



Grassroots Development Institute (GDI) Report For February 2009

At the end of February, 11 trainees completed their province training program bringing many learning experiences and a clearer idea of their future goals. At the main center, Pochentong, 6 trainees were promoted to become province trainees and 14 top students became trainees, undergoing training in full-time and part-time department. Several team and class projects were conducted by trainees and students. Cambodian trainee volunteers have started to receive allowance and computer classes were held to provide more skills to volunteers. To enhance the physical infrastructure of the organization, a meeting hall was build and the school office was re-furbished.



New Trainees

Student Statistic

Full-Time Students: Students number have been stable with 214 students, 107 girls and 96 boys at our main center, Pochentong. For our province centers, we have in total 71 students, 39 girls and 32 boys.

Part-Time Students: For our part-time program, we continue to have 250 students at Pochentong and 208 students in the provinces.

May we continue to be blessed by God so that we can provide education to more students in the coming months.

Educational Program

Full-time Program:

English Language Program

We have continued the essay program to help students to improve in their English. The progress has been good mainly because teachers and trainees have emphasized to the students to be mindful when speaking good English not only in the class but also outside class. Constant reminders to be mindful has made the English program more effective.



Students' Presenting Essays



Science of Life Program

To develop co-operation, unity and creativity, all full-time classes conducted class projects to beautify their classrooms. Such small projects have build class unity as teachers, trainees and students work together to decorate their classes. Students could also enjoy studying in more beautiful classrooms.

Vase made out painted coconut shells

Trainees Program

More opportunities were given to current trainees at the main center, Pochentong to develop their teaching skills, understanding of life and the real working world.

To give more experience to trainees, they have started to lead their classes by teaching conversation lessons, correcting students' essays and also teaching afternoon program such as songs and dictation. Being more involved in teaching has build up more of their soft skills such as confidence, discipline, dynamism, co-operation, love, patience and has helped to improve their English.



Trainee Teaching Students English



Trainee Teaching Students English

To help trainees make better choices for their future, a job project was run where interviews with people with different jobs were conducted. Trainees researched to find out what their lives were like at work and in their personal lives. Trainees were able to see that with long working hours, and just enough money to survive, they realized the importance of education to prepare for a challenging life in the real world.

To learn and experience how team projects are started and organized, trainees managed a project; 'Kitchen Project' where together they brainstormed and managed to refurbish GDI's kitchen. Together they looked at the different problems that were in the kitchen and came up with their own ideas on how to solve problems. From this project, they've learned many skills such as; problem-solving skills, preparation and planning, how to work in a team and how to manage others.

Part-time Program:

One of our newest addition to our part-time program and i.e. Motivation stories has received good feedback. Students study stories such as 7 eagles, Tom Dick and Harry, Circus Elephant Story and Chicken Curry Story. These stories tries to show them that we have to prepare ourselves for the future, to have confidence and to educate our children. The stories also teach them to know themselves that they have potential but are locked or limited because of our upbringing.



Part-time Students Studying

Before the Motivation program started, there was only English, but with motivation, we could look more into their character and confidence. Now they've started to know themselves more. Despite facing problems to make them understand and realise more, some students did learn and tried to do new activities. One of the student became a motortaxi driver to talk to foreigners. Motivation is helping them to open their eyes.



Part-time Students Studying in Class

Class and Group Outings:

Before ending their trainees program, part-time trainees at main center, Pochentong organized a group outing to Tamao zoo. Trainee Chhem Chanthorn expressed that he was very happy to see the real view of animals. When asked how he feels about his improvement he said that, " I am happy that I could see my improvement. I could build relationship with part-time students and I could develop soft skills such as being caring, loving and understanding.

Students from Top Class organized an outing to the Somran Oundeit Pagoda and students from Great Awareness organized an outing to the Riverside and Independence monument. They were very happy as they could build their love and unity with their classmates and test their English speaking ability with foreigners.

Volunteers' Welfare and Training



Volunteers Learning Computer!

After only 2 ½ months, Cambodian trainee volunteers have started to receive their monthly allowance. This is to help support their expenses for their daily expenditure.

Both Timorese and Cambodian volunteers went for a Microsoft Office Training session as part of their hard skills training in the organization.

A new cottage for volunteers' to dine under was build so that volunteers can eat breakfast in a more comfortable place.

School Physical Infrastructure

To have a better place to conduct teachers and students meetings, a new meeting hall was constructed. The meeting hall can occupy over 20 people.

To make the office look nicer, it was refurbished with fixed walls, nicer decorations and a more comfortable area to talk to visitors and guests.



New Meeting Hall



Refurbished Main Center Office