CHILD’S DREAM
YEARBOOK 2014
Like every year for the past many years, we started 2014 with the resolution that we would make it a less busy year with less travel and fewer new initiatives. And guess what? We have been wrong once again. 2014 was a demanding, but exciting and highly productive year for Child’s Dream. It is no wonder that it passed in the blink of an eye. Although it just seemed like a blink, we were able to achieve a lot to further strengthen our presence in the region and to expand our support to even more children and youth in Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

With the global economy unable to find momentum and with low sentiment in Switzerland and Japan, our two most important donor markets, it is not surprising that, from a financial point of view, 2014 has been a tough year. Our donation volume decreased by 4%, despite a stronger US Dollar against the Swiss Franc. Subsequently, our reserves were reduced by approximately CHF 300,000. Some of our new higher education initiatives in Myanmar were either un- or underfunded and, therefore, had to be funded through our general donation pool. This surprised us since Myanmar is on everybody’s mind and our innovative initiatives address some of the core social issues in the country, such as lack of teacher capacity, curriculum development capabilities, critical and creative thinking, community development skills and religious tolerance. If you are interested in supporting some of these initiatives, please contact us.

Given our solid financial track record and our ‘unaggressive’ marketing approach, Child’s Dream is often perceived as not needing funds, which is not true. Actually, it is a very difficult and delicate task to balance the finances of our organisation, especially since we do not have endowments and rely on donations from individuals. Despite the lower donation volume, we were able to keep our overhead administration costs below 7%, more specifically at 6.8%.

On the operational side, we opened a small field office in Yangon with three employees. This office helps us to expand our work in Myanmar and to improve our support to various local partner organisations and their beneficiaries. At the same time, we also significantly upgraded our IT system. After many years in operation, we replaced our ‘banana’ accounting system with a new, enhanced and customised accounting database to further improve our back office efficiency.

We have also been very busy in the field. Besides building 16 schools and four boarding houses, our basic education team launched five new computer labs in Laos and extended the high school scholarship programme to various vocational schools in Laos and Thailand. Our higher education team expanded its work in Myanmar and along the Thai-Myanmar border to give local youth access to higher education such as university and post-high school colleges as well as to improve opportunities for employment through our vocational programmes. Close to 10,000 youth benefited from these programmes. Our health team accepted more than 100 new patients into our Children’s Medical Fund, which provides life-saving operations for children with congenital diseases, nearly doubling financial support to over US$ 800,000. We also successfully handed over the funding of the Malaria Control Programme to larger institutional donors.

All of this would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors from all over the world. On behalf of our beneficiaries, we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your trust and friendship. Together we truly can make children’s dreams come true!
Up goes the red curtain and ... 2014 enters! What a great way to start our 11th year! Child’s Dream now has its own office in Yangon, Myanmar. Not in our wildest dreams did we think this possible until fairly recently. Our new Myanmar office is located very centrally near Sule Pagoda in downtown Yangon. Once in the building, you need to press “5” in the shaky elevator to be found a few steps up from the street level. When the digital display shows “6”, you are on the right – namely 5th – floor! Step out of the elevator, turn right and there it is: the entrance door to CDMS!

The airy apartment, with windows at the back and the front allowing breezes to flow through the office, hosts four desks in the front room, a sofa set in the large hallway, a Child’s Dream staff guest bedroom with two beds, a meeting room with a huge meeting table, another bed room, a lovely and well equipped kitchen, a shower and a toilet. The toilet flush occasionally goes on strike and - still more often than we wish - there are power cuts in the office, but we have got used to these minor inconveniences. The front room has a charming balcony overlooking Seik Kan Thar Street below. From a balcony lounge chair you can glance down at cruising taxis, shops and restaurants, men walking the streets in crisp white shirts and longis, women dressed in colorful “cheethes”, children in traditional white and green school uniforms and hawkers selling tasty food. One of the great moments was when our internet connection finally was installed a few weeks after we moved in. That meant that we were fully functional, connected and CDMS office life finally started buzzing.
**YEAR-END CLOSING AND AUDIT**

January is the busiest month for the Administration Team due to year-end closing of our three legal entities, Child’s Dream Association, Child’s Dream Foundation and Child’s Dream Foundation Limited Hong Kong. We dealt with final bookings, cash/bank account control, reconciling, compiling data and writing annual reports. The January accounting was running simultaneously too so there was a lot of work for our team, but thanks to the help of Bianchina, Rubina and Keith, our volunteers, everything went smoothly.

**FIRST AID TRAINING**

First aid training and basic life saving are very important for everyone. One of our main tasks is traveling on dangerous roads to work sites in various remote areas so every journey has the possibility of an accident.

Do we have the knowledge and skills to deal with that? This question prompted two days of first aid training which included theory, plus practice on props, dummies and other volunteers.

Comparing before and after test results, we now feel confident that we could deal with most situations... though we hope not to have to!
Another Child’s Dream acronym! AAP, stands for “Alumni Activities Programme”. On a lovely February Sunday, we hosted our first Myanmar university scholarship alumni event in Yangon under the patronage of our donor. We were thrilled to see so many of our former graduates, new 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.
During 2013, the Swiss Lanna Society collected THB 150,000 for Child’s Dream. It was agreed to use it to install a water system in Baan Sompoi in the north of Thailand. In early February 2014, ten adventurous members of the Swiss Lanna Society joined us to set up this water system. Teachers and school children alike were extremely welcoming and hospitable to their foreign guests and the food was outstanding. The Swiss volunteers told us that the sleeping bags and the cold temperatures reminded them of their own school trips or army days back in Switzerland.

In 2013 Max, our Swiss auditor, visited projects in the North of Laos. This year he went to Yangon and Mandalay. These project and programme visits are an important part of an audit. Max asked many questions when talking to the monks, headmasters, construction workers, teachers and students. He also inspected buildings and studied learning materials. Most people spoke English, but our Myanmar colleague, Moe, was there to translate, if necessary. However, our worry that communication might be a problem turned out to be unfounded.
Volunteer Spirit Network is an organisation under the umbrella of the Thai Rural Reconstruction Movement Foundation. It was born from the social workforce that brought together volunteers who helped ease the tragic tsunami disaster of 2004 and who place importance on volunteering and giving to society. It aims to enhance the work of any volunteer or volunteer organisation in Thailand. In 2013, Volunteer Spirit Network implemented a project of regional volunteer management with the objective of creating active citizens to work with NGOs, local organisations, government and educational institutions to develop and sustain volunteer programmes and volunteer management systems, based on need in each area or community.

Volunteer Spirit Network has cooperated with Child’s Dream Foundation in northern Thailand since 2013. In January 2014, we started a Life Skills Education programme in four pilot schools: Mae Daed Noi and Huay Poo in Kalyaniwatana in Chiang Mai province, Huay Hang and Pung Yam in Pang Ma Pha in Mae Hong Son province. Our objectives are:

1. To enlist volunteer teachers to support life skills education in four pilot schools
2. To develop learning processes and a curriculum for life skills education
3. To create a volunteer management model which can help sustain communities and schools

We now have 10 Thai volunteers who passed the selection process. They participated in orientation from 25-27 July 2014 and started their three month volunteer period on 1 August 2014.
In March, we held our annual High School Scholarship interviews. One day it was so rainy and muddy that our truck couldn’t reach the village. So we hired a tractor-trailer instead. It was a hard, but wonderful, day. We could see through the students’ eyes how important education is to them. “I want to be a teacher because I want to come back to teach in my rural village,” one of the applicants said. Our tiredness disappeared and our energy recharged after that interview because we knew that we could help fulfill this student’s dream.

This year, for the first time, Child’s Dream had its own team of three run the annual university scholarship selection process independently from other organisations. We used our own application form, were able to set our own pace in running the selection process and personally interviewed 40 shortlisted candidates out of approximately 130 qualifying applications which were submitted. From these we were able to grant scholarships to 21 successful candidates, thanks to generous donor funding. It is highly inspiring to speak to engaged young people who are so eager to learn more!

### High School Scholarships – Admission Interviews, Laos

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5-9 MARCH; KOY TJO AND GEE MEET STUDENTS FOR INTERVIEWS IN SAWANNAKHET & CHAMPSAK

SREYLIN SIGNS TRAPEANG PRASAT PRIMARY SCHOOL CONTRACT AND TOM NUP THMEI WATER TANK GUARANTEE, 11 MARCH

17-28 MARCH; TAMALAR LIN IS ON A PROJECT TRIP IN MYANMAR (STLC, MCAP) AND JOINS THE KARENNI COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATION

MONG IN SIEM REAP FOR SCHOOL HEALTH FOLLOW UP TOGETHER WITH SREYLIN, 24-27 MARCH
The Institute of Higher Education (IHE) was established by the Karen Refugee Committee Education Entity (KRCEE) in 2008. Five post-high school programmes located in five different refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border were upgraded into specialised junior colleges under this standardised system. IHE provides education and public health majors, while business management, community development, and peace/reconciliation are under consideration.

KRCEE reached a major milestone in the 2009-2010 academic year: the first batch of 79 lower division students completed the first two years of the four-year IHE programme. Also in 2010, a sixth junior college was approved to join the IHE system.

For the following academic year 2010-2011, 124 students completed their lower division studies. Next in 2011-2012 academic year, 125 students completed their lower division studies, while 33 were the first class to graduate the full four-year IHE programme. In the 2012-13 academic year, 131 students completed their lower division studies, while 39 students graduated the full four-year IHE programme.

The academic year that just ended, 2013-14, was the most successful for KRCEE. There were 224 students who completed their lower division studies, while 40 students graduated. Due to the different locations of the school campuses, the dates of graduation ceremonies were scheduled separately during April 2014. Child’s Dream participated in all graduation events and gave encouraging speeches to students.

There are five more post-high school programmes outside the IHE system that produced a further 120 graduates from the 2013-2014 academic year, specialising in business/accounting, English, physics, engineering, or leadership/management.

Most graduates teach, work with NGOs or further their studies.
April was another highlight in 2014 since we had the privilege to open our latest Myanmar school in the presence of our Japanese friends. The president of SK Dream Japan and her team met with Marc in Mandalay to officially open the UYLK school. The opening celebration was a full success and attended by many representatives of our partner organisation as well as countless community members. UYLK is one of Marc’s favorite schools since many Muslim children attend class at this monastic school: a clear sign of religious tolerance.

Songkran celebrates Thai New Year. We are 543 years ahead of everyone and now in year 2557 according to the Thai calendar. Songkran is an occasion for family reunions, temple visits and annual house cleaning. Traditionally, Thais perform the Rod Nam Dum Hua ritual on the first day of Songkran. During the ritual, young people pour fragrant water into the elders’ palms as a gesture of humility and to ask for their blessings. In Child’s Dream we organise the “Rod Nam Dum Hua” for our board members every year to show our respect and to thank them for being with us for a long time.
Once a year our entire Child’s Dream team comes together for a long weekend to work on various topics, get to know each other better and strengthen our team spirit. HAPPY was the motto of this year’s staff workshop - and we lived up to it! After another year of intense work, we all deserved to have lots of fun. The workshop was held outside Chiang Mai at a quiet and beautiful resort in Mae Wang. Well, once we arrived it was not so quiet anymore!

On the first day, the three focus groups and the administration team presented the scope of their activities. The purpose was, on one hand, to provide deeper understanding of the various projects and programmes of Child’s Dream and, on the other hand, to practise our presentation skills. Of course, this day was also filled with lots of fun activities. Among other games, Manuela, Daniel and Marc were tested how well they know their employees by guessing what selected team members have in common. We can confirm: test passed!

A wonderful workshop ended the next day with a trip to the floating house boats at Mae Ngat Dam. Filled with new impressions, everyone got back home tired, but HAPPY!
SURVEY TRIP TO LAOS

The Child’s Dream Basic Education team conducted a survey trip in the Lao province of Luang Prabang. Outside of the tourist city centre, the province is significantly underdeveloped and education resources are limited. The team visited more than 20 schools during the five-day trip to build relationships and collect data. The information will be used to determine whether to extend Child’s Dream operations into the province. It was a highly educational trip, which further displayed our commitment to identifying beneficiaries in need.

WE’RE ON THAI NATIONAL TV!

Child’s Dream and Volunteer Spirit Network talked about how we cooperate with each other in our work. The purpose of the volunteer programme is to help teachers and schools address learning barriers in rural Thailand. The interview was aired on Nation TV channel (19 May 2014) to spread awareness and to encourage Thai volunteer teachers to support the cause. Please click on the link to watch the video (Thai audio only):

http://www.nationtv.tv/main/mobile/program/khaokhon-morning/378407049

MAY

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5-7 MAY, MEOW IS ON AN EDUCATION WORKSHOP AND TEACHER TRAINING IN BANGKOK

12-18 MAY, MANUELA TRAVELS TO MAE SOT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, 9-15 MAY

19-23 MAY, JACK SIGNS CONTRACTS WITH STUDENTS

30 MAY - 1 JUNE, ANNUAL CHILD’S DREAM WORKSHOP
Often, rural schools located in the Mekong Sub-Region are poorly resourced and lack financial support for their activities. In addition to poor infrastructure, schools often do not have enough resources for teaching and learning. In extreme cases, teachers have to depend on the community’s goodwill for their livelihood as some schools cannot afford to pay the teachers’ salaries. One way of empowering teachers and students is to help them generate their own income so that they are able to buy the resources needed. One way of doing this is through our income generating programme of installing solar charging stations.

Many rural communities still depend on petroleum lamps or light bulbs connected to car batteries to light up their homes at night. Petroleum lamps are hazardous and using car batteries is time consuming since the villagers need to frequently travel long distances to get them recharged. By setting up solar charging stations in our schools, we support communities in accessing electrical energy that is cheaper and more environmentally friendly. The school generates income by charging a nominal fee for the service and the income generated is used to purchase teaching materials, as well as to support other school activities.

Since 2011, we have installed eight solar charging stations in our supported schools in Cambodia. A committee is selected by the community members to manage the solar charging station, which includes organising the battery charging service, maintaining the system and managing the income generated. A permanent staff to operate the system is employed and paid with part of the income made from the battery charging service. Our project teams closely monitor and manage the programme and do evaluations with the community every three months.
Tai’s Child’s Dream employment contract is dated 1 June 2004. On her 10th Child’s Dream Anniversary we were all gathered at our annual three day team workshop in the south of Chiang Mai, so 1 June 2014 was certainly an achievement and a reason to celebrate. If you look at old photographs of Tai and compare them to her current ones, you will not see a single change: no aging, no wrinkles, no weight gain; only, perhaps, slightly longer hair and a lot more experience. May it be safely assumed, therefore, that working for Child’s Dream is a good anti-ageing strategy?

We were happy and lucky to master the bumpy ride to Kanthou village in a 4 WD rather than on a tractor. Upon arrival, a festive spirit and joyful people greeted us. Amongst the many highlights and special memories were the blessing by the monks, the student pledge and the ceremonial ribbon cutting. As another sign of commitment by the community, the school was nicely decorated for the opening. Before concluding the day with a meal, all students received backpacks with materials to be used at school. It was a beautiful day - creating happiness and joy for all.
When Christin started working at Child’s Dream, she wondered why everybody in the Administration team was always talking about bananas. There were banana accounts, banana numbers, banana approvals: what do bananas have to do with accounting? At Child’s Dream, a lot! For many years we have worked with a bookkeeping system which is named after the nutritious and succulent fruit. However, after 10 years and figuratively speaking, our banana is not bright yellow anymore and has lost its taste: we cannot handle the increasing number of bookings with this old system any longer. This is not bad because it means that, thanks to our donors, we have more and more donations which means more and more schools and boarding houses, helping more seriously sick children and sending more students to university as well as enhancing their skills with vocational training. So, banana oh sweet banana, thank you for the great collaboration and your fidelity, but we have to replace you for sure.

Finally our IT-superman has developed a new system, simply called “Admin Database”. It was not easy, but a couple of smart people with professional backgrounds and lots of time and nerve have implemented a system which makes the Administration team’s life a lot easier. Many thanks to our super-hero for a fast, efficient, accurate and time-saving system which is more user friendly and has more reliability, simpler processes, better checking, controlling and confirmation functions and better links to other databases. And it can also be used in all our satellite offices. It only remains for us to say a big and heart felt thank you, again… and KEEP ON BOOKING!
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<td>4 JULY; BREYLIN, NARY, DANIEL, YEM AND SINDEUY PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENING CEREMONY OF KANTHOU PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
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### TEACHER TRAINING, THAILAND

Remember? Earlier in 2014, we started a Life Skills Education programme in four pilot schools in Northern Thailand in partnership with the Volunteer Spirit Network. In July, we trained teachers in these four pilot schools on how to improve their own curricula. Teachers’ feedback was positive. They developed new ideas and gained new motivation and inspiration to continue teaching. In the two and a half training days they learned to plan, collaborate, listen, develop student learning games, etc. In future, they will have volunteers at their side to support them.

### MYANMAR FIELD EXPLORATION TRIP

This trip we decided to visit organisations that are working in the field of education. Together with Thawah and Koy, we went to Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Southern and Northern Shan State. We wanted to learn about the different education systems in Myanmar. We found education still to be disorganised in many places due to the continuing conflict in some areas. We concluded by dividing the education system in Myanmar into three different types, depending on the providers: government schools, monastic schools and community schools.
Child’s Dream projects sometimes start with a group of people sitting in a very green field in Laos on little wooden chairs. From there, we are excited to introduce our new Computer Laboratory Initiative, which is started up this year in Laos. Nowadays, computers play an important role in our everyday lives, even in a developing nation like Laos. Computer skills are vital, not only in a work environment, but also outside of work, for people to communicate and search for information. Unfortunately, the computer classes that are offered today by the Laos government are only available in schools which are located in the larger provincial cities and the capital. In order to give students in deprived areas a chance to gain computer knowledge and skills, Child’s Dream Foundation has launched the Computer Laboratory Initiative. We installed a computer classroom in five participating schools. Each fully furnished classroom has a standard size of 84m² and contains 31 computers and a projector. In addition, the school staff have been trained in computer knowledge, skills and maintenance. The budget for one computer laboratory is approximately USD 50,000 and includes our implementation and overhead costs. As with all our initiatives, we closely monitor the implementation. We have signed a property agreement stating that, if a school does not have a proper maintenance system or is using the computers incorrectly, Child’s Dream has the right to reallocate the computers. With this project, students have the opportunity to take courses in practical computing to supplement their knowledge and skills, which can enhance their future employability.
Our office volunteer, Alexandra Hilble from Germany, prepared our annual Child Rights refresher training this year. She did an excellent job of updating us with human rights and children’s rights information and also made us think, discuss and present in four groups. As you can see, we were all very busy for one afternoon. Thank you, Alexandra, not only for preparing this so well, but also for leading us so smoothly through your training.

Woo hoo! Look who was doing the “Ice Bucket Challenge”! Daniel and Marc accepted the epic Ice Bucket Challenge from John Thompson in Bangkok! Considering the hot weather in Chiang Mai in August, it was a good time to freshen up for a CAUSE!
At least three highlights can be reported for the opening of Phon Hong Secondary School. It’s not that Daniel and Marc travelled together to attend this celebration, though that is also very unusual; rather, it’s the fact that this is the biggest school we have ever built in Laos. Phon Hong Secondary School is one of over 100 schools built in Laos since we started our work back in 2006. The twelve fully furnished classrooms stretch over two stories. A fully equipped computer room as well as a science lab complement the classrooms. A nicely stocked library is also a first at the school.

The celebration was more formal than many previous events we have attended. The reason for this was the presence of the Deputy Minister of Education and Sport, Her Excellency, Madame Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun. It was certainly a great honour for us to have her chairing this important event. For our long-standing commitment to Laos and for our contribution to education, Madame Sengdeuane presented the ‘Cross of Friendship’ medal to us, which is awarded by the Prime Minister of Laos in recognition of outstanding service to the country. Daniel and Marc were thrilled to have been recognised by the highest level of government.

Our special thanks goes to Koy and Gee, our two project managers for Laos, who do an amazing job and made all this possible. Lastly and personally, it was very important to Marc and Daniel to be able to build this school for a very special donor from Davos. Many thanks dear friend!
The winners of our Child’s Dream “My Dream” drawing contest

Well ... we tried, but our idea did not trigger the response we had been hoping for. After our volunteer, Lily, designed our fantastic 10 Year Child’s Dream Elephant last year called “Child’s Dream Comes True”, we came up with the idea for a children’s drawing competition. We launched it on our social media and, while children in all our project countries happily pulled out their crayons to participate, the “global” category found little interest. We still had the honour to give out these prizes.

The winning drawings by children from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos will be selected in 2015. Congratulations!

International category
1. Patchongsorn Kumdang
   (Thailand, age 11) - “A Wonderland”
2. Tanapon Tamee
   (Thailand, age 11) – “The Prismatic Elephant”
3. Fiona Bertaggia
   (Switzerland, age 11) – “Sweet World”

Thailand
1. Pichai Keema
   (age 12) – “I want to see Thailand become a nicer and better place to live, for future generations”
2. Yosittha Woimae
   (age 18) - “I want to be a shop keeper in our community, to distribute and represent our hill tribe culture to foreigners”
3. Mol (age 11) - “I want to see Thai people love each other and be united so that we are a good example for our kids in the future”

SeaP 01. 02. 03. 04. 05. 06. 07.
08. 09. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.
05. 06. 07. 08. 09. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.
15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21.

Babies, Babies, Babies

September 2014 was our baby month. Yem’s son, Yem Kun Khemarin, was born in early September in Siem Reap, Cambodia and Nary, in Siem Reap, was seven months pregnant (her baby son’s name is Son Hai). We have to ensure our own pension funds are being well-nurtured with new contributions beyond 2034 as well, right?
On 7 and 8 October, our team in Siem Reap conducted a two-day, fun-filled scholarship camp for a selection of our Cambodian high school scholarship students. 42 students aged between 16 and 20, from Banteay Ampil and Pouk High Schools, came to Siem Reap to meet up with our Cambodian Child’s Dream team. Although this was already our third yearly scholarship camp, this year we were thrilled that our very first six alumni, who had just graduated from high school within our scholarship programme, were participating.

The first day was all about showing the students two fascinating places in their country: the ancient temple city of Angkor Wat and the floating village of Chung Khneas on the Tonle Sap Lake where boats are the main means of transport and the houses, schools and markets are all mobile structures. The overall purpose of this excursion was to show the students different aspects and lifestyles in Cambodia and, on top of that, to have a fun day.

The second day started with the students sharing their experiences about yesterday’s excursion. After this we started our capacity building workshop. We focused on three topics: “How to be an outstanding student”, “How to choose the right future career” and “Preparing to live in the city”, as most of them will move to a city after graduation to attend university or to start work. The goal of this workshop was to equip the students with important life skills and prepare them for their future paths. The day ended with the official graduation ceremony for six of our scholars followed by a small party to reward them for their dedication and hard work over the past years. We hope to conduct similar workshops with the next generation of scholars in the future!
**OCTOBER**

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<td><strong>THE CAMBODIA TEAM IS VISITING NEW DISTRICTS; PHNOM PHEUK &amp; KAM RIENG, 1-3 OCTOBER</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8-12 OCTOBER; OFE TRAVELS TO XAYABULI TO DISTRIBUTE THE APPLICATIONS FOR BESSL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>17/18 OCTOBER; THE BASIC EDUCATION TEAM HOLDS “LESSONS LEARNED” SESSION FOR THE LIFE SKILL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>THOMAS TRAVELS IN MYANMAR FOR MCAP VISITS; 25-30 OCTOBER</strong></td>
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**FIRST BITCOIN DONATION**

On 31 October, our second workshop for the year 2014 was held in Chiang Mai. The workshop explored effective partnerships between stakeholders and beneficiaries. Our three project teams as well as our Administration team presented examples of partnerships and discussed what makes them good as well as what the challenges are. In the end, we concluded by discussing how to address the challenges that come with partnerships. To reward our teams for their hard work, we ended the day with a fun Halloween party, followed by a weekend of bamboo rafting and zip-lining.

Good news! Our very first Bitcoin donation has been converted to real cash! Thank you so much to our first donor, Stephan! What actually is Bitcoin? Bitcoin is a fair electronic currency based on algorithms instead of central authority. It enables users to manage their own funds and transactions, with no expensive fees or long waiting times. That means our beneficiaries get more out of each Bitcoin donation! You too can make a difference. Send Bitcoin donations to https://www.onename.io/childsdreamfoundation and make a positive impact on the lives of children in the Mekong Sub-Region!
Once again, a harsh awakening and reminder of something we tend to happily forget from one Swiss trip to the next: in Zurich you have to step on your throttle pedal with MACH speed if you are the first one when the red light turns green. If you don’t, the next three drivers behind you will honk in angry contempt, using the ugliest words Swiss German has to offer in its lush vocabulary to loudly insult you from behind their steering wheels. Luckily for us, in November drivers keep their car windows closed. Temperatures are low, car heaters are on and driver’s insults cannot reach our ears. Apart from these minor, silly events reminding us of the occasionally unwelcoming nature of our compatriots, this year’s November fundraising trip took us to Zurich, Zug, Davos, Vaduz, Berne, Geneva and back to Zurich and Winterthur within eight days. Many a kilometer was driven in our good friend Werner’s reliable car, many dear old friends were hugged with the joy of meeting them after a long absence and many a new hand was firmly shaken. Apart from meeting new exciting contacts, we had the chance to catch up with donors and friends over warm soups, fragrant glasses of red wine, unforgettable “Bratwurst” (sausages) and tasty Swiss yoghurt for breakfast.

And yes, the other lovely Swiss “problem” we encountered which seemingly still persists: should it slip your mind to leave the detergent drawer of the shared washing machine open to dry after you finish washing your clothes, oh dear, you are in serious trouble. You run the risk of not being spoken to by your neighbours for a few months (… who probably run self-help groups to mull over your stupid ignorance). It happened again on this trip. Honestly, it’s just incredible and so hilarious.
LOI KRATHONG

Every autumn, on one full moon evening, it is time to celebrate Loei Krathong, which in Thai means “to float a basket”. Some of our Child’s Dream colleagues gathered to create their own krathongs from scratch. A slice of banana trunk, leaves, flowers and a candle are the main ingredients to make one of these beautiful little floating boats. Launching these krathongs on the river is a way of paying respect to the water spirits, but it is also a tradition to make a wish for the coming year. Fingers crossed that our wishes come true and, if not, we will try again next year.

STATIONERY SUPPLY – KSEAG

Kayin State is home to Myanmar’s largest ethnic minority. Still exposed to armed conflicts, the education system gets little support. In cooperation with KSEAG, we have distributed school supplies such as notebooks, chalk, pens, and paper to 127,300 students and over 4,000 teachers. Previously sourced from Thailand, we have now started to purchase materials also directly in Myanmar. The delivery process includes roughly 20,000 porters and, of course, the support of the communities, so that all the materials reach their often remote destinations on time.
The Myanmar Storytellers Organisation therefore decided to publish children’s books from local authors on topics centered on peace, tolerance, diversity and global awareness. The project started with the translation and printing of 3,000 books in each of three ethnic languages: Rakhine, Kachin and Shan. Distribution is undertaken through various channels, for example, at donation ceremonies at schools, local partner organisations in conflict zones, and community libraries as well as monastic and non-traditional schools and educators.

We hope that this project will give children all over Myanmar the chance to hear and read their own local stories and be entertained as well as educated, with the goal of creating better understanding across religious and ethnic divides.

Probably every grown-up remembers the stories their parents read to them as children. Picture books, fairy-tales and adventure stories were filled with pirates, knights, princesses and magical creatures, the best tales told over generations. Though maybe not clear to a child, and more obvious to a grown-up, those stories all had hidden messages: be friendly and helpful; do good deeds; do not judge others only because they are different from you; and many more little hints that shape our way of thinking.

In Myanmar, where people have been struggling with political problems and ethnic conflicts for more than 60 years, teaching tolerance and inclusion to the next generation is essential for a more peaceful future. Therefore, providing learning materials and improving the inadequate schooling system are key ways to tackle these issues. Unfortunately, there are currently only a few books in local languages that address these important topics for children below 12 years of age.

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We hope that this project will give children all over Myanmar the chance to hear and read their own local stories and be entertained as well as educated, with the goal of creating better understanding across religious and ethnic divides.
KRCEE CONVERGENCE

The Karen Refugee Committee – Education Entity (KRCEE) formally assumed authority over refugee camp-based education programmes in 2010 from the Karen Education Department, which has authority over programmes located in Myanmar. The move was largely in order to allow tailoring of education policy to the refugee camp situation. Currently the camps are assessing their future options in light of recent developments which include: military junta reform in Myanmar allowing a nascent democracy to develop, pressure from the Thai military to close the ‘temporary shelters’ as the camps are known in Thailand, and interest from funding organisations to shift activities into Myanmar. As such KRCEE and its schools have begun a ‘convergence’ process to explore post-camp scenarios and map the steps necessary to achieve them. Four general scenarios are likely post-camp: 1. Schools close, 2. Schools become migrant learning centres in Thailand, 3. Schools move to Myanmar and begin anew, or 4. Schools move to Myanmar and merge with other schools or organisations. KRCEE is working with camp school committees to determine the likely scenario for each school and its main steps in May 2015. It is anticipated that progress in these steps will begin in June 2015 as the new school year begins.

WHAT IT TAKES TO WRITE A NEWSLETTER

More than you think! Publishing newsletters is lots of work, coordination and people. After topics are defined, various employees write English texts. These are diligently proof read by David, our Canadian volunteer who majored in English. Once proof read, Andrea in Winterthur, Switzerland translates all texts into German. Then a second round of proof reading and fine-tuning takes place. So far, this is orchestrated by Manuela. When it comes to layout and mailing, Gene, Marc and Daniel spring into frantic action. By then, we are usually three minutes before our deadline.
WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM?

ORIGIN OF DONATIONS

- **33%** Switzerland
- **16%** Japan
- **14%** Singapore
- **11%** UK
- **9%** Hong Kong SAR
- **7%** Liechtenstein
- **5%** USA
- **3%** Thailand
- **2%** Others

TYPE OF DONOR

- **38%** Private
- **35%** Foundations
- **12%** Trusts
- **7%** Others
- **5%** Companies
- **3%** Legacies
WHERE DID THE MONEY GO TO?

**FOCUS GROUPS**
- **CHF 5,602,121**
  - 51% Basic Education
  - 28% Higher Education
  - 21% Health

**NATIONALITY OF BENEFICIARIES**
- **CHF 5,602,121**
  - 43% Myanmar
  - 13% Myanmar Migrants
  - 28% Laos
  - 12% Cambodia
  - 4% Thailand

**ADMINISTRATION COSTS**
- **CHF 388,868**
  - 71% Personnel Costs
  - 5% Depreciation
  - 14% Administration, Legal and Travel
  - 10% Other Costs
MEET THE TEAM
IN OUR OFFICES IN CHIANG MAI, SIEM REAP AND YANGON

CDF CHIANG MAI

CDF SIEM REAP

CDF YANGON
THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OF YOU. WITHOUT YOUR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK FOR CHILD’S DREAM WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BE SO SUCCESSFUL.
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