

ASIAN  
Geographic

YOU ARE WHAT YOU READ

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# THE THREAD

SEEKING ATTENTION,  
SKILL AND  
SOUND BITES

IF TIME AND  
RELATIVE,  
THE YEARS

SPACE ARE  
WHERE DO  
STAND?

VIKAS SWARUP:  
CURIOSITY IS KEY

CONFESSIONS OF A  
SHOPAHOLIC

+

CLASSROOM AFFAIRS  
BRINGING IMAGES TO LIFE  
THE NEW EYE-POPPING APPAREL  
MARCEL NGYUBEN STRIKES AGAIN



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It all started with our trip around the world in 2008, when we came through Cambodia and spent seven months working at an orphanage. We noticed that most kids, when they reach the age where they have to leave the orphanage, have nowhere to go and no idea what to do. This realisation made it impossible for us to turn our backs on them and carry on with our lives. We wanted to help.

*Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.* It was with this philosophy in mind that we decided to found a social enterprise that would teach these late-teenage orphans the work and life skills they needed. Our goal was to offer them a stepping stone from institution to real life with the prospect of an independent future. The idea of the HAVEN Training Restaurant was born.

From that moment on, we were determined to put our plan into action. Not once did we have second thoughts about our big idea, even though it had never been our

dream to run a restaurant and the thought of setting up something this big was terrifying. We soon returned home to Switzerland, founded the Dragonfly Association, invested all our time and energy in a workable and well-thought-out concept, raised the funds, returned to Cambodia and started building.

Today, HAVEN is a small but professional restaurant in Siem Reap, training cooks and waiters according to Western quality standards. Watching these young adults grow in knowledge and confidence and seeing the impact this training has on their lives is truly overwhelming.

Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said: "If your dreams don't scare you, they're not big enough." That quote has been the source of our inspiration from the beginning, giving us the strength to face all the challenges along the way. We hope it will do the same for you, too. Never think you are too small to make a difference. Dream big and believe in what you do. We could do it and so can you.

**SARA AND PAUL WALLIMANN** set up Dragonfly ([www.dragonflycambodia.org](http://www.dragonflycambodia.org)) in Switzerland in 2010 to create awareness about the problems orphans in Cambodia face and to raise funds for the HAVEN Training Restaurant. After giving up their jobs and selling everything they had, the couple moved to Cambodia in April 2011 and opened HAVEN eight months later ([www.havencambodia.com](http://www.havencambodia.com)).

