

Model Eco-Village Flagship Project – Internship Program Offer 2022

Our mission is to increase awareness about green construction and to promote economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability by employing a diverse combination of green, modern and native technologies. We are **building an Eco-Village from natural, local sourced and recycled materials**. It will serve as a **model for marketing ecological techniques** In sustainable construction, **experiential learning** for our interns and will be used as **housing for retreats that make our free education program self-sustainable**. Our interns will work with an international team to promote green entrepreneurship in the local community.



Goal For 2022

During this year, we will work with the **local community in rural Cambodia to set up a network of family enterprises** focusing on the **production of supplementary tools and materials needed for constructing** the Eco-Village and further, to support the transition from focus on solely conventional construction materials towards natural and recycled ones. **These include production of pressed earth bricks with recycled glass and plastic content, bamboo nursery and a treatment center, passive evaporative air-cooling devices made of clay and bamboo and coconut husk separation production line to produce fiber used in the plaster mix.**

Internship Opportunities With Us



Throughout the project, we will provide **training of local and international interns** to enable the **use green technologies for eco building in Cambodia and globally**. We are looking forward to setting up a **team of inspiring environmental entrepreneurs** with different backgrounds in order to achieve a perfect mix of 'thinkers', 'doers' and 'binders'. Their GPA and a career plan are not by far as important as **their passion and motivation to contribute to making the world a greener place in a way that supports the local economy and benefits the population**. Happy people need healthy food and healthy buildings.

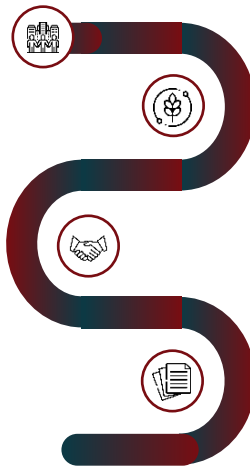


We work as a team to create a better world based on **sustainable development, global awareness, compassionate initiative, experiential learning, community service and learning the true potential** of each of us. Through our program, **our interns are able to test out ideas and theories that may work in a cross-cultural, grassroots movement**. They will have the opportunity to **work alongside a team that speaks the local language, has interpersonal relationships with the village** and has the means and knowledge to carry out specific projects and initiatives. We emphasize **environmental leadership by empowering our interns** to use critical thinking to solve problems and through the process of service learning become a more self-confident version of themselves.

Highlights:

The project will lay grounds for green and sustainable entrepreneurship among the local population.

Through hosting interns from local & international universities in collaboration with our education center, the eco-village will serve as a hub for development, experiential/service learning and promotion of green construction in Cambodia & globally.



It will directly benefit the environment in terms of CO2 output reduction by constructing the village from natural and recycled materials and using passive indoor cooling techniques as compared to construction using conventional materials (cement and bricks), and it will be quantified.

Providing a model of what can be done through aesthetics by application of biophilic design elements will provide an inspiration for those who are looking for a “wow factor” and/or those seeking to be classified as “environmentally conscious” construction professionals and encourage them to seek for better alternatives to traditional construction methods.

Who We Are

The Red Road Foundation was founded in 2005 to provide free education to children and youth in a rural area of Southern Cambodia. Since then, we have established an organic farm which provides us with raw materials for our natural products, with all the profits reinvested into the free education project. We becoming increasingly self-sustainable, monetizing waste, providing free education, clean water, solar electricity and implementing a trash collection system in our village. Our sustainable development model is based in free education and creating innovative social enterprises that raise the quality of life in the village. Our environmental leadership in the village has locals and interns collaborating making and collecting plastic bottle bricks for construction and promoting sustainable development in the village. We have incentivized our projects through trading for hygiene products and free workshops on the impact trash has on our lives. We have had hundreds of volunteers/interns from all over the world coming to participate in implementing these grassroots projects. We are able to encourage environmental leadership by customizing our projects to fully exercise the passions and skills of our students and interns.

Our Achievements In A Nutshell

- Est. 2015 as a free education centre
- Hosted over 500 volunteers from all over the world
- International internship program that operates on a curriculum focused on Leadership in Sustainable Development
- Educational Partnership with Leadership Department at Montana State University (USA)
- Built four Earthship inspired and ubuntu blocks buildings using recycled and natural materials
- Passive Solar design Earthship School
- Solar Donations from Torch Tours and ACE Energy Solutions Cambodia Co.,Ltd
- Bore well donation on-site from LoveSpring and Escobar, Aarhus in Denmark
- Dug a water reservoir in our community and bore well at the pagoda
- All students carry their “Eco Warrior kits” to class to ensure a single-use-plastic-free campus
- Students participate in a trading program. They trade clothes/hygiene/educational products for plastic bricks from the littered trash around their homes
- Natural Skin Care Line, Bamboo Straw Production and Moringa Oil Capsule
- Upcycled Productions from Recycled Glass



Our Local-International Team Responsible for Hosting and Supervision of the Interns' Crew:



Rachel T. RIGGIO, Founder And Operations Director (USA)

She has been living and working in Cambodia since 2015. Through the Red Road Foundation, she has personally hosted and oriented over 500 volunteers and interns, through building a school, establishing a farm, health product line, upcycled glass production and the process of implementation of a trash collection system/ waste to resource initiative in the village where The Red Road Foundation resides. Since the school has been running free education in the village, she has been developing an internship of Leadership in Sustainable Development. Currently she runs gap year retreats and internships with college students world-wide. She secured a partnership with Montana State University and works with their Global Leadership class. Rachel is fluent in Khmer language and remains inspired by Khmer people, every day. Working and living in Cambodia has brought her many lessons in acceptance, gratitude, humility, ingenuity and patience. This work has shaped her life to be grateful & humble.



Olga J. SKRIABIKOVA, PhD, Technical Planning Director (Netherlands)

Before joining the Red Road Foundation in her current role, Olga spent time volunteering on projects in Cambodia with the goal of helping to create awareness, raise funds, promote skill development for disadvantaged children and developing initiatives supporting sustainable green growth. She worked as Operations Manager in a Cambodian EdTech IT start-up, organizing the local team of 16 people, and she has successfully set up a student data management and registration tool at a big Cambodian NGO. Before coming to Cambodia, Olga worked as a Strategy Research and Evaluation Advisor at a regional government body in the Netherlands. She taught Bachelor and Master level courses and supervised students. Through her work, she has managed and supervised interns from various backgrounds both in the Netherlands and in Cambodia.



Hong Da, Project Site Manager (Cambodia)

Worked as a rice farmer and raising farm animals before joining the red road foundation in 2015. Since then he has helped to host, advise and supervise over 500 volunteers and ran and organized various programs assisting free education and village outreach in Dom Ray Pong. He has project managed building four recycled and earthen buildings with volunteers. He loves helping with keeping student's attendance regular through keeping a good rapport with the village families. He appreciates making a difference in our community. He believes that we play an important role in Cambodia in the lives of children without opportunity, who are at risk of disease, living in poverty and being unable to afford medical help.



Serhii TKACHOV, Head Of Engineering And Construction Works (Ukraine)

Professional construction engineer with extensive experience in building housing, resorts and other privately and publicly used buildings and infrastructure, such as bridges. Construction team leader and organizer, projects in Ukraine involve supervision of working sites with crew over 70 people, in particular for the construction of an extra-class cable-stayed bridge over the Dnieper river. In Cambodia, employing local teams over 45 people for construction of housing, restaurant, upscale resorts. Passionate about native construction, passive air-cooling techniques and the use of natural materials in buildings, such as clay and bamboo.

Who we are looking for:



The most important criteria is the student's motivation, green mindset and a set of generic (transferable) skills, such as **ability to solve problems, work in a team, conduct research under supervision, be able to take initiative, conduct a brainstorm, carry out tasks independently and in a group setting, be able to share and listen, be flexible and attentive to detail, develop a solid argument for an idea, presentation skills, documentation and reporting skills, understanding deadlines** (which is also a real skill!).



On top of that, we especially welcome people from technical/engineering backgrounds interested in **sustainable applications and development of green technologies**. The technical skills we are looking for include, but are not limited to, **working on a task needed to set up a production line, familiarity with fabrication and welding technologies, help to assemble and operate machines (machining), working with soil and other (natural) materials, such as clay and bamboo, land and construction surveying, product and engineering design skills**. We are aiming to achieve a good mix of thinkers, doers and group-binders for optimal teamwork and learning experience.

We are looking forward to people who are eager to contribute to our initiative and learn from it, and we will certainly consider an application from students from other study fields, if their profile matches our ambitions. We are aware that these days new and exciting specialties emerge and evolve quickly, combining interdisciplinary knowledge and approaches. See the list below as an inspiration rather than exclusion criteria:



Natural and Bio-Based Materials

Working with clay and bamboo (production of pressed earth bricks, production of elements in specific shapes for passive evaporative air-cooling devices and irrigation system parts, treated bamboo culms for structural construction elements). New/synthetic bio-based materials.



Business Development and Community Empowerment

To help develop business plans and set-up production lines in collaboration with local community members. Activating community members, brainstorming, looking for resources, creating guidelines, helping to prepare and organize family enterprises (in collaboration with our partners – native speakers).



Management, Marketing and Behavioural Change

To help find areas for selling products made of upscaled and natural materials. Identification of markets, target audience and communication models to help promote products of green family enterprises and close the circle of production following cradle-to-cradle principles. Organization of production lines with zero waste. Development of initiatives and incentive mechanisms to help reduce use of polluting materials.



Construction Design and Engineering

To help finalize design and working project plans for the eco-village house, conduct geodetic surveys, map and mark the territory, co-operate excavation for soil/clay extraction.



Mechanical Engineering

To help assemble and operate machines for production of pressed earth bricks, processing glass waste and plastic waste into elements that can be safely incorporated in construction of housing.



Social Media and Storytelling

To help spread the word about our operation and ambition, raise awareness in Cambodia and beyond, inspire other communities to be a leader of green sustainable development.

Timeframe & Conditions



➡ Ideally, an immersive internship like this one takes about **2 to 3 months**. This is a reasonable period to acclimatize, familiarize yourself with the local conditions and engage in the process. You will have time to set up and discuss your expectations, make your own internship success project plan with your advisor and personal coach. Our project has a large scope where we can create an educational experience that is customized to you expanding your self awareness, collaboration techniques, leadership/communication skills, and employing/developing your unique talents/skills/passions/abilities.

➡ For this year, we invite applications starting from **1 month**, because the season has already started and we are looking forward to have our crew complete by **April 2022**. In Cambodia, the raining season is from approx. July to October.* Outdoor works will not be possible to implement during rainy season. While some community and indoor works are possible, we strongly encourage applications covering the period **of March to June**.

➡ The internship package includes supervision from the local team of people from diverse backgrounds and origins, guidance on the internship project task, feedback on performance to the university (if desired), basic accommodation with shared facilities, meals 3 times a day and transportation.

Package costs: Package cost is 1,500USD per month. Cost can be negotiated on individual basis.

How to apply? Fill in the form in this link (online):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1S8pv77Htb9AI1RaIKr0SMxaVBH_EC_SaYqVh6S_RCK
and we will get in touch with you for an interview!

*Approximately because of climate change. We really notice it down here. It used to rain by the clock – but it is becoming more and more random with each year. Act while you still can!