

October 2011

Mission Report
August * September *
2011



Formons Une Famille

So it continues...

Summary:

- **So it continues:** the purpose of a mission in the different countries of origin
- **The waiting period:** the prediction is impossible
- **Highlights** from the countries

On a regular basis, we travel on what we call a mission to the countries where we work. These missions are designed to gather the necessary information for the continuation of our activities, and they are just as crucial in maintaining our relationships with our various partners.

The information we gather is often of a general or administrative nature and helps our Society to guide the parents towards the achievement of their adoption project.

During our missions and also through each of our actions, we are constantly working in the best interest of the children. Our most sincere hope? Finding families for children in need of a family life.

We hope that this mission report will show you in more concrete terms the ongoing work of the Society, its volunteers and members of its entire team who are totally devoted to the cause.

Enjoy reading !



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ans
d'histoire de vie
et d'amour



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Delays for adoption



It is impossible to predict the exact waiting period for parents who are waiting to adopt a child, regardless of the country in which they have submitted their file.

In recent years, the adoption possibilities for adoptive parents seem to have

decreased, so the waiting period lengthens.

Our various missions are not a tool to assess the waiting time because even the authorities of the countries of origin cannot assess this with certainty.

People's Republic of China



Two missions were carried out in recent months. The organization has met the general director of the **CCCWA**, Mr. Zhang Shifeng, and the Assistant Directors to discuss the efforts of the **CCCWA** (China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption) to process the domestic and international adoptions.



The **CCCWA** made numerous visits to the provinces to better equip the Provincial authorities of the Ministry of Civil Affairs so that they can respond more quickly to the needs of the children who need permanent families. The CCCWA is sensitive to delays for achieving this goal.

« The discussions also focused on the waiting period between the filing of the dossier... and the matching of a child... »

The discussions also focused on the waiting period between the filing of the dossier of the international adoptive parents and the matching of a child (without special needs). Although **CCCWA** hopes these delays would be much shorter, it cannot predict the number of healthy children who will be abandoned and who will not find a permanent family in China, and thus who could then be matched to parents registered for international adoption.

In order to find families for children with special needs, the Society works closely with the **CCCWA** on the placement of children with special needs (health problems, disabilities, various diseases). Our Society is actively working to find parents as it is in the best interest of the children to be placed quickly in a permanent family.

Kingdom of Cambodia



The new adoption law of the Kingdom of Cambodia was adopted in December 2009; international adoptions were scheduled to resume April 1, 2011. However, sensitive to the recommendations of various organizations including UNICEF, the Cambodian authorities have decided to postpone the application of the law until April 1, 2012.

To fully implement these new procedures, the Central Authority of Cambodia decided to organize a week of seminars on the implementation of the law and therefore on the resumption of adoptions. Our organization participated in these seminars held from September 12 to September 16, 2011.

Several steps must be completed in the coming months:

- Obtain an agreement between the Government of Cambodia and the SAI / Government of Canada, regarding the number of accredited adoption agencies;
- Our Agency will then submit its application to the Central Authority of Cambodia;
- The Society must have a Khmer representative living in Cambodia and must establish an office;
- Cambodia is likely to establish a maximum number of accredited international adoption agencies as well as a quota of the number of adoptions for each organization.
- A mission will take place in November and it should allow us to prepare our accreditation application. However, the realization of this accreditation request will depend on whether the SAI and the Government of Canada agree among themselves, as well as with the Government of Cambodia (bilateral agreement on the number of organizations).

Republic of the Philippines



Every second year, the central authority of the Philippines (**ICAB — Intercountry Adoption Board**) and the ACCAP (Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines), organize an international conference. The Society participated in this three-day



« ...visited several orphanages in the Metro Manila area. »

forum and discussions. In addition, the Society, along with the new representative of the *Secrétariat à l'adoption internationale*, has visited several orphanages in the Metro Manila area. Our representative also organized and participated in a meeting with the new personnel responsible for the immigration procedures for international adoptions at the Canadian Embassy in the Philippines.

A link to the statistics obtained from ICAB is found below. Note, however, that the statistics also include the relative adoption cases (family members). This influences the statistics as these relative adoption cases often involve children aged 2 years or more. We therefore recommend caution in interpreting the data contained in these statistics. This data cannot be extrapolated to determine the number of adoptions the Society will facilitate in the Philippines in the coming months or years.

Link to some [interesting statistics](#). Source : *11th Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services, August 2011*.

Highlights / Mission of August 2011

- The application of the new law using administrative procedures to declare available for adoption a child with unknown socio-biological antecedents, implemented for the past two years, remains laborious. All child dossiers are processed by the Metro Manila office of the DSWD-Department of Social Welfare and Development. Regional offices have to prepare the dossiers of abandoned children with unknown parental history. For two years, few cases have been processed completely. However, since the last presidential elections, the new Secretary of State (Minister of DSWD) appointed by President Aquino, put a priority on the administrative declaration of adoptability. This is very encouraging because greater efforts are now being made and we begin to see results. Many children have been waiting in orphanages and could not be adopted, either nationally or internationally, as their status was not clarified. We believe that in the coming months, several cases of children should be processed using the administrative procedure in place.
- ICAB has not lifted the moratorium on adoption applications for children under 2 years of age. However, it appears that to date approximately 50% of the approved applications for a child under 2 years old have been matched (all receiving countries combined).
- ICAB has not made any specific statement about the waiting period. The waiting time is still evaluated at 2 to 3 years. To learn more about the matching process (matching of a child to adoptive parents), please visit the Philippines page on our website, at the section "**Processing of the applications by the Central Authority – ICAB**".
- ICAB wishes to reduce the waiting time between the approval of the adoptive parents file and the proposal of a child. Their objective is to reduce it to less than 2 years. In this context, all adoption agencies who submitted more than 10 files each year in the last three years (which is our case), can no longer submit new files. ICAB has given no indication as to when this moratorium could be lifted. The most likely hypothesis is that the moratorium could be lifted once the waiting period will be less than two years.
- ICAB continues to prioritize the matching of applications approved during the last semester of 2008.



Socialist Republic of Vietnam

The new adoption law in Vietnam is in effect since January 1, 2011. This act somehow reverses the procedures, because now the files of the adoptive parents are accepted by the central authority of the Department of Justice (DA-Department of Adoption) BEFORE a child is proposed to the parents. Our mission and our discussions revealed the following:

- Last spring, we greeted in Quebec the director of the DA, Mr. Binh. He was expecting that the first parent files could be matched in June 2011. However, since then, the children files were not submitted to the DA as it was expected. Judicial services of the provinces and cities have worked slowly with these new procedures and ways of doing things, wanting to make sure everything was perfect. Consequently, only few cases of children were submitted to the DA.
- According to the latest information we have, the first cases could be matched in October 2011. However, the children cases may not come from the Vietnam central region where have been working for many years. **It is impossible to determine whether some of these early cases will be assigned to our agency or not.**
- Let's recall some facts : when children are declared available for adoption (no family has been found in Vietnam), the DA sends some parent files to Justice Department of the province from which these children originate. Normally, the DA will send more parent files than there are children files, in an effort to allow judicial services to make a choice and to submit its recommendations to the DA. The DA will approve or reject the recommendations. After final approval, the DA sends the proposal of the child to the adoption agency in order for it to be presented to the concerned family. Our hypothesis is that the judicial services are likely to recommend families from adoption agencies they already know. Eventually, all other parent applications will be matched when more children will be declared available for adoption, however, it will not necessarily be done in chronological order.
- We also observed that few children are being supported by the orphanages we know. We have asked them why so few children were placed under their responsibility over the last months. The orphanages were very prudent. First, they no longer receive funding (as in the past). They say they lack the funds to properly care for children (lack of staff) and to feed them properly and give them the required health services. Thus, they refuse to accept new children because of the lack of funds. We must remember that under the regulations of the new law, adoption agencies can no longer directly fund orphanages.
- We tried to find out what is happening to these abandoned children. Where are they now? The orphanages could not tell us or enlighten us. We can assume that they are supported by hospitals or are in the pagodas.



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- Since our agency was selected to participate in the new program for the adoption of children with special needs in the central region of Vietnam, we hope that soon these children will have a permanent family in Quebec.
- Each accredited adoption agency (Société Formons une Famille submitted its application for accreditation) will have a quota on the number of adoptions per year. This quota will be established in 2012, but the date has not yet been determined. This quota will be based on the average number of adoptions (per agency) during the three years prior to the adoption of the new law.