

SOMPPOP'S WORDS



Sompop Jantraka

The year 2006 is well underway and we are very excited about the changes and events we have already seen. Early this year the staff and the directing team met for a series of meetings to develop a new organizational structure for DEPDC. The organization has grown and changed in so many ways over the past few years, it is very important to evaluate and adjust the core structure to meet those changes.

The second group of the Mekong Youth Net participants are finishing their internships at various NGO's in the region. They will return to DEPDC at the end of April for their

graduation. We also look forward to welcoming the third group of promising young women participating in the MYN program.

Recently DEPDC celebrated the graduation of many young men and women from the Patak Half-Day School and DEPDC. We are very proud of their accomplishments and are sad to see them go. Several of the girls will be participating in MYN-3, while a number of them will be moving to Chiang Rai for further vocational training at Tantawan School.

The Doi Luang center is now in its new location in Chiang Kong. There, the girls will have better facilities and more opportunities. We look forward to the further development of this new center.

I would like to thank you for your interest and continued involvement in our work. Because of your support, the children of DEPDC can hope for a better future.

I would also like to take a moment to thank our dedicated foreign volunteers and those organizations who support them. Recently some of our finest volunteer sending organizations have withdrawn from Thailand and their participation at DEPDC will be greatly missed. As always, we would be delighted to welcome foreign volunteers interested in working at DEPDC, especially those who are able to make a long-term commitment of a one- or two- year placement.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Children's Day

Children's Day, the national festival held on the second Saturday of January, celebrates children and recognizes their role as the future of the nation. Children across the country hold parties, attend fetes and enjoy the attention that is lavished on them.

Here at DEPDC the Half Day School children spent the Friday before Children's Day competing in a talent contest which saw a range of singing and dancing performances to rival any theatre show. With a confidence not often seen in Western children they danced and sang across the stage, performing all the latest hits. A selection of goodies were available to refresh the children's tired voices between numbers and also tempt the parents who ventured up from the village to watch their offspring perform.

The next day the resident DEPDC children, staff, and a few of the foreign volunteers, boarded the bus at 8am for a two hour journey to Mae Suey where a special fair was being held. The children were treated to craft workshops, puppet shows, musical performances, and some current films, as well as a variety of races to take part in and of course the ever present selection of tasty treats.



Children Perform at DEPDC Children's Day
festivities

Donor Thank You

Mrs L. Acvedo - USA, **The Asia Foundation** - Thailand, **Anesvad** - Spain, **E. Bookwinkel** - The Netherlands, **L. & H. Braesel** - Germany, **S. Caplan** - USA, **Co-Operaid** - Switzerland, **J. Campbell & B. Cummings** - USA, **T. Fletcher** - UK, **Friends of Thai Daughters** - USA, **Global Giving Foundation** - USA, **Ms Paula Grieco** - USA, **G. Harbenn** - Germany, **Mr. and Mrs. Hasek** - USA, **Mr. Haveman** - The Netherlands, **M. Jameson** - USA, **H.S. Jones Jr. & N. Jones** - USA, **R. Kakkad** - Taiwan, **Mr. and Mrs. Kanuk** - USA, **S. Kazenel** - Canada, **P. & A. Mann** - Laos, **Ms. Markkanen** - Finland, **MCC Laos** - Laos, **OxfamNovib** - The Netherlands, **R.T. Naing** - Thailand, **The Old Bangkok Inn** - Thailand, **Open Society Institute** - USA, **T.L. Owen** - USA, **P. Panati** - USA, **P.S. & G. Pelzer** - Bangkok, **D. Pfitzner** - Germany, **Rotary Club** - Canada, **Save the Children UK** - Thailand, **H. d'Struggles** - USA, **Mrs. Sarah Symons** - USA, **D.A. & D.E. Vreugd** - The Netherlands, **T. Uitti** - Finland, **M. Weedage & K. Logtenberg** - The Netherlands, **D.E. Windroos** - The Netherlands.

New Structure

In January of 2006, Sompop, the directing team, and all staff members of DEPDC met to discuss the current organizational structure. All projects and aspects of the organization were discussed and evaluated and it was determined that a new structure was necessary to better accommodate the various facets of the organization. This new structure was created and established by the organization as a whole. The new system will allow for increased development and activity for the children, more support for staff, and a better system of organization for the directing team. Everyone seemed to be very pleased with the results of the meetings and excited about the changes in the year ahead.

Child Development Workshop

Dr. Gregor Lange, Child Psychologist and President of The Children's Organisation of Southeast Asia (COSA), gave a two-day workshop at DEPDC



Participants in the Psychology Training

on child development, behaviour management skills, counselling skills, working with children, families and the extended community, children's rights, therapeutic activities and child trafficking.

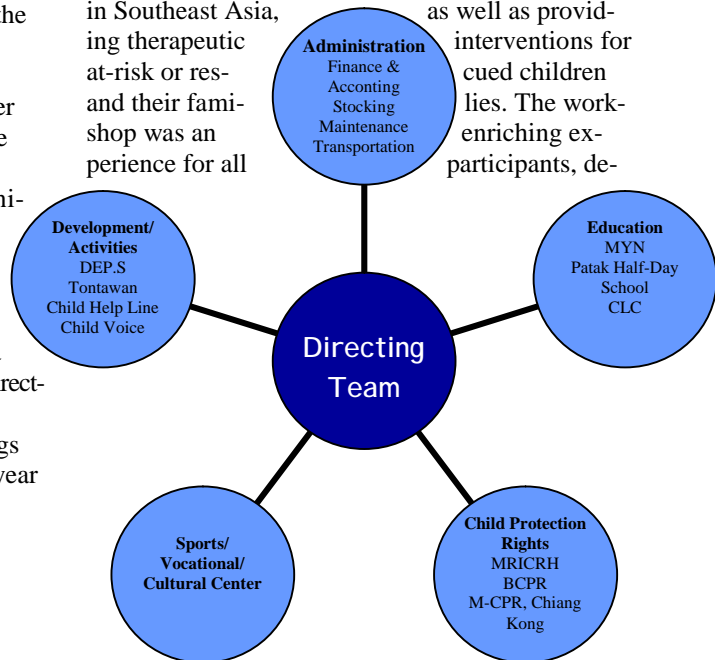


Preparing for the Workshop

The DEPDC staff that attended included child development workers, Mekong Youth Net (MYN) youth leaders, project coordinators, international

volunteers and Thai staff and teachers.

COSA is comprised of a varied range of highly qualified and experienced clinical psychologists and social workers and aims to prevent child trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Southeast Asia, as well as providing therapeutic interventions for at-risk or rescued children and their families. The workshop was an enriching experience for all participants, de-



THE FACES OF DEPDC

Alinda

Alinda Wettasin, known as P'Bau, has a long history with DEPDC. Her entire adult life is entwined with the center's conception and development and for that reason, along with her dedication and hard work, Alinda has come to represent the ideas and ethics that DEPDC stands for.



Alinda

Alinda was still a schoolgirl, studying grade 11, when she first met DEPDC's founder, Sompop Janatra. Sompop was visiting the school looking for a girl to help take care of some children who were having difficulties at home. Knowing Alinda well, her teacher recommended her as the ideal candidate.

In the beginning, Alinda supervised the children while they too studied at the school, providing guidance with both their academic and personal problems. As Sompop's vision of a center for daughters grew, he set up office in Alinda's family home and Alinda's responsibilities began to incorporate organizing activities for the girls and working with the financial aspects of the NGO.

Today, seventeen years later, Alinda is a keystone in the workings of DEPDC. She is involved in all aspects of the NGO, from project and activity coordination to control of the day-to-day budget and, in 2005, she became a member of DEPDC directing team, increasing her responsibilities still further.

"I'm involved in every project, although my actual job description changes from year to year," says Alinda. "I am always very busy".

This year sees a number of changes within DEPDC, but Alinda is already looking to the future.

"I hope DEPDC can focus on helping the children more by increasing its networking and building a better relationship with the Thai government," she says. "I also want the Community Learning Centre to grow to incorporate the teaching of trafficking and protection issues."



Always busy.

Alinda's future is always somewhat uncertain as her role in the center continues to develop. But she is certain of her continued involvement in the work of DEPDC. "I want to stay here long term," she says. "I am not sure where to go next or what to do but I love the work we do at DEPDC and whatever happens my future will be here."

The Portrait of A Student

Meuaydaeng Laikam is 16 years old and in the sixth level at the Half Day School here at DEPDC. She is originally from Chiang Dtung in Myanmar, but is now living with relatives in Mae Sai, Thailand. As difficult as it was, she left her parents and nine siblings to come to Thailand and study, only able to go back once recently when her father died. Meuaydaeng wishes she could visit them more, but only to visit, not to live.

DEPDC
has provided her
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Without nationality or money, Meuaydaeng's opportunities are limited and it was almost impossible to receive an education. Things changed when she came here to DEPDC, which provided her with an education and opened many doors for the future. Despite missing her family, she is happy here and with the opportunities DEPDC is able to provide. Meuaydaeng has grown and matured through the variety of responsibilities given to her. She is always ready with a beautiful smile and available to lend a helping hand.

Mueaydaeng is a very diligent young woman who loves to learn and puts her all into what she is studying. She loves to study math and English. She also loves exercising, playing soccer, and her friends. In the future, Meuaydaeng dreams of continuing language study, both Tai Yai and English, and eventually becoming a translator so she can travel around the world. She would love to visit Hong Kong and Japan. Meuaydaeng is extremely grateful for what DEPDC has provided. It has helped shape and mold her into who she has become.

SPOTLIGHT ON A FUNDING ORGANIZATION

NOVIB of the Netherlands

DEPDC is very pleased and honoured to welcome a new sponsor, Novib of the Netherlands, that is supporting and contributing to two of DEPDC's numerous programmes. The Mekong Youth Net (MYN) is aimed at the prevention of trafficking by educating youth leaders from the Mekong region to develop the capacity to lead advocacy and awareness raising programmes at community and international levels. The Protection Centre, a Half-Way House and Safe-Shelter provides a temporary home for rescued cross-border trafficked women and children. DEPDC meets the criteria of Novib's South-east Asia strategy on gender and diversity, aimed at reducing the vulnerability of children and women and the levels of trafficking in the Mekong Sub-region.

How to Give to DEPDC

There are two ways to donate to DEPDC:

(1) Directly to DEPDC in Thailand by transferring money directly to their Thai bank account.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR DAUGHTERS AND COMMUNITIES
PO Box 10
Mae Sai, Chiang Rai
57130, Thailand

BANK: Bank of Ayudhya Public Company, Mae Sai, Thailand
NAME OF ACCOUNT: Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities
ACCOUNT NR: 331- 1- 05358-6

The Bank of Ayudhya does not provide depositors' contact information, but we will gladly verify your donation and send an official thank-you letter if you choose to e-mail us with your information.

(2) Indirectly to DEPDC through the U.S.-based "Friends of Thai Daughters" (FTD). FTD was set up by American supporters to raise awareness of child trafficking and exploitation, as well as DEPDC's role as a pro-active, educational safe shelter for young girls and boys. For more info please have a look at: www.FriendsofThaiDaughters.org

Send your tax deductible cheque to
Friends of Thai Daughters inc,
PO Box 442
Trevett, ME 04571
USA

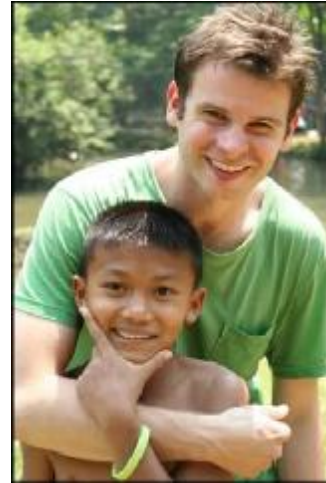
Alternatively please visit their website for details of how you can donate through PayPal.

Acknowledgment of each tax-deductible donation will be sent and donations are forwarded almost weekly to DEPDC.

The Foreign Volunteers of DEPDC

Jamie Wood is from New York, USA and has been with us for two and a half months. He plans on staying for five more. His primary responsibility is teaching English to both

Patak and DEPDC children. He also works as volunteer coordinator. Cindy Low is From Saskatoon, Canada and has been with us for two years. She finished at the end of March and will be greatly missed. Cindy has been in charge of many children's activities



Volunteer Jamie Wood with student

and camps, she has written reports, taught English, and administered trainings. Garry Payton-McDowall has recently come to DEPDC from San Francisco, USA; he is originally from the UK. With a background in computer application software, he came to help the center with website development and computer management, but has already taken on extra teaching roles. Maggie Miller is from Texas, USA and is wrapping up her eight months with us in May. She is building a curriculum for the Mekong Youth Net (MYN), a youth leader training program. She has worked closely with the MYN participants over the past year, teaching English, writing reports and spending valuable time with the girls. Maggie is also responsible for overseeing DEPDC's quarterly newsletter. Nikaela Peters is from Winnipeg, Canada and has been with us for six months with another three to go. She teaches English to the lower level Patak children and manages the donor receipts. She also helps run the Box System, a playing program for the kindergarten children that takes place on weekday mornings. Lorna Hankin is from the UK. She came to DEPDC three months ago and is working with DEPDC's Child Voice Radio to both advertise and develop specific programs. The quantity of English radio has been increased, and there is now a new half an hour English lesson every evening. Lorna is also responsible for teaching English three evenings a week to community members as part of the Community Learning Center. Heather Michigan, USA and came to DEPDC last fall. She has been teaching English and spending time with the children at Border Child Protection Rights center. She finished her term there at the end of March.