ANGKOR HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN: A DREAM REALIZED

Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC) started as the dream of one man. Twelve years after the opening of AHC and with the support of generous individuals all over the world, this dream continues to grow. Angkor Hospital for Children is a testament to the dedication of Mr. Kenro Izu.

Kenro Izu was born in Osaka in 1949. After studying at Nihon University, College of Arts, in Tokyo, he moved to New York and established Kenro Izu Studio in 1974. Specializing in still life commercial photography he also made time to pursue his love of fine art photography. In addition to photographing florals and nudes, Kenro specializes in a Platinum-Palladium print method with 14 x 20” negatives. Using this distinctive format he travels the world to photograph sacred sites and architecture.

Between 1993 and 1996 Kenro made a series of trips to Cambodia to capture the images for his photographic series Light Over Ancient Angkor (later titled Passage to Angkor) featuring the stone monuments of Angkor. During his time in Cambodia he was deeply moved by his encounters with the ill, disfigured, and malnourished children of the war-torn country. As a way of returning something to Cambodia in thanks for the many images he captured there, and as a symbol of his gratitude for the profound inspiration he received from Cambodia’s ancient monuments, Kenro dedicated himself to building a charity pediatric hospital near the Angkor Wat temples.

Since opening in 1999, Angkor Hospital for Children has treated more than 900,000 children, performed over 10,000 surgeries, and educated thousands of Cambodian health workers. AHC is officially recognized by the Cambodian Ministry of Health as a Teaching Hospital and works in collaboration with the Cambodian government and other NGOs to improve the quality of pediatric medical care and public health throughout the country.

From his New York studio Kenro founded Friends Without A Border in 1996. With the help of an international board of healthcare professionals, the arts community, and members worldwide, Friends Without A Border opened Angkor Hospital for Children in 1999. Now living in upstate New York with his wife, Yumiko, a partner of Kenro Izu Studio, Kenro looks forward to continued involvement with Cambodia, a place which will forever occupy a special place in his heart—as he will in the hearts of innumerable Cambodian children and their families.