



### **Looking Ahead & Remembering the Past**

On 5 January, the DPF staff held a merit-making ceremony for good fortune in 2023 and to remember and pay respect to former friends and benefactors of the foundation who have since passed away. Nine Buddhist monks were invited to lead the remembrance ceremony. The ceremony is an annual tradition, and also serves the purpose of blessing the current staff members as they move forward into a new year of work. Thank you to the community leaders, local organizations and all participants.



### **Children's Day Preparations**

On 5 January, the DPF donated gift items to three schools, three children's centers and 36 communities for their Children's Day celebrations, which will be held in the second week of January. Our appreciation to all our supporters who supplied the items to bring happiness to poor children in the Klong Toey communities.



## **Second-Generation Supporters**

On 6-9 January, children and staff at the New Life Project in Kanchanaburi (NLPK) welcomed from Belgium Clement and Gabriel Bournonville, the two sons of Ms. Sophie Bournonville, a long-term supporter of the centre's popular bakery project via her 'Take the Road to Education' group. Clement is actually of Thai heritage, and was adopted by the family as a little boy before going to live in Belgium where he was schooled. He is now 25 and works as a chef. On this visit, the young men made a welcome donation to NLPK and ran some activities with the children, such as making pizza and English language lessons.



## **Port of Call on New Year**

On 11 January, Khru Prateep and community leaders went to meet Mr. Kriengkrai Chaisiriwongsuk – Director General of the Port Authority of Thailand – to wish him well for the New Year, and to thank him for PAT's generous support for the local people during the Covid-19 pandemic as well his good vision in developing PAT areas to benefit the people's life in the Klong Toey communities.



## Resting Weakening Muscles

On 26 January, the foundation donated a medical bed for a resident of Wat Klong Toey Nai 2 community, a woman aged 80 who suffers from Myasthenia Gravis in her legs. The photos also show DPF staff taking trainee students from Srinakharinwirot University along to the bed handover to learn about the people's lives and the DPF's work.



## ***Japanese Sponsors Engage with Students***

We recently welcomed a Japanese group of sponsors from Buraku Liberation League Aichi (BLL), who came to see the DPF activities on 26 January and then visited the New Life Project at Kanchanaburi on 28th. At the DPF, they also talked and exchanged ideas with 50 of our sponsored students, who the group have supported with scholarships over a long period of time. At the NLPK, they did activities with our children and youths, such as exploring around the project, planting vegetables, collecting chicken eggs, and engaging in performances and dances together with our children. Thank you BLL, for bringing happiness to our children.



## ***It's Never Too Late for Fun***

On 29 January, Ms. Pamela Hongsakul organized a belated Children's Day event for some of our children at the foundation, by bringing along Dr. Penguin and his unique brand of comedy/magic and a musical group 'Turbo Star' led by Todd Thongdee. The fact that it was late did not bother the children at all, who greatly enjoyed the experience.



## **World Bank Studies Real Life of the Poor**

We were honored by a visit by the World Bank (SE Asia) to the foundation on 30 January. Nineteen of their representatives came to listen to a briefing by Khru Prateep about the DPF projects to help the poor and disadvantaged people, and to learn more about the realities of the people's lives in the slum. Khru also highlighted the cases of sick elderly people in Klong Toey, after which our staff took the visitors to distribute 50 survival bags containing many essential daily items in two areas, the Lock 1-2-3 and 70-Rai communities.



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