



## PRESS RELEASE



# Cambodia head to Milan for 7<sup>th</sup> annual Homeless World Cup

**Cambodia has announced their participation** in the 2009 Homeless World Cup. Set in the heart of one of the most football passionate cities in the world  
6-13 September 2009

**11th May 2009.** From 6-13 September 2009 the City of Milan will host 500 players from 48 nations at the 7<sup>th</sup> Homeless World Cup, the international football tournament using football to energise homeless people to change their own lives.

Cambodia has announced their participation in this year's tournament after a successful first entrance into last year's event in Melbourne.

There are nations involved in the tournament representing all five continents of the globe, including Argentina to Brazil, England to Germany, Australia to Cambodia, Hong Kong to India, Ghana to Malawi. Italy, two times Homeless World Cup champions will be aiming to regain their championship glory in front of their home crowd.

HFCA (Happy Football Cambodia Australia) is the co-ordinating body for the Cambodian Team. Cambodia took part in the Homeless World Cup for the first time in last year's event in Melbourne 08. HFCA was formed in November 2005 and its aim is to allow disadvantaged young men and women play football in a safe environment where they can forget about their problems.

The players were selected from two of HFCA's partners Riverkids and CCH (Centre for Children's Happiness). Riverkids work to prevent child trafficking by working directly with families at high risk for trafficking for reasons of addiction, divorce, abuse and extreme poverty. All the children in their project are at high-risk for being trafficked. CCH work with children who are either orphans or belong to parents who cannot take care of them due to illness or disability. Most of the children previously worked as garbage pickers at the Steung Mean Chey landfill in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The squad for Milan 09 was selected on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April this year and HFCA chairperson Paraic Grogan looks forward to witnessing the same life changing experience for these young men as he did last year.

"Imagine how exciting it would be to go on an airplane for the first time. They will be talking about this for the rest of their lives." he said. "While it may be their only opportunity to visit another country, I hope it will inspire them to do greater things with their lives." He explained.

The Cambodia squad for Milan 09 is made up of six players and three support staff. The HWC allows eight players in each squad but due to financial limitations we have only selected six players. Only four players are on the pitch at any given time so we are confident that our six players will be able to cope with the playing schedule.

The six players are Men Monira (aged 17), Pheakdey Chan (aged 16), Chan Rithy (aged 17), Nam Sophal (aged 19), Kung Theara (aged 18) and Kang Viet (aged 20). Team manager is Paraic Grogan. Paraic is from Ireland and is chairperson of HFCA. Jimmy Campbell from Scotland is the coach. Jimmy is a UEFA B qualified coach and the Cambodian players was delighted when he agreed to coach the team. Team assistant is Chao Vibol. Vibol manages the HFCA weekly football training sessions and is looking forward to his second HWC after being involved in the HWC in Melbourne last year.

“HFCA are working hard to raise the funds required to go to Milan. We are confident that the Cambodia team will make it to Milan” said Paraic.

### **Milan 09**

A street soccer stadium built at the Arena Civic, Sempione Park, the historical venue of the very first Italian National game against France, will welcome an estimated 100,000 strong crowd during the tournament week. They will experience the true grit spirit and glory of street soccer with everything to play for, in the heart of one of the most football passionate nations and cities in the world.

The Milan 2009 Homeless World Cup is supported nationally by the Ministry of Youth, City of Milan, Province of Milan, The Lombardy Region, FIGC-Italian Football Federation, Cariplo Foundation, Inter Milan, Gazzetta dello Sport and it is one of the main events of the Milan European Capital of Sport 2009. International support comes from Nike, UEFA, Vodafone Foundation, United Nations, Global Ambassador Eric Cantona, Rio Ferdinand and Didier Drogba.

Mel Young, Founder & President, Homeless World Cup said: “The Milan 2009 Homeless World Cup is set in one of the most football passionate cities and nations in the world. This is a phenomenal opportunity for Italy and the City of Milan to unite and show the world the true, awesome power of football to change lives, to change the world. We are confident that the City and people of Milan are preparing a very special Homeless World Cup and in a few months time will provide a warm welcome to 48 nations to show the world that together, united, we can make a real difference.”

There are one billion homeless people in the world, including 50,000 homeless people in Italy. Over 70% of players at the Homeless World cup experience a significant life change; coming off drugs and alcohol, moving into homes, jobs, education, training, repairing relationships, becoming coaches or players with semi-pro teams and social entrepreneurs. Since 2003 the Homeless World Cup has engaged over 100,000 players and has triggered football programmes in over 70 nations.

The Milan 2009 Homeless World Cup is dedicated to the memory of **Candido Cannavò**, renowned journalist at Gazzetta dello Sport.

Visit: [www.homelessworldcup.it](http://www.homelessworldcup.it), [www.homelessworldcup.org](http://www.homelessworldcup.org) and [www.hfcaustralia.org](http://www.hfcaustralia.org) for more information.

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### **Notes to editors**

#### **About Homeless World Cup ([www.homelessworldcup.org](http://www.homelessworldcup.org))**

The Homeless World Cup is a world-class international football tournament that uses football to energise homeless people to change their own lives. It has triggered and supports grass roots football programmes in over 60 nations engaging 30,000 players who are homeless all year round. Over 70% change their lives coming off drugs and alcohol, moving

into jobs, homes, education, becoming football coaches, players and social entrepreneurs.

At the 7th Homeless World Cup in Milan 6-13 September, Arena Civic, Sempione Park 48 nations will be united. The inaugural Homeless World Cup kicked off in Graz, Austria uniting 18 nations. Since then it has gained great momentum in Gothenburg, Sweden (2004), Edinburgh, Scotland (2005), Cape Town, South Africa (2006) and Copenhagen, Denmark (2007) and Melbourne (2008).

Founded by world-leading social entrepreneur Mel Young, the Homeless World Cup is supported by UEFA, Nike, The Vodafone Foundation, Global Ambassador Eric Cantona and international footballers Didier Drogba and Rio Ferdinand.

### **Nations Participating**

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, USA, Wales

### **For more information please contact:**

Team: Cambodia  
Organisation: Happy Football Cambodia Australia  
Contact person: Kimberly Pullen  
Function: Public Relations Manager  
Email: [info@hfcaustralia.org](mailto:info@hfcaustralia.org)  
Phone: (61) 45105027  
Skype ID: kimberlyjayne1  
Website: [www.hfcaustralia.org](http://www.hfcaustralia.org)

