Cambodian Physical Therapy Association (CPTA)

World Physical Therapy Day
September 08, 2015
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH PHYSICAL THERAPY

Sponsored by
ICRC

Organized by
CPTA and WCPT
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I- Background

The Cambodian Physical Therapy Association (CPTA) was established by a team of Cambodian physical therapists (PTs) in 1994 and was recognized by the Ministry of Interior, Royal Government of Cambodia, on August 18, 1997. The association is comprised of nationally qualified PTs graduated from Technical School for Medical Care, University of Health Science, and Ministry of Health. CPTA has been a member of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT) since 2007. CPTA is locally and internationally supported by various organizations and institutes.

World Physical Therapy Day falls on 8th September every year, and is an opportunity for physical therapists from all over the world to raise awareness about their crucial role in keeping people well, mobile and independent. The day was established by WCPT in 1996, and marks the date on which WCPT was founded in 1951. CPTA has been celebrating the World Physical Therapy Day every year since 2013. This year (2015), CPTA has celebrated this international day together with the Open House of University of Health Science, School of Physical Therapy on 25th September 2015. At the meantime, CPTA provided the free physical therapy consultation, assessment and treatment to patients for a whole day at the clinic, Phnom Penh, Cambodia and share the advantages and important roles of physical therapy to the passed high school students.

II- Objective of the Ceremony

The theme of the World Physical Therapy Day this year was Promoting Health through Physical Therapy.

There were a few objectives of the ceremony that the organizers expected to achieve from it. Those objectives were:
To promote and share the advantages and important roles of physical therapists for the patients and people with disabilities to health professions, high school students and their families;

To provide the physical therapy interventions to the patients or people with disabilities;

To strengthen and promote the awareness of physical therapy education for improving the development of the human resources and contributing to the reduction of the disability in Cambodia;

To be responsible as a member of CPTA in celebrating this international physical therapy day

**III- Ceremony Preparation and Process**

**a. Ceremony Preparation**

Two week before the ceremony on 12th September 2015, the physical therapy students, members and executive board of CPTA distributed 2000 copies of the promotional leaflets regarding to the presentation and discussion of the advantages and important roles of physical therapy to the passed high school students and free-physical therapy treatment at the CPTA clinic. The banner and logo of the World Physical Therapy Day 2015 were printed out and together with shirts and stickers were distributed to the 30 members of CPTA to wear and attach to their motorbikes and Tuk Tuks. The Movement for Health sign and physical therapy provision were mounted in front of the CPTA Clinic.

University of Health Science (UHS) has been announcing the Open House of UHS through the university education network since early mid of September 2015 to the passed high school students and their families to be encouraged to attend the presentation of the advantages and roles physical therapist and other health professional majors at UHS on 25th September 2015.
b. Ceremony Process

i. Open House of UHS

The Open House of UHS was conducted two times per day of 25th September 2015 (one session in the morning and another session in the afternoon). The topic of the Advantages and Important Roles of Physical Therapy (presented by Mr. PHAP Hiep, Director of Human Resource Development Department of CPTA) was allowed to share to 300 passed high school students and their families at the conference room of UHS. The same topic (presented by Mr. HUOT Chantheng, Operational Manager of CPTA Clinic) was shared again to 300 passed high school students and their families on 1st October 2015 at UHS.

The topic of physical therapy profession was interested by the high school students and they might be interested to enroll for physical therapy course at UHS in 2016.

• The presentation and discussion of the advantages and roles of physical therapy to the passed high school students and free-physical therapy treatment at CPTA Clinic

There were 12 passed high school students who were willing to understand what were the advantages and roles of the physical therapist. Mr. Sit SONG, a President of CPTA, provided the presentation (the same topics on September 25, 2015) were presented two times per day of physical therapy and explained the key information as below:
• What is physical therapy?
• What are the advantages of physical therapy?
• Studying of physical therapy and job opportunities
• Role of CPTA in Cambodia
• Involvement and collaboration of national and international stakeholders on physical therapy

After the presentation, there were some questions from the students how to enroll for physical therapy course in the school of physical therapy, accreditation of physical therapy (national and international level), available of the job opportunities of physical therapy in Cambodia and what is the key role of CPTA for physical therapy?

At the same time, there were 10 patients who received the physical therapy intervention with free of charge at CPTA clinic. The majority of their conditions treated were musculoskeletal conditions.

IV- Press Media
Three popular television stations (Bayon, CNC and Ramsey Hang Meas) were given information about the ceremony for an advert. The stations broadcasted the information about how physical therapy helps patients, the purpose for celebrating World Physical Therapy Day in 2015 and the important role of physical therapy in community. They also interviewed the President of CPTA to discuss the advances in physical therapy and the ceremony’s purpose. Therefore, the information of the physical therapy and the World Physical Therapy Day was spread to Cambodian people across the country. (The
broadcasted information can be found from this link [www.cambodiapt.org].

V- Financial Report
CPTA would gratefully thank to ICRC for fully funding for the World Physical Therapy Day this year (2015). There was a total of $588 was spent during the event.

VI- Knowledge Assessment
All the 18 students were tested with 10 questions before and after providing the presentation of the advantages and important roles of physical therapy. After presentation, the students gained by 12% (all of them responded with the right answers). Please see the graph below.

![Comparing the knowledge before and after the representation](image)

VII- Conclusion
The World Physical Therapy Day in 2015 was well-organized, ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all the participants. The information of physical therapy and its advantages were spread all across the country. CPTA is committed to again organize an event for the World Physical Therapy Day again in September 2016.