

Monthly Publication Of KSDC

Our donors and partners take time to visit our SDC school

Throughout the year, we are always welcoming to our donors and partners to come and visit us. This month, we were very happy to meet with one of our donors, Refugees International Japan.



KSDC staff and students present to our donors

In this month's publication, we will reflect on our meetings with donor's this year and our achievements together.

So far this year, we have met with two of our core donors and two of our partners.

Each of our partners

and donors supports our project in different ways and each meeting is a great way to share our work.

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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 5

01/11/2014

SDC updates from October 2014:

- SDC basic Course students collect research
- SDC basic course students intern at organisations
- SDC's donors from Refugees International Japan visit our school
- SDC ACMTC students completed a human rights workshop

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Principal's Message



Now, we have already been running both of our courses for 5 months. During this month, we have implemented our field work session and internship program for the students on the Basic Course. During the field work, students tried to collect the information and write a report from their field work.

During the internship program, 25 students were sent to the CBOs in Karenni refugee camp and tried to learn and get the information, knowledge and skills from these organizations. Then the students tried to write a news report about what they have learned from these organizations.

During the field work 24 students were divided into 8 groups and chose 8 topics that they are interested in and relate to the issues of human rights, environment and law. To be able to get the information, students tried to go and interview with local people within the community, CBOs and others who could provide the information. They tried to get the facts related to their topics and be able to rewrite them as a report paper to share with their audience.

During the field work and internship program, students were provided with some stationary, equipment and some financial support. After writing their reports, all the students from the field and internship program tried to present their experience about what they have done and learned from their work to their class mates.

Additionally, on 4th October, 2014 one of core donors (RIJ) visited to our SDC and met with our staff members and students from the basic and advanced course. We presented our SDC program activities about what we have implemented by using PowerPoint and in the meantime RIJ explained their program and activities to our SDC staff and students.



Students trying to write their news reports.



SDC students meeting at the High School in camp to get information for their report.

SDC plan for November

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3 SDC basic students present research	4 Proposal writing begins on ACMTC	5 Office management begins on ACMTC	6 Dam issues begins on basic course	7 Constitutional Law begins on basic course	8	9
10 Politics begins on basic course	11 Gender studies begins on basic course	12 Democracy for all begins on basic course	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Leaving party for SDC volunteers	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 SDC Advanced course finishes	29	30

Future event: SDC students complete the advanced course

Next month, the 5th Advanced Community Management Training Course will be completed.

During the course the students have studied the subjects of Community Organisation, Campaigning, International Law, Office Management, Project Planning, Report Writing and Research, Proposal Writing, Computer Skills and Sustainable Development.

After completion of the course we will hold a graduation ceremony. We will invite members of other organisations to join us for the celebration.



Last year's ACMTC students celebrate their graduation

Following their graduation, the new alumnus will join with organisations to help their community.

Last year students went into the areas of women's rights, education, teaching, office management and social work.

Our donors and partners take time to visit our SDC school

When RIJ's representatives, Jane Best and Angie Alexander, met with us, we prepared a brief presentation for them and additionally held a question and answer session with our students about the project. They also brought a photographer to take photos of our project in order to raise awareness about refugee issues as a part of their fundraising.

This discussion allowed them to learn about what our students have learnt and how they feel about our project. When asked about what they have learnt during the project, the topics of women's rights and environmental protection were raised by students.

RIJ's support and interest is very important for our project and it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to share our project with them in person.

We also had a productive discussion with them about our project's progress and also about their own fundraising work. As an organisation, RIJ run their own funding projects in order to provide for refugee organisations all over the world.



An SDC student raises a question to RIJ

Earlier this year, we had a meeting with another of our donors, the American Jewish World Service, AJWS. At the meeting we shared information about our project and we also invited them to sit in on one of our lessons. This allowed them to have a first-hand experience of our project in action.

We have also met with representatives of our partners, EarthRights International. At this meeting, we met with four representatives from our partners, EarthRights, two from their US office and two from their Chiang Mai office. We took them around our center and shared about the progress of each other's projects.

Additionally, we have met with representatives from Mote Oo education. Mote Oo is an organisation that provides curriculum to border organisations.

When discussing with them, they provided a survey for our students and staff to analyse our needs.

Working together and cooperating with donors and partners is something that allows us to be stronger and provide the best opportunity for our young Karenni people to learn about the crucial subjects of Environment, Human Rights and Law.



ERI Representatives sit in on an SDC lesson

We are very thankful for the continued support we have received from both our partners and our donors. Without this funding, we would have been unable to successfully run our education courses, inside program and outreach activities within Karenni Refugee Camp 1.



SDC alumni, Arsana, passes away



SDC staff, students and alumni are saddened this month by the loss of a former SDC student, Arsana. Arsana passed away last month after battling illness throughout the past year. Her funeral was held on Friday 17th October. As a community, we send our best wishes to her close friends and family.

Arsana studied at SDC between 2010-2011 on the SDC Basic Course. Arsana was a dedicated and hard-working student. She was enthusiastic about her subjects and keen to help her community in the future.

Arsana studied with current SDC teacher, Mudee Paw. Mudee Paw said about Arsana“ I am so sad for her because she is so young. I have

pity for her boyfriend. She also loved her boyfriend so much. I wish her good luck, now that she has left this earth to be with god. When we studied together, she was very good-natured”

After completing the SDC basic course, she went to work for Camp justice to help with the camp legal system. Without the hard-work and dedication of individuals from within our community these organisations would be unable to run and provide a safety net for refugees in a protracted displacement situation.

Later, she went on to continue her studies on SDC’s 3rd Advanced Community Management Training Course. During the course, she learned from a variety of trainers on subjects such as report writing and

project planning. These subjects would help strengthen her capacity for social change.

After she completed our 3rd Advanced course, she decided to join the Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC) as a bookkeeper. KnRC works to organise the affairs of refugees in the camp and ensures that the camp is run successfully for the citizens in the camp. She was a popular and enthusiastic member of their organisation.

We are all deeply saddened by the loss of Arsana and for the past month our thoughts have been with her family and friends.



Arsana’s funeral



New Women's Study Program course opens



The eleven girls enrolled on to The Women's Study Program 2nd year

This month a new education opportunity opened in Karenni Refugee Camp 1. The new program is a second year course run by the Women's Study Program. Eleven girls have been enrolled in a five month training program. The program held their opening ceremony on ____.

The Women's Study Program is run by Karenni National Women's Organisation and WEAVE organisation. The aims of Karenni National Women's organisation are to promote active participation in Karenni's women activities, to promote and encourage children's education for the leadership of future generations, to promote and develop women's rights and equality among Karenni women and to promote human rights education for Karenni women with the assistance of international women's organizations or groups.

For the Women's study program second year, the 11 girls will study 3 main subjects of Project Management and Development, Advanced Women's Studies and Communication Skills for Conflict Transformation. They will additionally study Thai, English and Computer. The course will last for 5 months.

The first year women's study program focuses on Community Development, Peace Education, Women's Issues, Thai, English and Computer Skills. After completing the Women's Study Program, women have the skills to run businesses and participate fully in the community.

The advanced course will also aim to encourage women to take leading roles and be self-confident. It will also focus on knowledge and attainment of women's rights. This



An SDC alumni teaches at the Women's Study Program

course will allow women to protect and promote their rights. This will allow them to prosecute if their rights are abused

The program runs in Karenni Refugee Camp 1. In the camp, there are many challenges for women including; high illiteracy; early marriage and pregnancy; and a lack of economic opportunities. Projects like the Women's Study Program allow disadvantaged and marginalized women to create economic opportunities so they can support themselves and their family's needs.



The staff and students of the Women's Study Program

A report on a human rights workshop by Oo Reh

Our workshop was about Human Rights. Firstly, we prepared this project's plan. Then, ACMTC students interviewed. After that, we analysed information from the interviews. This workshop was successful so we were happy with our workshop. In this report, we will write activities, results, monitoring and evaluation.

Activities

1. Preparation

On 9th October, Teacher Julia and ACMTC's students discussed about Human Rights. Then, all students talked about interview questions and who we will go to interview. All students had different groups. There were Pa Pa Moe's group, Soe Meh's group and Shar Myar Kay's group.

2. Interviews

Secondly, all students prepared the interview questions. Then groups of students went to interview different places. We went to interview the local parents, Bible School, KSWDC, KNCC and staff of KnRC on Monday 13th October. We asked questions about Human Rights. We also collected information from local people.



Students going to interview

3. Analyse information

Thirdly, all students and Teacher Julia met in the classroom on 17th October. We also divided the group of students again. There was Oo Reh's group, Khar Reh's group and Byar Reh's group. Khar Reh's group analysed information from the interviews. Oo Reh's group made the PowerPoint. Byar Reh's group created the timetable for the presentation.

By the 24th October, we had finished our power point and researched human rights. Then, we practiced for our presentation. Also, Teacher Mudee Paw supported us with our issue.



Analysing information

4. Workshop

On 25th October, we had a workshop. There were 37 people participating at our workshop. We started presenting at 9:00. We presented about the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and some articles. These were; article 2: freedom from discrimination; article 3: Right to security, life and liberty; Article 16: Right to marry; and article 26: Right to education. Teacher Mudee Paw from BLC supported our issue. Then we had a discussion and questions with 37 people. We had a 15 minute break time. We finished at 12:00.

Oo Reh's report continued from p7

The result of our activity was that we had a successful workshop. 18 people said they had not studied about Human Rights. 27 people believed Human Rights are important. There were KnCC, Bible School, KSWDC, staff of Ktimes, staff of KnRC and some local women attending this workshop. We presented about human rights. We spent one month with Teacher Julia.

The direct beneficiaries were local people who participated and who did the presentation. The indirect beneficiaries were SDC's teachers and people who didn't come to our workshop because participators will share with their friends and their parents about Human Right's knowledge.



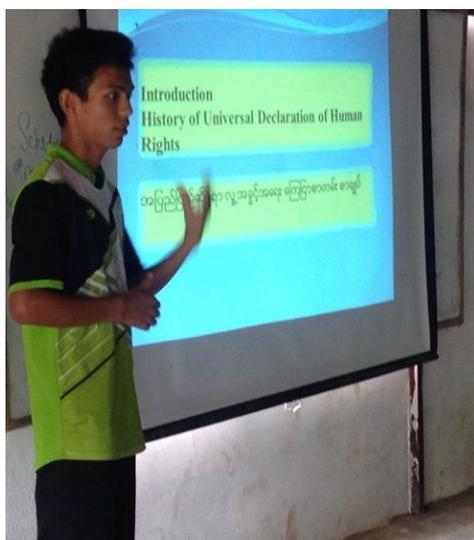
The audience watching on at the workshop

Teacher Julia and Teacher Mudee Paw monitored this activity because they checked our issue and PowerPoint. We changed our PowerPoint. KnRc gave us some information. We evaluated this activity by giving 37 people a text to answer and by asking questions. There were 25 people, who attended our workshop, which believed their Human Rights had been abused. So, our activity was successful.

In conclusion, we have completed our workshop. Our project's objective was to distribute Human Rights knowledge. We are happy with our workshop. Local people can understand their rights. They

also want to share with their friends and parents. We need the best workshop in our community because people don't know well about Human Rights. Some challenges were we didn't have enough chairs. Sometimes, we didn't have electricity so we could not find information and research. Also, we didn't have enough time to present our issue.

The next time, we need to take more time for planning this project. We also need to borrow some chairs. We especially need to find funds for this project so we can do more outreach about Human Rights and presentation skills. Overall, our workshop was successful.



The presentation

Alumni bio: Naw Ah Mu Htoo



Naw Ah Mu Htoo and her team on a survey trip

Q: What is your background?

A: I was born in Loikaw. I studied in Loikaw but I didn't graduate high school. In 2003, I arrived in Karenni Refugee Camp 1 and studied in high school again.

After successfully graduating from high school, I joined SDC and studied in their second group of basic course students. After graduating SDC, I worked with camp security for seven months.

Later, I was lucky to have the chance to further improve my English on a course by Karenni Student

Development Program for 4 months. After this course, I started working with an environmental organisation, Karenni Evergreen. However, after only one month, I had the opportunity to go to EarthRights School Burma.

I studied at EarthRights School between 2006-2007. At EarthRights, I learnt more about the connection between human rights and the environment. After completing EarthRights School, I came back to be an office staff member with Karenni Evergreen. I became the director of Evergreen in 2009.

Q: What does Karenni Evergreen do?

A: Karenni Evergreen mainly works on community forests and raising awareness of environmental issues. We are working on environmental management within Karenni Refugee Camps 1 and 2. Additionally, we are running the community forests project inside Karenni State. We meet with the local villagers and provide information on how they can protect their forests and

together we create community centers.

Q: How did studying at KSDC help you?

A: Studying at the Karenni Social Development Center was my first opportunity to get knowledge and skills about Human Rights and the Environment. At first, I was more interested in Human Rights. However when I started working at Karenni Evergreen, I noticed that there were more organisations working on human rights in our community and not so many working on environmental issues. Therefore, I put my mind and my time to promoting the environment amongst my people, community and state.

Q: What are your aspirations for Karenni State?

A: In our state, I would like to see peace and no more fighting. I would like everybody to be aware of politics. Especially, I would like people to live harmoniously with their environment.



'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.

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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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- Earthrights International
- 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

