Theik Khar Myanmar Institute (TKMI)
Social and political interfaith intensive programme for youth in Taunggyi, Myanmar
Theik Khar Myanmar Institute (TKMI)

TKMI was established in 2008 to promote an education system dedicated to enhancing in youth (aged 18 – 35) knowledge and qualifications in civic education and leadership so as to contribute positively to social deeds.

Initially founded by a group of activists in Yangon, TKMI relocated in 2015 to Taunggyi in Shan State of east central Myanmar to closely engage with rural, remote communities, where access and quality of education remains largely marginalised with meager prospects for personal development and decent employment.

Fractured in multiple aspects, Myanmar is slowed down by continuous political, cultural and religious conflicts. This is mainly due to lack of understanding, appreciation of diversity and therefore lack of empathy. The key is, therefore, for young people to be taught to understand, believing that they can be open-minded and passionate to sustaining inclusive social, economic and political development.
How It Works

TKMI aims to develop local and grassroots change-makers who undertake civic initiatives in their respective communities. In doing so, their 15-month programme is developed to provide 12 months of in-class academic and civic education, followed by three months of community-service internship.

- 12-month In-Class Training (May – April) which include a variety of
  - academic subjects and practical skills - social and environmental studies, anthropology, active citizenship, religious studies, globalization, psychology and foreign languages, etc.
  - creative route - spoken words & poetry, photography and filming documentary.

Extra-curricular activities are also ensured throughout the course such as interfaith discussions and seminars, exchange programmes and peace building activities as well as monthly community charitable initiatives such as material donations to the poor, providing support services to HIV patients, orphans and the elderly.
How It Works

- 3-month Internship is of service learning experience once the students have completed their in-class learning course. Within this period, students volunteer to teach or conduct workshops at community-based organisations so as to advance their understanding and practice of the civic education they received.

- Beneficiaries: In each academic year, approx. 30 candidates are accepted into the programme from various ethnic and religious groups. Approx. 2,500 pupils (aged 5 – 18) also indirectly benefit as they receive training conducted by TKMI students during the course of their internship.
Objectives

- To develop students’ critical thinking, academic and study skills with the aim of helping students to become confident, knowledgeable and qualified educator/agent of change in Myanmar.

- To develop students awareness on human rights issues with the aim that these students will then bring this awareness to their communities.

- To provide students with service learning opportunities to help them gain practical awareness of and confidence in their potential as positive contributors to their communities.

- To develop students’ acceptance of diversity of ethnicity, religions, and gender.

- To cultivate a new generation of caring and experienced citizens, activists, and volunteers.
Budget

The total amount of the programme’s overall running costs is **USD 85,000** for the 2019-2020 academic year (April – March).

Transfers from Child’s Dream to TKMI are made in four quarterly instalments during the financial year.

Monitoring & Reporting

We receive quarterly narrative and photo reports, as well as monthly financial and activity reports. Feedback is also collected directly during regular site visits by our local team in Yangon, Myanmar.

We report to donors on a semester basis and site visits can easily be arranged anytime.