

July 2006

## NEWS AND EVENTS



### SAISUREE JUTIKUL BUILDING

In late June DEPDC saw the opening of the school building which was built in 2003 and holds five classrooms, an assembly hall, Child Helpline and the Child Voice Radio studio. Two honourable guests attended, the Japanese ambassador to Thailand and Dr. Saisuree Jutikul. The Japanese Embassy donated money for the building of the school in 2003. Dr. Saisuree Jutikul is a long-time friend and supporter of Sompop Jantraka.

Currently she is chairperson for two Thailand based committees working against trafficking. Previously she has worked as a Cabinet Minister and Senator. The building is named in her honour.

Dr. Saisuree Jutikul and the Japanese ambassador gave speeches and jointly performed the cutting of the ribbon to mark the official opening of the building. There were also chants and blessings from monks, speeches by staff members, and the day was filled with dance and song performances from the children who wore their traditional hill tribe costumes.



The open plan of the building, which was designed by Sompop as both a learning and community oriented environment, has benefited the children greatly. The individual rooms have a very open feel and the interior of the building resembles an oval, establishing unity and giving the children room to run.

There is also a two story mural painted on the primary inner wall that ten University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students spent their winter break creating. They spent three weeks at DEPDC, painting the mural and teaching arts and crafts such as origami, mask-making and how to create

### CLC Activities

It has been a busy few months at the CLC (Community Learning Center), alongside the regular evening classes held there have also been awareness training sessions on prevention of human trafficking, HIV/AIDs, First Aid and Child Labour. Participants included CLC students, local housewives, MYN students, DEP children and staff. There was great feedback from the sessions, most felt that it was important to gather together and learn about these topics, and that the knowledge gained from them was very useful and something they could pass on to their family, friends and local community. Spreading awareness in such ways is key to overcoming these issues.

Once a month, practical workshops are held which teach participants skills they can use in their daily lives. Recent workshops included training on different agricultural methods, how to make traditional products such as; camphor, cleansing oil, ointment and lanterns.

With the influx of modern technology and western influences, traditional culture and way of life is slowly being forgotten. So through this training it was not only learning the process of making such products that was important but appreciating traditional skills and maintaining the cultural identity of the local people.

### IT'S A WONDERFUL WEBSITE !

The DEPDC website has received a whole new look thanks to the work of Garry Payton-McDowall (foreign volunteer) and Ann Siraporn (Thai staff member). The content itself has not changed but it has been given a 'face lift', with a new colour scheme, more pictures and extra content. You can now find past issues of the newsletter under the 'Archive' menu. The address has not changed and you can visit the website at [www.depdc.org](http://www.depdc.org)

## NEWS AND EVENTS CONT.



### HANOI WORKSHOP



Eileen Woliner, Swedish-American volunteer and consultant at DEPDC, attended and participated in a 'Learning Workshop on Human Trafficking' in Hanoi, Vietnam in June. The theme of the workshop was to share information and experiences amongst organizations and individuals working against human trafficking in the Mekong Sub-region.

Eileen gave a presentation of the weaknesses, strengths, opportunities and challenges in assisting vulnerable groups situated in Northern Thailand and along the border areas of the Mekong.

The workshop was organized by Oxfam, Quebec. Oxfam Novib, Netherlands supports two of DEPDC's programmes: Mekong Youth Net (MYN) and Mekong Regional Indigenous Childs Rights Home (MRICRH).



### MEKONG YOUTH NET 3

The month of May saw the start of Mekong Youth Net (MYN) 3, and the arrival of the third group of students on this year long program. This year we have 17 girls between the ages of 16 and 25 from all six Mekong Sub-regions: five Thai, five Lao, three Cambodians, two Burmese, one Vietnamese and one Chinese. Trafficking of girls from these countries over the borders and into Thailand is a growing phenomenon. The objective of MYN is to combat this by forming an anti trafficking network across the Mekong Sub Region. At the end of the year they will return to their countries and assimilate into community leadership roles, and work on the prevention side of trafficking. The MYN graduates will also act as a link in the future collaboration of individuals, GOs and NGOs which will be crucial in combating this trafficking network.

The girls will stay at DEPDC for one year where they will receive training in cultural studies, sociology, management skills, research skills and practical life skills such as cooking and flower arranging. They are taught by Thai staff member Pensii and Sompop. They also have English lessons with foreign volunteers Garry and Mel. In the last month they have also attended seminars on human trafficking and child protection which were run by staff from Save the Children UK.



They recently went on a field trip where the girls trekked for 4 hours to the mountains surrounding the DEPDC site, braving the mosquitoes and heat of the midday sun. They stopped for lunch and then played games which tested their trust. They paired up and had to fall into their partner's arms and trust that their partner would catch them. Despite the hot weather and their weariness by the end of the day, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. So far it is clear that the girls are enthusiastic, hard working and eager to learn. They have settled in well at DEPDC and have already developed solid relationships with each other and staff members, which is a good foundation for the year ahead.



## THE FACES OF DEPDC

### MEET THE STAFF



For some at DEPDC, the job is a 24 hour commitment, with responsibilities starting as early as before sunrise and not ending until after name check as the children go to bed. Dtii is one of those few. He is a 26 year old staff member who works as a physical education and ethics teacher during the day for the Half-Day School. When those students go home, the children who live on site come back from government school and Dtii organizes sports activities with them, other staff and various members of the community of Mae Sai. Often, Dtii arranges different forms of entertainment at night. Most notably, karaoke evenings at the centre are never complete unless Dtii is in front of the microphone for at least a song or two. He is also designated chaperone for the kids who swim.



The working hours are long and are not conducive to a social life outside of DEPDC. That is why it is a good thing that Dtii loves his job, loves kids, loves sports and loves to entertain. Having worked at DEPDC for less than a year now, he is already an asset to the organization, earning the respect of his colleagues and all the children, and providing positive energy within the community.

Dtii recognizes that there are problems with the lives of the children and wishes that many things were different for them. Predominantly, he is bothered by the fact that many of them lack nationality or any documentation proving they are citizens of any country. Single-handedly, this closes off many opportunities for them as far as their education and careers are concerned. While unable to reconcile these problems for the children, he works to cultivate self esteem and character amongst the youth of the centre, thus improving the quality of life



### The Portrait of A Student

Monday through Friday, Seng wakes up in his home in *Son Sai*, Myanmar. He gets on his bicycle with his younger brother, Sangom and rides to *Tachilek* which is a small town on the Thai-Myanmar border. He and his brother lock the bike up, then cross the bridge into Mae Sai where they get on a bus to come to the Half Day School at DEPDC. Seng is one of the lucky ones, coming out of Myanmar into Thailand every day. He has citizenship, which allows him to legitimately cross the border, enabling him to get a worthwhile education. He and his family think the trek is worth it.



Seng is in Level 4 and has recently been able to study computers. He says he would like a career working with technology. Though at the moment, he's perfecting the art of typing on a keyboard. Seng may only have a basic

grasp of the English language, but while his peers will look at a grey sky and say in English, "Rain!"

Seng will look up at the sky, point and say, "You need an umbrella!" Seng is an 11 year old with a curiosity for learning and creativity unlike most of the kids his age. He presents to his English teacher a colour pencil drawing of sirens walking into a pool of water. It is his own depiction of mythological characters from Ancient Greece, a subject of which he studied on his own volition. At home, Seng has a large family. His mother works in a laundry business and his father is a construction worker. After his younger brother, he has two younger sisters. They would also be attending the Half Day School within the next year, but unfortunately, his family has one bicycle that holds only two children. As of now, there is no plan for his younger sisters to receive an education, although he hopes that when the time comes, they can all go to the same school together.

### Donor Thank You

**Mrs L. Acvedo** - USA, **The Asia Foundation** - Thailand, **Anesvad** - Spain, **E. Bookwinkel** - The Netherlands, **L. & H. Braesel** - Germany, **S. Caplan** - USA, **Co-Operaid** - Switzerland, **J. Campbell & B. Cummings** - USA, **T. Fletcher** - UK, **Friends of Thai Daughters** - USA, **Global Giving Foundation** - USA, **Ms Paula Grieco** - USA, **G. Harbenn** - Germany, **Mr. and Mrs. Hasek** - USA, **Mr. Haveman** - The Netherlands, **M. Jameson** - USA, **H.S. Jones Jr. & N. Jones** - USA, **R. Kakkad** - Taiwan, **Mr. and Mrs. Kanuk** - USA, **S. Kazenel** - Canada, **P. & A. Mann** - Laos, **Ms. Markkanen** - Finland, **MCC Laos** - Laos, **OxfamNovib** - The Netherlands, **R.T. Naing** - Thailand, **The Old Bangkok Inn** - Thailand, **Open Society Institute** - USA, **T.L. Owen** - USA, **P. Panati** - USA, **P.S. & G. Pelzer** - Bangkok, **D. Pfitzner** - Germany, **Rotary Club** - Canada, **Save the Children UK** - Thailand, **H. d'Struggles** - USA, **Mrs. Sarah Symons** - USA, **D.A. & D.E. Vreugd** - The Netherlands, **T. Uitti** - Finland, **M. Weedage & K.**

## VISITORS



## CHILD VOICE RADIO

### United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Regional Centre in Bangkok and British actress and UNODC's Goodwill Ambassador for the Abolition of Slavery and Trafficking, Ms. Julia Ormond, visited DEPDC in May. She was here to discuss human trafficking in the Mekong Sub-region and the scope of the work of DEPDC in addressing the trafficking issues of women and

### Vital Voices, Washington

With representatives from the American Embassy in Bangkok, Ms. Melanne Verweer, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board of Vital Voices Global Partnership, who has served as Assistant to President Clinton and Chief of Staff to the First Lady, visited DEPDC to share experiences in combating human trafficking and learn about DEPDC's anti-trafficking activities.

### How to Give to DEPDC

There are two ways to donate to DEPDC:

(1) Directly to DEPDC in Thailand by transferring money directly to their Thai bank account.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR DAUGHTERS AND COMMUNITIES  
PO Box 10  
Mae Sai, Chiang Rai  
57130, Thailand

BANK: Bank of Ayudhya Public Company, Mae Sai, Thailand  
NAME OF ACCOUNT: Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities  
ACCOUNT NR: 331- 1- 05358-6

The Bank of Ayudhya does not provide depositors' contact information, but we will gladly verify your donation and send an official thank-you letter if you choose to e-mail us with your information.

(2) Indirectly to DEPDC through the U.S.-based "Friends of Thai Daughters" (FTD). FTD was set up by American supporters to raise awareness of child trafficking and exploitation, as well as DEPDC's role as a pro-active, educational safe shelter for young girls and boys. For more info please have a look at: [www.FriendsofThaiDaughters.org](http://www.FriendsofThaiDaughters.org)

Send your tax deductible cheque to  
Friends of Thai Daughters inc,  
PO Box 442  
Trevett, ME 04571  
USA

Alternatively please visit their website for details of how you can donate through PayPal.

Acknowledgment of each tax-deductible donation will be sent and donations are forwarded almost weekly to DEPDC.

The issues of trafficking, prostitution and forced labor affect the whole community. By reaching out, bringing people together and informing them of these issues, DEPDC can take one step further in the struggle for better child rights and protection. *Child Voice Radio* (CVR) was set up with this goal in mind and has been broadcasting to Mae Sai and the surrounding area since November 2005. Now, two new developments have ensured that the station can reach out to as wide an audience as possible.

On air from 05.30 – 22.00, seven days a week, CVR DJs present shows in Thai, Burmese, Chinese, Lao and English, as well as local hill tribe languages



including Akha and Karen. Along with the issues of trafficking and human rights, the shows cover everything from AIDS awareness to cooking skills and cater for a myriad of musical tastes, playing a mix of traditional music and top artists from both Thai and Western popular culture.

From the beginning, international volunteers have presented a daily *Morning Show*. Broadcast from 08.00 to 09.00, the program looks at a range of subjects, from local stories and events to international news, literature and entertainment, aimed at reaching the local tourist and ex-pat community as well as a wider indigenous audience. By popular demand, the volunteers have now added an extra show to the international line-up. On-air English lesson, *Easy English*, runs from 19.30 to 20.00, Monday



to Friday, and aims to present a broad range of simple dialogue and vocabulary taught in a straight forward but engaging way.

Finally, in the most exciting development yet, CVR is now going out live over the internet, streaming to countries across the world and bringing the issues of child trafficking and the work of the DEPDC to an truly international audience. Tune in at:

[mms://wm14.spacialnet.comChildVoiceRadio](http://mms://wm14.spacialnet.comChildVoiceRadio)

