



Child's Dream

A charity organisation supporting children in need

www.childsdream.org



Our objectives

We aim to prevent child exploitation (child prostitution, child labor, child soldiering and trafficking) and migration through

- improving living & health conditions and education standards;
- raising the awareness of child trafficking among families and communities;
- helping children to take pride in themselves and strengthen their self-esteem;
- cultivating a better attitude towards life and society and
- encouraging the children to love and respect their own customs and culture.

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Christmas-Newsletter

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Besides arguing about different music tastes, there is not much to do while being Tai's co-pilot on the "long road to Laos". She knows the most inexpensive and best restaurants, the petrol stations with the cleanest toilets and of course every "7/11" convenience store on our journey where we supply ourselves with water, iced coffee, candies, chocolate bars, potato chips, refreshment towels and whatever else we need for a project trip. In other words, I couldn't be in better hands while reflecting on yet another exciting year with Child's Dream.

2007 was in many ways a very successful year. Not only could we foster our work in Laos and Cambodia by reaching many children who otherwise would be left forgotten, but also strengthen our presence in the North of Thailand as well as along the Thai-Burmese borderline. Furthermore, we could expand both the University Scholarship as well as the Malaria Control Programme. The joint approach of Child's Dream and [diversethics Foundation](http://www.diversethics-foundation.org) works well in practice. We can effectively deliver comprehensive assistance and implement inclusive projects that address the needs of different target groups. We were also able to substantially build up our human resources in both the project as well as the Administration team.

Running Child's Dream feels like a wonderful dream that became reality, but every now and then one wakes up and gets reminded that reality is sometimes brutal and more like a nightmare. We closely followed the news about the demonstrations in Rangoon. At first I felt hopeful and incredibly proud, but when the army turned their guns against the peaceful mass of orange, I realized how much desperation must have been building up in the hearts of the people of Burma in order to do such a courageous act. These monks did what they could but it is now the responsibility of the international community and - lastly - of all of us not to have let these monks and civilians die in vain. When we established Child's Dream a bit more than four years ago, we decided that we will remain politically neutral but how can one stay neutral in such an

obvious violation of even the most basic human rights. *By Daniel Siegfried*

Organisational News



It seems we publish a new Child's Dream Team picture with every newsletter we write – we are growing! While in our last newsletter only a few months ago you saw a team photograph with nine team members, today we already count on a team of 15 staff members in Chiang Mai! The above picture was taken during a team workshop on 9 November. Our two team members responsible for Baan Gua Fan – Pi Rung (Vitita Baujit) and Pok (Chaturong Phaisantham) took part in our workshop as well.

In August two new members joined us: Prasert Maithong, nicknamed Gau and Ukrit Kantawang, nicknamed Doi.

Gau has an educational background in electrical engineering. He works with Tai as an **Assistant Project Manager** on projects in Laos and Cambodia. Originally from Surin in Eastern Thailand, he is proficient in both Laotian and Khmer language which are just two of many very valuable skills he brings along. Gau also has an outstanding sense of humor, an important characteristic all our team members have in common.





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A few days later **Doi** came on board in his new role as an **Assistant Project Manager Engineering**, also a new member of Daniel's team. Doi is a civil engineer currently pursuing a part-time MA degree at Chiang Mai University. He is our new man for architectural plans, building structures, building materials, statics, building regulations and his knowledge in these topics is clearly needed the more schools we build.

In October another two new team members joined us: Panupong Kwuntong, nicknamed Arm and Bantarawan Chantra, nicknamed Tuu.

Arm originally applied for a different job with us after the NGO he had worked at in Chiang Mai unfortunately closed doors. Arm has an MA degree in computer science – just what we desperately needed! Once we had spoken we proposed to him to be our new **IT Manager/Project Administrator**. So he now joyfully fights our daily large and small IT battles while simultaneously supporting Daniel's team with administration aspects in all our projects.



Again a few days later in October **Tuu** joined us in her new role as an **Administration Manager / Scholarship Programme**. Tuu has an MBA and has worked in telecommunication, in NGOs as well as for the Royal Thai government. With her significant working experience she greatly supports Marc and Manuela in all types of administration work as well as taking a leadership role in our university scholarship programme.



A warm welcome to all our new team members in Chiang Mai!

But things do not stop here.

Also our Team in Cambodia is growing: Since KAKO ("Khmer Akphiwhat Khmer Organization") and Child's Dream joined forces in July 2007, three young Cambodian team members came on board in Siem Reap to support Sino and Ajan: **Chhoeun Sohea**,

Chea Phalla and **Keng Sopha**. Again, a very warm welcome to KAKO and its team members!

Growing as an organisation sometimes also means that staff and volunteers are leaving. This time we want to express our gratitude to **Ueli** and **Raphael**, who both worked as IT volunteers for the organisation. Ever since having Ueli and Raphael as valuable team members, our IT systems were brought up to a completely different level. Thank you very much and all the best for your future!

A new Child's Dream office

As you might have realized after reading through all the new hires, our current office has become far too small. We are working on two floors, crammed together, sometimes enduring an incredible noise level, in particular if everybody is on the phone and visitors step into the office. This development led us to the conclusion to finally get an "everlasting" home for Child's Dream. In August we found the perfect plot of land, ideally located to fulfill all our needs. We are currently evaluating different architects and we are confident that we can start with the construction of our new office in January/February 2008. We do aim to raise money particularly for our new office, so if you are interested in helping to build a strong and lasting backbone for our organisation, please get in touch with us.

For Canadian domiciled donors: Thanks to a recently concluded partnership agreement with 'Give2Asia', Canadian taxed donors are now able to receive tax relief on donations made to Child's Dream via 'Give2Asia'. More information can be found on the following link:

<http://www.childsdream.org/en/aboutFoundation.asp#Canada>

Project Updates



For once, we decided to keep the reporting about new projects rather short. Since our last newsletter in July, we mainly focused on education facilities in Laos. To recap: Four schools were

finished and are operational and another five schools are under construction, with the opening scheduled for February 2008. Beginning of next year we will start with the construction of 10 new schools. We will certainly also keep you updated about our work in Laos in the coming newsletters.



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CDC School

The Children Development Centre opened in June 1995 to meet the education and day care needs of children whose parents work as health workers in the Mae Tao Clinic, Mae Sot/Thailand.

Since 1995, the CDC School has continuously been expanding. Child's Dream agreed in 2005 to add a second floor to the school's main building. However, this building is far too small again and we therefore want to relocate and extend the school to accommodate more children and to offer them a better learning environment.

The start of the implementation of this project had to be postponed a couple of times since it was difficult to identify a suitable plot of land. For weeks we have been looking at different plots but were



never quite sure whether they would be affected by the planned construction of a new highway. Even the highway department could not tell us exactly for a long time where the new road would be built.

Once we were sure which areas would be affected, we finally could move forward with the purchase of the land. We got in touch with a landowner who was willing to divide her 10 rai plot into two pieces of 5 rai each. The plot is close to the existing CDC school building and therefore ideal since the nursery and the dormitory will be located in the old, existing building. The new two storey building will include 22 fully-equipped classrooms, 1 library, 1 teachers' room, 1 office and 1 computer room. Each room will measure 56m² (8x7m), which is in accordance to Thai government standards. In addition, we will provide 10 toilets for each gender as well as urinal stations for the boys in a separate building. We also plan to create a recreational area with a playground and simple sports facilities.

Child's Dream agreed to support the purchase of the land and the construction of the building. The projected costs are about USD 294,400. The construction will be started as soon as the land has been leveled. We expect the work to take six to eight months.

Project round up

FSP and SEP

There are still many Burmese students arriving in Umpium Mai Refugee Camp in Thailand due to the continued fighting along the Thai-Burmese border. However, many students also applied for resettlement into third countries and left the camp to seek new opportunities in countries such as America, Australia and Finland. Resettlement has a tremendous impact not only on our colleges, but on all camp-based activities. Students and teachers try to cope with the constant unrests caused by the resettlement programme and with the constant brain-drain.

Pyo Khinn

We have been in touch with this school for years already since we would like to support them by constructing a new school building. However, we could not do a lot for them so far since it is very difficult to locate an ideal plot of land. During our recent visit the teachers of Pyo Khinn School showed us a new plot, which is not too far away from the current school and would be ideal for the construction. We are currently evaluating the location of the plot and hope that there will finally be a way to help the Pyo Khinn School!

Thank you very much !

We want to express our sincere gratitude for all your support and help in the past. Running a charity not only depends on the skills and resources of its employees but certainly also on the moral and financial support of its donors and friends. Thank you so much!



Children are eyes that see things, for which we became blind a long time ago.

Children are ears that hear things, for which we became deaf a long time ago.

Children are souls that feel things, for which we became numb a long time ago.

Children are mirrors that show things which we like to hide.

We wish you a wonderful festive season, good health and a fulfilling and successful 2008.

Your Child's Dream Team