tonle Sap Lake. Three Hope Directors, Ann, Arfat and Noor revisited Cambodia on 14 June 2011 for a fact finding trip. They were joined by Ms Saleemah, a Singaporean currently based in Phnom Penh on a UN Women project.

For generations, Tonle Sap Lake has supported the livelihood of fishermen who live in dilapidated structures floating on the shore. These fishermen can no longer sustain a living owing to the depletion of fish supply due to overfishing and pollution.

60 years old Imam Karim Aly, a Muslim Cambodian from Pursat Province who owns 100 hectares of agricultural land in Pursat Province wants to help these fishermen resettle. He wants to donate 2,500 sq m (25 x 100 m) of his new land to each family. Hope Directors discussed with him and consulted Cambodian lawyers on the land ownership.

They then took a 4-hour ride from Phnom Penh to the new land in Anlong Klong Village, Krokor District, Pursat, 150 km north of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. The land, a virgin secondary jungle is 10 km off the Highway 5, the main highway to Thailand and close to the border of Kampong Chhnang Province.

We were welcomed by the 40 villages, Imam Karim, the village chief and the Commune officer. Imam Karim has extended his land to 80 families since early 2011. We met and talked to two families, Mdm Mary binti Ali, a widower with four daughters from Chang Kah Village in Kampong Chhnang floating village and Suria, homeless divorcee from Phnom Penh with



Anlong Klong Village



a
9

