

Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE - Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer your skills overseas as a Radiologist in the developing world, and combine it with a most interesting trip to explore Southeast Asia?

The Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE in Phnom Penh opened its doors in 1996 as a training center for medical professionals, while providing 24-hour health care to the medically underserved poor people of Cambodia at no charge.

The hospital, managed by HOPE worldwide is, despite its small physical size, one of the busiest in the country and sees 350 patients daily - more than a million patient consultations have been completed since 1996. English is the language used in the hospital. (Please visit their webpage www.sihosp.org)

The hospital has a small radiology department limited at this time to plain radiographs, fluoroscopy and ultrasound, but has received donation of a CT scanner, which will be installed the summer of 2010. Most plain film interpretation is done by the general medical staff in the ER and clinics, while the lone radiologist does about half of the ultrasound and all the fluoroscopy studies.

The hospital is fortunate to receive a steady stream of overseas medical volunteers, mostly from Europe, Australia and the US, in internal medicine and in orthopedics, with occasional surgical help. What is lacking is ongoing training in radiology, not only for the radiologist but for all the medical staff, who base their diagnosis and treatment of patients upon their own interpretation of the x-ray or ultrasound done in the clinic or emergency room. When CT arrives, they will need both radiological and technical help to get started.

This is a wonderful and rewarding opportunity for a radiologist or technologist who has from 2 weeks or longer to volunteer. It is an experience like no other. No Cambodian medical licensing or work permit is needed, just a desire to do something really worthwhile for others in need, and a willingness to pitch in and help. For further information, please contact Dr. Michael Paling at: mpaling06@yahoo.com.