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Introduction

The Year 2017: in many ways an extraordinary, but also challenging year for all of us at Child’s Dream.

One would assume that, after having been in operation for more than 14 years, a certain consolidation is setting in and things become a bit more routine, hence boring. We also often hear the questions, ‘What’s next, Marc and Daniel? After 14 years of building up and running Child’s Dream, monotony and boredom must be weighing you down”. Trust us, NOT AT ALL!!!
2017 was yet another outstandingly interesting and fulfilling year, but it was also one of the most demanding years when it comes to the workload on all of us. Thanks to our amazing team members, the heavy workload was mastered with ease and never before were so many projects implemented, programmes run and improved, and beneficiaries reached. All three of our focus groups progressed in their work, so we want to share a few highlights of our working year, addressing beneficiaries in Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

In September, our “Health” group had reason to celebrate. The Children’s Medical Fund Programme accepted its 1,500th child for treatment. Close to five million US Dollars were spent, since inception in 2006, on this life-saving programme. Without the incredible dedication of our health team, many of these little children would have perished.

Our “Basic Education” team has made big leaps forward in 2017. What started with building schools and boarding houses back in 2004, resulted in tens of thousands of children having access to education for the first time. But then, it’s not just about providing access; it’s increasingly about the quality of education and the relevance of what is taught. Our increased focus on quality and relevance will further strengthen the educational systems of our target countries.

Creating responsible leaders and specialists is the main focus of our “Higher Education” group. Change makers will be able to sustainably and positively shape the future of their respective countries. We are happy to see that our past success in Myanmar is more and more filtering through in the other three countries. In 2017, the first ever Alumni Conference was held in Laos, a sign of a maturing scholarship programme.

On a more macro level, we finalised our strategy for the coming five years and revised our vision and mission statement to be more precise and to the point.

Vision: Empowered people responsibly shaping their communities

Mission: Improving health and education for sustainable development

And as a Child’s Dreamer, we certainly always hope that some of our own dreams become true. Having worked in Myanmar and with Burmese beneficiaries for over 14 years, one such wish became reality in 2017. Child’s Dream Myanmar Association, registered in Yangon, was born in the summer. Not in our wildest dreams, some years ago operating under the radar of an oppressive regime, did we think that our own charity registration in Myanmar would ever become a reality.

On the sad side, we are certainly disturbed and distressed by the recent events in Rakhine State, Myanmar. We truly hope for the future of the country that this humanitarian crisis can be solved quickly without inflicting any further damage on people.

Though we have said this again and again, our tremendous impact on tens of thousands of children and youth would not have been possible without the very generous support of all our donors and friends. Having such a loyal, engaged and caring donor base means the world to us. Many, many thanks! And finally a big thank you to the most amazing team on earth. We are proud of each and every team member in the Child’s Dream family and thank you all for your tremendous dedication to helping children and youth in need. You are our heroes!

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!!!
# January

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- **January 7**: Khin Cho - attend Parami opening ceremony
- **January 11-14**: Jamie - Laos trip for teacher workshop Laos
- **January 15-20**: Thomas - training in Cambodia
- **January 23-27**: scholarship interviews
- **January 29-1 February 1**: Bee - PBL Nature Game workshop in Mae Sariang
The VSO Project came to life three years ago in numerous provinces in Northern Thailand. By recruiting Thai volunteers, the issue of an insufficient numbers of teachers began to be addressed as well as bringing other positive factors to all parties. The schools carefully assessed their situations and set goals to be reached with the support of volunteer teachers. Many of these objectives included support of the normal curriculum, especially Thai language; general life skills; or additional help in dormitory management.

This pilot project, in which volunteer roles were built up to support the development of the learning process and life skills, came to an end at the beginning of 2017. An evaluation then took place to determine if the project should continue. For this reason, Meow visited six schools in Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son to evaluate the situation and the impact it had on the teaching and learning environment.

Students benefited a lot from the volunteers as they attempted to teach the children through many activities, outdoor learning and games. They also equipped them with many life skills and inspired the children to study hard and achieve great things. In interviews students stated that they liked to work with volunteer teachers and that it was also very interesting for them to learn more about their new temporary teachers.

Teachers not only got help with their work, but also inspiration and motivation from the different teaching techniques and enjoyed working with the volunteers.

Therefore, due to the many advantages the volunteers offered the teachers and students, we are happy to announce that the project will continue.
Children’s Day, Thailand

Laughter in the air, a Child’s Dream team with two trucks full of presents and material, discussing best playing strategies for each of the five games, a remote school in a beautiful scenery, dancing and performances, sparkling children’s eyes and helping little hands while getting ready for their big day, excited children playing games ….YES, it’s the second Saturday of January! It’s Thailand’s national Children’s Day and we have spent it at Huamaesurin School in the Mae Hong Son province. What a wonderful event!
We have been working in Luang Prabang province for nearly two years now, so the Provincial Office of Education and Sport, or PES, requested a meeting. Daniel, Tai, Jamie, Koy, Tuu, Tuk and Nikone attended. The meeting focused on cooperation between Child’s Dream and the Provincial Office of Education and Sport. We shared our vision and values so that the Luang Prabang office understands more about our work. The result is that PES are eager to continue supporting us in empowering children through access to education.
February

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The USPMB team had a university exploration trip to Myanmar in the first week of February 2017. The aims of our trip were to learn more about the Myanmar university education system in the transition period of Myanmar’s development and how higher education can be a part of that development. Due to our limited schedule, we could only visit some better-known universities in Yangon, Mandalay, and Mawlamyine. University entrance derives from students’ matriculation marks; no entrance exam is needed. Students are allowed to apply to the university nearest their hometowns. There are two semesters per academic year, apart from Medicine (which has three semesters). The academic year starts in December and ends in October. All university text books are in English, except the Myanmar language textbook. Universities are cooperating with universities in Southeast Asia and wish to cooperate more with international universities around the world. Some outstanding final students are sent on exchange programmes in Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and other universities around
the world. Yangon University and Mandalay University have international programmes such as International Relations and Political Science; the admission criteria of these programmes are usually higher than for other programmes. There are some scholarship foundations that award partial scholarships to students who are in need; however, there are still more students who need financial support.

The nursing programme is another programme which we found interesting. Students learn in class and also do practicums in all years of the course.
Interviews in Thailand

In January, Land and her colleagues went on two trips to interview students who applied for scholarships to attend high school or vocational school. The interviews took place in 14 different schools in Northern Thailand for around 100 candidates. Most of the students belong to the Karen, Hmong, Shan tribes or are stateless, don’t have the financial support and live far away from the schools. Therefore, we are joyful that 60 students with good grades and the willingness to study earned a spot in our program.

A Visit to Our Migrant Projects

In February, Tai and Meow visited our migrant projects in Sangkhlaburi and Mae Sot, Thailand, to evaluate and monitor the projects. The aims of the projects are to support migrants in the educational accreditation process; in educational integration in either Thailand or Myanmar; and with the transition plan of the projects moving back to Myanmar. All five projects are in good shape and we are happy with the outcomes so far. A lot of work remains to be done, but we are motivated to meet the upcoming challenges.
March

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<td>3: Marc - Banteay Thmey Primary School opening, Cambodia</td>
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<td>8: Daniel - trip with SLS for opening of Samakkeexai Lower Secondary School, Xaignabouli, Laos</td>
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<td>17-29: Koy, Jamie, Sak, &amp; Yem - Teacher workshop, Laos</td>
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<td>29: Law Eh - travel to STTC, KKR, MPPPS for project monitoring (completion), Myanmar</td>
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For the third time in the north and second time in the south, Koy organised two four-day workshops that were held in Xaignabouli Province in Laos. We believe that it is not enough for educational development only to support the infrastructure; the quality of education has to be looked after as well. In the south of the province, participants from 18 schools met at Na Tan Secondary School and in the north, participants from 20 schools met for a workshop in order to encourage the principals and teachers to think about school management. The aim of the workshops was to share school improvement experiences, as well as lessons learned about school management for development. The participants were also able to start building a network of people in related fields which they can use in the future.

Day 1 & 2: Before the two chosen schools welcomed the school directors and education officers of their neighbouring districts, the host school prepared for the workshop with many different activities. They were also reminded of the many ways the schools can be supported by Child’s Dream.

Day 3 & 4: For the second part, the visitors joined the workshops where information about their own schools was exchanged on the topic of the relationship between teaching and management. As well as reflecting on and evaluating the past and the present, the participants also spent some time making plans for the future of their schools.

For the north of the province, this was the third and last workshop like this. The goal is to continue evaluating the schools on a national indicator within the monthly district meetings where other non-Child’s Dream-supported schools are also present and can profit.
Swiss Lanna Society School Opening

In mid-March Daniel, along with three of our volunteers and the Swiss Lanna Society, had the privilege of traveling to Laos to open up a new school building. Located in Xaignabouli province. Samakkeexai lower secondary school provides education for 203 young students. Previously, students from the primary and lower secondary schools had to share a two-classroom building. With student numbers increasing each year, we built a new school building with six fully furnished classrooms and four new toilets for the lower secondary school.
As founders, Daniel and Marc sit on the boards of our various legal entities. Legal entities are a must for organisations like ours since they allow us to conclude Memoranda of Understanding with governments, hence, allowing us to legally work in a country. On 4 March, our Cambodian board meeting took place. Our legal entity in the country was established in 2010, so a yearly board meeting takes place. Many thanks to our board members Mr. On Nguon, Mr. Has Piseth and Mr. Se Sen for your great support and your dedication to our work.
3-8: Koy & Sak - trip to Savannakhet & Champasak, Laos

10: Meow & Bee - PBL Lessons Learned

19: Moe Kyaw - Kayah State Education meeting organized by local CBO’s

24-25: Nary, Sophy, Yem - student home visits Svay Leu & CPPC survey

25-28: Khin Cho & Thomas - Leadership and People Management Training, Yangon
Since 2004 Child’s Dream has supported Myanmar migrant learning centres, initially only in the town of Mae Sot and later also in Phang-nga, Sanklaburi, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son and Chiang Mai provinces. Our support includes the construction of learning centres and helping out with running costs for maintenance. Between 23-25 April, teachers, principals and school management from seven Myanmar migrant learning centres joined the Basic Education Myanmar Migrants Strategy Workshop. The objective of this workshop was to brainstorm new ideas of how to successfully manage a school, as well as to find solutions for how to get accreditation for Myanmar migrants both in Thailand and in Myanmar within the next 3-5 years. The school representatives shared information about their current situations, best practices, current challenges of their schools in terms of accreditation, integration, and transition. We explained our Myanmar migrant strategy, and together developed an action plan based on what each school thinks the future will hold for it. The seven supported schools all have a different focus since not all of them yet have accreditation. However, students can benefit from three different kinds of education: Thai Non-formal Education (NFE), education from a branch school of Thai government schools (“school in school”) or receive a recommendation from a Migrant learning centre in Mae Sot, Thailand to then continue education in Myawaddy, Myanmar. It is important for us to work closely with all Myanmar migrant learning centres in the future and for them to focus on giving their students a successful education. An issue that might come up is that such learning centres could move to Myanmar and, therefore, the teachers will need help in adjusting their teaching skills.
In April, Khin Cho and Thomas were the first two of six Child’s Dream senior team members who attended a Leadership and People Management Training in Yangon. The training focused on better understanding one’s own strengths and development needs, looking into different styles of leadership and how to further develop them, sharpening participants’ practical skills in managing others (such as giving feedback, coaching, conflict management, and resistance) as well as valuing diversity and cultural issues in leadership.
Home Visit for BESSP Cambodia

Every year, students from three provinces in Cambodia can apply for our high school scholarships. The most fulfilling part in this process is visiting students at home: we can interview them and their families in their own environment. We also verify whether the family is in real need of financial support. This academic year, 382 students from six different schools applied for scholarships. After shortlisting, 163 students were interviewed and, in the end, 88 students received a scholarship for grades 10-12.
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**April 4:** Sophy, Mr Kheun - CPPC Guest Speaker

**May 10:** Thomas, Narong - Cambodia NGO visits, Cambodia

**May 11:** Manuela - U.S. visitor group

**May 27-1 Jun:** Marc, Daniel, Manuela, Christin, Khin Cho, Thomas, Tai, Yem - strategy session, Singapore

**May 13:** Khin Cho - AAP meeting, Yangon

**May 12:** U, Tamalar Lin, Kham, Gene - EYF/TCL opening ceremony in Tachileik, Myanmar
This year we organised a Career Fair for the first time. This took place at Pouk High School in Siem Riep Province as part of our monthly Career Planning Programme which we offer to grades 10, 11 and 12. The aim of this programme is to support students with various life skills. We counsel students to make well-informed decisions about their careers. We want them to be able to choose the right career for themselves aligning with their knowledge, skills, capacity and also play an important role in social development.

Along with in-school training, we enable grade 11 students to meet with professional guest speakers monthly at their school. Students get inspired to continue studying, even if it is hard, because they meet people who can be good role models for them. Meeting guest speakers is also a perfect opportunity for students to overcome their shyness and ask professional people questions about their careers.

At the Career Fair grade 12 students could explore various companies: banks, non-governmental organisations, vocational training programmes, universities, etc. We invited 15 different companies of which 13 were represented at the fair. For the first year, this is a huge success! Each of them had their own booth to display their products or services and highlight career opportunities to our audience. In total, more than 300 students attended the fair and explored the various booths with great attention. We strongly believe that students learned a lot on this day and will benefit in future. It was a great experience for all the grade 12 students from Pouk High School. With our experiences and the support of our wonderful team, we are confident to organise a Career Fair again next year and even expand it to other high schools in Cambodia!
Ethnic Youth Foundation (EYF) is now a registered Community Social Organisation. Their objective is to provide skills to marginalised youth, so they may succeed in maintaining a safe, productive, and independent lifestyle. The opening ceremony was celebrated in Tachileik on 13 May. Local businesses, representatives from other CSOs, representatives from Child’s Dream, and regional level government officers attended the ceremony. A region level administration officer handed a full five year licence to EYF’s president at the auspicious opening event.
Laos University Scholarship Interviews

A total of 207 Laotian high school students applied to Child’s Dream for a university scholarship. Of these, 65 students had the chance to convince Tuu and her team that they deserve a scholarship. 20 students will be chosen once they have completed the universities’ entry exams and interviews. This year our team did not travel to every single school, but asked applicants to come to more central locations for interviews. We noticed a big difference between students from urban environments, who are much more talkative than students from rural areas.
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<td>27-30: Land - join PBL project to help children to develop PBL project Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son</td>
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<td>28: Sophy - PCCP guest speaker</td>
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- **July 7**: Tamalar Lin, Daniel - STTC opening
- **July 13**: Min Chan Tein - visit Tara target village schools in Thanbyuzayat and Mudon
- **July 20**: Law Eh - survey trip with TGI MoE, visit NT & SNBH
- **July 27-30**: Land - join PBL project to help children to develop PBL project Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son
- **July 28**: Sophy - PCCP guest speaker
We started our strategy review process last September with a two-day workshop together with our management team. This review process was completed in May 2017. We concluded that most of our current work will remain relevant for the next five years.

Inspired by the new UN Sustainable Development Goals, which look at development much more holistically, inclusively and in a less patronising way than the previous UN Millennium Development Goals, we unanimously agreed not only to put even more emphasis on the long-term development needs of our four countries, but also to protect the environment and to promote peace and justice through our work. We will continue to focus on “Improving health and education for sustainable development”, which is our revised mission statement. We can now incorporate issues about the environment, peace and injustice into our interventions.

This new strategy underlines that Child’s Dream has evolved from a typical children’s charity to a development organisation working with and for children, youth and young adults for sustainable, positive impact in their societies. This evolution of our work also needed to be reflected in our vision. Our previous vision statement, besides being far too long, merely looked at providing education and healthcare to children in our countries. Our new vision “Empowered people responsibly shaping their communities” highlights the desired state our beneficiaries find themselves in and their intentions for the future. As we look beyond immediate humanitarian needs, we believe that equitable and sustained development can only come from a new generation of empowered and responsible local leaders. Equipped with a new vision and strategy as well as an empowered management team we are very much looking forward to tackling the challenges of the next five years.
Vision, Mission and Strategy

Vision
Empowered people responsibly shaping their communities

Mission
Improving health and education for sustainable development

Strategy
We design, implement, and partner to support interventions for children and young adults. We address current and future needs in Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand related to:

- Basic or essential health
- Relevant and quality education
- Responsible leaders and qualified specialists
- Values of peace and justice
- Environmental sustainability

Our strategy follows the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.
The Higher Education team explored Northern Laos in June over a two week trip to expand our network with organisations in Laos. We are eager to support more higher education partners in the country, and are also in the process of re-focusing our University Scholarship Programme by recruiting scholars who have community work experience. We were fortunate to hold 23 meetings with local and international NGOs, schools, libraries, a college, and a farm. It was a very interesting trip where we learned a great deal about the history, issues, and activities in Laos.

A year ago, we invited five of our alumni to formally establish Child’s Dream Myanmar Association, as a locally registered NGO, based in Yangon. By doing so, we follow the same principles as in our other countries, having a local board and a local registration to do our work. As expected, progress is slow but we are confident that our registration with the Mynamar Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement will be accepted in the coming months. The purpose of the meeting was to keep our board members informed of the progress.
### July

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<td><strong>19-30: Koy - water filter trip, Laos</strong></td>
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<td><strong>26: Khin Cho - attending workshop on SDGs, Myanmar</strong></td>
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One of the major milestones in 2017 is definitely our registration as a local NGO in Myanmar with the Ministry of Home Affairs. This recognition by the Myanmar government is not only an organisational milestone, but also an emotional occasion for many of our long-term staff. We still vividly remember how difficult it was to implement our mandate in Myanmar under junta rule. Every trip into this isolated country caused anxiety and paranoia until 2011, when the junta, following a general election in 2010, was replaced by a civilian government.

Daniel remembers the opening of a monastic school in the Mandalay region in 2011 when the head monk took his hand and raised it to the sky shouting, ‘Finally we have democracy in our country!’ in front of recording media cameras. Daniel thought that this is it and if he were lucky enough to leave the country, he would certainly never get a visa again. But luckily the democratisation process continued with lots of social, political and economic advancements.

Shortly after the landmark election win of Aung San Suu Kyi’s NLD in 2015, we decided to start our registration process since the Myanmar government was now legitimate in the eyes of the public. As in Cambodia and Thailand, we want to be recognised in Myanmar as a local NGO and not as an international NGO. It was a privilege to select five board members from a large pool of qualified Child’s Dream university alumni in Myanmar. During the first board meeting the board members approved our mandate in Myanmar and appointed Khin Cho Thein as the Director of Child’s Dream Myanmar Association.

This new legal status will allow us not only to increase our support in Myanmar, but also to continue with the decentralisation of our capabilities into our field office in Yangon.
School Openings in Cambodia

Though we always hope that donors of a particular school will join us during the opening celebration, it’s not always possible. Donors come from all over the world and travelling to our area is sometimes difficult and untimely. However, schools still have to be formally opened and villagers, teachers and students eagerly await the big celebration. Marc took this opportunity to bring his mother and his nephew Lino to Cambodia for three beautiful school openings. Lino was brave enough to try all the local delicacies such as frogs, scorpions and bugs.
Since our first water system programme in 2010, more and more communities in Laos have become conscious of the importance of clean water. Students often do not have enough drinking water or for agricultural projects at the boarding houses. Through our implementation of water towers, water pumps, pipe lines, ponds and water filters, gastrointestinal illnesses have been reduced and water reserves now provide enough drinking water for the dry season. To date, Child’s Dream has implemented more than 25 water systems in Laos and many more are in the pipe line.
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5: Tai - Shan Youth Power 15th Anniversary

12-14: Nikone, Tamalar Lin, Khin Cho, Narong, Tuu, Saw Char, Thomas - Higher Education Workshop

16-18: Child’s Dream Annual Workshop

21: Khin Cho - meeting Andrew Barfield and students from Chuo University, Tokyo

24: Marc, Daniel - Vientiane government meetings, Laos

31 Aug-3 Sep: Land, Pat - Scholarship Camp Mae Sariang
Child’s Dream Annual Workshop, Mae On

Never before had we been so many! Busloads of excited Child’s Dream interns, volunteers and employees were on the road to Mae On, about one hour outside Chiang Mai. In total there were 48 participants at this workshop, including our volunteer photographer Mio and little Bai Thoey, Orn’s daughter.

We started off by explaining Child’s Dream’s revised Vision, Mission and Strategy, followed by an entertaining money game exemplifying how to get rich – or poor for that matter. Other workshop elements were training on how to increase reporting quality, a Child’s Dream crisis-alert system, our compulsory annual UN Child Rights training, a group exercise demonstrating current problems in the four countries we work in and a presentation by the Management Team about what topics they work...
on during the year. On the last day we hosted a guest speaker, inspiring Prof. A. Wanna Tienmee, Executive Director of the Foundation for Applied Linguistics (FAL), Chiang Mai, and her team. FAL is a project partner of Child’s Dream’s Basic Education Team. Dr. Tienmee and her colleagues demonstrated, through a presentation and several games, what it actually means to get into grade 1 in school, but not to be able to understand a single word the teacher is saying, as your mother tongue is different, perhaps an indigenous language without script. A very insightful experience with great learning for all of us.

For once we were also successful in allocating free time to everyone to just hang out and enjoy each other’s company. A small group went to see a reservoir and dam nearby; some went to the famous hot springs; and some just chatted or swam in the pool. The workshop was rounded off by a fierce bowling competition, a game some of us had never played before.
Meeting with Ministry of Education, Laos

Fostering government relations is a very important task, taken care of by Daniel and Marc. Good relations help to smooth our project implementation in the field, hence increasing efficiency and allowing us to reach more beneficiaries. This time we travelled to Vientiane, the capital of Laos, in order to meet her Excellency Madame Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun, Minister of Education and Sports. We shared our achievements as well as the various issues encountered over the past 12 months and also talked about the extension of our Memorandum of Understanding.

Alumni Conference in Yangon

One of our annual highlights is our scholarship alumni conference in Yangon. Child’s Dream has been awarding university scholarships to young adults from Myanmar for more than 10 years. Now we have over 150 alumni already working in many different fields in the private, public and NGO sectors. Once a year we invite our alumni, as well as our final year university students, to our alumni conference to network, share ideas, discuss challenges and opportunities, and update each other about issues concerning the development of Myanmar.
23: Meow, Nikone, Zin, Manuela - Trash Hero, Reservoir clean up at Huay Tung Tao, Chiang Mai

24 Sep-6 Oct: Daniel, Sak, Timo, Tuk, Michel - School Opening trip, Laos

25-30: Christin, Yem, Gene - Leadership and People Management training, Bangkok
We are in great luck! Highly experienced professional people occasionally offer their services to us for free, services which normally come at a high price. This support is outstanding. Now, for the second time, Daniel Ng from Singapore volunteered to give free management training in his spare time to Child’s Dream employees. In 2016, he came to Chiang Mai to train our younger team members in “Personal Effectiveness” and “Communication”. This year, he volunteered to train our team in Yangon. Our team has two employees in basic education, two employees in higher education and an office administrator. Due to the unexpectedly rapid growth of our work in Myanmar, Khin Cho Thein - our Country Director in Myanmar – has never had the chance to devote appropriate time to team building activities. Daniel Ng’s offer to share his vast management training experience with our Yangon team was, therefore, absolutely perfect.

SilkAir kindly flew Daniel from Singapore to Yangon and back on a free airline ticket. Our Yangon team enjoyed a two day training session with Daniel on topics such as “Teamwork”, “Managing Priorities” and “Effective Time Management”. We were in turn able to offer Daniel some insight into our work in Myanmar. Daniel gave a speech on “Personal Leadership” to course participants at Parami Institute in Yangon, a new and very interesting initiative Child’s Dream started supporting recently. The next day, together with Saw Char, Daniel visited the Network for Environment and Economic Development (NEED) in Hmawbi, Yangon Division, a model farm and educational institution we fund. They also visited Knowledge Zone in Bago, another project we support, which focuses on practical and sustainable education, mostly language and computer skills, for poverty-stricken Myanmar youth.
Scholarship Camp, Mae Sariang

At the Basic Education Scholarship Camp, we ensure that all children can link their lives to their community and to the society of their future. We help them to develop pride and confidence in their status as ethnic people, build relationships among all scholarship students and encourage them to understand Child’s Dream Foundation’s work. Through a series of activities and games, 47 students get to know themselves and each other better, learn how to live and work with others, and improve their problem solving skills.
One of our long-term supporters is a boutique fund manager called NTAsset in Bangkok. Under the leadership of Kenneth Ng and John Thompson, NTAsset has been supporting us for many years. This year Kenneth and John invited Marc and Daniel to present Child’s Dream at their investors’ conference at the beautiful Jim Thompson House in Bangkok. The presentation was very well received. Many questions were asked after the presentation. It was a wonderful opportunity for Child’s Dream to spread the word about our work to many family offices around the world. Thank you NTAsset!
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- **3-5:** Management Team - meeting MT-CD Structure workshop, Chiang Mai
- **11:** Marc, Daniel, Gene - Seven Friday Fundraising event, Chiang Mai
- **15-19:** Daniel - Trip with 20/20 group
- **18-26:** Tuu, Nikone - AAP Laos, Vientiane
- **24-28:** Tai, Meow, Yem - TOT Cambodia teachers
This year we are proud to report that we have not only continued, but also expanded our Alumni Activities Programme (AAP) from Myanmar to Laos. The AAP is an annual conference of University Scholarship Programme (USP) alumni and final year students from their respective programmes.

The main reasons why we support this gathering between students and alumni is to promote networking between them, to assist in securing employment, to give a chance to learn about new and important issues related to their country and the work that fellow alumni are already doing, as well as to introduce a network of organisations having a positive impact on the development of their country to give inspiration.

The fourth annual AAP conference for USP Myanmar was held in Yangon from 05 to 06 August 2017. 102 students, alumni, and representatives of partner organisations attended. The conference focused on ‘Power of Networking’ highlighting ‘Youth empowerment and employment’ in a plenary discussion, including guest speakers from the Myanmar House of Representatives, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, the Centre for Vocational Training, and several large businesses.

The first annual AAP conference for USP Laos was held in Vientiane from 21 to 22 October 2017. 69 students, alumni, representatives of partner organisations, and the Laos government attended. The conference focused on employment and social development awareness. There were short sessions on: Higher Education, CV writing, interview techniques, Sustainable Development Goals, Proposal Writing, and Social Entrepreneurship Grants. Guest speakers from organisations talked about new ways of learning and community work, volunteering, and life-long learning.
School Opening Marathon in Laos

A new record: Daniel and Sak opened 12 schools in Laos in less than 2 weeks, covering more than 5,000 kilometers by car. Daniel and Marc try to participate in every school opening because they are very important to the community. It allows communities to show their gratitude for our support. Although such a trip is very demanding and physically exhausting, the positive energy and happiness of the students and teachers reenergises us. Thank you, Pamela and John Hsu, Marcel and Ellen Hungerbuehler and Yves Roesti for your great support and for coming to your school openings.
The “20/20 group” is a network of young philanthropists in Asia organised by UBS. Child’s Dream was selected as the host organisation for their 2017 service trip with 12 participants. Daniel created an interesting itinerary: an introduction to Child’s Dream; how to run a NGO; a visit to our Children’s Medical Fund, projects in Mae Sot and Myanmar refugee camps along the border. The group spent four days with us learning about the situation of refugees, challenges of repatriation, statelessness and migrant education. The group stayed at our social enterprise Picturebook Guesthouse.
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<td>Gee - SSP capacity building, Cambodia</td>
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<td>24-26:</td>
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Child’s Dream Myanmar (also known as Child’s Dream Myanmar Association – CDMA) was born in late 2017 as the Myanmar branch of Child’s Dream. On 17 May 2017, CDMA started its registration at the office of the General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs in Myanmar. CDMA registration proceeded with the recommendation of the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR). On 18 September 2017, the registration certificate of CDMA was finally issued.

Since 2014 Child’s Dream maintained an office in Myanmar but its staff were employed by a local company, which was initiated by us to provide services to Child’s Dream. Soon after official recognition, the new CDMA expanded to seven team members to better fulfil the workload and demands for projects throughout the country. The office also relocated to Yankin Center in Yangon to provide enough space for the enlarged organisation.

Though CDMA is not a big team, they are working in four different groups: Administration, Health, Basic Education and Higher Education. Incredibly, they all are from different ethnic groups: Kayah (from Kayah State), Kayin (from Kayin State), Mon (from Mon State), Bamar (from Irrawaddy and Yangon Region), Lahu (from Shan State), and Myeik (from Tanintharyi Region). Despite their diversity, their unity and maturity are very evident through their achievements. On a fun level, which proves the point, their harmony allowed them to win the team building competition at the Child’s Dream annual Christmas Party in Chiang Mai in December, 2017.
Our Floating School

Prey Chas Secondary School on Tonle Sap in Cambodia is the most unusual school we have ever built. Sitting on stilts above the biggest lake in South East Asia, it was an engineering masterpiece when built back in 2014. Sure, it was a risk, but a risk worth taking. Dropout rates were huge, but with our Dropout Prevention, we lured the children back. It was just a logical continuation of our support, together with our donors of Traumfaenger Foundation, to add two boarding houses to this school, which were opened in November 2017.
Laos Study Tour

Form 14-18 November 2017 principals and teachers from five different schools in Xaignabouli province in Northern Laos visited schools in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand. They had been chosen because of their excellent scores on cleanliness, environment, school management and community/teacher contribution at their schools. As inspiration for further school development in Laos, the visited Thai schools were selected on participants’ interests. The exchange allowed the Laotians to learn how to implement similar programmes at their own schools.
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- **3-4**: Thomas, Manuela, Khin Cho, Yem - Interview training, Chiang Mai Office
- **6-7**: Thomas, Manuela, Khin Cho, Yem - Interview training, Chiang Mai Office
- **10-11**: Basic Education Team Workshop, Chiang Mai Office
- **14**: Denise - SSiS Christmas Charity Event, Singapore
- **15-20**: Thomas, Ei Zin Mon, Khin Cho - MCAP graduation trip, Myanmar
- **19**: Nary - distribution X-mas gifts, Romchek, Cambodia
- **2-3**: Tai - graduation ceremonies, Cambodia
- **10-11**: Basic Education Team Workshop, Chiang Mai Office
- **24-25**: New Year’s Day
Watch out fish, Child’s Dreamers on bamboo rafts floating down your river! For our Christmas event morning, Daniel had organised a race for eight competing teams on bamboo rafts in Mae Wang, south of Chiang Mai. Before boarding the rafts, each team had to practise assembling such a raft on dry land; without that, they might all miserably drown due to lack of proper bamboo-raft-assembly-skills. The teams were then allowed to use rafts assembled by professionals for the race, which was likely a much better idea. Before reaching the final raft race destination, each team had to solve puzzles and do tasks at three stations along the river. Station 2 was particularly challenging, because team members who failed to properly solve a demanding crossword puzzle had to cross the rather cool river water hip-deep, climb up a slippery slope usually used by elephants (yes, real elephants), run over a narrow bridge and return to their anchored rafts once for each miss, or wrong word on the cross word puzzle.

For the evening party, our garden and badminton field were spectacularly transformed into a circus arena, including a real cotton candy station. Every team had practised circus tricks for weeks, sawing in half and re-assembling pretty young ladies, taming lions, jumping through hoops and ropes. What proved to be a most popular act was strong men throwing knives. And finally, the costume competition results: 1st prize – Thomas, 2nd prize – Su Mon Swe, 3rd prize – Gene and Icy!
Consultation Meeting with Ministry of Education and Sports, Laos

In every country we work, we are registered as a local not-for-profit organisation, but in Laos we are an international NGO. Our work is based on a three year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between us and the Ministry of Education and Sports. Also, every year we are licensed through an operation permit from the Laotian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Our MoU will expire in April 2018, so we organised a discussion in Vientiane with four Provincial Education Service officers (Luang Prabang, Xaiyabouli, Savannakhet and Champasak) to review our past achievements and discuss the challenges and opportunities of the next 3 years.
In December, the three MCAP network academies held their graduation ceremonies. Thomas and Ei Zin Mon joined the academies, parents, and community leaders in celebrating these special days. The first ceremony was held on 16 December for the Level Up Academy (MCAP Loikaw, Kayah State) where 33 students graduated out of the intake of 36 students. On 19 December, the second ceremony was held for Pinnya Tagar Academy (MCAP Myitkyina, Kachin State) where 38 students graduated out of the intake of 44 students. Finally, the third ceremony was held on 23 December for Education Gathering Group Academy (MCAP Hpa An, Kayin State) where 29 students graduated out of the intake of 32 students. The events included congratulatory and inspirational speeches, graduate procession, and various other awards for best performance. The days were filled with music, smiling faces, and endless selfies!
FACTS AND FIGURES
We built 8 boarding houses, 9 playgrounds, and 10 water systems.

198 university students in the region (171 in 2016)

5.7% administration ratio (5.9% in 2016)

We have dramatically increased our Higher Education initiatives, mainly in Myanmar, and the first annual Alumni Association Programme conference for University Scholarships Programme Laos was held in Vientiane.

33 school buildings built

CHF 7.8 million funds raised in 2017. An increase of 11%! (CHF 7 million in 2016)
Key Achievements 2017

300,000 individuals reached by our interventions (250,000 in 2016)

659 high school and vocational students in the region (423 in 2016)

131 patients under the age of 12 were supported in the Children’s Medical Fund

CHF 7.1 million were spent on our direct project work (CHF 6.4 million in 2016)
Nationality of Beneficiaries

USD 7,109,307

- 37% Myanmar
- 23% Cambodia
- 20% Myanmar migrants & refugees
- 17% Laos
- 3% Thailand

Focus Groups

USD 7,109,307

- 55% Basic Education
- 31% Higher Education
- 14% Health

Donation Volume

(m USD) vs. Admin. Costs (%)

* Average administration cost of ZEWO-approved (Swiss) NGOs (SOURCE Annual Report ZEWO 2014)

Employees by Nationality

- 38% (17) Thailand
- 30% (13) Myanmar
- 14% (6) Cambodia
- 7% (3) Switzerland
- 5% (2) Laos
- 2% (1) Germany
- 2% (1) Philippines
- 2% (1) USA

* Average administration cost of ZEWO-approved (Swiss) NGOs (SOURCE Annual Report ZEWO 2014)
Origin of Donations

- 29% Switzerland
- 16% Hong Kong SAR
- 11% Singapore
- 11% Liechtenstein
- 9% Thailand
- 9% Others
- 8% USA
- 7% Japan

USD 7,819,247

Donor Types

- 48% Foundations
- 30% Individuals
- 12% Trusts
- 8% Companies
- 2% Others

USD 7,819,247

Where did the money come from?

Total donations received in 2017: USD 7,819,247 (2016: USD 7,018,710)

- Switzerland: USD 2,267,581.63
- Liechtenstein: USD 860,117.17
- Japan: USD 547,347.29
- Hong Kong SAR: USD 1,251,079.52
- Thailand: USD 703,732.23
- Singapore: USD 860,117.17
- USA: USD 625,539.76

Child’s Dream in Numbers
Health

4,845
COMMUNITY MEMBERS RECEIVED DRUG PREVENTION AND AWARENESS EDUCATION

5,953
CHILDREN LEARNED ABOUT HEALTH AND HYGIENE

1,538
CHILDREN HAVE RECEIVED LIFE-SAVING OPERATIONS AND MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS

1,538
LIFE-SAVING OPERATIONS PROVIDED SO FAR

2,000
TARGET SUPPORT BY YEAR 2020
247 
SCHOOL BUILDINGS BUILT

659 
HIGH SCHOOL AND VOCATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE REGION (423 in 2016)

138,599 
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN MYANMAR RECEIVE STATIONERY

247 
SCHOOL BUILDINGS BUILT SO FAR

350 
TARGET SUPPORT BY YEAR 2020
2,849
TRAINED TO BECOME FUTURE LEADERS

6,394
STUDENTS RECEIVED VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

427
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

427
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED SO FAR

500
TARGET SUPPORT BY YEAR 2020
Thailand - Main Office

Our Team

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Rungnara Manapattananmongkon (O)
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Natthawut Rahong (Tong)  Christin Reinhardt-Riedinger
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Our Ambassadors Around the Globe

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Ben Boesch (Switzerland)
Ben Cavalli (Singapore)
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