Computer Laboratory Project in Laos
To provide students with computer knowledge and skills to work towards a better future
The Situation

Laos is still considered one of the poorest and least developed countries in South-East Asia and in the world. Even though the social and economic conditions in Laos have improved since its independence in 1975, there is still significant wealth disparity amongst Laotians. Many communities live in extremely remote areas, where the infrastructure is rudimentary.

Laos is a country with a clear plan to improve education in order to increase prosperity by the year 2020. In order to achieve this goal, the Laos government has accelerated development and is improving the curriculum in schools, which means including computer classes. Unfortunately, these computer classes are only available in schools which are located in the larger provincial cities and the capital. Schools that are located further away don’t have the ability to provide these computer classes or are only able to provide theoretical classes, due to lack of budget or facilities.
Computer Laboratory Programme Overview

In order to give students in deprived areas a chance to gain computer knowledge and skills, Child’s Dream Foundation has introduced the Computer Laboratory Project some years ago. With this project, students have the opportunity to take courses in practical computing in order to gain knowledge and skills, which can be used to enhance their quality of life.

In order to start this project, a computer classroom will be built in each participating school. The classroom will be a standard size of 84m², contain 31 computers and a projector, and be fully furnished.
Objectives

- Build computer classrooms in several schools in Xaignabouli province to give students the opportunity to gain practical knowledge about computers.
- Teach practical computer skills to high school students who already have theoretical knowledge.
- Train teachers to take care of the computer classrooms in a responsible and efficient manner.
- Convince students to pursue higher education.
- Create easy access to basic computer education and information search at a growing number of partner target schools.
- Improve general attractiveness of schools.
Community Involvement

The contribution from the community depends on its economic status. Where the community is able to make a contribution to the building process, these costs will be deducted from the budget accordingly. In addition to building the computer classrooms, the school staff of the target schools will be trained in computer knowledge, skills and maintenance. The school must be sure that the tuition fees can cover the maintenance and electricity costs needed to run the programme. There will be a contract between Child’s Dream and the school stating that all computers are the property of Child’s Dream. If a school doesn’t have a proper maintenance system or is using the computers incorrectly, Child’s Dream has the right to remove all computers.
Our field coordinator discusses with teachers how to improve the courses.

Inside the classrooms

Computer laboratory building

Computer teacher training
Budget

The budget for one school supports the construction of a computer laboratory classroom in a target school and provides all set-up equipment and training costs. Approximately USD 50,000 covers such a facility and includes our implementation and overhead cost. Running costs are later borne by the school via the collection of tuition fees.

Monitoring & Reporting

As with all our projects, we will closely monitor the implementation of the project and will submit a detailed final report, including financial reconciliation no later than two months after completion.