

Project Report

Information about recent project activities

The Children s Library Improvement Project in Georgia was completed

The Children s Library Improvement Project in Georgia was completed in October, 2004. This project made two bookrooms available at the L. Asatiani Georgian State Library and increased by about 2,500 the number of books available for children there. We would like to report the outcome of this project and present situation of this children s library.

Project Procedure

Although the L. Asatiani Georgian state Children s Library plays a central role among children s libraries in Georgia, financial difficulties made the bookrooms deteriorate. They could not purchase new books for children. This means they could not create the good conditions for reading. This project supported the renovation of the two bookrooms for kids and juniors as well as the preparation of the new books. The construction for renovation started in May and finished in August. Then the bookrooms became bright and beautiful study places for kids. The preparation of new books started in July. The librarians checked each book by reading it themselves and purchased necessary books. At the end of October the purchase and the installation of new books was finished and the project was completed. The new books were settled in the two new bookrooms and in the mobile library, which circulates between schools nearby. Thus, many children can receive the benefits.

Project Result

We could finally complete our long-term assignment, which was to give children good books and prepare a good reading condition. Children in their library looked very happy with new books and seemed to read them seriously. At present, not many people know that the library was renovated. Therefore, librarians have been advertising for the new library. We hope that in the near future more children and neighbors will come and enjoy this library.

One piece of good news is that Georgian Ministry of Culture helped to provide financial support in purchasing furniture for one of the bookrooms. This results from the local government acknowledging the importance of our library project. We would like to continue our activities to bring about positive local cooperation.

On the other hand, we learned that available books in Georgia were very limited and that it is difficult to get foreign countries books. One of our new assignments is how we can expand the varieties of books for children.

The Library Project for L. Asatiani Georgians State Children ' s Library in Tbilisi has been carried out with support from the Peace Stone Foundation and The Japan International Cooperation System.

*Interview with
the Librarians*

We interviewed the librarians in two bookrooms about the improvement project

Q1 What do you think about this project?

- The renovation of the bookrooms is just wonderful.
- We appreciate the increase of books. We are looking forward to the newly published books, too.

Q2 Did you notice any changes after renovation?

- The environment around us was improved and motivated us to work positively.
- The increase in the books boosted children s interest in reading. We believe our circulation will be increased.

Q3 Do you have any problems or requests now?

- We hope more people will pay more attention to the libraries and that it will lead to a more stable financial basis and better facilities.

We feel their pleasures and great motivation for future activities in their words. However, financial instability is still a serious problem and continuous support is needed.

Library Activities for the Future

Even though we renovated the building and prepared the books, improving facility itself do not necessarily translate into children reading. L. Asatiani Library is now planning events and seminars to promote our mission of encouraging reading for children. The increased books will also make the mobile library more exciting.

In addition to preparing better facility and materials, Nomad will continuously and actively develop children s reading motivation and support their reading activities.

From the Project Site

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

Challenges Lying in Peace Country, Thailand

Usually, people see Thailand as a peaceful country. However, Thailand's present situation does not follow this view. Everyday, the domestic news reports troubles in the southernmost regions. It is mainly a clash between Islamic residents and local police. In October, there was a clash between Islamic residents and local police, and after that there have been frequent killings, woundings, and occasional bombing of police and soldiers.

One of the causes behind these troubles is education. Besides the public or private schools controlled under the Ministry of Education, Islamic residents in the south have their own schools called PONO which provide the Islamic education in Malaysian language. In the south, about a half of the Islamic children go to these PONO schools. However, this school is not authorized by the Ministry. In addition, the education level is relatively low. As a result, even after finishing PONO, it is difficult to receive higher education and enter into general companies. Many people support the view that the delay of basic educational system disturbs the regional development and contributes to the rampant activities by radical sector, and require actions to improve the situation.

The solution of this problem is now becoming the most important issue for present Thailand, which has been steadily increasing its economic development.

(Local Staff, Yagi)

From the Office

Information from the executive office

Assembly for activity report

The Second Activity Report Assembly of Nomad International 2004 will be held in February 2005. This report will include a discussion of the Library projects in Thailand and Georgia together with the results of our investigations in those areas. We will be waiting for your attendance. Further details will be provided later.

Date & Time: February 23, 2005 7:00—9:00 pm

Place: Tokyo

(Accurate place will be noticed in the next issue)

Let's send 1000 books to Thai Kids

This year's library project in Thailand is to send about 1000 books to 11 schools which are the base of the project. However, because of lack of the budget, it has been difficult to carry on our project. Many children are waiting for new books. We do need your support not to take children's reading habit down.

We gladly accept donations from units of 1,000 yen. (We can send four books to kids with 1000 yen.)

<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.

Newsletter in email version is available

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

Introduction of New Group Member

Edu Factory Inc.

Nomad received the message from Mr. Bunshiro Ochiai, the president of Edu factory.

“ We learned of the activities of Nomad and felt that the common belief echoed our mission to raise future pioneers. There was no time to hesitate to become a member. ”

It's New! Nomad, Web Site

The New Nomad International web site has just started. The newly added “ News Section ” presents the latest activities of Nomad as well as the events in which more people can participate. In future the information of the countries where Nomad is working will be gradually added. We will be looking forward your access.

<http://nomad-int.org>

Notes from the Staff

- I was pleased to observe that many children in Georgia looked very happy with their new books. At the same time I felt fortunate that we can get various books as we want. (Tajima)
- In Japan many people point out the reading-away situation. Using the example set by children in Thailand and Georgia, we hope we can send a message about the joy of reading to Japanese children, (Ito)

Recruiting New Members Our activities are made possible through the support from citizens. 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).