During meetings I am often asked, “So tell me Daniel, what is currently the most exciting thing that you are working on?”

For the last few months it has been rather easy to answer this question. It has been, without a doubt, our new initiatives in Myanmar made possible by the political changes towards democratisation in the country. These tremendous changes are truly remarkable and were unthinkable just a few years ago. The country is generally moving into the right direction. However, with the international sanctions lifted, many people, from both the for-profit and the not-for-profit sectors, are blinded by the untapped potential and seemingly endless opportunities in the Golden Land. If the rose-tinted spectacles are taken off, the reality presents itself less rosy. Business men realise that there is not enough skilled labour, lots of restrictions on foreign investment, rampant corruption and lack of law enforcement. Fellow NGO colleagues realise that many government agencies lack almost everything, notably capacity including skilled labour, resources, a framework to make decisions and, most importantly, the consciousness for the country’s large ethnic population. At the same time NGOs witness the surge of sectarian violence by Buddhists against the minority Muslim population and other rights violations such as land confiscation.

You might ask, now, why am I so excited about this? Despite these challenges, the new political landscape allows us to proactively address some of the country’s problems. This is truly exciting! Over the last two years Child’s Dream, together with its partners, has been initiating a range of initiatives to tackle these problems.

**Curriculum development and teacher training:** We are supporting the development of teaching and learning materials for civic education, social sciences and English language. The most recent module is called Active Citizenship. Together with our partner, we will conduct over 20 teacher training workshops in 2014 and provide teachers’ resource materials.

**Interfaith training for future community leaders and teachers:** This one-year training provides high quality education and professional development opportunities for future educators and community leaders to reduce an educational deficit while increasing tolerance among different religions and ethnicities. Our 36 graduates will be equipped to prevent and reduce religious conflicts and build the foundations for long-term development.

**Training on sustainable agriculture and land rights issues:** Together with our partner, Child’s Dream is supporting the running of a sustainable agriculture model farm outside of Yangon. Every year around 70 young agricultural enthusiasts are trained in sustainable agricultural practices while raising awareness for land rights issues through its Land, Law and Economics Training.

**Training on management, leadership and effective community development:** Child’s Dream supports the running of three high quality learning centres in Kayin, Kayah and Kachin States. These three post-high school centres offer a two-year full-time course to prepare young adults to provide effective community development to rural areas in ethnic states.

Maybe now you understand why I am excited. Most of the above initiatives are not fully funded yet. If you are as excited as me, come and join us to help build the foundations of a long-term and sustainable future for Myanmar based on true human values.

Daniel Marco Siegfried
Co-Founder

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**Introduction**

**The New Myanmar and Our Initiatives**

**D**uring meetings I am often asked, “So tell me Daniel, what is currently the most exciting thing that you are working on?” For the last few months it has been rather easy to answer this question. It has been, without a doubt, our new initiatives in Myanmar made possible by the political changes towards democratisation in the country. These tremendous changes are truly remarkable and were unthinkable just a few years ago. The country is generally moving into the right direction. However, with the international sanctions lifted, many people, from both the for-profit and the not-for-profit sectors, are blinded by the untapped potential and seemingly endless opportunities in the Golden Land. If the rose-tinted spectacles are taken off, the reality presents itself less rosy. Business men realise that there is not enough skilled labour, lots of restrictions on foreign investment, rampant corruption and lack of law enforcement. Fellow NGO colleagues realise that many government agencies lack almost everything, notably capacity including skilled labour, resources, a framework to make decisions and, most importantly, the consciousness for the country’s large ethnic population. At the same time NGOs witness the surge of sectarian violence by Buddhists against the minority Muslim population and other rights violations such as land confiscation.

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Daniel Marco Siegfried
Co-Founder
Welcome and Goodbye

In January, Angie, our bubbly Communications and Management Support, unfortunately left Chiang Mai to go back to Singapore to join her family and find a new professional playing field. We all very dearly miss her and greatly thank her for the wonderful time we were able to spend with her. She tirelessly moved many new Child’s Dream processes forward successfully.

Since the start of 2014, we have a number of new employees: Poe Nge (Mr. Tamalar Lin, Focus Group Higher Education), Nuh (Ms. Nan Lu, Caretaker) and Mr. Gene Lorca – a long-term ex volunteer of ours – who took over Angie’s position. In addition, Ning (Ms. Sirichan Pojorn), Ms. Su Mon Zaw and Mr. Kyaw Thu Aung (Yangon office) all started in the Administration Team on 1 March 2014.

Dedicated volunteers who have been with us for a very long time already and who tend to fall between the cracks by not being mentioned appropriately are David Easton from Canada, Michel Dejolier from Belgium and Thomas Favereau from France, as well as Emma Bianchi-Mosca from Switzerland, our 93-year old volunteer who has been working in our office part-time for the past seven winters. Ponnapa Prakkamakul and Nataly Veronica Diaz Diblenko have taught English at Baan Pong Tha Wee School. Rubina Hassam has supported our Administration Team with great wit and energy, and Marloes van der Werf-Hensels and Alexandra Hilble have now taken over her tasks.

A big, heartfelt “Thank You” to all of you!

Special Feature

Suchada Kokanot (Nickname: Mong)

After I graduated from midwifery college in 1984, I was posted to work as a public health officer in a rural area. My tasks were about health promotion such as disease prevention and control, maternal and child health, the delivery of babies, vaccinations, family planning, sanitation and health education. In 2007, I decided to change my job to work with the Nation Health Security Office, Region 2, Thailand (NHSO), as the Head of General Administration. While I worked with the NHSO, I had a very nice, modern office, worked with pleasant colleagues and wore a skirt and high heels, but I wondered why I felt like I was not myself and like I was looking for something, but didn’t quite know what it was. In March 2009, I made up my mind to quit my job. This was a big turning point in my life. My family and all friends were shocked and asked me, “Are you crazy, Mong??” and said, “You are too old to find a new job!” At that time, I didn’t care; I just wanted to find what I really love to do. Finally I found Child’s Dream Foundation’s advertisement which asked for a person who had a health background and professional experience. It was very interesting for me as it was not only working in Thailand, but also working in another Mekong Sub – Region countries. After a funny and unusual interviewed, I got the opportunity to work with Child’s Dream as Head of the Health Programme. Furthermore, I was given the chance to share my knowledge, skills and experience with each focus group.

Working with Child’s Dream is not ordinary. So many times it is extremely adventurous and exciting for me: learning new things and meeting people who are totally different in language, culture and belief. The five years I’ve been working here have been a great time for me. I have found what I want and really love to do and I can tell my friends who thought I was crazy that I now work with an extraordinary organisation…and that’s not crazy!

Mong
Head Focus Group Health

Project News

Children’s Medical Fund

What started humbly in 2006 grew to over 1,000 lives saved. Our Children’s Medical Fund allows children diagnosed with serious congenital diseases to access advanced health care and life-saving medical treatments. The beneficiaries are children between the age of 0 and 12 years old who are marginalised by their life circumstances in Myanmar and Laos. Even though the needed treatments are sometimes available in some city or provincial hospitals, the majority of the families simply cannot afford these expensive and complex procedures. Without our support, many of these children would have passed away within a few years or even months.

In 2013, a total of 210 patients were accepted into the programme while 129 cases were closed. Roughly 85% of the patients are from Myanmar and the rest are from Laos. The programme has seen tremendous growth in 2013. We accepted 74 more cases than in 2012, a growth of over 50%. And as the case load grows, so does our financial engagement.

The total expenses for this very important programme in 2013 amounted to close to USD 500,000. Some of our smaller donors might occasionally wonder what we do with their highly appreciated contributions. Having only budgeted USD 400,000 for the year 2013, we were forced to tap into our general donation pool in order to keep on treating the additional little patients. Thanks to our many smaller donors, we had enough funding to close the gap. Many thanks!!!
Vocational / High School Scholarships

One of the most significant bottlenecks in the education systems in the four countries in which we operate is accessibility to high schools or equivalent vocational schools, especially for children from remote and impoverished areas. Most students in our target communities would never have dreamt of attending high school in the cities. This has changed completely since Child’s Dream started its High School Scholarship Programme four years ago. We currently support 220 students in various high schools in Laos, Thailand and Cambodia. This year we will complement our programme by offering scholarships to vocational colleges in Thailand and Laos. Watch this video to hear from some of our Cambodian scholars about how this programme has impacted their lives. Thank you to B1G1!

Project News

First AAP Event in Yangon

Our new Child’s Dream acronym, AAP, stands for “Alumni Activities Programme”. On Sunday, 16 February we hosted our first Myanmar university scholarship alumni event in Yangon under the patronage of our donor, Mrs. T. We were thrilled to see so many of our former graduates, now valuable members of their own communities, helping to shape a newly revived Myanmar. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Thein Lwin, Founder of the “Thinking Classroom”, gave an insightful, pertinent speech about the government processes of developing new curricula for the Myanmar public school system. Mr. Peter Tschumi, Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Yangon, gave an overview about Swiss government support to Myanmar. Four Child’s Dream scholarship alumni reported on their current, challenging work in education and health in Kachin State, Yangon and Mon State and two school principals of rural youth education and training centres in Myanmar, funded by Child’s Dream, gave useful information about their activities and experiences. Apart from the information shared in these presentations, it was our goal to gather together alumni and final year Myanmar students, offering them a platform for networking. Hopefully this event will trigger new initiatives and develop into a working platform for Child’s Dream alumni in Myanmar.

Mote Oo

We’d like to introduce a new initiative we are supporting called Mote Oo, which means “Gateway” in English. Mote Oo grew out of interest from former Curriculum Project and Educasia staff with Child’s Dream’s support in early 2013. Mote Oo specialises in teacher training and curriculum and class materials production for community schools in Myanmar and along the Thai-Myanmar border (including ‘migrant’ schools and refugee camp schools). We are proud to announce that the Mote Oo office is now officially registered with the Myanmar government and is located in downtown Yangon, with a smaller branch office in Mae Sot.

The rationale for Mote Oo’s work is to ultimately produce materials relevant to the Myanmar context which builds knowledge and skills to enable students to address a range of social issues and inequalities in Myanmar society. Mote Oo is essentially able to act as a quality check on many programmes we support since these programmes often either teach with Mote Oo materials or involve Mote Oo’s training. Mote Oo is efficient: rather than supporting each school to design its own citizenship or gender textbooks, Mote Oo conducts needs assessment outreach across Myanmar, as well as at schools in the refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border and other ‘migrant’ schools in Thailand, then produces a variety of materials and conducts relevant training to respond to these schools’ needs.

Materials production and delivery is one of Mote Oo’s largest tasks; each year, it produces and delivers thousands of teacher books, student books, and other classroom resources to schools in need. In 2014, Mote Oo is also piloting a volunteer placement programme to supplement its support for education and training. Finally, we look forward to the possibility of expanding the reach of this programme into other countries in the Mekong Sub-region and are currently planning needs assessment fieldtrips to Cambodia and Laos.
### Child’s Dream by the Numbers: 2003-2013

#### Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>Burmese children aged below 5 years received vaccinations against eight childhood diseases since 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58,000</td>
<td>Burmese were protected from malaria, diarrhea and acute respiratory diseases by a comprehensive programme that provides treatment and education since the launch of this initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,079</td>
<td>Children received life-saving operations and medical interventions since 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Basic Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>Nursery, primary, or secondary schools were built for the children and youth of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand since 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,120</td>
<td>Children and youth stay/stayed in the boarding houses that we built in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand in the past years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127,305</td>
<td>Students and teachers in Myanmar received school supplies and teaching materials, such as pencils, pens, notebooks, scissors, chalk, etc. since the academic year 2008-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Water filtration systems were installed to provide clean drinking water to our schools in the past 10 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Higher Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>234</td>
<td>Academically strong students from the Mekong Sub-Region received scholarship support to continue studying at universities since 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,330</td>
<td>Students are currently studying in our twelve colleges in seven refugee camps along the Thai/Myanmar border</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Students gained practical experience with vocational skills in fields ranging from sustainable agriculture and environmental science to computer operation and foreign languages since 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and over 120... fantastic volunteers worked for free in our Child Dream offices or taught in the field since 2005.

### “Dr. GloomBoomDoom’s” views of charity

*We were just featured in the introduction of Dr. Marc Faber's famous GloomBoomDoom Report. Read what Dr. Marc Faber thinks about Child's Dream and charity in general.*

*Enjoy!*

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