Making the World a Friendlier Place for Children The Picture Books for Cambodian Children group at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies started its good work in 2003. Since 2003 this hard-working group has produced 4 original picture books in three languages - Khmer, Japanese, and English. Representatives of the group have travelled to Cambodia to meet children in 2004, 2007, and 2008. All members of the group work hard throughout the year planning the books, drawing the pictures, writing and translating the stories, and publishing the books. Many awareness-raising photo exhibitions have been held at KUFS festivals to help make connections between Japan and Cambodia. Everyone who sees the photos of Cambodian children reading the books understands the beautiful purpose at the heart of the Picture Books Project. Everyone who sees the photos of KUFS students and Cambodian children laughing together will believe that ordinary people in Japan and ordinary people in Cambodia can make our world a friendlier place for children. The motto of our university is Pax Mundi per Linguas, Peace in the World through Language. The language of the books, in pictures and words, tell good stories that bring peace of mind. Do you know the proverb about the power of pictures? One picture is worth one thousand words. Look at the stories brought to life in the picture books! Look at the picture stories told by the photos of the visit to Cambodia! The United Nations Millennium Development Goal #2 is a primary school education for each child in our world. Children need books to take the first steps in learning to read. We has good learning experiences in Cambodia:1. Kikuo Morimoto, an IMAGINE Peace guest speaker, believes the Picture Book Project is valuable. He hopes picture books can be created that will teach Cambodian children about their own nation's silk weaving traditions. He also suggested that Picture Book topics include everyday health practices such as washing hands before meals and brushing teeth after meals. 2. Make The Heaven, a Japanese NGO which supports Cambodian orphans and other children who need a helping hand, is a practical grass-roots operation. Make the Heaven would make a good partner for the KUFS Picture Books for Cambodian Children. 3. Many people in rural areas and in urban slums in Cambodia cannot read. They need more books. There are places which need public libraries for children. 4. The Cambodian children we met were fun to be with. They absolutely loved our books and Cambodian teachers knew how to use the books as teaching materials. 5. It is important to travel safely and if you do, Cambodia provides many great learning experiences. Our links with Morimoto-san's Wisdom of the Forest project and Make the Heaven can help be happy, safe and useful to others in Cambodia. Thank you Yuriko, Nana, Yukiko, and Chitose for your very hard work. You were fun to travel with. Your work is important and the Picture Book group has a bright future!!!

Best wishes, Craig