

Project Report

Information about recent project activities

Dreams of Higher Education Will Come True —Scholarship Project —

We are sponsoring a Scholarship Project in the schools in a farming area in northern Thailand, whose libraries are supported by our Library Project, to help children to go on to secondary school. Many Thai children are unable to continue school because of financial, family, or geographic conditions despite their desire to study. Our scholarship project was started with the aim of realizing every Thai child's dream of a good education. Forty-two children have been granted scholarships to go to secondary school by the project since it was launched.

Educational Conditions in Thai Farming Area

Since the legislation of a new law called National Education Act of B.E. 2542 in 1999, the nine years of education from elementary school to secondary school has become free and compulsory in Thailand. However, the reality is that many children can not be granted the education for several reasons. The small amount of money to buy lunch and stationery can be of great burden for a family. Schools are often too far from home. Those situations can also be seen in the regions where we carry out the Library Project. We have started sponsoring scholarships as a supporting activity of the project.

Nomad International's Scholarship Project

We offer scholarships tenable for 3 years until the student graduates from secondary school to support children in getting the necessary stationery and covering other expenses. The scholarship was granted to students who got into secondary school in 2001 and 2002. In March, the first scholarship students graduated from secondary school. Based on our policy to have the children's family understand and be responsible for the importance of higher education, we support only part of the expenses. Such as uniforms, stationery, transportation fees, excursions, and so on. The environment around the scholarship students is not conducive to study (see the report below) but they try hard to maximize the opportunity they have received.

*Letter from
a Scholarship Student*

A letter from a girl who graduated from Wat Ban Kai Elementary School in Phitsanulok Province, and went on to secondary school supported by Nomad International Scholarship in 2001.

Hello, everyone in Nomad International! My name is Benjaporn Soomrod. I would like to thank you for your kindness and support. I study very hard. I am a high school student now, after graduating from secondary school. My scores are not very good, but I enjoy studying in class. It is exciting to listen to teachers' lectures telling us new things and interesting stories. I like participating in sports. I play everyday after class. My favorites are soccer and rugby football. I have been selected as a member of the school team. We will participate in a competition starting in July 2004. At the end of my letter, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to all of you for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I would like to do something good to express my gratitude. Thank you very much.

June, 2004

Benjaporn Soomrod

Benjaporn Soomrod realized her dream to go on to secondary school as one of the first scholarship students. She graduated from secondary school, continuously studies hard in high school, and is aiming high. The letter shows her energetic attitude toward study and sports.

Difficulties surrounding Thai Children

Our staff member Mr. Yagi, who was involved in the launch of the Scholarship Project and worked as a local staff member, reports the difficulty of continuous study in Thailand.

I was shocked by the poor residential conditions when I visited the scholarship students' homes. Many of them were wood huts on stilts covered by tin roofs. When we visited, the parents would sweep the floor to make a seat and offer a glass of water poured from a bottle.

For children to continue their studies is very hard in the farming areas of northern Thailand. There are cases where a student's study had been stymied during secondary education even though the student had a strong desire to study. It is not only the child's will but also the support from the people around which are the key to successfully graduating. Our scholarship fund is limited. We can help them to buy study materials, but can not support their living. To continue studying, having adults who understand and respect a student's intention to study is as vital as financial support. The parents of the scholarship students often have a problem at home. Some of the students can not live with their parents who are divorced or work away from home. A lucky child lives with relatives. Under these circumstances, a child needs supportive adults around him/her. It can be a teacher, or any adults near the student. In farming areas, many children get married while at secondary or high school, as many of their parents did. It is not easy to keep one's hope for one's eyes for the future and continue studying in such social environment. (Yagi)

From the Project Site

Report on the social and educational situations of the regions with which we cooperate.

Foods in Georgia: the Secret of the Country's Long Life Expectancy

Georgia, located in the south skirt of the Caucasus Mountains, is an organic farming country, which fully utilizes its rich water and soil. Seasonal fresh vegetables and fruits fill the table in the country through four seasons. Wine is also inevitably on the table. Georgian wine is made from species of the world's oldest grapes grown with mineral water from the mountain range. The water, which is one of the essential factors to make Georgian wine delicious, is also used as medicinal water and help Georgians with curing illness. Many kinds of Georgia's herbs are also actively being studied in the area of medicine.

Herbs such as dill and coriander are used abundantly in Georgian cooking. Fresh summer vegetables boiled in fresh tomato sauce - or tomato juice more precisely —sprinkled with fresh coriander can you imagine its bright colors and fresh flavor? Not only people but also bees can be healthier in Georgia. Georgian bees have a good reputation around the world for their high quality honey produced from flowers unpolluted by chemical fertilizers.

The secret of Georgia's long life expectancy is its rich natural environment and foods which take full advantage of nature's gifts.

From the Office

Information from the executive office

Attending NGO Award

We are honored to have been awarded a prize (one of thirty NPOs awarded) in 2004 as a representative of the best public organizations. We will demonstrate our activities in a booth for final consideration. Everybody is welcome to join us.

Date and Time: October 22 (Fri.) from 16:00 to 21:00

Place: Conference Room in Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. New Building

(2-1 Marunouchi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)

URL: <http://www.tokyo-jc.or.jp/2004/npo2004/>

Please Support Our Library Project

= In Thailand, only 250 yen is needed to buy one book =

Our Library Projects in Thailand are facing financial difficulties over the continuation of activities. Please help our efforts to keep fostering Thai children's interest in reading. We accept gladly donations from a minimum of 1,000 yen, which can buy about four books for Thai children.

<Account transfer information>

1 Postal Transfer, account number: 00100-2-14174

Account holder: Nomad International

1 Mizuho Bank, Shibuya Branch,

Account number: 3507509

Account holder: Nomad International

*Please write your name, address, and a note stating it was a donation to the library project. If you transfer into Mizuho Bank, please notify us by E-mail, Fax, or postal mail.

Participated in the International Cooperation Festival

On October 2-3, the International Cooperation Festival was held in Hibiya Park, Tokyo. Despite the bad weather due to scorching heat on the first day and icy rain on the second, many people gathered at the event site, visiting our booth to listen to our activities. It seemed that more than a few people were impressed by the children's capacity on seeing children's creative picture books and reading diaries. In one activity Making Picture Book Story, people spanning a wide range of ages, with the youngest a 5-year-old, participated and created truly original stories.

We had a good opportunity to talk directly to the people who support our activities and who were interested in our activities. We will try to improve our organization by incorporating their comments and suggestions into our activities.

You Can Donate While Enjoying Online Shopping!

An NGO-supporting volunteer website, E-kokoro! provides a service so that you can donate to the organization of your choice when you make your purchase or request of catalogs and free samples online from the website. If you would like to start sponsoring our activities without a big responsibility, please help us through the service. You can sponsor us by simply naming Nomad International when you fill out the form for free registration.

URL: <http://www.ekokoro.jp/>

Newsletter in email version is available

To subscribe, please contact nomad@nomad-int.org

Notes from the Staff

- At the Festival, I could meet people whom I usually contact only via e-mail and telephone.
- I'm going to stay in the activity site in Thailand for a month to study the outcome of our activity. (Fukatsu)
- Fall started to deepen after the Festival. The Library Project in Georgia will be completed soon. We will report on the site results at the site in the next issue. Don't miss it! (Tajima)
- Many people participated to make an original picture book in the International Cooperation Festival. Their efforts will be shown on our web site. Check it out! (Ito)

Recruiting New Members Our activities are made possible through the support of kind people. Please support us by becoming a member today! Individual Regular Membership is 6,000 yen per year (2,000 yen entrance fee) or Supporting Membership is 2,000 yen per year (1,000 yen entrance fee).