



### **Bound for Japan**

The Duang Prateep Foundation is proud to congratulate three of our sponsored students who have received scholarships from Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School in Japan to study there for 3 years, starting in May 2022. They are Natthaporn Jirapong, Juthaluk Uthaiarj and Noparat Tang-On. This is the second time the Japanese school has provided opportunity for our underprivileged children. Here is a brief background on each lucky girl.

**Miss Natthaporn Jirapong (Yok)** is 16 years old and studying in Grade 10 at Phrakhanong Witthayalai School. She has a very good GPA of 4.00 and would like to become a doctor. *Yok's* parents separated when she was a baby, so she now lives with her grandmother in the Klong Toey community. Later, her mother re-married but still helps to support *Yok* as best she can, even though she has other children with her new husband. *Yok* is a sponsored student of the DPF and always comes to help out with the foundation's activities.

**Miss Juthaluk Uthaiarj (Pat)** is 16 years old and studying in Grade 9 at Baan Kao Vitthaya School. She has a moderate GPA, and is from our New Life Project in Kanchanaburi. Previously, *Pat* lived in the Klong Toey community with her mother and grandfather, who are fruit sellers. Both became concerned that they did not earn enough income to support *Pat's* further education, so they contacted our staff who found her a place in the New Life Project.

**Miss Noparat Tang-On (Mint)** is 16 years old and studying in Grade 9 at Baan Kao Vitthaya School. She has a very good GPA of 3.80, and would like to be a teacher. She is from our New Life Project (NLP) in Kanchanaburi. *Mint's* father was a worker at the NLP and her mother is a Karen (minority hilltribe) who is classified as a stateless person. As such, she is unable to find regular employment, and so earns a little income working on a farm.

The three fortunate students will have a chance to broaden their horizons, while learning about Japanese culture and the discipline of the Japanese. It will be a big step in their self-development to bring back knowledge to help their families and society in the future.



## Strengthening our Defenses

On 9 February, representatives from **Amado Group Co., Ltd.** delivered 20,000 bottles of alcohol gel to the DPF for use in the foundation’s ‘Together Against Covid-19’ program. DPF Chairperson, Prof. Sant Hathirat, and Khru Prateep were on hand to receive and thank them. With infections in Thailand on the rise again, the sanitizers are a most welcome addition to our armoury in defending the Klong Toey children and their families against the virus.



## *'Jojo' Sets Example for Other Kids*

Congratulations to Dechawat Pakamhaeng (*Jojo*) who graduated from the Community Arts faculty at Siam University recently. This uni kindly grants two poor students free tuition each year. He also received support for his daily expenses from the Swiss Supporting Association during his studies. *Jojo* came to live at the New Life project when he was 5 years old. Even though he could not choose his background when he was young, he can now choose a better life for his future. He will be a role model for the younger ones.



## Top Tips for Japan Trip

With three of our scholarship students soon to fly out to Japan for studies at Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School, former Thammasat University lecturer and long-term supporter of the DPF, Mr. Robert Wilson (*Ajarn Bob*) dropped by to offer the girls his tips for making the most of their opportunity. He told them to set life goals, be adaptable to the new culture and new friends, be themselves and make themselves likable. We know the students, all from poor backgrounds, will follow *Ajarn Bob's* wise words and make the most of the trip that can enrich their futures.



## “Phantom” Kids Get Medical Help

The DPF recently responded to a plea for help from two families of alien workers, each with a two-month-old baby, who had contracted Covid-19 but were unable to access medical care. The problem was that the babies, being foreigners, had no official identification documents. In response, a DPF staff member went to Samutprakarn Hospital in an attempt to obtain documentary proof that the babies had indeed been born at the hospital. After much searching, the staff there finally located the necessary documents, and both families have now been admitted to a governmental hospital. The DPF believes that the business owner (of the construction workers camp) should also help their workers when they fall sick.



## Honors for BTN Youth

Congratulations to Ms. Kanyarat Sonmuang, a youth from the Baan Tharn Namchai Foundation, who graduated with a bachelor degree in Business English Communication (second-class honors) from the Faculty of Liberal Arts at Siam University. Kanyarat was the recipient of a free scholarship to the university under its quota for poor students, which the DPF helped to arrange for her. A photo below shows the president of Siam University, Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, congratulating Kanyarat, along with Khru Prateep and others. The DPF is continuing its traditional focus of helping underprivileged children to receive an education so they will become role models for future generations. Thank you to Siam University for its vision in providing opportunities for poor students to shine.



## Our Friends from Oakwood Suites Donate Again

On 23 February, we were delighted to welcome back representatives of *Oakwood Suites Bangkok*, providers of luxury rooms and apartments in the heart of the city. Oakwood have been regular, generous donors to our “Together Against Covid-19” campaign throughout the duration of the pandemic. This time they were here to donate a television, a computer, facial protection masks, and Antigen Test Kits (ATK). Khru Prateep was on hand to receive and thank them.



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