

Monthly Publication Of KSDC

Our SDC community participates in a global leadership café

This month, our organisation hosted a world café event. The global leadership community and our donors, RIJ, provided the event to our organisation. The event helped our community to come together and proactively create visions and ideas for a brighter future.

The global leadership Community connected



The GLC team and our SDC staff

to our organisation with the help of our donors, RIJ. Together with Principal, Khu Myar Reh, the global leadership community prepared a two-day

event at our center. The first day was for our community and the second for our staff.

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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 8

01/03/2015

SDC updates from February 2015:

- SDC participates in a world cafe
- SDC basic course students complete Moot Court activity
- SDC releases a publication on domestic violence
- SDC students and staff attend UNHCR verification exercise

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Principal's Message



This month, the students practiced and learnt about ideas to do with non-violent social change including Martin Luther King, Gandhi and the women's rights movement. Students watched videos and also practiced doing drama.

moments in our lives; Sharing qualities to use for your community; discussing about the heart of SDC; and doing a world café activity by moving and discussing ideas on different tables.

On February, 21 - 22, we conducted a Global Leadership Cafe organized by a small team of Global Leadership Community facilitators at the Karenni Social Development Center. In this workshop 7 staff of SDC, 3 volunteers and 10 SDC alumni participated.

On that day, in groups, we made a future plan for SDC. This was to get new ideas from all of our stakeholders. All of the participants finished by checking out with their feelings about this workshop. They gave feedback about this workshop. Also, after every activity, the participants gave a follow-up before starting a new activity.

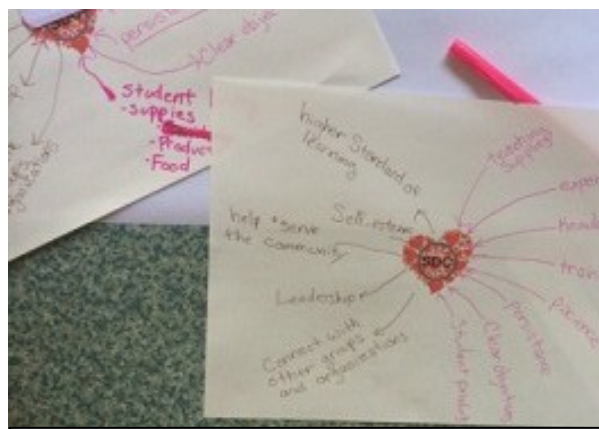
We are happy to have implemented a series of activities this February. According to our schedule for February, we have been providing the issues of Constitution, Non-violent Social Change, Economics and Democracy. We have also held our 4th monthly test for the students related to their subjects and held a moot court.

On February 21st the workshop included all of the participants, not only our staff. The main things that we did in the workshop on February 21st were looking at; introductions; how comfortable we are taking leadership; Interviews about proud

This world café was very helpful and useful for all of the participants. I want to say thank you to their team and also to Refugees International Japan for helping us with this project.



Harvesting our ideas



Our heart visions



SDC plan for March

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Orientation for recruitment	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Teacher training by CP	19 Teacher training by CP	20 Teacher training by CP	21	22
23 Constitution and federalism test	24 Economics and active citizenship test	25 Democracy test	26 Graduation preparation	27	28 SDC Basic Course Graduation	29
30	31					

Future event: SDC 2014 - 2015 basic course graduation

On the 28th March 2015, we will celebrate the graduation of our 2014 – 2015 basic course students. After the graduation, they will join our 246 past alumni as activists for our community in Karenni Refugee Camp 1 and inside Karenni State.



The SDC graduates of 2013 - 2014

During the course, the students have studied subjects focused around human rights, law and the environment. These subjects will help them to support organisations and advocate for change in our community.

After their graduation, some of the students will continue on to our SDC Advanced course. Meanwhile, other students will move directly into jobs within our community.

Next month’s graduation ceremony is an opportunity to celebrate their achievements and encourage them to make the most of their futures.

Our SDC community participates in a global leadership café

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During the first day, we began by introducing ourselves and our relationship to SDC. At the event, we had a broad range of voices represented including staff, alumni, donors, supporters, volunteers and students. The GLC team encouraged us to give a word to describe what SDC meant to us. Some of the words we gave were justice, opportunity, power, improvement and preservation. This activity allowed us all to see the importance of SDC to our community.

We then looked into leadership qualities. We did some activities to learn about who was confident in a leadership role and who preferred to act in more of a background role. It was interesting to see alumni, students, teachers, volunteers and supporters all interacting in this activity. It helped us to better understand about each other and our goals.



How comfortable are you in a leadership role?

The second day only included our SDC staff. With the help and support of the global leadership community team, we set about looking into some of the teaching strategies from the previous day and how to use them to create a better future for our SDC students, our SDC organisation and most importantly of all, our community.

We also used heart visioning to develop an understanding of how SDC functions. We provided information about what we put into SDC and also what SDC provides for our community. We placed all of this information on diagrams and then compared each other's ideas and feelings about SDC.

Everybody here at SDC is extremely thankful to the Global Leadership Café team for both providing our organisation with a world café and also some of the methodology behind this educational format. We are now especially enthusiastic about the future and how we can put these new ideas into practice and build a brighter future for our people.

Later in the day, we ran a world café. This format involved small group discussions about our future. The facilitators then helped us to formulate some clear steps to a better future. All of the participants embraced the world café format. At the end we had a focus around ideas including women's participation, future planning, networking and working with donors.



Heart visioning



Some of our ideas

UNHCR runs a verification exercise in Karenni Camp 1



Camp citizens wait to participate in the verification process

This month, along the Thai-Burma border The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) and The Thai Ministry of Interior (MOI) have been counting the citizens of the refugee camps and providing them with cards as part of a verification exercise.

This exercise has been taking place in all nine refugee camps along the border. This includes the two Karenni Refugee Camps. The purpose of the exercise as stated by the UN was to verify the population of the camps. The data will be used to find ways to better coordinate humanitarian assistance.

The verification exercise in Karenni Refugee Camp 1 took place over 2 weeks with various sections being called to meet and take part in the exercise. The in camp exercise had two main activities. The first activity involved collecting data on the refugee population within the camp. The second activity involved distribution of UN cards to the refugee population.



Preparing for verification (Photo: Kantarawaddy Times)

The verification process included collecting retinal scans, photographs and fingerprints. This data will be used to physically verify refugees. The data will additionally be used to update existing records on the refugee population. At the end of the exercise, camp citizens received a card. This card will enable them to receive support from UNHCR in Thailand.

Thailand is not a signatory to The 1951 Refugee Convention. The refugees inside the camps are not allowed to travel outside of the camps to take jobs or participate in the Thai economy. Additionally, Refugees who arrived at the camp after 2005 do not have an opportunity to resettle in a third country.

The current situation in Burma means that over 12,000 people still remain in Karenni Refugee Camp 1. Refugee Agencies, along the Thai-Burma border, including the UNHCR have stated that the situation in Burma is not conducive to an organised return. The Camp citizens are hopeful that this card will enable them to live in safety and security.

Protest will be used for cement factory by San Phyo Htun



The proposed cement factory is in a community forest area

The local people have rejected the building of a cement factory near SawHtu village in DeMawSo Township, Karenni State. If this project continues, the local people will use a non-violent or peaceful demonstration to show their opposition to it.

This project is run by ShweKantarawaddy Holdings. The aim of their project is to remove the limestone and build a cement factory.

The villagers have formed a committee to challenge this company. The second chairperson Angelo gave a statement to us. They think if the project is implemented, there will be many impacts on the local people. Therefore, we will try to run a peaceful demonstration in any way.

This company informed the local people by written statement that they would try to explore 640 acres of this area for limestone. However, the local people replied to the company with a letter rejecting their proposal. This letter contained 47 villagers' signatures. The letter also informed the state government of why they reject this project.

"The villagers said that our ancestors have preserved this forest over many years. They cannot lose this forest because they only rely on this area." said a farmer from WaSarKhu village.

The coordinator of the (EITI) organisation said that the company should explain about the impact and benefits of the project to the local villagers. This person told Kantarawaddy Times that this depends on the company and how

much they have explained to the villagers.

There are many people whose livelihood depends on burning limestone to create lime. Due to this project, they will be facing difficulties for their day to day life. Therefore, they worry about their livelihoods.

Women from DawTaMe village said "I reject this project because we are farmers. We rely on our land. If our land is confiscated, we will starve. We don't want to get your compensation."

The LayPwuJay (four star) company, which stands for Kayan district development programme, is trying to build the cement industry since 2012. They are trying to build one cement factory and one stone slabbing factory.

The weather by Dae Mo Par



Heavy rain can cause flooding in the rainy season

In different parts of the world, there are different seasons. In South East Asia, there are 3 seasons; cold, hot and rainy season. Different seasons allow for different activities.

The cold season or winter is from November to February. The cold season is the best time of the year. It is cool and pleasant. We can eat, sleep and work well in this season. There are lots of clouds and sometimes snow falls. People must buy warm clothes. The leaves start to fall. It's easy for people to do outside activities since the weather is cool. The cold season feels very chilly. This season has longer nights.

The rainy season starts in July and ends in October. Everything is fresh and green in the rainy season. It is

wet everywhere. The roads and streets are muddy. The rivers, lakes, streams and wells are rising. This season is difficult to go to places for people because the streets are very slippery. At the time, the plants grow up so it costs less money for vegetables. The rain floods people's houses near the stream and many are destroyed. When the flooding happens, we carry food and clothes away. People cannot live in places

where it floods because it's difficult to get there and there is a lot of trash.

The hot season or summer begins in March and ends in June. This season is very hot so it dries water in rivers, streams, lakes and wells. It is very hot in summer. All of the leaves become dry and fall off the trees. No one can eat or sleep in this season. We can't work hard because it is very hot. The small plants die. At times, it is dusty on the streets. The hot season is difficult to get food and water for the animals. Some people's living depends on the rain. In the hot season, people need to be careful with fire for people in the rural areas. The hot season has short nights.



Hot and dry weather in hot season

My time in camp and my community by Wee Meh



Karenni Refugee Camp 1

About my time in camp

On Monday morning, we learnt about Environment, Democracy and Human Rights. On Tuesday, we watched movies about moot courts for moot court subject. We also learnt English words in our free time on Sunday. We were working at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning and I went to my house in my free time. I was very happy.

In the second week, we always come to school at 9 o'clock. We clean and work in the class in the morning (Monday to Friday). We learn about the Constitution, Democracy and the Environment. We do housework and we have exams.

About my camp community

My community is in Karenni Refugee Camp 1. We have 20 sections. My community is in sections. The people living in the camp are Baman, Shan, Karenni, Kayah. There are many people living in the community. It is a small community in the camp but it is peaceful and beautiful.

The community exports vegetables. There is alcohol in the camp. There is one high school. There are four middle schools and many primary schools in the community. There are five big markets in the middle of Karenni Refugee Camp 1. Some people in the community are farmers and workers. Some people produce other crops.

The community is mostly built out of wood and bamboo. So, it is very difficult to build for a house. Also, there isn't enough water because the people cut down a lot of trees and bamboo. Before 2008, there were many people but now there aren't many people because a lot of people left to foreign countries. We aren't united people in the camp. The people are discriminating against each other. We aren't living independently in the camp.



Wee Meh reading with her other students in the class

Alumni bio: Reh Saung Oo



Reh Saung Oo at his graduation with his fellow alumni

Q: What is your background?

A: I am from Karenni State in Burma. I have been in Karenni Refugee Camp 1 since 2010. My family lives in Karenni State now. I came to the camp alone. I didn't come with my family so now I live alone. In 2010, I started to study in the camp and in 2014, I completed my education. I have graduated from the high school, the SDC basic course and the SDC Advanced course. Now, I have been working in my community for over one year. I work as a coordinator for vocational training in Karenni Refugee Camp 1.

Q: What was your experience at SDC like?

A: When I studied for one year and a half at SDC, I was very happy and enjoyed studying there. I enjoyed my time there because I liked the subjects and they are very related to our community and society. For example, in our community, there are abuses of human rights so it is important for us to know. Additionally, Law is important because we had an election in Burma and it was unlawful. Now, we have studied law at SDC, we understand this was unlawful. If we had not studied at SDC, we would not know about this. I still want to help SDC if I can.

Q: What is your job like?

A: In my organisation, we give training for our community. My job is mostly management to ensure the trainings are successful. I mostly manage the different materials and the staff. I like my job because these trainings are very useful for our people. They are useful for now and in the future. These trainings can help our people to realise their life potential.

Q: What do you do in your freetime?

A: In my freetime, I visit my friends and use the internet. I also like to read books and visit my relatives. In camp, we can do many things. We can read or play sports or go shopping or visit other people. Sometimes we can go to spend time in the forest.

Q: How has SDC helped you?

A: SDC has helped me in many ways. I have learnt many things from SDC. I have learnt management skills, report writing and how to write proposals. Now, in my life I use these skills.



'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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- The Open Society Institute
- Refugees International Japan

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- The Curriculum project
- 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

