

Name of participant	Phearsa Thor
Host partner	Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT)
Home partner	Cambodian School of Prosthetics & Orthotics (CSPO)
Place and date for report	TATCOT (July 09, 2012)

1. Main activities carried out in the period:

Second Year

- Teaching theories which are related to the gait deviations of transfemoral amputees and to spinal orthotics.

Third Year

- Supervising students when casting, fabricating, fitting, and delivering of appliances.



Showing the technique of moulding to avoid wrinkles at ankle



Evaluation and feedback of a cock-up splint

2. With reference to aims and objectives of your work, how do you view your own contribution so far (give examples)?

In addition to the input by the school management team and local tutors my contribution in the instruction has been to strengthen the students' competency and hand-skills. All students now have a strong ability in fabricating good quality prostheses and orthoses by following the recommended appropriate technology.

3. Have you experienced challenges during this period? If so, please specify. How can they be dealt with?

Some challenges have arisen from a number of issues. For instance:

1. The delay of arrival of ordered materials which students need for their practice.
2. The limited number of tools available in the school store.
3. Refusal from the patient or delay in the patient to return to the school for students to fit their devices after casting.

These factors create a negative impact not just on students' performance but also on the teacher's performance. I believe that the school management team knows what to do to avoid a repetition of this type of experience in the future.

4. General work plan for the next period:

- Will continue supporting the third year students before their final examination
- Will act as one of the examiners in the final examination of third year students
- Will arrange a seminar on return to my home country
- Will share with other fk participants in the home coming seminar the experience learnt in Tanzania and particularly from TATCOT.

5. What will be your priorities (work tasks) in the next period?

The following are priorities that I am planning to carry out in the next quarter:

- Continue to reinforce the third year students on practical work.
- Prepare a folder of all the educational materials which I have used for teaching.
- Consult with other FK participants (Mr. Vannara Rann and Mr. Sengheng Ly) and other former FK participants (Mr. Odom Teap and Mr. Sichoeun To) as well as the CSPO management team to arrange a home seminar to share our experiences.

6. How are you integrated in the professional activities at your work-place? Do you have any suggestions for improvements?

I have shared my expertise with students studying at TATCOT. On the top of that I have also learnt many new techniques which are very suitable for low-income countries such as Cambodia. I will share all of what I learnt with my colleagues and other P&O practitioners during the home seminar and KhAPO Congress.

In order to evaluate the quality of my teaching, I conducted a survey by asking students from both classes to evaluate my teaching skills. The overall result showed that my teaching was excellent and students appreciated all experiences, skills and knowledge that I had shared with them.

I was asked to join all of the academic meetings of the school which mainly discussed academic issues and actions that should be taken to fulfil the ISPO recommendations for educating P&O professionals.

I was also given an opportunity to attend the student/academic meeting which was arranged by the school. All teachers, staff of school and all students were called to attend. The discussions between the top management of the school and students to ease some problems or answer some queries from students resulted in a better mutual understanding from both sides.



The student/academic meeting

I have 2 suggestions for the school to consider:

1. Patient selection

Regarding the selection for patients for the final examination, I think it should be done by the school and not by the students. This would help to reflect the proper competency of each student.

2. Manuals

Manuals of prosthetics and orthotics should be created which support the classroom teaching given to the students.

7. How do you evaluate your social life in this period? Do you have any suggestions for improvements?

My social life in this quarter was wonderful. I had a chance to visit the National Park in Arusha where I saw lots of real animals which do not exist in my country; I thank my FK colleague, Mr. Torsten Appenzellar, for initiating and arranging this trip. We all had a lot of fun and greatly enjoyed the beautiful view of the park.

I was invited to several parties which were arranged by TATCOT. This made me feel warmly welcome and being cared for. I greatly appreciated that.



Arusha National Park
(Tanzania)

8. Other comments

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Rune, Miss. Anne Lill, Mr. Shangali, Madam Sisary, Mr. Odom, Mrs. Mranga, Mr. Mosha and all the involved staff of both schools for their hard work in supporting me. My accomplishment is a part of their efforts and cooperation.

On the top of this, I would like to thank TATCOT as well as the FK Exchange Programme coordinators for arranging wonderful visits for FK participants to some other rehabilitation centres during the FK partnership meeting. These visits gave me a good understanding how each centre was set up and its general structure.



Visiting CCBRT & Usa River Centre

However, I have some suggestions which I believe will greatly improve motivation and a more fruitful outcome of this exchange programme to the participants:

1. On arrival the host school should arrange a meeting with the exchange programme participants to discuss the participants' objectives or expectations of what they wish to learn and share with the host school.
2. Every 3 months there should be a meeting between the host school and the FK participants to review or follow-up the performance of the participants and also to give constructive feedback so that they improve their input and effectiveness.
3. Commendations or certificates should be awarded by either the host school or SMO to the participant when the mission comes to the end.
4. Tools boxes should be provided to exchange participants by TATCOT to allow them to carry out their demonstrations.