



Duang Prateep Foundation

Monthly Newsletter for February 2018

BELGIAN BENEFACTOR



From 10-11 February, Mr. Philippe de Fooz, a friend of the DPF who hails from Belgium, travelled to Kanchanaburi to check on progress for NLPK's library renovations and other activities. Khun Philippe is generously supporting the upgrade to enlarge the library and its facilities and stock it with more books, so that it is more suitable for the children to come and practice their reading. Last year, he also

sponsored the construction and equipping of the new first-aid room. Earlier, Khun Philippe also called in to the Duang Prateep Kindergarten to observe the Montessori Educational System in action, which he also generously supports.

International Women's Day



On 14 February, Ms. Rina Chandran, a journalist from the Thomson Reuters Foundation, came to interview Khru Prateep to do a profile for International Women's Day, which is on 8 March. Ms. Rina was interested in asking Khru Prateep about activities she has initiated in Klong Toey to help the poor, and especially the girls and women there. Evictions and education were focus points. Khru Prateep also took her to see the Montessori system being employed at DPF kindergarten, followed by a walk in the community to see the reality of the people's lives.

MTD Group Singapore



On 20 February, 30 members of the MTD real estate Group from Singapore, led by Ms. Mary Tan, came to provide a special treat for the kindergarten children. Their first port of call was the Duang Prateep Kindergarten, they provided a special lunch for children, serving the kids personally. Then they also went to visit the Lock 1-2-3 Children's Center and provided another

special lunch for the children there. At both centres the children entertained the Singaporeans with dance performances to welcome and thank them for their kindness and generosity. A big thank you to MTD Group, and we hope you will visit us again.

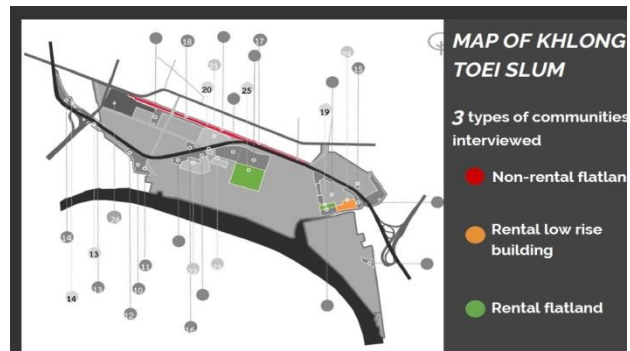


ON THE MOVE



Since 1992, an annual research collaboration has been conducted between the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) from the USA, Chulalongkorn University (CU) in Bangkok, and the Duang Prateep Foundation (DPF). Research studies have covered a wide variety of technical subjects affecting the lives of slum residents. For a period of seven weeks from January this year, four

WPI students and three from CU conducted a study about the future relocation of the Klong Toey slum community, entitled “Researching Supportive Materials for the Khlong Toei Relocation”. The project was co-ordinated by the DPF. They looked at many relocation cases from different countries as possible templates for constructing new housing for the people. They collected data/information by interviewing the local people who will be affected about their opinions, ideas and needs, etc. This data will support the negotiations on suitable relocation strategies and housing for the Klong Toey slum community. At the conclusion, on 25 February, Khru Prateep and local people attended a presentation of



the findings by the students. Their research results were able to identify aspects of other cases that could be applicable in the Klong Toey case, as well as some that would not be helpful. In particular, they found that when landowners or government officials did not consult with the affected people prior to the relocation (top-down approach), the people did not give good co-operation when it came time for them to move.

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