

Archive

Brief history:

Period 2005-2015

Foundation Heart 4 Myanmar has its origins in the Christmas season of 2004/5, during our first trip to Myanmar. The second day, a tsunami hit the country, and its consequences had such an impact that we started to think about offering some form of help to the people of Myanmar. As a matter of principle, we set ourselves the goal that we only wanted to support if there were a request for help from Myanmar, and that every euro of donations should entirely benefit the local projects.

Not an easy objective, for instance due to poor communications, the then existing inaccessibility of the country, and a difficult search for specific support goals.

We got the chance a few years later. A fundraising action during the 50th anniversary of Peelland College Deurne put us on the map: we were able to build an additional dormitory / study room in a children's home called Seik Phu Taung. At that time, we had reliable contacts in Myanmar to monitor the construction of the building. We owe many thanks to Tilly Sand and Keh Maung Myint of Golden Trip Travel Agency in Yangon and ZawZaw, a selfless Burmese who is there when we need a helping hand.

A further source of income is the Myanmar Cookbook put together by board member Harry Teunissen. The first and second printings have been sold out. Later on, public primary school De Hasselbraam Deurne followed with a generous sponsorship. Peelland College has donated multiple times during Christmas activities at school.

With all these revenues, we support Seik Phu Taung in the renovation of their compound, some building renovations, and the provision of educational materials. Most difficult is supporting the educational content. We are currently searching for more support opportunities. We are constantly thinking about education and health support, but providing micro-credit also is an option we keep in mind. Many people have been consulted, possibilities are being explored. Then we focus on the foundation of Heart4Myanmar to generate new donations and organize sponsoring activities, mostly geared towards education purposes. Students of TU Eindhoven headed by Sten Verbruggen have held a sponsored cycling tour per tandem to Luxembourg. Harry Teunissen has got Fontys Venlo experience with education in Asia through an internship in Thailand.

Eventually, we decided to start with a small second project in the coastal town of Chaungtha, which provides children and adults with the possibility to learn English. An arduous road on which visions within the board appear to be different from the foundation's point of view. Stef and Diane Mertens are going to run the Chaungtha project and end their function as members of the foundation board.

Progress report 2015

Robert Kuunders and Jeroen de Veth join H4M as new members of the board.

The foundation tries to continue financial support to the Chaungtha project however possible.

Supporting Seik Phu Taung now focuses on providing educational teaching materials. After the death of the headmaster, we want to establish contact with the next supervisor of the school through ZawZaw.

During his internship in Thailand, Harry Teunissen had a meeting with a Burmese man who had a more modern education training in Thailand. This education professional started a small school for underprivileged people outside mainstream education. Students receive education in a new way and learn a simple profession. At this time, we are discussing opportunities to support him and to help the students in their profession after they finish their training.