

Project Report

Information about recent project activities

Transmit What You Have Discovered to Your Friends: Voice in Line

In Thailand, where our library projects are carried out in rural elementary schools, the projects not only promote enrichment of library buildings and book stock, but also promote reading habits for the children. Let us introduce you to one of their projects, titled Voice in Line.

What is Voice in Line ?

Voice in Line is an activity in which the children read and transmit information they've discovered in books to other schoolmates through a school broadcasting system. Various topics are firstly chosen by the children, whereafter they gather information through library books and interviews with adults (if additional information is needed) in order to make the manuscripts. Afterwards, members of the two-person teams transmit information to all of their schoolmates by alternately commenting like real broadcasters. Under the teachers' guidance, the children research various themes such as health, environment, dialect, current affairs, and religious events.

The Children's Favorite Activity

All students join the activities during their morning meeting and lunch break every day. The announcers, who are in higher grades, talk in front of the entire student body, including children in kindergarten and lower grades. Some schools make the activities even more fun by adding various games which promote participation from every child. When we visited Thailand and interviewed some of the children, most of them replied that it was their favorite activity. Teachers were even worried sometimes because the children became so active that they might disturb their neighbors.

With a dose of fun, the children are able to develop the ability to gather and compile information through libraries and interviews in order to inform others.

From the Children's Manuscripts

Fish is Very Good for One's Health

A: Today we would like to talk about fish and its relation to diet and nutrition.

B: From ancient days, Thais have been enjoying eating fish as their chief source of nutrition. The King Ramkhamhaeng Monument of the Sukhothai Dynasty indicated this by stating, In the rich country Sukhothai, in the water live many fish and on the land grows much rice. You can see that, for the old Thais, fish was an important source of food.

A: Next, let's learn about the nutrients fish provide. Fish contain minerals such as calcium and iodine which are important to our bodies. Doctors recommend that we eat meat, liver, and eggs of sea fish because they contain oil which is beneficial to our health.

B: Fish oil contains Vitamin A, which provides our bodies with energy and improves eye sight; Vitamin B which avoids beriberi, and Vitamin D which strengthens our bones. Fish meat defends us against various diseases, and is also cheaper in price compared to other foods.

A: Before concluding our report, we'd like to recommend you to eat more fish to protect your health. Thank you.

This activity is providing students with the opportunity of cross-sectional study, arching Thai history, food culture, the effects of nutrients, and so on. Students seem to have acquired some technical knowledge.

Thoughts about our activities in Thailand

Our staff member Mr. Yagi, who worked as a local member, returned home from Thailand in August. The following is a brief report about his feelings and experiences in Thailand.

When I watched the school children's activities in Thailand, I was surprised at how many children showed a great interest in reading. When the positions of library managers for the next year were asked, most of the children raised their hands. Individual activities such as Voice in Line and Reading Diaries allow the children to express how they felt and to share their feelings with other friends. I hope these activities will aid in their maturing. When I was in the rural villages of Thailand, where reading culture is considered not well developed, and saw the children curiously reading with their whole heart, it made me wonder how many books we are wasting in Japan. We are surrounded by numerous books. Every municipality has its own library, and civic halls and children's centers also accommodate library rooms. Bookstores are everywhere, some of them huge. We are certainly blessed with a rich reading environment, but how precious is each book read? Thai children's sincere attitudes made me feel precisely this way.

(Yagi)

From the Project Site

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

What Language Do They Speak in Georgia?

What we call Gurujia in Japanese is officially called Georgia in English. Georgia is based on the Russian word (gurujiya) and is connected to St. Georgius, who is Georgia's tutelary saint. Russia and Japan are the only nations which pronounce the country's name Gurujia. What do Georgians call their own country? Of course, they call it Sakartvelo.

Regarding historical aspects of the nation's language, the Russian government forced Georgia in 1920 to change Georgian script to Roman script. Four years later, they ordered to convert it again, this time to Russian script. However, Georgia did not give up their own script, which they boast it to be the world's oldest alphabet, and thus preserved the written script. One can understand strong patriotism and pride of Georgians from this fact. The Georgian language, which consists of 5 vowels and 28 consonants, when written has obviously distinct characteristics. When one sees it for the first time, he may actually see similarities to the Thai language, where Nomad is also active. Successive consonants are one of the characteristics of this language, and the pronunciation is quite unfamiliar to us Japanese, making it sound a quite difficult language. The following are two words which are fundamental in any country.

gamarjobat (Hello)

gmadlobt (Thank you)

From the Office

Information from the executive office

Explore Your Creativity: Participate in Story Making for Picture Books!

= Invitation to the International Cooperation Festival =

The International Cooperation Festival will be held on Saturday, October 2 and Sunday, October 3 at Hibiya Park in Tokyo. With the aim of introducing our activities, Nomad International will have a booth and hold an exhibit panel and video footage of our activities. We will also sell books and crafts from areas where we are active.

At our booth, feel free to join our "Make Your Own Story for the Thai Children's Picture Book" activity. We will post your story on our Website later. Try with your own children, friends, or by yourself to see what kind of creative stories you can make. Our booth is located at No.15 of Red Village.

We are planning to hold this activity on our website for those who can't come on that day or live in distant areas. We will let you know when this activity is ready; in the meantime, please visit our site often and look out for it.

Please Support Our Library Project = In Thailand, only 250 yen is needed to buy one book =

In Thailand, where we carry out library projects, many people demand our continuous support for the project. However, keeping up our activities has become difficult amid the current economic situation and limited funds from public entities.

The Thai government's library budget for small schools is as little as 3,500 yen annually, which does not allow schools to purchase interesting books for children. This year we are planning to send about 1,000 books to eleven schools in order to improve the situation. However, under the current situation, our funds are limited.

We suppose you yourself might have had the experience that a book you read in your childhood gave you some inspiration for the future. In order to let Thai children share such experiences, we ask for your kind cooperation. We accept gladly donations from units of 1,000 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.

Notes from the Staff

• I feel sorry for the children of North Ossetia who were attacked by terrorists. They are the same age as the children we support. I wish no more sad accidents like this would happen in the future. (Fukatsu)

• Although the summer spell is still going, I sometimes feel the autumn coming with breezes in the morning and evening. I will visit Georgia next month, and want to absorb as much as I can. (Tajima)

• Many tragedies are happening all over the world. I feel sad every time I read newspapers. I wonder what we can do for the children's brighter future. (Ito)

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

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).