

Kantha Bopha Academy for Pediatrics (KBAP)

Siem Reap Angkor, Kingdom of Cambodia

Purpose

The experience gained from seventeen years of continuous pediatric activity in Cambodia since 1992 and the results yielded by the ever growing number of Kantha Bopha pediatric facilities may be summarized as follows:

Determination in practicing correct medical care, i.e. with the availability of proper diagnostic infrastructure and therapeutic means and avoiding corruption within the Kantha Bopha Hospitals under any circumstance have consistently been and will remain the basic philosophy of our activity. Upon this basis and paired with a high degree of work motivation and discipline, consistent medical success and human satisfaction resulted in efficient health care and health preservation of thousands and thousands of Cambodian children. This also represents a substantial contribution to the peace process in a country suffering from the remains of three decades of warfare, poverty, morbidity, epidemics and continuing political instability.

Because of medical efficiency and economical effectiveness, both acknowledged by repeat official international inspections, the **Kantha Bopha Academy of Pediatrics (KBAP)** has recently been created. It aims at promoting the positive experience and creative know how to other parts of the world with similar conditions and needs.

International postgraduate course for young physicians

The KBAP offers a six month intensive postgraduate course for young physicians of the ASEAN countries and Africa as well from other parts of the world. The course will include the following components:

A) Review of the spectrum of regular pediatric specialties given in weekly modules of five morning and five afternoon sessions by eminent visiting professors mainly from Swiss university children's hospitals.

B) Instruction of pediatric diseases characteristic of the poor Cambodian population. These pathological features are similar for all children living under poor and tropical conditions. The instructions will be scheduled daily and given by Cambodian professors attending the Kantha Bopha Hospitals.

C) Introduction into the philosophy of the Kantha Bopha Project with its material and economical aspects and requirements will be part of the program. Special sessions will be arranged to demonstrate how to conceive the infrastructure, logistics and management of a pediatric facility in an underprivileged country, including aspects of personal and equipment. This will include discussion of hygiene, safety and salary.

The instruction will be given by Professors and Technicians from the Kantha Bopha Hospitals.

D) Observation of daily medical inpatient and outpatient practice will be tutored by Cambodian Doctors affiliated to the Kantha Bopha Hospitals. Course participants in small groups will be able to take turns in the various divisions and get a personal experience of the medical activity.

E) In addition, practical introduction to Ultrasonography, CT and MRI may be arranged.

The first postgraduate course at KBAP will start on July 1st 2009 and will last until December 12th 2009.

Core facts and figures of the KBAP

The Kantha Bopha Project of Cambodia consists actually of five Children's Hospitals in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap Angkor with an attached Maternity in Siem Reap Angkor. Eighty five percent of all sick children in Cambodia receive their treatment free of charge through these facilities! The project was started with the Kantha Bopha I Hospital Phnom Penh in 1992. By 2008 the following average figures per day result from the medical activity:

- 300 admissions of severely sick children,
- 60 surgical procedures,
- 3000 outpatients,
- 1500 vaccinations,
- 50 deliveries in the maternity of Siem Reap Angkor, attached to the Jayavarman VII (Kantha Bopha III) Hospital aimed at preventing the HI Virus transmission from mother to child.

The activity of Kantha Bopha I Hospital was initiated in 1992 by 16 European expatriates and 68 Cambodians. In 2008, the personal working in all Kantha Bopha Hospitals consists of 2100 Cambodians (including 180 doctors) with only two permanent European expatriates. Since 1992/93, the mortality rate has been reduced from 5.4% to 0.75% in 2008.

The Conference and Teaching Center in Siem Reap Angkor includes 4 class rooms of 60 seats, two larger theaters of 200 and 650 seats, and a continuously updated medical library. This Center will be the heart of the KBAP.

The cost efficiency rate of the Kantha Bopha Hospitals has been shown repeatedly to be worldwide leading among 100 internationally scored pediatric projects in 40 developing countries. The integrated maternity into the pediatric Hospitals is key to the highly successful neonatology work.

Thanks to "Western standards" of diagnostic and therapeutic means, including state-of-the-art imaging departments and laboratories, the Kantha Bopha Hospitals are a

unique enterprise functioning in a underprivileged country with a high concentration and combination of tropical diseases (Dengue, Malaria, Typhus, JEV) and Tuberculosis and including HIV/AIDS.

Key issue is the correct infrastructure and management

Key to proper and cost effective function of the Kantha Bopha Hospitals as well as to their justice oriented health care is: The correct infrastructure with total absence of corruption combined with the availability of such medical care free of charge for every child. With the actual annual running costs of 25 million US\$ for all the Kantha Bopha Hospitals including the Siem Reap Angkor maternity, the reached cost effectiveness has been shown to be unprecedented. Cambodia is a country of 14 million, 45% of which are children. Eighty five percent of Cambodia's sick children receive their treatment through the Kantha Bopha Hospitals.

Unfortunately, large amounts of money are spent throughout the continents without proper impact. According to experts' estimates, the annual budget of WHO would allow the operation of 150 Kantha Bopha type facilities with the capacity to treat the children of a population of 2.1 billion people. The question raised by these experts is: Where would the doctors come from? The KBAP intends to inspire and educate young doctors who might thus be motivated and prepared to take up a more demanding humanitarian task.

The Kantha Bopha Philosophy and Political Statement

The Kantha Bopha philosophy and political stand are summarized in **The Angkor Declaration of September 2003**, first signed by His Majesty the King of Cambodia Norodom Sihanouk, secondly signed by Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, former President of the ICRC, finally signed by many thousands of Cambodian citizens.

The Angkor Declaration

(Correct Medicine for every Sick Child)

All honorable persons signing this declaration are calling upon Hospitals, Health Institutions, National and International Health Organizations, governmental and not governmental, and all their medical staff to follow the requests by this declaration, so that all their humanitarian and professional actions are in accordance with the convention on the Rights of the Child. (Article 24: Systematical Ill-treatment, Mal-treatment and No-treatment)

Every child, poor or rich, has the right to be treated in a correct and efficient way, with open access to such medical treatment at any time.

Therefore the following must be granted:

Access for all children to correct medical care at any time.

For poor children in poor countries all treatment must be free of charge. This can only be granted if corruption is systematically avoided.

Correct and efficient medical

treatment.

Only a correct diagnosis guarantees a correct and efficient treatment. Only correct drugs are efficient.

Correct diagnostic methods and means must be installed. This includes basic laboratory and imaging techniques and facilities, including resistance testing of antibiotics.

Correct tools for the severely sick must be made available. This includes a blood bank with proper testing and transfusion techniques according to international standards.

Correct drugs, medicines and facilities, must be made available for adequate treatment. This includes proper hygienic conditions according to international standards.

Correct facilities for correct surgical treatment must be made available for indispensable interventions. This includes correct tools and anesthesia, all according to international standards.

Corruption must be rigorously avoided.

This can only be granted if all hospital staff is on a correct salary, is working full time at the Hospital and has no need to go after private business outside.

Corruption and other criminal behavior can't be tolerated.

Taking or accepting money under the table from anybody, parents or other, as well as stealing drugs or medical items of any kind from the hospital and selling such on the black market, using unofficially hospital facilities and means, hospitalizing children in doctors' private homes withholding them from proper Hospital care, all such cannot be tolerated and should be criminally pursued.