



The Tiger Foundation
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Riding a Tiger to Raise Money for Cambodian School

Motorcycle enthusiasts tackle gruelling ride across Asia for fundraiser

(March 16, 2009) – Philanthropist Mark Philpott, Founder and President of The Tiger Foundation charity, will ride his Triumph Tiger motorcycle across part of Asia this April to raise money for projects in the Kampong Thom province of Cambodia. He will be accompanied by two UK-based riders, Paul Mullins and Trevor Thorley.

The Tiger Foundation is an international charitable organisation and is registered in Singapore, home of Mark Philpott. Philpott and friends will leave Singapore on Saturday, April 18 and ride the length of Malaysia and Thailand before arriving at one of the charity's beneficiaries, the Aknuwat Primary School in Kampong Thom, Cambodia, on April 25.

Kampong Thom is the second largest Cambodian province and is home to some 700,000 people. The Tiger Foundation is trying to improve the lives of the people living in the province through a range of programs based on education, exercise, environmental activities and engagement with the community.

Philpott and his team will cover 5,500 km in two weeks as they attempt to raise US\$50,000 to build a new library at the Aknuwat Primary School. A support unit, including Tiger Foundation volunteers and a documentary crew, will accompany the tour.

While in the province of Kampong Thom, the riders will stop at a village near Siem Reap to collect 90-year-old local man, Mr Mei for a special trip to Angkor Wat temple. Mr Mei is a survivor of the Khmer Rouge regime and has not had the ability to leave his village for many years, but has always dreamed of visiting Angkor Wat, a place of religious significance to his people. Philpott wanted to make that dream come true.

"We will make a documentary of our adventure, beginning with the departure in Singapore and finishing with our safe return to the Lion city," Philpott said. "We have various fundraising initiatives arranged, thanks to the great efforts of our volunteers and the support of our sponsors, which will help us to reach our target donation figure."

The Tiger Foundation is named after Philpott's motorcycle, a Triumph Tiger. It was during a bike tour of Asia in 2007 that Philpott stopped, by chance, at the Aknuwat school and drew a crowd of children excited to see him and his bike. Moved by both the smiling faces of the children and their abject living conditions, Philpott created The Tiger Foundation to help address their needs, and those of the wider community.



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“Physically, the April ride is going to be incredibly demanding,” Philpott said. “But being on a bike is the only way to get in contact with the people and the environment. It’s exhilarating – it makes you feel as though you’re really a part of their world.”

The motorcycle tour is an opportunity to create more awareness of The Tiger Foundation. While it is quintessentially a fundraising activity, for Philpott the ride will also be a celebration of what he has been able to achieve in the Kampong Thom province since his introduction to the Aknuwat Primary School in 2007.

Progress to date includes classroom refurbishments, establishment of vegetable gardens, installation of water pumps and a flood prevention unit, the covering of water wells, the establishment of a teacher training program, introduction of security guards, as well as the provision of a volunteer English teacher from Australia who now lives in Kampong Thom.

Mark Philpott and Paul Mullins work for international logistics company, DHL. That company will be a key sponsor of the April tour providing a range of services to support the riders and their fundraising activities.

“DHL is committed to being a good corporate citizen in every market where we operate,” said Richard Owens, Senior Vice President, Global Customer Solutions, DHL Asia Pacific. “We fully support the cause and this fundraiser led by Mark Philpott and Paul Mullins. For every mile they travel, we get closer to making the dreams of Cambodia’s children come true.”

The Tara Angkor Hotel in Siem Reap is also supporting The Tiger Foundation by offering complimentary rooms to foundation riders and volunteers.

To follow the riders on their epic journey through Asia, and to make donations, please visit www.thetigerfoundation.com.

About the Tiger Foundation

The Tiger Foundation is an international charitable organisation that aims to improve the lives of the communities it supports. The foundation is structured around four key pillars of activity – Education, Exercise, Environment and Engagement. Registered in Singapore, the Foundation was formed by philanthropist Mark Philpott in 2008.

The Foundation’s projects include the redevelopment of the Aknuwat Primary School in Kampong Thom, as well as the building of a new school and health clinic at the Crocodile Village also in Kampong Thom.

The Foundation is supported by volunteers across Asia, Europe, USA and the UK and its programs are endorsed by the Provincial Office of Education for the Kampong Thom province in Cambodia. For more information please visit www.thetigerfoundation.com.

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