

Monthly Publication Of KSDC

SDC celebrates the 2014 - 2015 Basic Course Graduation

All of our SDC staff, students and community are happy to announce the completion of our SDC Basic Course for 2014 – 2015. We marked the end of this course with our graduation ceremony for the class of 2014 – 2015. We held our graduation ceremony on Saturday the 28th of March 2015 for the 48 successful graduates of our 2014 – 2015 Basic Course.



SDC staff and students pose after the graduation

Before holding the ceremony, students and staff prepared for the ceremony. We invited an audience comprising of many different sectors of our

Karenni Society. Many of our alumni attended our ceremony.

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A word on SDC and its coordinator

SDC is located in Karenni Refugee Camp 1, on the Thai-Burma border. It was founded in 2002 by three alumni of EarthRights School Burma (ERSB).

The ERSB alumni had learnt about subjects including democracy, law and environment at the school.

They wanted young people in their community to be able to study these subjects so they founded SDC.

SDC has produced over 200 activists for the environment and human rights, since its formation.

Our coordinator and co-founder, Aung Sun



Aung Sun Myint speaking at the 2014 enrollment

Myint, continues to work with our team to realise the vision he set out with his fellow ERSB alumni in 2002.

Issue 9

01/04/2015

SDC updates from March 2015:

- The 2015 SDC basic course graduation is held
- SDC holds a farewell party for our volunteers, Morgan and Eleanor
- SDC introduces our program to high school students
- SDC students write autobiographies
- SDC staff attend teacher training

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Principal's Message



During this March, we have been busy providing the final subjects to our students and preparing for the conclusion of our course. We have provided the issues of Constitution, Economics, Active Citizenship and Democracy at our SDC training center.

For recruitment of the next batch of students for 2015-16, on 2nd March, 2015, some SDC staff went to the high school and some CBOs in the

Karenni refugee camp and presented about our SDC organization to them so that they will be able to apply to the next course.

On March 14th, we, SDC staff and students made a small farewell party for the volunteers of Morgan and Eleanor who have given their dedication for 3 months as ESL teachers respectively.

On 18th – 20th March, some SDC staff members attended a teacher training organized by the Curriculum Project (CP) with some new students from Karenni Community College (KnCC).

On March 28th, we, SDC celebrated our SDC 12th Graduation Ceremony at our SDC campus. At the ceremony, the SDC coordinator, Aung Sun Myint, gave a speech and a chair person of Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC) gave an

encouragement speech to the audience and some other community leaders also gave encouragement speech to the graduates.

During this ceremony, around 200 people participated and enjoyed with us together at our SDC campus. 48 graduates were awarded certificates as recognition of completing the study of Human Rights, Environment, Rule of Law and Democracy organized by the SDC from June, 2014 to March, 2015. We also gave awards to the students who got the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranks on their tests during this course.

We are very proud of our new group of graduates and we wish them all the best for the future.



The audience including our graduates watch the ceremony



The chairperson of the Karenni Refugee Committee gives a speech

SDC plan for April

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 SDC Staff Training on media	8 SDC Staff Training on media	9 SDC Staff Training on media	10	11	12
13 SDC closed for traditional Kay Htoe Boe festival	14 SDC closed for traditional Kay Htoe Boe festival	15 SDC closed for traditional Kay Htoe Boe festival	16 SDC closed for traditional Kay Htoe Boe festival	17 SDC closed for traditional Kay Htoe Boe festival	18	19
20 SDC Summer Course begins	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Future event: SDC English Summer Course

For the third consecutive year, SDC will be running a summer course for our students. This course is different to our other courses in that it is focused only on the students' English.

The course is shorter than our other courses and will only run for one month, this year. This course has a specific focus on preparing students English so that they will be able to successfully participate in the SDC Advanced Course.

During the course, we will develop student's English to focus on talking



SDC students working together during the 2014 Summer Course

about complex subjects related to community management.

This year's course will begin after a short holiday for our traditional Kay Htoe Boe festival. We are excited to

have a larger summer course than ever before with a massive interest from students this year.



SDC celebrates the 2014 - 2015 Basic Course Graduation



Students arriving at the ceremony to take their seats

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Other attendees included parents, relatives, friends and supporters of our SDC. There were also the students of the women’s study program.

A number of leaders attended the ceremony alongside the Coordinator of SDC, Aung Sun Myint Steven. Attendees of the ceremony included the Karenni Health minister, Karenni Refugee Committee chairperson and the head of the Karenni Education Department. The leaders made a series of speeches to our audience. These speeches varied from encouragement for the future to explanations of our situation. The leaders spoke in both Burmese and Karenni language.

This ceremony celebrated the achievements of the students in the core subjects of Human Rights, Environment and Law. During the course, the students also participated in research and a moot court. Additionally for the first time, we provided SDC students with an opportunity to participate in internships.

During the ceremony, the students collected their certificates. There were also prizes for the top students in each of the subjects. On the stage, our students also provided our audience with singing of songs and traditional dancing.



Principal Myar Reh thanking the audience

After the ceremony, we ate together and shared about our experiences and our future plans. After the SDC basic course, our students make important decisions as to their future. Some will continue their studies on our SDC Advanced Community Management Training Course. Some of the other students will begin working at organisations in our community.

This year’s graduation class was our biggest ever class with 48 students graduating in total. The increase in numbers of our program is due to both the interest of the students and the need for the knowledge of these subjects to be disseminated amongst our community. Our ability to run a course for this many students is founded on stability within our organisation. For this stability, we must thank our donors, partners and supporters for providing us with encouragement to go on and reach our goals.

We are very proud of our new graduates and we look forward to them fulfilling their aspirations. It was a pleasure to hold our graduation ceremony and to share our achievements with our community. We are confident we can continue to garner further success in the future.



Post - 10 education in and around Karenni Refugee Camp 1

The annual end to the school year for students in Karenni Refugee Camp 1 is in March. During this month and early March, a number of schools hold their graduation ceremonies and celebrate their students' achievements.

Students within Karenni Refugee Camp 1 can study at the Karenni high school until grade 10 level. This is equivalent to 10 years of schooling through primary, middle and high-school. The Karenni Education Department (KnED) runs the schooling system inside Karenni Refugee Camp 1. After completing high-school education, there are few options for young people within the camp to continue their education. The educational stage after high school is called post-10.

For students within Karenni Refugee Camp 1, there are 4 main Post – 10 schools available to study at. These schools are; the Karenni Community College (KNCC); the Ban Nai Soi Community Learning Center (BnsCLC); The Women's Study Programme (WSP); and our SDC

School. Each of these schools has a different area of focus.

WSP is focused specifically on women's empowerment. The Karenni National Women's organisation runs the course. The WSP program is a partner of our SDC and many of the subjects are similar. The WSP has a basic and advanced course much like our SDC. Their program is focused more on women's rights but they also teach human rights. Their advanced course focuses more on community management.

KNCC is the longest running post-10 educational opportunity for students in the camp. This school used to be called Karenni post 10. KNCC's main subjects are English, Maths and Science. KNCC's program is 2 years long and runs from June – March, each year. The focus of their school is to provide students with the knowledge to either become teachers within the camp or further their education at university. A number of their students have had the opportunity to attend university,

on scholarships, in the past.

BnsCLC mainly concentrates on linguistics. Their school provides students with the opportunity to study Thai, Karenni, English and Burmese. The BNSCLC runs a 2 year program for students and the school is open from June –March annually. The center has a diverse group of ethnic people attending and around their campuses languages such as Karenni, Karen, Burmese and Thai can all be heard regularly.

Despite their being a variety of options for students to attend after completing grade 10, these schools do not have enough spaces to offer all of the students in camp places. All of these organisations strive to improve the access to and quality of post-10 education for young people in Karenni Refugee Camp 1.

All of the above schools are often in need of volunteers and support. Some websites for more information are:

- For KNCC: (<http://kncccollege.blogspot.com/>)
- For BNCLC: (<http://bnsclc.org/>)



Ban Nai Soi Community Learning Center



Karenni Community College

Brighten the Way into the Future





About our Karenni language and literacy

Consonants

က	ခ	ဂ	င	စ	ဆ	ဇ	ည	တ	ထ	န	ပ
ka	kha	ga	nga	sa	sha	zha	nya	ta	hta	na	pa
[k]	[kʰ]	[g]	[ŋ]	[s]	[sʰ]	[z]	[ɲ]	[t]	[tʰ]	[n]	[p]

ဖ	မ	ဒ	ဗ	ရ	ယ	လ	ဝ	ဋ	ဍ	ဎ	ဏ
pha	ma	da	ba	ra	ya	la	wa	tha	ha	va	ca
[pʰ]	[m]	[d]	[b]	[r]	[j]	[l]	[w]	[ç/B/s]	[h]	[v]	[tʃ]

Vowels

Vowel diacritics

Tone marks

အ	ဇ	ဓ	ဏ	ဠ	အ	ဢ	ဣ	ဤ	ဥ	ဦ	ဳ
a	oe	i	oo	u	e	u	ê	o	high tone	low tone	mid tone
[a]	[ɔ]	[i]	[o]	[u]	[ɛ]	[u]	[e]	[ɔ]			

Numerals

၀	၁	၂	၃	၄	၅	၆	၇	၈	၉
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The Karenni Alphabet

This month at a linguistics conference in Yangon, experts called for multilingual education to be made a priority. Here at SDC, we would like to provide our supporters with some background of the history of our Karenni language.

The Karenni language has a long history as a spoken language. It is known by many names. It can be called Western Red Karen, Karenni or KayahLi. Kayah refers to the largest ethnic group in Karenni State as well as the language. This language is part of the Tibeto-Burman linguistic family.

This is the native tongue of the majority of people in Karenni Refugee Camp 1. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 speakers of KayahLi. The language is spoken in Mae Hong Son province of Thailand and Kayah State, Burma. Many Kayah speakers are now dispersed across a number of countries including Australia, New Zealand, Finland and The U.S.A.

There are three different alphabets for KayahLi. The first two are based on Burmese and Latin, respectively. The third is newer and was developed by the Karenni leader Khu Htae Bu Phae in the 1950s. This script is called either KayahLi or Kyal

Pho Gyi. It is now taught in the refugee camps.

Up until 2014, the KayahLi script was not taught in schools within Karenni State. This was part of a policy of discrimination by the Burmese military regime.

On September 8th 2014, the state assembly in Loikaw made a decision to allow the language to be taught in schools. The KayahLi script can now be studied inside Karenni State in addition to the Kayan (Padaung) language.

The Karenni Literacy Center is an organisation that is trying to increase knowledge of the Karenni script and widespread understanding amongst Karenni people of their literacy heritage.

We hope that as Karenni People, we will be able to preserve our rich cultural and linguistic heritage long into the future.

A thank you letter by Lu Reh



SDC students with the donated books and a thank you message

Thank you for the story books that you sent. We need your support and anything you provided to our school. Your daughter's teaching is very good for me. Your daughter raises me up in our school. So I am very thankful.

In Burma, we don't use democracy so we want justice and peace. They should give democracy in Burma. Myanmar has had violence against people about religion and boycotts. Our school is making human rights in Karenni State. They cut down a lot of forest. Teacher Eleanor has helped me improve and practice my English. Your daughter has taught us about human rights, law, non-violence, social change, Environment, families, friends and other things. Thank you very much. Goodbye!

Dear Nick,

I would like to tell you about myself. My name is Lu Reh. I am 22 years old. I was born on 30th December 1992. I am single. I am deaf. I am a student of SDC School. I am a student of teacher Eleanor.

I have 7 people in my family. In my family, I am the youngest sibling. I have three brothers and two sisters in my family. My older brother is married. He has five people in his family. He moved to America. My older sister is also married. My older brother's name is Ko Reh. My second sister's name is Klaw Meh. I

have a third sibling. His name in Phar Aye Leh. My other two, brother and sister, are Law Reh and Nue Meh. Next, my mother's name is Daw Oo Meh. My mother is a widow.

I am learning to study. In my family, we are poor. We are poor in my family. We are not able to make money in my family. However, I do not lose my life and I try hard for our school. When I want to be happy and not sad, I think about my family. How are you? How many people are there in your family? How old are you? Does your health stay with you?

Lu Reh

Klaw Meh's Autobiography

My name is Klaw Meh. I come from Karenni State, Shadaw Township. I was born in 1995. I came to camp in 1995. I live in refugee camp 1. I came to Karenni Refugee Camp 1 together with my family. I live with my parents. I get food from the Thai Border Consortium (TBC). My parents don't have jobs. My life was poor. I left because of war.

I grew up in camp. I started school at age 3 years old in the nursery school. I went to primary school, middle school No2 and high school. I studied with friends then I played football. When I went to school, I went to study science, maths, history, English and Thai. I was happy with my friends and teachers. I was interested in SDC school because i want to know about human rights, rule of law, environment, and democracy. These subjects are important because i went to empower our Karenni people.



Lawpita Dam in Karenni State



Klaw Meh with her fellow students at a volunteer leaving party

I have studied about environment ,rule of law and human rights. My favourite subject is environment. I learnt about dams. The government built a dam only on a large river. we didn't get compensation from the money that the dam produced. Many people cut down a lot of trees. Due to less trees the sun become too hot. Now that I know this, I feel that I understand about the environment and can make good decisions to protect it.

“I feel that I understand about the environment and can make good decisions to protect it”

I am most proud of my health because if I am ok then I can do anything. After I graduate from SDC, I want to be a teacher so I can teach my students.

I am honest. my wish for the whole world is freedom to be located everywhere. I want no war for the world.

Maung Nyein's Autobiography



Maung Nyein with his fellow students and volunteers on International Women's day

My name is Maung Nyein. I come from Karenni State. When I lived in Karenni State, I had seen in the village fighting with Burmese soldiers and Karenni armies. Burmese soldiers came in my village and caused persecution. My life was very unsafe. My family was very poor. My mother went to farm in the field. I studied until grade 7 school because in my community to attend school it costs a lot of money. I lived with my mother. My parents worked on the fields. I remember many scary things that happened. There were Burmese soldiers in my village. They persecuted our people. I remember forever why I left and about the

Burmese soldiers.

Once I got to camp #1, I went to high school. I was 17 years old. I was a student in high school class B. My high school class group was called vegetable. I felt happy. I applied to SDC school because of my interest in their subjects. I learnt about Rule of law, Environment, Human Rights and Democracy subjects. In our community, these are useful to the public.

So far at SDC I have learnt many new things I have studied Rule of law, Environment, Democracy

and Human Rights. My favorite subject is Environment. I learnt about dams and waste. Now that I know this I feel informed to protect the environment because in our community, there are groups building dams. This affects the public. The waste affects the health of people.

"I remember forever why I left"

I am most proud of the opportunity to help my community after I graduate from SDC. When we graduate, for us, it will be very happy and proud. I'm a helpful person. My wish for the whole world is free education. I want peace for the world.



'The vision of Social Development Center is to promote the lives of the people who have suffered human rights abuses, to teach non-violent skills to build up a new society, to develop the rule of law, to value human dignity and to protect the environment.'



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To achieve our mission statement we rely on various avenues of support including core organizational and project funding from our major donors. We are also supported by our own community, local staff and the generous help of volunteers from across the globe.

If you are interested in making a donation, please email officesdc@yahoo.com. Please title your message SDC Donation.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please email us at the same address: officesdc@yahoo.com. We accept volunteers for a minimum of three months.

Furthermore, if there is any other way you would like to provide us with support or assistance, please email us at the same address: officesdc@yahoo.com.

Visit us at: <http://sdcthailand.wordpress.com>

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- Mote Oo Education

We would also like to thank anyone who has volunteered with our organization now or in the past.

Finally, we would like to thank you the reader for showing an interest in supporting the cause of our people with your support we can go from strength to strength in the future.

Thank you!



The Curriculum Project

