



Resource Development
International - Cambodia

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To Whom It May Concern,

Resource Development International - Cambodia (RDI) is a non-profit non-governmental organization involved in education, community development, sustainable safe water technologies, and public health and environmental research. RDI has operated in Cambodia since 2000 and has established itself as a leader in the water and sanitation sector in the country. RDI also operates one of the most sophisticated laboratories in Cambodia and as such, is a host to a variety of research collaborations with universities from around the world. In addition, our organization also conducts water and soil testing for organizations and companies throughout the country. Our capacity continues to develop and is supported largely by volunteers and professional partners.

Over the past year we had the pleasure of hosting Adrian Letzner, an outstanding volunteer from Germany. Adrian displayed an interest in working on projects in a developing country and applying his background in water science. Upon his arrival at RDI, Adrian quickly adapted to the cultural and lifestyle changes that go along with living in Cambodia and began recognizing the many ways he could improve our laboratory and capacity build our staff. Adrian balanced his time between research projects such as low-cost membrane filtration methods and small-scale aquaculture with protocol and procedural development related to water quality testing activities. Adrian also worked on setting up new equipment and integrating new testing procedures and protocols into existing lab activities. Adrian functioned as the Laboratory Technical Manager and as part of this role, was responsible for managing a team of laboratory technicians. He also worked with his staff to develop and translate a comprehensive laboratory handbook and conducted months of training on water chemistry background, equipment maintenance, and instrumentation operation.

Adrian demonstrated a unique ability to observe problems, recognize when he had the means to solve them, and finally to execute the solutions and ensure that they were sustainable. Adrian was extremely hard working and focused himself fully to the activities in the laboratory – despite the fact that he was a volunteer. Adrian demonstrated characteristics of value to any professional in the sciences; he was extremely thorough in his approach to solving problems, he always kept his eye open for new ways to use his skills to improve existing activities, and he worked independently and was self-motivated.

It was a pleasure working with Adrian and getting to know him over this past year. I think Adrian has learned a great deal about how his skills and abilities can have such a tremendous impact in developing countries where human resources in the sciences remain weak. I know Adrian will take what he has learned from his time in Cambodia, apply it to whatever he chooses to pursue, and ultimately find success on a personal and professional level.

We at RDI thank Adrian for his selfless service to our organization, and at a great scale, for his contribution to the water sector in Cambodia. We wish Adrian the very best in all that he chooses to pursue in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Shantz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Shantz".

Andrew Shantz
Laboratory and Research Director
Resource Development International - Cambodia