

The Cambodia Run Challenge 2019 Ends on a High Note; Raises Over \$170,000 and Counting

- Volunteer runners, Mark Ferguson, Jonathan Gordon, and Alex Reinert ran between 49km to 65km a day, covering the distance between Phnom Penh to Siem Reap in 7 days.
- The Challenge has garnered much international support with donations coming from Hong Kong, Switzerland, Singapore, United States and more.

Phnom Penh, 19 December 2019 – The Cambodia Run Challenge (“the Challenge”) concluded its 2019 round on a high note, with volunteer runners, Mark Ferguson, Jonathan Gordon and Alex Reinert covering 330km in 7 days. The first of its kind in Cambodia, the Challenge also raised over \$170,000 in support of the Temple Garden Foundation (“TGF”) Cambodia, a charity which engages communities in the Chi Kraeng district.

“The Challenge is something that was larger than just ourselves – it’s about getting the world to take notice of the impact of poverty on whole communities in Cambodia,” said Challenger founder Mark. “That was what kept us going on the rough patches – and the kindness of the people we met.” He added, “We wouldn’t have accomplished this without the support of all our families, friends and supporters. Having our families and the TGF meet us on the second-last day was incredibly uplifting – seeing all of them rooting for us, and even running a little with us.”

The trio began their run in Phnom Penh, heading north and passing through some of the country’s poorest villages in the Chi Kraeng district before ending with the Angkor Wat International Half Marathon in Siem Reap.

The Challenge successfully hit its initial goal of USD\$100,000 weeks after its relaunch in September this year and has now garnered over USD \$170,000 in donations from Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong and other countries. The Challenge is optimistic about achieving its stretch goals soon as more pledged donations are expected to come in.

All proceeds will be funnelled to TGF’s activities in four key areas: children’s education, health, income generation, and sanitation.

“We are extremely grateful to Mark, Jonathan and Alex for doing the Challenge,” said Brad Levitt, co-chair of TGF. “The generosity and graciousness of the supporters of the Challenge have also been overwhelming – with the additional funds, we look forward to continuing and expanding our initiatives for concrete, sustainable change.”

To date, TGF has empowered 59 villages and over 50,000 villagers through programmes for vocational training, childhood education, reducing childhood malnutrition and more.

The Cambodia Run Challenge is also supported by Manulife Cambodia, Contcept Communication and Salween Group Pte Ltd. Donations can be made via the event website, <https://thecambodiarun.com/>.

-End-

About the Cambodian Run Challenge (<https://thecambodiarun.com/>)

Founded in 2017, the Cambodia Run Challenge is a cross-country ultramarathon aimed at raising awareness of poverty in Cambodia. In its second iteration in 2019, the Challenge has exceeded its initial goal to raise USD\$100,000 and is now working towards a stretch goal of USD\$200,000.

The Cambodia Run Challenge 2019 is headed by Mark Ferguson, a former professional cricket player in Hong Kong and Scotland. The Challenge was born after Mark attended a 2016 fundraiser by the Temple Garden Foundation, where he learnt about the work the Foundation was doing. Being a lifelong sportsman, he decided to do a cross-country ultramarathon – something that had not been done in Cambodia before.

All funds collected by the Challenge will go to Temple Garden Foundation, a charity which creates concrete, sustainable change for impoverished rural communities in Cambodia.

About Temple Garden Foundation (<https://www.tgfcambodia.com/>)

Founded in 2008, Temple Garden Foundation works in partnership with rural villages in Cambodia to improve livelihoods through sustainable development and the empowerment of communities.

The Foundation support projects which maximise community participation and minimise external support in four interconnected areas: children's education, health, income generation, and sanitation.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Salween Group

Clara Choo

Tel: +65 6909 1375

Mobile: +65 9117 2636

Email: clara.choo@salweengroup.com

Gloria Lee

Tel: +65 6909 1375

Mobile: +65 9090 8166

Email: gloria.lee@salweengroup.com