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'Women On A Mission' Champions Underprivileged Cambodian Youth

'Women On A Mission' leads an all-female biking team to Siem Reap, Cambodia, to raise awareness and funds for Sala Bai, a Hotel & Restaurant Training School that offers underprivileged youth a brighter, safer and more prosperous future.

Singapore, March 2016 – In an effort to help alleviate poverty in Cambodia, thereby stopping human trafficking before it starts, Singapore-based non-profit organisations Women On A Mission (WOAM) is taking a 13-person, all-female biking team on a four-day excursion to Siem Reap, from March 31-April 3, 2016, in support of Sala Bai, a Hotel and Restaurant Training School. The school offers disadvantaged youth a chance to receive a free 11-month training course at their school, plus a guaranteed job at their partner hotels upon graduation. This Cambodia WOAM trip is organised in partnership with Touch Sala Bai, a Singapore-based society that exclusively supports and raises funds for the Sala Bai School in Cambodia.

Cambodia is a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking. The traffickers are reportedly organised crime syndicates, parents, relatives, friends, intimate partners, and neighbours. A UNICEF survey concluded that 35% of Cambodia's 15,000 prostitutes are children under the age of 16. Children are trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour in organised begging rings, soliciting, and street vending. Women are trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour in factories or as domestic servants.

WOAM's mission is to champion to cause of underprivileged and abused women and girls, and shine more light on the tireless work that organisations such as Sala Bai do to empower women and stop human trafficking in its tracks. Set up in 2002 by the French NGO *'Agir pour le Cambodge,'* Sala Bai trains more than 100 students per year, 70% of whom are women between the ages 17 and 23. As of today, the school has delivered unparalleled results: in 13 years, over 1,300 students graduated, and 100% were employed within four weeks after graduation. Earning, on average, three times their monthly household income post graduation, the lives of these young adults and their families are changed forever.



During their trip to Siem Reap, the WOAM team will visit Sala Bai during its annual alumni festival, between March 31st and April 3, 2016, and meet the students, graduates and teachers. WOAM will also be conducting



interactive leadership development workshops at the school, and hopes to continue to maintain and deepen its relationship with Sala Bai, once back in Singapore.

Part of the team's itinerary will include an arduous bike ride in and around Siem Reap's Unesco World Heritage sites as well as a trip to the floating village where many of Sala Bai's students grew up. Angkor, where the team will journey, is one of the most important archaeological sites in South East Asia. It contains the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the 9th to the 15th centuries.



Ultimately, WOAM aims to continue to encourage society to sit up and pay attention to grave issues, such as violence against women and human trafficking, in particular, and work towards improving the condition of women and children in Asia. Worldwide, over two million women and girls are trafficked annually. 27% of all trafficking victims are children and the flow from Asia remains the most prominent. The numbers are appalling and the team passionately feels this reality can no longer be tolerated.

WOAM's objective is to inspire more women to rally behind such important and worthy causes. *"We are a group of passionate women who feel lucky to live privileged lives and strongly believe that with such good fortune, comes great responsibility. What Sala Bai is doing, in terms of offering these young Cambodians a better life, is truly admirable. Education has been proven to be one of the most efficient ways to stop human trafficking before it starts. We are proud to support Sala Bai and honoured to be able to get to know the students, alumni and teachers from this very special school,"* said, Christine Amour-Levar WOAM Founding Partner.

To support the WOAM team's efforts to raise funds for Sala Bai, please donate via their fundraising page [here](#).

FIND OUT MORE

About Sala Bai

Sala Bai School is a development programme that contributes to fight poverty and human trafficking by providing professional training and job opportunities for young, underprivileged Cambodians. In February



this year, the school inaugurated its new premises, located in close proximity to the Angkor Temples. It took four years to complete this fine project, the main aims of which were to increase the school's capacity from 100 to 150 students by 2018 and to ensure the long-term stability of the programme by increasing its self-financing capacity. The new school now offers five professional hotel training courses, including the four initial courses in cooking, restaurant, housekeeping and front office, along with a fifth course in beauty therapy. With 18 four- and five-star partner hotels, Sala Bai strives to be a benchmark technical training centre that meets the requirements of the hotel industry in a country where tourism has been growing in leaps and bounds since 2002, reaching a figure of four million tourists in 2015. Education is one of the major priorities of development in Cambodia. <http://www.salabai.com/html/>

About Touch Sala Bai

Touch Sala Bai (TSB) is a Singapore-based society and US non-profit organisation, whose mission is to fight poverty and human trafficking through education and employment in hospitality. In pursuit of its mission, TSB exclusively supports the Sala Bai Hotel School of Siem Reap, Cambodia with funding, partnerships and expertise. <http://touchsalabai.com>

About WOAM

Women on a Mission (WOAM) is a non-profit organisation, headquartered in Singapore, which aims to raise awareness and funds for women survivors of war and to support and empower disadvantaged women who have been subject to violence and abuse. WOAM's strategy is to organise and promote a yearly campaigns and expeditions - self-funded by each participant - to increase visibility, and to raise money for their chosen charities. WOAM partners with existing established non-profit institutions that already have well run programmes and structures in place dedicated to serving the underprivileged with a particular focus on women's issues. <http://www.womenmission.com>

Team Profiles

The WOAM biking team to Cambodia 2016 is formed by 13 intrepid women of diverse nationalities and backgrounds. While they are all incredibly well accomplished in their careers, they are equally passionate about supporting charitable causes and helping the less privileged. To find out more about the team please click [here](#).

The press release is issued by Skyy Creative Consultant Pte Ltd

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