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Starting a new year is like opening a diary full of blank pages waiting to be written on. There is a certain excitement about opening a brand-new diary because no one knows whether, at the end of the year, the pages will contain more words of happiness and love or of sadness and anger. The Child’s Dream diary never has to wait long for its first comments as all our staff, armed with freshly sharpened pencils and pens fully loaded with ink, were eagerly waiting to start the new year. Our diary for 2012 turned out to be a fat non-fiction book filled with stories of excitement, compassion, love, success and, of course, a sweet happy ending. It is true that 2012 was, in many ways, the most successful year since our establishment nine years ago. All the pieces that make Child’s Dream what it is came together beautifully to unleash the full potential of our work improving the lives of thousands of children, youth and even adults.

In 2012 we were able to implement more projects and expand more programmes than ever before. We built more schools and boarding houses, granted more high school and university scholarships and educated more youth in refugee camps and migrant communities, all with a simple, but important goal of giving our students a real chance for a self-determined life.

On the health side we also accepted more patients in our Children Medical Fund to provide them with life-saving operations. Also the community health programmes that we support in Myanmar were able to protect more children and adults from deadly diseases and illnesses. Our 2012 highlights come in many different forms, ranging from a child’s laughter at the Children’s Day, to graduation ceremonies of our junior colleges in the refugee camps, to the success of a difficult heart surgery, to big opening ceremonies of schools. These are highlights not because of us, but for what it means for the person directly affected by our work. Two additional, important highlights were the opening of the Picturebook Guesthouse as a social enterprise and the opening of the Foundation for Education and Development’s (FED) United Learning Center in the South of Thailand to educate children of Burmese migrant workers.

All this would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors. Together we really can make a difference.

Now we cannot wait to write the empty pages of the 2013 diary. The political changes in Myanmar and the new opportunities to assist the people there promise yet another exciting year.
Child’s Dream’s management philosophy is rather unique in the philanthropic sector, as it is affected by Marc’s, Daniel’s and Manuela’s professional backgrounds in the private sector. Marc, Daniel and Manuela (MDM) believe that, although Child’s Dream is a not-for-profit organisation, its administration and financial aspects should be as professional and efficient as they would be in a business setting. It is important to know the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of an organisation. For MDM, Child’s Dream’s biggest strength is its staff. Therefore, it is also important to discuss performance with each individual employee. Performance management meetings (PMMs) were implemented in 2007. Such discussions provide a yearly opportunity for structured feedback between employee and supervisor. Unlike such systems in commercial environment, though, PMM results are not directly used for promotions, bonus payments or salary revisions.

The performance review includes five different aspects:
1) Basic job requirements (quality of work, productivity and efficiency, ability to build good relationships with stakeholders, etc.)
2) Job specific attributes (planning and organising, problem solving, creativity, etc.)
3) Interpersonal skills (communication, cooperation, teamwork, etc.)
4) General analysis of each employee’s strengths and weaknesses
5) Action plan and objectives

The PMMs aim to identify the individual’s strengths and weaknesses, to develop an action plan, to address development needs and to encourage strengths. Additionally, objectives and priorities for the next working period are defined.

Currently Child’s Dream has 30 employees, 27 in Chiang Mai and 3 in Cambodia. Each one of them believes in the mission of Child’s Dream and the purpose of their position. They are willing to go the extra mile. Together, they are Child’s Dream’s biggest asset. Performance reviews are one tool to keep it that way.
In 2012 Child’s Dream celebrated Children’s Day for the 3rd year, this time together with students from Mae Suek Secondary School in Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. The school provides education from nursery up to grade 9 to children from over 25 villages. We had earlier supported the school with two boarding houses for 170 students. During the day the students performed shows and played funny games. It was a great day and the children and we enjoyed it a lot.

We were delighted to hear of the birth of Sinoeuy’s baby boy. Sinoeuy is our assistant field coordinator in Cambodia. Congratulations!
Child’s Dream started working in Laos in 2006 after identifying a significant need for educational support in remote and rural areas. Since then we have implemented 59 infrastructure projects: we have built schools and boarding houses, supported schools with supplementary programmes that promote education and have selectively awarded scholarships to Laotian high schools students.

In February we took an evaluation trip to Laos to review the performance of the school projects that we had completed in 2010 or earlier. By then we had implemented 36 educational infrastructure projects in three different provinces: 19 schools in Champasak, 4 schools in Savannakhet and 12 schools and one boarding house in Xaignabouli. So far approximately 8,400 students have benefited from our projects. Our evaluation is based on data collected during this trip. Primarily, schools were assessed and evaluated based on their management. We looked at the maintenance of school facilities and school environment, cleanliness and hygiene standards and general conditions of classrooms. Some of our key findings can be seen in the diagrams on the side. Baan Kok Primary School (Champasak) won the prize for Best Primary School (94%), Tan Kham Secondary School (Xaingabouli) for Best Secondary School (80%) and Baan Sai Ya Mong Khun (Xaingabouli) for Best Nursery School (81%). Only 6 of our schools were ranked below 50%. These schools are our primary concern and we will follow up closely to help them improve their quality. The main reason for low performance was poor management of the school. Also some schools were untidy and it occasionally appeared that classes weren’t held as the facilities seemed unused. Another problem was low teacher motivation and the fact that most of the schools lack appropriate learning and teaching material.

Overall we were very happy with most of the schools’ performances and the impact of our work in Laotian children’s lives. Therefore, we look forward to continuing our work in Laos and supporting children to get a better education. Education is one of the most important factors for sustained social and economic development.
**February**

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<td><strong>Thomas and Jolly Trip with Donor to Mae Sot</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Daniel and Marc in Singapore and Switzerland</strong></td>
<td><strong>Meow and Tha Wha Trip to Foundation For Education and Development (Fed)</strong></td>
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**Umpiem Mai Refugee Camp on Fire**

With a total amount of USD 65,000, we supported the Thailand Burma-Border Consortium (TBBC) in their efforts to rebuild the houses which were destroyed or damaged during the devastating fire on 23rd February 2012. In the fire, 1,773 refugees lost everything, including their monthly food rations. With the support of TBBC, the refugees built 399 new houses for 1,651 people and repaired the damage. Zawmow, a resident in Umpiem Mai, whose roof was dismantled to act as a fire breaker, commented that, although it was terrible to see so many houses were destroyed in such little time, the houses that are being rebuilt are of better quality than those before.

On 16th February 2012 we proudly announced the implementation of our 150th project – a sustainable agricultural farm under our Social Entrepreneurship Grants Programme. As the project was initiated by one of our beneficiaries from the Network for Environment and Economic Development (NEED) Model Farm, it represents our overall vision of applying education and empowerment to motivate individuals into action for their communities' development.
A few years ago, Stefan Haupt, a Swiss film director, approached Marc and Daniel to do a documentary about the turning point in their lives: resigning from banking and establishing Child’s Dream. At that point, Daniel and Marc decided that the time was not right for them and that it was also too early for Child’s Dream. In 2011 the idea of the documentary sparked again, as Urs Frey, another Swiss movie director and friend of Marc and Daniel, moved to Chiang Mai. This time the circumstances seemed right and it was decided that Urs would produce a documentary. Hence, he started to write the concept paper for the movie. He joined Daniel, Marc and the whole Child’s Dream team on their various trips all over the region and also joined many meetings as it was essential to understand the organisation and its work to really tell the story.

After the first draft was written, Daniel and Marc made some adjustments and the final concept was handed in to Swiss national television. Before the documentary was officially approved by Swiss television, the first sequences had already been filmed during Marc’s and Daniel’s yearly visit in September to Oberberg, Switzerland where they and their friends get together at the chalet of Marc’s mother every year. Luckily, the concept was accepted and Swiss television supported the project with CHF 50,000. A significant part of the total budget of CHF 250,000 for the movie was provided by two generous private donors as well as many public and commercial funders who made this production possible. It has to be said that no Child’s Dream funding was used to produce the documentary. In February and March the main part of the filming took place, also in Singapore, in order to get an impression of Marc’s and Daniel’s previous lives in the banking sector. To see the work of Child’s Dream, the film crew also travelled to Laos and Thailand.

In the end, the film team had over 70 hours of film material, which had to be reduced to 50 minutes. The movie aired on 30 December 2012 and 2 January 2013 on SRF1. Marc and Daniel are happy with the movie, but also curious to see and hear about the different reactions to it, as the movie shows the history of Child’s Dream and tells the story of its founders.
We noticed long ago that many of our beneficiaries who live in remote areas have no access to clean drinking water. The lack of clean drinking water is a serious health risk. Therefore we decided to equip some of our schools with water systems providing clean drinking water to the students and the local communities. Since we started to build water systems in 2010, we have built 26 in total and, for 2013, 9 more are already planned.

**WATER SYSTEM INSTALLED BY JACK IN MAE JAE**

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**MARCH**

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**BIRTH OF WAAN’S DAUGHTER ON 26TH MARCH**

On 26th March Waan’s baby girl came into the world. All the best to Waan and her family.
In April, Jollsy, Child’s Dream’s field coordinator for Higher Education, went on a field trip to four refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border. During her trip she joined the graduation ceremonies of 112 students and gave encouraging speeches to the students from Northern Karen Junior College (NKJC), Mae Ma Junior College (MRCJC), Pu Dooplaya Junior College (PDCJC) and Kaw Lah Junior College (KLJC). In cooperation with the Karen Refugee Committee – Education Entity (KRCEE), Child’s Dream supports 12 colleges in different refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border. KRCEE is a community based organisation that focuses on refugee camp education; it fulfills the same role as a department of education in a stable government. KRCEE is also trying to harmonise the curriculum of the schools through the Institute of Higher Education (IHE). The concept behind IHE is that smaller schools can work together to create a university-like system. Students who graduate from a lower division can transfer to the upper division of another college. The curriculum for lower division is English, Social Science, Mathematics, Science, Orientation and Language. For the upper division the students can currently choose between two majors - Health and Education. All the schools that Child’s Dream supports through KRCEE are members of the Institute of Higher Education (IHE). For the academic year 2011-12 we were very happy to have 96 graduates from the lower division and 16 graduates from the upper division in the health major. As certification from the refugee camp schools is not recognised by the Thai government, the graduates are not allowed to work in Thailand so students stay in the camps or go back to their home villages in Myanmar. Most of the graduates start to work as teachers, health workers and translators. Others are employed in non-governmental organisations in the camps as office staff, accountants or bookkeepers. But not all of the graduates directly start to work; some do internships and others continue with further studies. Fortunately only a few are unemployed. The small number of unemployed graduates and the high number of graduates are success stories for Child’s Dream’s belief in education and that higher education can equip students with knowledge and skills they need to seek employment or community leadership positions. As the communities in the camps know about the importance of education, they are very grateful for our support. Many parents as well as students individually thanked Jollsy, as a representative of Child’s Dream, for our support.
We organised a teachers’ study tour at Paklay Secondary School with 32 participants, mostly teachers and principals, from most of our target schools. Also government officials from the provincial and district education offices joined. Paklay Secondary School acts as a role model as it represents our approach to sustainable development. We supported the school with a boarding house, a stationery programme and scholarships for a selected group of high school students. As the management of the school and the boarding house are very good and the school is known for its high educational quality, other schools can learn from them and benefit from their experience.

The board of our foundation met to approve the financial statements and reports of the last year. According to the Thai New Year tradition, it is also the perfect opportunity to take stock of our growth and reiterate our resolutions for the current year. Our team took the opportunity to celebrate a Dam Hua ceremony, in which younger team members pour perfumed water on the hands of elders as a way of showing their respect.

### April

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**APRIL**
MAY
BASIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND MALARIA CONTROL PROGRAMME

Myanmar is one of the least developed countries in the world so its level of health care is very poor. The government spends only 2% of GDP (2009) on health-related issues (compared to 11.3% in Switzerland). Therefore, many people die from chronic and communicable diseases. Statistically, 25% of the children will die before their 5th birthday, half of those deaths caused by malaria. People from ethnic minorities are especially affected, as they have even more limited access to health care. With the Basic Health Intervention for Children (BHIC) and the Malaria Control Programme (MCP) we aim to reduce childhood mortality and enable more children to participate in education. The BHIC includes three components: Village Health Workers Programme (VHW), Vitamin A & De-Worming and the Immunisation Programme. The Village Health Workers play a fundamental role in improving health standards in villages as they teach the villagers basic health and hygiene measures. With Vitamin A & De-Worming we try to improve nutrition and childhood development and the Immunisation Programme helps to protect children from serious childhood illnesses. The MCP is also implemented by the Village Health Workers and is based on the 3 principles of the WHO’s Roll Back Malaria Initiative: Early Diagnosis and Treatment, Vector Control and Education. Therefore, it not only treats, but also prevents infection. These two programmes are implemented in Karen State in Myanmar in partnership with Community Partners International (CIP, formally known as GDHP) and the Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW). In May we started to renegotiate the partnerships with CIP and KDHW. Together we decided to renew our collaboration agreements and to strengthen our relationship until the end of 2013. Also we agreed to analyse whether we should pursue the programmes in 2014. Since we started the programmes in 2008, we have trained approximately 200 VHW (125 for the MCP); we have reached out to 35,000 villagers (including 15,000 children); 40,000 children were given Vitamin A and were de-wormed; 5,000 children were immunised and approximately 58,000 people have benefited from the Malaria Control Programme.
We supported the Foundation for Education and Development (FED) with two school buildings, four toilets, one building for their learning centre, an office, a store room and one building for a canteen, kitchen and nursery. We also added a playground. FED plays a fundamental role in providing basic education and vocational training for the children and youth of Myanmar migrant families in Thailand. FED was also our first project in Phang Nga in the south of Thailand.

Marc and Daniel visited the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vientiane, Laos to renew our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This enables Child’s Dream to continue implementing and operating its projects and programmes to improve the lives of children in Champasak, Savannakhet and Xaignabouli provinces for a period of three years (2012-2015).
On the 7th June, the Picturebook Guesthouse celebrated its official opening and accommodated its first guests, who stayed in some of their 10 rooms. The Picturebook Guesthouse is a Youth Connect project, part of a vocational training programme in Mae Sot that Child’s Dream has supported since 2007. Youth Connect is the only organisation in Mae Sot which directly works with Myanmar migrant high school students and supports them during the transition from high school to the workforce. As Mae Sot is located along the border, many migrants have come to Mae Sot over the last 20 years and the youth population has grown rapidly. Mae Sot has over 75 different migrant schools and most of them are short on materials and funding, but the biggest problem is that the schools are not Thai government schools. Therefore, the schools are not able to officially certify the students’ educational levels and enable them to apply for university. These schools have no harmonised curriculum and the different schools teach in different languages. Additionally there are not many vocational training programmes in Mae Sot. So the huge question remains: What can the students do after they graduate from migrant schools?

Youth Connect addresses this problem and tries to support young adults who have graduated from migrant schools to live a safe and more independent life. The Picturebook Guesthouse is currently the biggest project for Youth Connect with the widest range of different job and training opportunities for students. The mission behind the Picturebook Guesthouse is to provide the best hospitality service, but also to give back to the community. As it is a social enterprise, all profits are directly reinvested into Youth Connect. The furniture and artwork for the guesthouse were provided by two other Youth Connect social enterprises – Wood and Furniture and Puzzlebox Art Studio.

For us, the idea of a sustainable enterprise which also offers valuable job opportunities is something great. For this reason we will continue to support Youth Connect financially.
In 2010 we started to support academically strong middle school graduates to pursue their education to high school level. So far we have 27 scholars at Paklay Secondary School. For the academic year 2012-13, we expanded our support to Na La and Uthumporn Secondary Schools. We received 142 applications (from 88 girls and 54 boys) and chose 55 scholars. In the academic year 2012-13 we are supporting 82 scholars (56 girls and 26 boys) with a total amount of approx. USD 51,000.

After President Thein Sein took up his active post in the Myanmar government in March 2011, many reforms and incentives resulted. Besides political changes, there are also some smaller changes happening. In Yangon residents now have 24-hour electricity; it is now possible to convert main currencies to Myanmar Kyat at four approved banks; internet usage is increasing; private petrol stations are allowed and roads are being repaired. These are all factors that make our travels in Myanmar easier. But for us the most important change in the context of travelling is the simpler visa application process.
JULY
EXPANDING HIGHER EDUCATION TO CAMBODIA

Our Higher Education programmes currently reach beneficiaries from Myanmar and Laos. To find out how these programmes can be expanded into Cambodia, Thomas and Yem travelled through Cambodia in July and September 2012 to identify needs in Higher Education (HE) and to see who is doing what.

One of the biggest obstacles to promoting education in Cambodia, especially higher education, is the lack of a cultural background that promotes and values education. Often parents do not encourage their children to go to school and much less, to continue with their studies on a post high-school level, because they can find a job and earn money without being educated. Therefore, the dropout rate during middle school is very high and a minority of students finish high school.

Nevertheless, there are options of vocational training for school drop-outs, mainly in tourism and tourism-related businesses. The problem that most vocational training centers face is lack of basic knowledge, as most of the trainees are school drop-outs and do not even know what one metre is. The teachers first have to educate the students before they can train them. Many trainees are also hired before they finish their apprenticeships, so they are not sufficiently skilled to do quality work. This might change, as more international companies and hotels are settling in Cambodia and are asking for a high quality workforce. Hence skills and qualifications are becoming more important.

High school graduates have the option to continue studying at university. Although the number of universities is growing, the quality of education remains poor, as subjects and teaching methods are mostly outdated. Additionally, there are huge differences in quality between the universities and their departments. The number of private universities sponsored by politicians, whose main goal is to promote themselves rather than to offer high quality education, is increasing.

Overall, there are opportunities for Child’s Dream to expand its Higher Education programmes to Cambodia, as there are not enough vocational training centers and good university programmes. For 2013, Child’s Dream plans to implement its first higher education project in Cambodia in cooperation with a local organisation.
In July we received CHF 600,000. This is, by far, our single biggest donation and the sheer size of the amount nearly knocked us off our chairs. A big thank you goes to Mrs. Marili Hochstrasser for her outstanding generosity, friendship and trust!!!

**The Impact of Donations**

- 10 USD = 60 bricks
- 100 USD = 150 notebooks or 1,000 pencils
- 500 USD = 600 school meals
- 1,000 USD = malaria treatment for 170 children
- 1,500 USD = a playground
- 9,000 USD = university scholarship for a year
- 35,000 USD = can build a whole school or a boarding house

In the context of the democratisation process, the Myanmar government now officially allows charitable organisations to work in the country. Due to the tumultuous political history of Myanmar, it is now one of the least developed countries in Asia. Child’s Dream aims at taking an active role in helping to rebuild Myanmar. Therefore, we have hired someone for a Myanmar-based position to assist with logistics in construction, networking and identifying communities in need. With a Child’s Dream member of staff based in Myanmar, we hope to improve the impact of our work in Myanmar and to have better access to relevant information.
Rice is a special grain, as it can grow in very wet areas where other grains cannot survive. 90% of the world’s rice is grown and consumed in Asia, where people eat rice 2 or 3 times a day. In Thailand, rice is planted during the rainy season in August and can be harvested in November. On the 4th August, five people from Child’s Dream joined our Network for Environment and Economic Development (NEED) programme on their rice planting day. NEED, is a sustainable organic farm and training center for Myanmar students. Each year NEED educates 20 students from Myanmar in sustainable agriculture. After one year they return to their villages to share their knowledge and to help their communities to develop local agriculture. In Myanmar 70% of the workforce is in agriculture, but most of them work only for their own survival and not for profit. Nevertheless, many villages do not have adequate food and suffer under perpetual food insecurity.

Also, the people are not aware of sustainable farming methods and therefore, use chemicals. With the use of fertilizers and pesticides, a system of dependency is created. The farmers often need to get loans to be able to purchase these supplies and afterwards struggle to pay back these loans. These farming methods are destructive as they damage the natural ecosystem. With the use of alternative agriculture methods, output and sustainability can be increased at low cost and also safeguard the future. NEED reflects our approach of sustainable community development, as NEED educates, trains and empowers the next generation of Myanmar youth to become civil society leaders in sustainable agriculture. After graduating from the programme, the students are able to improve knowledge and the capacity to reduce food insecurity and to deal with bio-diversity loss and environmental degradation on a village level.
Marc, Daniel and Manuela decided this year to assign Mong to start fundraising in Thailand. The first event took place in August in Bangkok, where Marc and Mong represented Child’s Dream. As we just started fundraising in Thailand this year, we focused on presenting Child’s Dream and our work with the emphasis on the construction of boarding houses in Northern Thailand and the scholarship programme for high school students. Our main goal for this year was to improve awareness about Child’s Dream and our work in the Mekong Region in Thailand and motivate more people in Thailand to donate money. So far, the feedback has been very positive and people seem interested. We hope to improve the funding volume in Thailand over the next few years as people become more familiar with our work.

Unlike professionals working in publishing or advertising, we are still rather overwhelmed by the lead time, intense production process and discerning coordination required to produce our three annual newsletters. The production launch date of our August 2012 newsletter was 15 June 2012. We decided on topics, assigned writing, proofread, clarified content, found suitable pictures, collated, sent for German translation and double-checked, all while trying hard to meet our deadline! It was a lot of work, but in the end, we managed to finish it just in time. We hope you enjoyed reading it.
SEPTEMBER
FUNDRAISING IN JAPAN - FOUR CITIES IN ONE DAY

With the economic crisis looming in Europe and US, we decided a few years ago that we should focus our fundraising efforts more in Asia. Our goal was to raise more than half of our donations from this part of the world. The most important place for Child’s Dream in Asia to do fundraising is Japan. 20% of our donations currently come from the land of the rising sun.

Marc and Daniel travelled to Japan in September of 2012 to meet and follow up with our donors and friends. During this trip, one of our dearest supporters kindly organised a half-day conference for Child’s Dream. She invited many friends and business contacts to join and listen to Daniel and Marc’s presentation, which was followed by a very lively and interactive Q & A session. Even after the conference, while having coffee, tea and sweets, many people approached us with questions.

The fundraising trips in Japan are very different to the ones in Singapore, Hong Kong or even Switzerland, where normally six to eight meetings can be scheduled a day. In Japan only two to three meetings a day were possible since our donors live countrywide. Luckily Japan has the most efficient public transport system in the world. One day Daniel and Marc travelled from Osaka by the famous Shinkansen (bullet train) south to Kyushu Island to meet donors in Kurume, Fukuoka, Hakata and Kumamoto. In the evening they desperately tried to recall all the places they had been to that day. Luckily, the Japanese friends who accompanied them on the trip made sure that they were never lost in translation or in the maze of underground passages and walkways of Japan’s public transport system.

The trip was very successful. Daniel and Marc enjoyed the hospitality of their friends and donors. They were invited to a meal of Kobe beef and Marc ate so much that he could not sleep afterwards. Although Japanese culture is different to Swiss culture, Marc and Daniel feel strangely connected as similar things are valued and appreciated such as social etiquette and good manners, pleasant meals with friends and nice conversation. They look forward to going back soon to the land of the rising sun.
Morgan Parker is the founder of Wheel2Wheel, a non-profit organisation that aims to raise awareness about charitable organisations in Australasia. In 125 days, Morgan travelled with his motorbike and a film crew from Hong Kong to Australia, about 25,000 km. On the way they visited 10 charitable organisations. Child’s Dream was one of them and our work in Laos was featured in the 4th episode. Wheel2Wheel also supports charitable organisations financially; with their donation we constructed Na Luam Secondary School in Xaignabouli Province, Laos. Therefore, a big thank you to Morgan Parker and his Wheel2Wheel Team.

With the increasing number of projects, the amount of data grew exponentially and it became harder to keep track of all the information. To create a system where all project data is stored, Angie and Arm, our A-Team, built up a new database from scratch, which is tailor-made for the needs of Child’s Dream. For over one year, the A-team dedicated a lot of time and energy to the development process. With the new database, different project information can be better stored and organised and it is easier to evaluate projects. At the end of September, it was finally time for the first test run.

After incorporating the feedback of the project teams, the final version of the database will be fully implemented in January 2013.
In Thailand’s economy, migrant workers play a fundamental role. They work in dangerous and unattractive industries, where no special skills are needed, with hard working conditions and low wages. Some studies even say that some Thai companies, especially in the fishing and agriculture sectors, would not survive without migrant workers, as they would not find local replacements for the migrants, who are willing to work for such low wages. Most of the migrants work illegally in Thailand. Over 80% of these migrant workers come from Myanmar (source: ILO/International Labour Organization). They have fled from political persecution or hope for better job opportunities, as the economic situation in Myanmar is very weak. Approximately 11% of the migrant population are children; their parents either brought them along or they were born in Thailand. But the question remains about what happens to those 377,000 children, as they do not have a birth certification, access to health care or education. (Thailand Migration Report, 2011)

As the children are not able to understand Thai and the cost for school fees is too expensive for most parents, the children cannot attend classes in Thai government schools. To provide their children at least with some basic education, migrant workers have founded their own schools. As the schools are not recognised by the Thai government, they do not get any funding. In most cases those schools are not well organised and the quality of their education is low, as they use just any teachers or school materials that are available. Hence, the curriculum is not structured and it can vary greatly between the different migrant schools. The conditions under which the students are taught are bad. The rooms are overcrowded and barely have furniture.

Although the Thai government implemented a new education law in 2005, saying that “all children in Thailand have - independent of their immigration status - the right to attend school”, only a few migrant children are currently enrolled in Thai schools. One reason for this is the language gap. Migrant students can only study in Thai schools if they can speak Thai, but how can they learn Thai if they are not in school? Another obstacle that has to be overcome are the prejudices against the migrants; many parents worry that their children might be mistreated and do not want to send them to Thai schools. Some parents are also afraid of being arrested and deported if they send their children to Thai schools. However, not only the new education law is affecting the situation of the migrant schools, but also the current changes in Myanmar and Thailand are affecting the future of the unregistered migrant schools. On one side, Myanmar is currently getting more stable and opening up, which could improve the economic situation and more jobs might be available. On the other side, the Thai government plans to close the refugee camps by 2015. Thus, unregistered migrant schools have to decide whether they want to stay in Thailand or move back to Myanmar. Schools that want to move back to Myanmar have to teach the Burmese curriculum and prepare their students for Burmese high school exams. In most cases the students fail the exams and have to repeat one year.

However, it is unlikely that the majority of schools will move back to Myanmar, so the migrant children should be integrated into the Thai schooling system. There are different ideas about how to do that. Most promising is the idea of School within School, where a Thai school supports a migrant school and migrant students can attend classes at a Thai school or Thai teachers hold classes at migrant schools. The programme aims to increase students’ Thai language capabilities, as language is the biggest obstacle for migrant children and to prepare the students to fully integrate into the Thai school system after grade 3. Another option is non-formal education for students who are older than 15. In the context of this programme, students have the option of attending extra Thai classes on Saturdays and Sundays. The idea of the programme is good, but the quality has to improve dramatically. The schools can also register as Thai schools or register as private schools, but both options are not very practicable due the high costs. Overall, it is difficult to forecast the future of migrant schools as there are many uncertainties, but it is clear that change is needed and that migrant students should be better integrated into the Thai school system so they have the chance to receive proper education and better chances for the future. Child’s Dream is in regular contact with the migrant schools, to support them in their decisions and efforts to integrate the migrant children into the Thai school system or to move back to Myanmar.
With contestant number 344, Yee entered the competition of The Voice Thailand. In July, the film team of The Voice paid a surprise visit to our office to announce that Yee was one of the two candidates from the Chiang Mai casting, who made it into the first round. The episode with Yee’s performance aired on the 14th October. She passed the first round and made it to the second round. We are very proud of our own Superstar and are excited about the future of her career. But until then, we are enjoying her lovely voice in the office.

The two annual workshops are important events in the Child’s Dream calendar: during that time nobody is on a trip and everybody is in the office, which is a very rare event. The one-day workshop in October was all about ASEAN and elephants. In the morning we gathered different information about ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and discussed the possible impact on our work. Although ASEAN will only be fully implemented in 2015, it is always important to think ahead and to stay informed. In the afternoon we went to the Elephant Parade, where we could be creative and paint our own elephants.

### ASEAN WORKSHOP

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<td>MONG &amp; MARC ROTARY CHIANG MAI</td>
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<td>GEE AND KOY TRIP TO THE NORTH FOR BASIC EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS ACTIVITY/ FOLLOW UP CONSTRUCTION</td>
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In 2010, after an unsuccessful integration attempt of our previous partner organisation, we decided to establish our very own branch in Cambodia: Child’s Dream Cambodia Organisation (CDCO). So far, CDCO has built 20 primary schools in 4 provinces, 5 water systems and 4 playgrounds. CDCO also supports 18 high school scholars to continue their studies in secondary school. After nearly two years of work in Cambodia, CDCO built up a very good reputation in the target areas. Responsible for Child’s Dream’s work in Cambodia are Yem, Nary and Sinoeuy.

Cambodia is a developing country that still suffers from the legacy of the Khmer Rouge regime, especially in the remote areas, where 75% of the poor are living. The majority of them still depend on agriculture. Remote areas in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Oddar Meanchey and Siem Reap provinces are the target areas of our work. According to our local team, the biggest obstacles in the context of restoring the country and promoting education are poverty and ignorance. In general, the level and quality of education is very low; also the people do not yet believe in the importance of education and our team also has to educate the parents. Many people still see children as a source of cheap labour and, therefore, no need in sending their children to school, when they can work on the fields and help to make ends meet. It is also very hard to find good teachers and convince them to work in remote schools, instead of urban areas, where the living conditions and wages are better. Many teachers are not very motivated, which leads to a low quality of education. Other obstacles we have to overcome are mismanagement in schools and in government, as well as corruption. It needs time to build up a trustworthy relationship with the communities and schools, so our team has to follow-up closely on each project.

In the coming years we aim to expand our activities and programmes, not only in Basic Education, but also in Higher Education (see story July 2012), to reach out to even more children and give them the chance of a self-determined future. To be able to cope with the additional work load, CDCO is looking for a second assistant field coordinator as this article is written.
This year, from the 5th to the 9th of November, Max, our auditor, was in Chiang Mai to take a look at our bookkeeping. Since 2005, Max has been travelling from Switzerland to Chiang Mai to work at our office. This year, Max and his wife, Jacqueline, joined Koy, Meow and Ursula on their trip to Xaignabouli, Laos. Together they visited different projects and opened 2 schools. Thus, Max could experience firsthand how Child’s Dream spends its money. We would like to thank Max for his commitment over the past years and look forward to seeing him again in 2013.

For the 3rd time, Credit Suisse, our biggest corporate donor, spent their Corporate Volunteering Day with us, this time in Chiang Mai. As it was the year of the summer Olympics 2012 in London, we decided to make our own mini Olympics at Chiang Mai Zoo. Therefore, we invited 100 students from 3 of our supported schools in Chiang Rai to spend the day with us. During the day, the teams had to pass six stations at different places in the zoo. Overall, the children, the CS staff and we had a fun and memorable day.
In 2012, Tha Wah, our Child’s Dream specialist for playgrounds and water systems, built 13 playgrounds: three in Thailand, two in Cambodia and eight in Laos. In December alone he built four playgrounds in Laos. So, on average, Tha Wah builds one playground and one water system per month. Child’s Dream only builds playgrounds at schools that have already been supported with a new school building or a boarding house. Thus, the project teams already have a relationship with the school and the community and are familiar with the school area. The option of providing schools with additional facilities, like playgrounds and water systems, can be used as incentives for the communities to stay engaged and take care of the buildings.

Every playground is individually planned and adapted to the school grounds, but every playground has swings, definitely a “playground must-have”. After a plan is made, Tha Wah gives the materials list and the handbook to the project teams, which are handing them out to the communities during their check-up trips to the schools so the communities have enough time to prepare the materials, mainly wood and old car or motorbike tyres. In general it takes about two to three days to build a playground, depending on the school yard and the support of the community. The preparation of the land might be more time consuming if the ground is very hard or trees must be chopped (which we try to avoid whenever possible). It is important that the communities and the members of the schools help to build the playgrounds, so they know how to take care of them later on. In most cases the communities are very happy about the support and eager to help. It is also occasionally possible for volunteers and donors to join a trip and help to build the playgrounds. This year 32 volunteers joined Tha Wah.

Child’s Dream decided years ago to equip some of their schools with playgrounds as they help the children to develop their cognitive, emotional, physical and social abilities. The children can also test and expand the limits of their growing bodies, but most importantly, the children can play and have fun in a safe environment.
So far, 2012 has been the busiest year in the history of Child’s Dream. Therefore, it was decided to have a relaxing day instead of the usual wild Christmas party on December 14. The special day started at 12 o’clock at the cinema, where we watched ‘The Hobbit’ in 3D. After that, it was time for some mini-golf. Some were rather talented in the game, but others made everybody laugh. After an afternoon full of fun, it was time to eat dinner. Although this year’s Christmas celebration was slightly different, some of our Christmas traditions cannot be missed, such as speeches from Marc and Daniel and – slightly more importantly – exchanging gifts. Overall, it was a great team event and a nice way to finish the year.

We are happy to announce that in early summer 2013 our personal Child’s Dream Elephant, in cooperation with Elephant Parade, will be sold in our Child’s Dream store. Elephant Parade is a social business that combines art, business and charity. Every year they have an outdoor exhibition with life-sized elephants in different cities around the world. The elephants are designed by artists and sold after the exhibition. The profits are donated to The Asian Elephant Foundation, which aims to support and protect the Asian Elephant. The elephants are available in different forms and designs, but each elephant design is produced in a limited number only.
CHF 5,323,102
WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM?

ORIGIN OF DONATIONS

- 39% SWITZERLAND
- 19% JAPAN
- 13% SINGAPORE
- 9% UK
- 6% HONG KONG
- 6% THAILAND
- 5% USA
- 3% OTHERS

TYPE OF DONOR

- 56% INDIVIDUALS
- 24% FOUNDATIONS
- 11% TRUSTS
- 8% COMPANIES
- 1% OTHERS
**CHF 5,323,102**
WHERE DID THE MONEY GO TO?

**FOCUS GROUPS**
- **47%** BASIC EDUCATION
- **35%** HIGHER EDUCATION
- **18%** HEALTH

**NATIONALITY OF BENEFICIARIES**
- **43%** MYANMAR
- **23%** MYANMAR MIGRANTS
- **23%** LAOS
- **6%** CAMBODIA
- **5%** THAILAND

**CHF 370,962**
ADMINISTRATION COST
- **71%** PERSONNEL COSTS
- **18%** DEPRECIATION
- **10%** ADMINISTRATION, LEGAL AND TRAVEL
- **1%** OTHER COSTS
MEET THE STAFF  
OFFICES IN CHIANG MAI AND SIEM REAP

MANAGEMENT TEAM
THE YEAST IN THE DOUGH

 MANAGEMENT TEAM
THE YEAST IN THE DOUGH
Manuela Celestina Bianchi
Ursula Bloig
Supatra Matakoon (Nickname: Koy)
Charuwat Phaisantham (Nickname: Tai)
Vathana Tep-in (Nickname: Nui)
Chalach Mongkolosaemaakul (Nickname: Jack)
Saw Tha Wah (Nickname: Tha Wah)

ADMINISTRATION TEAM
AS THE BACKBONE, THEY MAKE SURE THE WHEELS GO ROUND AND ROUND

Saijinda Noppasitcharak (Nickname: Yee)
Panupong Kwansuk (Nickname: Meow)
Khanitha Khanthasawee (Nickname: U)
Nan Nyoin Khan (Nickname: On)

Sujinda Noppasitcharak (Nickname: Yee)
Panupong Kwansuk (Nickname: Meow)
Khanitha Khanthasawee (Nickname: U)
Nan Nyoin Khan (Nickname: On)

health team
HELPING SICK CHILDREN GET WELL SOON

Waraporn Intasaen (Nickname: Ta)
Suchada Kokanot (Nickname: Mong)
Chonpatdis Nikoneasittham (Nickname: Joy)
Thae Cho (Nickname: Wikan)

Higher education team
SUPPORTING YOUNG ADULTS AT HIGH SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

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HEALTH TEAM
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Chonpatdis Nikoneasittham (Nickname: Joy)
Thae Cho (Nickname: Wikan)
MEET THE AMBASSADORS
WORLDWIDE

AMBASSADOR
CAMBODIA
Kathrin Becht
Benjamin Boesch
Andrea Kleinert
Regula Peter - Nydegger

AMBASSADORS
SWITZERLAND
Benjamin Boesch
Regina Meyer

AMBASSADORS
SINGAPORE
Ben Cavalli

AMBASSADOR
HONG KONG
Pamela Phua

AMBASSADORS
JAPAN
Keiko Hiranka
Yoriko Shiota
Takenobu Hidaka

MEET THE VOLUNTEERS
IN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA

SUPPORTING
CHILD'S DREAM
IN CAMBODIA
Emmy Bianchi-Mosca
Janine Laurent
Janine Laurent
David Easton
Angela Noll

WORKING AT
THE CHILD'S DREAM
OFFICE, HELPING
WHERE THEY CAN
Sabrina Schuster
Laura Frick
Laura Frick

PASSING ON THEIR
ENGLISH KNOWLEDGE
TO THE CHILDREN
Kenneth Ong
Susanna Rüegger Köchli

HELPING THE
CHILDREN
MEDICAL FUND
TEAM
Mija Klotz
Sai Hsing Pha

CHILD'S
DREAM
DESIGNERS
Gene Lorca
Dominique Ghilardi

CHILD'S DREAM
DESIGNERS
Dominique Ghilardi
Lilliya Pogodina

SUPPPORTING
CHILD'S DREAM
IN CAMBODIA
Benjamin Boesch
Regina Meyer

AMBASSADORS
SWITZERLAND
Benjamin Boesch
Regina Meyer

AMBASSADORS
SINGAPORE
Benjamin Boesch
Regina Meyer

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