



## Duang Prateep Foundation

### Monthly Newsletter for February 2023

#### **Bringing Health Care to the People**



On 1 February, Bangkok Governor, Dr. Chadchart Sittipunt, presided over the official opening of the Areeruk Primary Care Clinic (Klong Toey branch). The clinic, located in Lock 6 of the community, is supported by the National Health Security Office (NHSO). The opening formally began with a Buddhist ceremony. Khru Prateep then spoke on the importance of having a primary care clinic for the poor people in Klong Toey communities. The director of the clinic, Mrs. Sarinthorn Sonthithanakrit, reported on the mission and operation of the clinic. DPF trainee students from Thammasat University also reported on 'Health Conditions of Elderly Citizens, Disabled People and Bed-ridden People in the Communities'. Based on data from the students' survey, the clinic can significantly help people save both the time and transportation costs involved in travelling to the hospital.

#### **Livable Design & Development**



On 7 February, we welcomed a group of professors and students from Harvard University's School of Design, led by Prof. Niall Kirkwood, Prof. Gary R. Hilderbrand and Prof. Kotchakorn Voraakhom. The visiting group also included students from Thammasat University. Their visit was part of an academic design studio course on the issues of climate change and design development in Bangkok and Thailand. The group was taken on a guided walk through the communities before Khru Prateep gave a presentation on the background of Klong Toey and the Port Authority's (PAT) plan to develop the area. In addition, the DPF invited Ms. Somsook Boonyabauncha (Asian Coalition for Housing Rights) to talk about the PAT's development strategies, both in past and in the future. Later, community people were able to join a workshop with the visitors to put forward their own ideas on the kind of development they would like to see.

### **Trafficking Victims Tested at Temple**

It was kind of the Abbot of Wat Sapan Temple to permit the Metropolitan Police Bureau (Division 5) to use a building in the temple compound to set up an ‘Integrated Center for Victim Identification of Human Trafficking’. The Abbot, Khru Prateep, and the commanders of the Port Police Station and the Metropolitan Police Bureau held a meeting for cooperation on the National Referral Mechanism. (8 February 2023)



### **Supporting from AFL**

On 12 February, the Thailand Tigers joined AustCham Thailand for the great Aussie BBQ bash at King’s College International School inn Bangkok. We were also honored and proud to present a cheque to Mrs. Prateep Ungsongtham Hata, the founder of the Duang Prateep Foundation here in Bangkok. Exciting times ahead for the club, as we have scholarships for the under 16 girls from the Klongtoei Community. The girls will be on the new AFL program for the Thailand Tigers and this will give the girls a great opportunity to be involved in the amazing sport and club.



### **New Equipment for our Fire-Fighters**

Understanding that fire-fighters are only as effective as the equipment they have to hand, Mr. Yasuyoshi Kojima, a long-term DPF supporter, donated two portable fire-fighting pumps and 20 fire hoses to our volunteer fire-fighters on 11 February. Khru Prateep and Mr. Anan Wangpreuk (fire-fighter team leader) and the other fire-fighters were on hand to welcomed Mr. Kojima and his group. The new equipment will do double duty when our fire-fighters employ it in their regular training sessions for community people on how to protect their life and property.



### **Youths with a Social Conscience**

On 20 February, we welcomed 50 students from Ramkhamhaeng University's Students for Democracy Club, who came to listen to a presentation by Khru Prateep about the Klong Toey community and its eviction problems. During the visit they also walked through three communities to get an impression of the people's lives, and stopped in at the kindergarten to give out snacks to the children. Thank you all for your interest in democracy and the social problems that the poor face.



## Students' Skills Expo

Every year, the Duang Prateep Kindergarten organizes an exhibition of the students' works in order to give the students encouragement and to feel pride in their achievements. This year's event was organized on 21-22 February and kicked off with performances by students from all six classrooms. All students are studying under the Montessori Educational System, with mixed ages. Parents are also invited and encouraged to come along to see their children's works and to participate in activities, such as games, lucky draws, etc. The event is rounded off with everyone lunching together, to build good relations between children, parents and teachers.



## Swiss Support

We are delighted to welcome back to Thailand and the DPF. Ms. Brigitte Heckendorn, founder of the Swiss Supporting Association (SSA) – the official DPF support group in Switzerland – and her husband, Mr. Hanspeter. They came to update themselves on the foundation's activities and to follow up on our projects that the SSA supports, such as education scholarships. Brigitte and Hanspeter also took time to meet with students who SSA sponsors, and to join the kids at the DPF kindergarten in some fun activities. The duo also visited the New Life Project at Kanchanaburi on 25-26 February.



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