

Topic : Food Culture

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Thank you King Ling College, we got a precious opportunity to travel to Cambodia with our classmates. Other than building our collective memories, we also had an in-depth discovery of Cambodia.

Undoubtedly, all countries would show the best to tourists most of the time. Nothing comes of nothing, we devoted to explore the food culture in Cambodia by various methods, including conducting interviews, taking photographs and doing research, so as to find out the distinctions in comparison with Hong Kong.

In fact, food culture could be influenced by a kaleidoscope of factors, for instance, the country's history, economic development and climate. We concluded the factors into two main perspectives: environmental factors and living background. These might be contributed to reasons of the differences between Hong Kong's and Cambodia's eating habits.

Despite the contrasts, it was also of paramount importance to facilitate the integration of these two cultures, for the sake of having future cultural exchange. Suggestions would be given.

We all had a great time in Cambodia and learnt beyond classrooms.

The sub-questions were as follows:

- 1) the differences between Hongkonger's eating habits and Cambodian's eating habits,
- 2) the reasons behind the differences, and
- 3) how to facilitate the integration of the two cultures.

Chapter 2

Methodology

2.1 Choice of method

Quantitative method was adopted for this project and the methods included: literature review, photograph analysis and interviews. Literature review was done by doing further research like reading books and from TV programs. Photographs and interview were taken and conducted during the short stay in Cambodia.

2.2 Classification of the studying target

Hong Kong and Cambodia are totally different when comparing with their economic status and living environment. There are so many different food cultures in Hong Kong as it is an international city which accepts and facilitates the development a wide choice of food cultures. However, Cambodia may only share similar culture with Thailand and Vietnam because of the geographical condition.

In this project, we have chosen food culture as the topic and aimed at finding out the different eating habits between Hongkongers and Cambodians. Thus, we would account for the reasons behind the differences and look into ways to facilitate the integration of the two cultures.

2.3 Target group

The target group of this project were some of the Cambodians that we met during the 5-day trip because they know and understand more about the food cultures in Cambodia as they have been living in Cambodia for many years. What is more, as we are going to find out the difference between Hong Kong and Cambodia, Hongkongers are also part of the target group.

2.4 Questions asked

1. When do Cambodians usually have dinner?
2. What kind of food do Cambodians usually eat?
3. What is the dessert that Cambodians usually eat?
4. What is the usage of adding herbs?

2.5 Problem faced and solutions

There are a few limitations in the literature review, photographs and interview could only be taken or conducted at a later stage of the project. Our group has to predict the outcome in earlier stage. Fortunately, through research and observation, the variation can be minimized.

Literature Review

Most of the sources found were in Chinese and it was difficult to translate all of them into English.

Photographs

Although pictures were taken in Cambodia, the food or ingredients that used in the dishes are unable to be identified one by one.

Interview

During the cooking lesson with the Cambodian chef, language barrier was a concern. The chef could only communicate with us via simple English with a strong accent. Thus, we may not understand some specific terms of certain kinds of ingredient or herbs.

In response to the above limitations, some measures have been suggested as follows:

Firstly, dealing with the Chinese resources or materials, we decided to reach out to English teachers for more opinions on how we can translate in a better and accurate way to ensure everything would be clearly expressed.

Secondly, we would prepare some labels for food items or write down the ingredient and cooking steps to make everything clearer.

Lastly, we had already asked the tour guide for the Chinese names of the herbs. So, we would do further research to make sure that they would be all in correct spelling.

Chapter 3

Literature Review

3.1 Living Background

To observe the living background of Hong Kong and Cambodia in some depth, we would look into the issue via the following two aspects: history and economic development.

History

According to an [article](#)¹ “The History of Hong Kong” by Leslie Ng, Hong Kong is located in the west of the Pearl River Estuary and there are many mountains that acted as barrier. Therefore, the Victoria Harbor became a supply station and typhoon shelter to merchants. It also proved that people in Hong Kong depended on fisheries to earn money in the past.

The history of Cambodia differs from that of Hong Kong. According to an [article](#)² “A short history of Cambodia” written by Tim Lambert, Cambodia has a fascinating history. Farming was introduced into Cambodia around 2,300 BC. They firstly used stone and then learnt how to use iron later. Thus, farming played an important role in Cambodian history.

Economic Development

According to an [article](#)³ “The four pillar economic sectors of Hong Kong”, trading and logistics accounted for 23.4% of population, and then tourism accounted for 15%, while financial services accounted for 16.6% and professional services and other producers services accounted for 12.4%. In terms of current development, Hong Kong is now the one of the world's freest economy sector. Clear shed to see, Hong Kong is dependent on both trading and tourism.

¹ The History of Hong Kong (2015), 伍自禎(Leslie Ng), RTHK

² A short history of Cambodia (2015), Tim Lambert

³ The four pillar economic sectors of Hong Kong (2016), HKTDC Research

The economic development in Cambodia is a bit different. An article “Economic Situation of Cambodia” shows that the trade balance of Cambodia keeps a continuous deficit. Exports have been expanding as a result of gradual economic growth. The major export destinations are USA, Hong Kong, China, EU, Canada, and Vietnam. It produces vehicles and textiles, both help the local economic development. Hong Kong’s economic situation is more optimistic than Cambodia’s.

All of the above has shown the differences between Cambodia and Hong Kong, in terms of living background. To a certain extent, the differences are caused by historical factors. Hong Kong was a British colony starting from the happening of the first Opium War until 1997 (return of sovereignty back to China). Cambodia is a developing country, and was a French colony for decades. These historical backgrounds have definitely brought a one-of-a-kind food culture for each of them.

3.2 Environmental Factor

Hong Kong and Cambodia, though both sitting in the land of Asia, with different geographical and environmental factors, their food cultures vary in unique ways. The differences are attributable to their ‘natural resources’ and ‘climate’.

Natural Resources

To have sustainable and self-sufficient food supply, Cambodian make good use of their natural resources. According to Cambodia hotel’s staff, ‘Cambodia has two main sources of natural fresh water, the Mekong River and the Tonlé Sap Lake, a huge lake connected to the Mekong. During monsoon season, the Tonlé Sap Lake floods some 16,000 square kilometers of the country, irrigating rice fields and providing breeding grounds for fish.’ It proves why utilizing fresh water as their main natural resources is so common, in both watering crops and providing breeding grounds for fishes. However, it is not the same case in Hong Kong. Since Hong Kong is not an exporting city, agricultural development seems to have shrunk since the 70s. One contributing factor is that, as stated by every culture, Hong Kong lacks natural resources other than a deep water pot. Even when the coastal region in Hong Kong is good for fishing, it is not able to meet the demand for the whole city. This never fosters the growth of fishing or agriculture.

Climate

The resourceful success in Cambodia is also supported by the weather. The Cambodian weather can be identified into two 'seasons', the wet season and the dry season. Not only the high rainfall rate but also the warm temperature benefit the cultivation. Having average of 23-28 degree Celsius is the perfect temperature for growing crops. Also, the plant would not be destroyed by tropical cyclone as there is no typhoon in Cambodia. However, there are four seasons in Hong Kong. The high variation of temperature and rainfall do not facilitate cultivation much. The frequent typhoon does not favour plant growing either. Therefore, Cambodia enjoys the geographical and tropical advantage over Hong Kong for cultivation and fishing.

Chapter 4

Photograph Analysis

4.1 General information of the photographs

Photographs were taken at local Cambodian restaurants, streets and the local old market in Cambodia. The above spots are general dining and grocery shopping places for Cambodians. These spots reflect the Cambodian food culture.

4.2 Details of the photographs

Cambodia



Fig. 4.2.1

The Tonlé Sap Lake is a steady recourse of freshwater products to Cambodia due to its geographical advantage. Fig. 4.2.1 was taken in the Old Market at Siem Reap. It shows diverse freshwater products like shrimps, crabs, fishes and snails are sold at a local Cambodian market. Freshwater products act as the main source of protein for Cambodians, they are the main ingredients in a number of significant Cambodian dishes. Apart from making dishes, the freshwater products are also used to produce fish sauce and fish paste as seasonings in Cambodia dishes.



Fig. 4.2.2



Fig. 4.2.3

Cambodians favor in natural seasonings rather than arterial one. Fig. 4.2.2 and Fig.4.2.3 show the herbs that are sold at the old market. There are lemongrass, cloves, garlic, galangal and kaffir lime leaves in Fig 4.2.2. White pepper bean are shown in Fig 4.2.3. In general, four to five natural seasonings are added to a dish in Cambodia, dishes usually gain their characteristics by presenting the harmonious combination of spices.



Fig. 4.2.4



Fig. 4.2.5

Fig. 4.2.4 is a photo of Fish Amok, a yellow curry in Cambodian style while Fig. 4.2.5 shows the look of Khmer Red Curry. Freshwater fish seasoned with six common herbs and coconut milk were steamed in banana leaves to make the Fish Amok in Fig4.2.4. While beef, carrot and sweet potatoes are seasoned with red pepper powder and coconut milk were cooked to make the Khmer Red Curry showed in Fig.4.2.5. Both dishes have a sweet flavor with a little bit of spice. In fact, affected by the culture of countries like Thailand and Vietnam and the hot weather, Cambodian food mainly carries a sour, spicy and sweet flavors. However, when comparing with Thai

and Vietnamese food, Cambodian are food sweeter, less spicy and less sour. The major cooking methods in Cambodia are deep-frying and stir-frying, which can be seen as the eating habits under the hot weather in Cambodia.



Fig 4.2.6

As motorcycle is the most popular transportation in Cambodia, food hawkers are commonly found on the roadside. Fig 4.2.6 illustrates a hawker selling fried bread on the roadside. Temporary food stalls that run by self-employed owners are also common along the street in Cambodia since this kind of business does not demand much cost to start up. Local people can purchase and finish their meal in a handy way.

Hong Kong



Fig. 4.2.7

As an international hub, various type of foods from different countries are all integrated in Hong Kong food culture. Fig. 4.2.7 showed the typical dishes in a Hong Kong family dinner. Seafood (marine fish, freshwater fish or scallops) and vegetable (flowering cabbage, Chinese kale or lettuce) are the main courses in Hong Kong food culture. Soya sauce, flour, ginger and sugar are the seasonings which are used in Hong Kong. Herbs and spice are comparatively less common. Cantonese dishes emphasize on the original flavor of the food. Thus, dishes in Hong Kong are light in seasoning but keep original taste of the food.

Fig. 4.2.7 (<http://www.plurk.com/p/la3zwg>)



Fig. 4.2.8

Fig 4.2.8 illustrated the street snack stores in Hong Kong. Street snacks are popular in Hong Kong, however, it is no easy to find hawkers in Hong Kong's street. Local people enjoy snacks from the street snacks stores and mostly having their meal indoor.

To conclude, seasoning and street food culture are the major differences between Hong Kong's and Cambodia's food culture. Herbs and spices are widely used in many Cambodian dishes while Hong Kong's dishes seldom make use of herbs and spice. Instead, Cambodian dishes keep the original flavor of the food. Also, by referring to the climate, Cambodians enjoy sweet and sour food but Hongkongers prefer light salty dishes. Sweet and sour dishes are good appetizers for Cambodians who always live under a hot weather, while Hong Kong people prefer light flavor food under the high humidity weather in Hong Kong. Hawkers are common in Cambodia and local people would like to enjoy their food which brought from the street hawkers at the roadside. However, hawkers are not common in Hong Kong, instead, Hong Kong people enjoy street snacks which were brought from street snack stalls.

Fig. 4.2.8 (hk.promotions.yahoo.com-)

Chapter 5

Findings of the interview

Our group mates interviewed the local students and a chef, in Cambodia.

5.1 Conducting interview with local students

Local students told us that they usually have their dinner from six to nine o'clock. The stable food of Cambodians is rice, which is the same as Hongkongers. However, there is one dish that Cambodians almost have every single day, which is fish. They use all kinds of cooking methods to cook the fish, including boiling and steaming. Some of the Cambodians see fish as their stable food also.

Moreover, Cambodians often eat fruit as their 'dessert' after having a meal.

5.2 Conducting interview with a local chef

Chef told us that they cook with extra spices usually. Not only does it enhance the appearance, but also the flavor. Their spices are similar to those in Thailand, like different kinds of chili.

In daily life, spices are used in casual family dinner. Some simple dishes, like stir-fried rice, spices were also added to enrich the flavor.

Differences between Hongkongers and Cambodians (Eating Habits)

Although the stable food of Hong Kong is the same as Cambodia, there are some differences in the eating habits between Hongkongers and Cambodians.

First of all, fish are not consumed as frequently as the Cambodians in Hong Kong. As Cambodia relies on the natural resource, water, therefore Cambodians eat fish dishes a lot. Despite the fact that there is no such geographical advantage in Hong Kong, a lot of food choices are provided for Hongkongers to choose.

Moreover, it is uncommon for Hongkongers to have dessert after a meal daily. It is true that most of the Hongkongers like to eat dessert. However, citizens rarely have dessert after a meal as the completeness of the main course. They would rather have dessert during tea time or when hanging out with friends and family members.

In addition, Hong Kong citizens usually use common seasonings, like salt, sugar, soya sauce, pepper and vinegar. They rarely use spices. Therefore, the flavors of the dishes are usually savory, sweet or even sour.

Integration of the culture

In order to integrate the cultures of Hong Kong into Cambodia's, the suggested ways are as follows:

- Use more spices

Cambodians like using spices to season the dishes as well as enhance the flavor and appearance. Instead of using salt and paper, Hongkongers may use different kinds of spices to create their own favorite flavor of the dish.

- Eat more fish

Fish are often consumed by Cambodians, but not Hong Kong citizens. It is because fish is not the main intake of protein for Hong Kong citizens. They usually choose chicken, beef or pork as the main protein intake. However, fish contains less fat when compared with chicken, beef or pork. Therefore, it is health for citizens to having a fish daily.

- Have a dessert

Cambodians like eating fruits after meals. Therefore, Hong Kong citizens can have the same dessert not after the meal but before the meal. It not only combines the eating habit of Cambodians and Hongkongers, but also be healthier.

Chapter 6

Conclusion

The project revealed the differences between the eating habits in Hong Kong and Cambodia were discovered.

The first difference is that, Cambodians tend to add a lot of seasonings, while Hongkongers do not. Herbs and spices are widely used in many Cambodian dishes while herbs and spices are seldom added in Hong Kong's dishes. Moreover, Cambodians enjoy sweet and sour food but Hong Kong people prefer light salty dishes. Furthermore, Cambodians prefer fruit dessert after every meal. From the eye of Hongkongers, fruit is not a must after a meal. Because of the unique environment, fish is in every meal of Cambodian but not Hongkongers.

That is to say, it could be deemed as a huge contrast in terms of eating habit and those mentioned were just a tiny part of the eating habit. To sum up, the food culture of Cambodia and Hong Kong varies because of the living background and environment.

For the living background, it can be concluded into two main criteria: history and economic development. For instance, for the economic development, Hong Kong is a financial centre, thus its economic development is relatively better. This enables cuisines from all over the world to Hong Kong. While Cambodia relies on exporting agricultural goods and developing tourism, these allow the Cambodian cuisine be the famous one.

For the environmental aspect, it can also be concluded into two main factors: climate and natural resources. Take the latter one as an example, Cambodia has two main sources of natural fresh water, the Mekong River and the Tonle Sap Lake. They irrigate rice fields and provide breeding grounds for fish. Thus, fisheries and farming are common in Cambodia, while Hong Kong does not have this geographical advantage.

After having some ideas on the two food cultures, suggestions were given in light of integrating the eating habits.

First of all, Hongkongers may consider eating fruit before a meal. Most of the Hongkongers love having sweet Korean or British-styled dessert, which are not as healthy as having fruit. Also, having a fish meal and adding various seasonings are good ideas too.

After this tour, not only do we have a collective memory, but also learn beyond classrooms by observations and conducting interviews, which was a great experience for all of us.

Chapter 7

Reflection

7.1 On the first day (17th March, 2016)

Chan Kit Ching, Kary

It was the very first day of the Cambodia tour. Indeed, I just could not wait to spend the coming week with my classmates. It was also the first time for me to travel abroad. My excitement is simply beyond descriptions.

After arriving at the Phnom Penh International Airport, our class could directly feel the difference between the Cambodia weather and the Hong Kong one. The heat was burning and the sweat was flowing crazily on my skin. We all frowned since we could not even imagine how we would survive. Yet, fortunately, most of us got used to this unbearable condition very soon.

The schedule of the first day was quite packed. We had to visit five spots in total, including Independence Monument, Royal Palace, National Museum, Street 178 and Wat Phnom. Despite the fact that all of the above sites were stunning, they had great historic value that really caught our attention. It was especially hard to imagine how the ancestors endeavored to build such majestic buildings.

There was one more thing that caught our attention. There was a woman speaking Khmer fluently and wearing an unclean dress, hugging her un-dressed baby when we were about entering the Royal Palace. Apparently, she was begging. I then turned my head around. I was astonished. It was absolutely out of my expectation, that this city seemed to be rich, full of sophisticating European-styled buildings but having enormous worries behind, polarization of wealth was no exception.

In comparison, Hong Kong is such a lovely place, Hongkongers enjoy four seasons, wealth and advanced technology. We might take everything for granted, but never will we after this trip. Recalling a popular Chinese quote, “In the country of the blind the one-eyed man is the king”, this trip inspired me a lot. Perhaps I am not a star, but I am unique in the universe. Undoubtedly, these five days were joyfully a bookmark of the journey of my life.



Royal Palace,
Phnom Penh,
Cambodia



As it was the first day of the tour, I was excited towards everything. In fact, every scene gave me a great impression. The spectacular Royal Palace matching with the significant Silver Pagoda was definitely worth-visiting. They gave a remarkable start to the tour. Following by them, the visit of National Museum and 178 Art Street broadened my horizons about the change of art culture in Cambodia throughout history, which these buildings also gave me a brief introduction of the story of Cambodia.

Even though all spots carry their characteristics, Wat Phnom is the unforgettable one. It is a popular temple in Phnom Penh, many locals and travelers visit there, our class was not an exception. To follow the religious etiquette, we took off our shoes before entering the temple. When we left, there were two kids arranging our shoes voluntarily and begged us for money. They were then sent away by our tour guide. Opposite the temple, there were luxurious housing for the rich. Only one block apart, it was full of temporary housing for the poor which properly was the home for the two kids.

There are big differences between the rich and poor's life. For the rich, children spent their childhood by playing happily. While the poor, they can only have a childhood or life of collecting cans and bottles in the garbage heap. As the welfare system has not been well-developed yet, there are nearly no way for children from poor families to receive education and change the status quo.

Looking at children at another part of the world, I realized my luck. I understood what I can easily get could be an ultimate goal for others in their entire life. Everything is precious and nothing is bound to. At the same time, Cambodians seldom lost their kind smile on their face even many of them got less than most of the Hongkongers in material aspect, while many of us lose our smile. The trip gave me a thoughtful time to reflect on what I am having and understand value of life.



▲ Royal Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



▲ Street 178, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

7.2 On the second day (18th March 2016)

Cheung Cheuk Ping, Carman

On the second day of our tour, our class visited the Killing Fields, where more than a million people were killed and buried by the Communist Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979 in Cambodia.

Before the visit, I discovered that all of us were wearing clothes in dark color and in a proper way. I felt so proud of my friends at that moment because actually we are not Cambodian, but we still tried our best to respect the local culture and history.

While our class were walking around the fields, it was so disheartening that there were so many big holes which were used to bury the corpse. The clothes, bones and skulls were real, but not imitations. Until now, I still cannot imagine how painful would the families be and how much pain they got from merciless Khmer government.

In Hong Kong, we are under the protection of Basic Law. No matter how angry or dissatisfied with our government, we still have ways to express our feelings or even change the status quo which meaning that we enjoy the freedom of speech. Sadly, people who were under the control of the Communist Khmer Rouge did not have these kinds of rights. The only way was waiting to be killed if they were opposed to the government's ideology. It was terrifying and frightening when I saw those real human skulls. I felt so helpless that technology nowadays has been improved a lot, but it cannot change the history, it cannot help delete the mental pain of those people. Pain, will store in their hearts forever.

In fact, this history reminds every one of us- Hongkongers are really lucky and live in a life that full of happiness. Learning from the history is so important, same as learning from mistake. I think that the Killing Fields should be kept well in order to remind citizens that a contented mind is a perpetual feast, also to give a warning that totalitarianism is not a proper way to control a country.



▲Choeung Ek Killing Field, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Li Wan Hei, Sabrina

We visited the Killing Fields of Choeung EK and the Central Market on the next day we arrived Cambodia.

Talking about the Killing Fields, I was staggered but honored to enter this famous spot in Cambodia. Lots of skulls from deceased victims at that time were displayed in the exhibition, their clothing, bones and graves were all shown. I found myself grieved and sorrowful seeing their remnant or even skeleton. Those scenes reminded me how lucky I am living in a prosperous city, with all my beloved family and friends; I can study at a school with no worries; it is not necessary for me to be afraid of being caught or executed without a reason as I am living in a safe and civilized country. However, looking back, I feel like I was taking all my blessings and things as granted, while victims at that time were even worried about how to survive. Are we taking things for granted? Should we do something to change our attitude towards life? I think I had an extremely meaningful lesson there.

After going to the Killing Fields, we went to the Central Market for shopping and buying souvenirs. There were lots of products to be sold and the building was just amazing. I couldn't keep my eyes out of it! The Central Market there was just like Mong Kok in Hong Kong with lots of shops stationing next to the others, shop owners were yelling to attract clients and people were bargaining for a cheaper price. This might be a familiar scene for me but refreshing in Cambodia. The major difference between Cambodia and Hong Kong in terms of selling style is that Cambodians are very willing to have bargain with clients, as long as they are going to purchase their products, they will also provide discounts willingly.

This day was just fruitful. I believe that I will never forget the spots I had been. The sadness I had received from the killing fields and the joyfulness I had gained in central market, they were just one-of-a-kind experience to me. Moreover, Cambodians were just friendly. To be honest, I am in love with this country!



Central Market,
Siem Reap,
Cambodia

7.3 On the third day (19th March, 2016)

Ng Ting Hang, Harry

It was the day for our school visit. To visit a school in Cambodia under 38 degree Celsius weather, my expectation was a lot of sweat, a lot of students didn't want us to come either and a lot of ranting. Not to my surprise, the sun was blasting and roasting all of us. The sun was not the only thing shining, but their smiles. Students in Cambodia were much energetic and genuinely excited to see us. Actively bring up conversations, initiating interesting interactions and enthusiastically exchanging emails were something I can't deny that it is to my surprise. Looking at students in King Ling, we seem to be much shy and less likely to be joyful to have students not from our school visiting. Rather than anticipation for us coming, we are waiting for them leaving. They cherished this precious chance for cultural exchange while we took this opportunity for granted. In a prosperous society like Hong Kong, to most students, flying away from their hometown is not something rare. They might have even been to several parts of the world, for them, having seen students from other countries might already been the closest distance approachable to the world. We are, in some way, not grateful to what we are having now.

Also, from the simplest game and dance moves they taught us, did I realize we make too much demands and conditions in pursuing our happiness. It doesn't have to be a 5000-dollar mobile phone nor a 10000-dollar computer that keep us entertained and happy. The most basic human interaction is the most effective and happiest moment you can ever experience. The more we are connected to the internet, we are more disconnected to the best ones around us. From some crazy dances we can all get a good laugh of, to a team-working game, they don't come in a great cost but an immense profit. Inter-personal interaction, is the primitive happiness we can seek for free.

The morning we had was truthfully the most inspiring and heart-warming of all.

Pouk High School,
Siem Reap, Cambodia



For the third day, we went to visit the Pouk High School in the morning and the cooking school in the afternoon. It was an inspiring and fruitful day for me.

When we were entering the school, the Cambodian students were waiting for us in the school gate. They smiled at us amicably. We then gathered in a room, just like the school hall, but it was much smaller without any air-conditioner. After that, we had lesson with our buddies and played team games together.

The weather was blisteringly hot. However, they could still have full attention to the lesson and jot down the notes. It was what we always say “perseverance”. Maybe people would say that they have already got used to this the hot weather, but in Hong Kong, with such a comfortable environment, did we pay attention during lesson? I started to have introspection and think that we should treasure what we are having. Definitely, it is such a blessing studying in a comfortable environment. Some children may not be as lucky as we are. After having a lesson, students brought us to the grass ground. Not only did they engage in lessons actively, but also participating in games. They taught us some traditional Cambodian games. It was really fun and new to me. It was inspiring that they can enjoy their school life without some material benefits.

When we arrived at the cooking school, each group had to follow a chef and we had our own corner for cooking. The chef brought us to the wet market in order to raise our knowledge of Cambodian food culture. He was really nice that he always wore a smile on his face, which rendered us joyous. The dishes were delicious too. It was a fruitful day as I am interested in cooking very much.

It was a great day. I could try many things that I could not have the chance in Hong Kong. This trip has undoubtedly broadened my horizons.

A chef in Tara Angkor Hotel,
Siem Reap, Cambodia



7.4 On the fourth day (20st March, 2016)

Leung Man Hei, Chrissie

On the fourth day in Cambodia, we went to Angkor Wat. It is one of the world heritage sites and the largest religious monument in the world. However, the most remarkable memory in Angkor Wat was neither the magnificence of the temple, nor the beautiful views of the sunset and sunrise, but the children at the entrance and exit.

Some of the children in Cambodia need to gain living by selling souvenirs to the tourists. I saw endless children there having the same business. They entreated the tourists to buy their souvenirs at a very low price. Although the tourists do not give a hoot about the money paid, the notes given could already pay for their meal for a day.

Comparing to Hong Kong, most of the children have never tried to live in poverty-stricken situation. Therefore, Hong Kong children can never understand the feeling of Cambodian kids. However, Hongkongers, especially the Kong Kids, should learn from them as they have never sermonized for not having a comfortable environment to live in. Nevertheless, they always offer help to their parents on household chores, like keep the pot boiling, as I chatted with one of the local students I met in the school. Therefore, we should treasure what we are having now instead of keeping asking for more.

It is known that the uneven distribution of wealth in Hong Kong is serious, so does Cambodia. However, most of the Cambodians live in the moment and love the way they are living. This is very impressive due to the fact that Hongkongers usually put their main focus on how to earn more money for a better life, but have denied the meaning of life seemingly. We should not be materialistic but enjoy our lifetime.

A kid outside the
Angkor Wat, Siem
Reap, Cambodia



7.5 On the fifth day (21st March, 2016)

Tang Miu Ni, Vivian

Today was the last day in Cambodia. We returned to Hong Kong after having our breakfast. Honestly, we did not want to get back to Hong Kong. Since we have not enough of time to have an in-depth understanding of Cambodia, a five-day trip was just too short for us.

After arriving Hong Kong, the weather here was cold when comparing with that of Cambodia. The sudden change of the temperature led us not getting used to it. The coldness reminded us that we were not in Cambodia anymore. We had left the place where we were missing.

What we have learnt during this grand tour not only the culture and the environment, but also the locals. Cambodia is less developed than Hong Kong. Therefore the facilities over there were not as good as Hong Kong's. For example, there was neither air conditioner nor fan in the classrooms of the school we visited. We could not imagine that how could we survive under the unbearable hot weather, not to mention study. Yet, the local students managed to pay attention during the lesson, and enjoyed it very much. They were not complaining about the facilities of the school. Yet, in contrary, most, but not all, of the Hongkongers tend to complain in society. Unlike the local students, we did not actually treasure what we are having in fact.

The passion of the students and the diligence of the locals were the most important things that Hong Kong students have to learn.



Siem Reap
International
Airport, Siem
Reap,
Cambodia

Chapter 8

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