

**Ambassador's Speech at the Concluding Day of World Autism
Awareness Month**

Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CCAMH)

Chey Chumneas Referral Hospital, Takhmau

(30 April 2025)

Namashkar! Chum reap sur, Good morning,

Venerable Kou Sopheap

His Excellency Dr. Ly Makara, Director of Chey Chumneas Referral
Hospital

His Excellency Dr. Kouy Buntheurn, Director of the Provincial Health
Department, Kandal Province

Dr. J. Bhoomikumar

Team Caritas-CCAMH

It is a pleasure to join you today for the launch of the manual-cum book
“Sleep Hygiene”, especially during World Autism Awareness Month — a
time dedicated to promoting understanding, inclusion, and support for
individuals with autism. It is also an honor to witness the outstanding
work being carried out by the Center for Child and Adolescent Mental
Health (CCAMH) at Chey Chumneas Referral Hospital.

As many of you are aware, India has been associated with CCAMH since
1980s and has provided not only equipment but also deputed Indian
doctors to assist Cambodian friends and help build the capacity. Under
the auspices of India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Fund, a major
expansion of CCAMH was undertaken.

I am pleased to share that under the Quick Impact Project scheme of the Mekong Ganga Cooperation, two Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) have been implemented in collaboration with CCAMH.

The first QIP focused on “Capacity Building of Caregivers and Professionals to Empower Children and Adolescents with Multiple Disabilities and Their Families.”

The second and ongoing QIP, titled “Reaching Orphaned and Vulnerable Children through Mobile Clinical Services Van,” progressed in December 2024 with the formal handover of the Mobile Clinical Van by the Embassy of India to CCAMH.

We are hopeful that this van is serving as a valuable resource for communities across Kampong Cham and Tboung Khmum provinces. It aims to deliver essential healthcare services and raise health awareness, particularly supporting vulnerable children and youth, including those living with psychological and other disabilities.

I am also pleased to announce that this year we look forward to launching a new Quick Impact Project in partnership with CCAMH and Ministry of Health of Cambodia. This project will focus on empowering young people with mental health challenges and learning disabilities, both in schools and within the prison system in Cambodia.

We are also deeply encouraged by the growing cooperation between CCAMH and institutions in India, and we hope this partnership will continue to flourish.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the outstanding work and lifelong commitment of Dr. J. Bhoomikumar, whose decades of service to Cambodia have made a lasting difference in the lives of many.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to CCAMH-Caritas Cambodia for your unwavering dedication and compassion.

Thank you all for being here today and for your ongoing support in improving the lives of vulnerable individuals across Cambodia.

Thank You, Som Orkun