



Building a new society for Karenni

# KSDC NEWSLETTER

November 2015

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"The vision of 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"



## About SDC

by **Aung Sun Myint**

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

The ERSB Alumni had learnt about Democracy, Law and the Environment. They wanted young people in their community to be able to study these subjects as well so they founded SDC.

SDC has produced over 200 Human Rights and Environment activists since its formation. Our coordinator and co-founder Aung Sun Myint continues to work with our team to realize the vision he set out with his fellow ERSB alumni in 2002.

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## This month at SDC

by **Principal Myar Reh**



In October the Advanced Course, the students started the subjects of Campaigning & Lobbying, Consultations and Report Writing. These subjects will enable the students to plan and implement two campaigns in the community, inside camp or around Dohkita. After this they will write a report on their campaign.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October we SDC held the 2<sup>nd</sup> teachers and parents meeting. On the agenda were discussions on the Basic Course in SDC's campus in Camp 1. During this meeting the coordinator of SDC Aung Sun Myint gave a speech to the audience and i explained the current status and situation of the basic and advanced courses.

During this event we awarded prizes to the top three students from the first evaluation and examination. The students then presented their group songs and traditional dances respectively. After the meeting, we served the parents and community leaders with some food and refreshments.

As part of a community participation, SDC students and staff attended the ceremony of the world teacher day that celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> October in Karenni refugee camp#1 organized by the Karenni Education Department ( KnED).

On October, 3 SDC staff went to Karenni State and conducted Land Rights training workshops for local people in rural parts of Karenni State, especially those whose lands were confiscated by the Burmese military. The land rights training was conducted in the areas of Hpru So and Dee Maw So townships.

In the land right training, the local people were provided information about indigenous rights and rights to own property and land. During this training we conducted consultations,

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discussion on indigenous rights and delivered and shared some leaflets about Indigenous rights and land ownership rights to every participant and shared some copies of FPIC (Free, Prior, Informed and Consent) to the local people.

Locals warmly welcomed this training and welcomed us to do and share more information with them in the future. By giving this training the participants became more confident about defending against and challenging the perpetrators of land confiscations. And they became better able to protect the future of their land rights ownership. By giving this training the participants have more knowledge about what Indigenous people land rights specifically mean. As well as understanding the rights of all local people. We are very happy about being able to share this knowledge and we believe that the participants will be able to further share their knowledge with their community and be able to stand and protect their rights against any future perpetrators.



Parent - Teacher Day **Left.**

**Below,** Students in Consultation & Campaigning classes. Photos by **Myar Reh, Nas & Nathan.**





## Reading as an English learning tool

by **Raffi Hantabli**

Reading is critical for learning, it's fun and it's crucial in helping the students think creatively, learn new vocabulary and experience grammar in action. It also helps students build up confidence and trust in their own ability. Reading is a crucial component and facet of learning English.

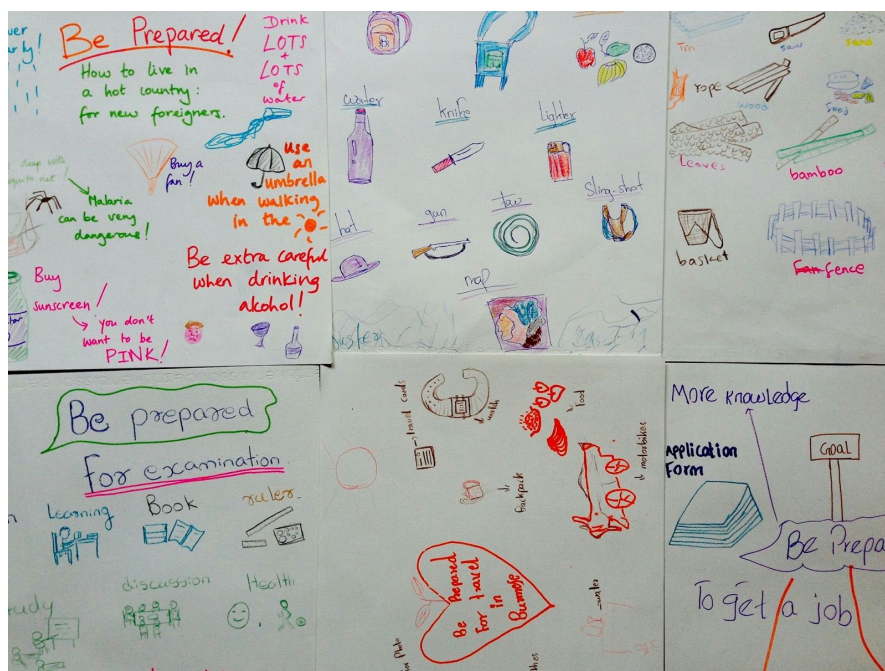
In October we started implementing our strategy for using reading as the central component around which english classes are taught. A given book is used as a springboard from which we teach vocabulary, discuss said vocabulary, help students experience grammar as

something living, and used creatively. We also use reading as a tool to build up things like critical thinking and study skills. Skills that are transferable to other subjects.

So far we have had great success, of course this is only anecdotal, but in the month we've been doing this, the students have been active in using new words or idioms. The more shy students are more confident, and more willing to contribute. Pronunciation has improved and more students are reading independently outside class.

So far it's been a great experience, in the past month the students finished reading Roald Dahl's 'The Magic Finger' and have now moved on to 'The Twits'. The students have been buzzing with excitement and consistently use Dahl's turn of phrase or practice their newly learned idioms and funny words.

Reading will continue to be a central part of teaching English, as it keeps things fun, makes learning grammar and vocabulary more dynamic and active. Improves pronunciation, and crucially -for learning english- it dramatically builds confidence.



Students reading Roald Dahl's 'The Magic Finger' above. A drawing from a class activity on preparedness below.



## A visit from RIJ President & CEO Jane Best

This month we had a visit from the CEO and President of one of our main donors RIJ (Refugee International Japan) the visit was a welcome one. The students and members helped RIJ with a fundraising project they are planning.

The goal was to help RIJ meet the challenges of fundraising in Japan, the students and participants in the campaign activities were happy to participate and help and the students enjoyed an eventful Saturday. We hope the campaign is a successful one.



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# Halloween Party

Photographs by **Raffi Hantabli**

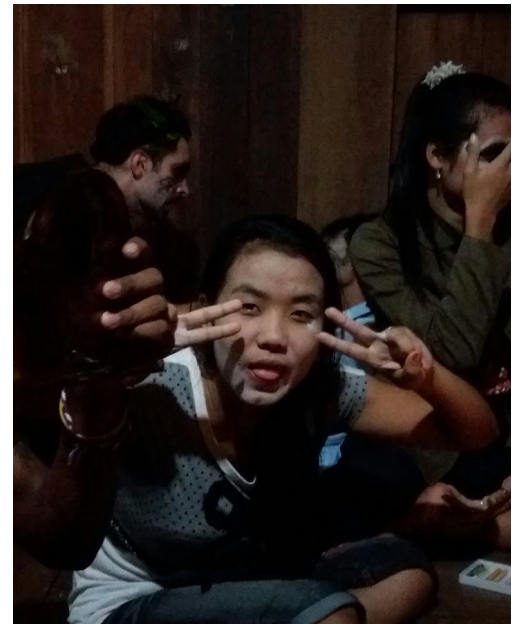


October saw the arrival of Halloween, and since the students enjoy all things horror and scary, the teachers decided to have fun and share with the students their Halloween traditions

Teachers and students got together, dressed up, improvised with available materials, painted spooky faces on and enjoyed themselves. These are some pictures from the night.

Pray Meh, **Left.**

Students with a teacher, **Bottom left.** Kar Rah Lay, **Bottom right.**





Students, **Left.** Nya Reh, **Above.**  
Students with teachers Nas &  
Nathan, **Below.**







## An introduction to Karenni Refugee Camp 1

By **La Ywe**

There are many types of people in Karenni Refugee Camp 1. They are Kayan, Kayah, Kayaw, Shan, some Pho Ou and Karen people. They speak different languages and have different religions.

**EDUCATION:** In Camp 1 There are four Middle Schools, four Primary Schools, one High School, a Social School and KnCC School. **HEALTH:** There are two clinics in camp first is named Ban Twie (BT) and Ban Kawn (BK)

There are twenty sections in camp, with about 200 houses in each section, each section has a section leader who is part of the camp leadership. There are more than 12,000 people in Karenni Camp 1. There is a Justice office and court, a security office and many other institutions that help the daily running of the Camp.

Some of the festivities that the community celebrate in camp include Christmas, Kay Toe Boe Festival, and Deeku festival.



## Help us achieve our goals

To achieve the goals and the promise we made in our mission statement we rely on many avenues of support. Core organizational and project funding comes from our main donors. We are also supported by our own community, local staff and volunteers from around the world.

**But we still need support to continue doing the good work we do. So if you are able to support us financially or with advice or expertise please [contact](#) us:**

Mae Hong Son  
Thailand  
PO BOX 20  
58000

[sdcthailand.wordpress.com](http://sdcthailand.wordpress.com)  
[sdcoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:sdcoffice@yahoo.com)  
+66898526619

[Facebook](#)  
[Twitter](#)

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**All of us here at SDC and our students would like to thank our core funders:**

- The American Jewish World Service
- The Open Society Institute
- Refugees International Japan



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**We would also like to thank our partners:**

- EarthRights International
- The Curriculum Project
- Mote Oo Education



**The Curriculum Project**



Thank you for reading and your interest in SDC and the Karenni community. Stay in touch with us.