



# BAAN DOI Newsletter

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## Dear BAAN DOI Friends,

In the region of the Golden Triangle, where BAAN DOI is working, the problem of statelessness is still very common. Especially in the mountains, there are ethnic minorities which, because of their origin are stateless. Around 500,000 people have no documents to prove that they were born in Thailand. Because they are not officially Thai citizens, they do not receive social benefits or basic medical care. In addition, access to the labor market is very difficult. In order to ensure that the children, who are stateless and supported by BAAN DOI still have a future, we at BAAN DOI are working towards a solution. We bought a rice field, which in the coming years will be transformed, step by step into a biological farming project. This will create living and working places for the young people and at the same time provide the Orphanage with organic food. What is exactly planned will be explained in this newsletter issue. For the agriculture project, we also have support from "BASEhabitat" a

studio within the Department of Architecture at the Art University in Linz, Austria. Marion Kohler, one of the six students at BASEhabitat, who visited Thailand as part of a research trip will talk about her experiences.

In addition we will report about our annual camp in the Outreach Child Support Program and a donation campaign from Germany, the charity tandem tour from Susanne Schlichtig and Miriam Kirchner.

For the great support during the last year, we would like to thank you all very much and wish you

**A Happy 2019!**

*Barbara and Graziella*

*"Miracles happen from sufficiency"*  
Photo by Guido Brüggem, BAAN DOI calendar 2019





*The students and project leaders of BASEhabitat with permaculture teacher Mr. Sandot at BAAN DOI*

## BASEhabitat Research trip - A Review

*By Marion Kohler Student in architecture BASEhabitat, Art University Linz*

As part of our master's program in architecture with the core area on BASEhabitat-Architecture for Development at the Art University Linz, Austria - we traveled to the North of Thailand in September 2018. Together with the partner organization BAAN DOI, a permaculture center is going to be built near the existing BAAN DOI orphanage close to Mae Sai. This will serve as an agricultural training center and supply the children's home with organic products. This two-week research trip included a group of six students and two teachers; Sigi Atteneder and Dominik Abbrederis. Before working on the design, we had the opportunity to gain first impressions of the region, culture and local life and also to get to know our partner NGO; BAAN DOI.

Upon arrival at the airport in Chiang Rai, we were received by Barbara and BAAN DOI staff member Chet. From there, we went to our resort close to the children's home. Despite the long and tiring journey, we felt alert after the first coconut water and juicy pineapple, so during the drive, we asked questions in order to get to know the area that was new to all of us.

The next morning we visited the children's home and Barbara introduced us to the work of BAAN DOI. Of course, we also talked about the future vision for BAAN DOI and the recently acquired rice field, which will be the site for the permaculture project. After the first information from

Barbara and some discussions we drove to the construction site. The construction site stood almost entirely under water due to the rainy season. Although, it was hard to grasp the future construction site, it was very important for us to experience the site and it's true size, and to get to know the characteristics and the environment of the place.

In the course of the planning discussions over the next few days, for which we usually met at the BAAN DOI Orphanage, we had the great fortune that Barbara's friend and Thai permaculture teacher Mr. Sandot was able to join us from afar. In a short introductory course, he shared the most important aspects of his extensive knowledge of permaculture and his Thai perspective.

(to be continued on next page)

With BASEhabitat, the University of Art and Design Linz offers a new branch of study within the architecture master from October 2018. Its focus is on socially just, ecologically and economically responsible architecture and spatial development in a global context. Central elements of the program are planning, designing and building, mainly with renewable building materials, such as earth and bamboo, and cooperation with partner-NGOs and local communities.

[www.basehabitat.org](http://www.basehabitat.org)





*Visit at Chiangmai Life Architects & Construction Co Ltd in Chiang Mai. Here they are mostly constructing with bamboo.*



In addition to the discussions, we were better able to understand the ideas of the individual participants and also the possibilities of building under the local climate by visiting building projects, mostly made of natural materials. This also gave us the chance to talk to the people about their experiences.

Of course, we were not just concerned with the future permaculture project but also enjoying the present surroundings! In the BAAN DOI Orphanage, we were greeted by the children performing their own dance choreographies, and ended our last evening with food cooked by the children and a lot of dancing together. Another time, we hiked with a small group of children into the beautiful mountain that gives the children's home its name.

We also visited some attractions, such as the Black and White Temples in Chiang Rai, the area around the Golden Triangle on the border with Myanmar and Laos and the cities of Mae Sai, Chiang Rai and at the end of the trip also Chiang Mai. In between, we always enjoyed the Thai food, fresh fruit, local coffee and Thai massage. For most of the tours, we were

accompanied by either Barbara, Chet or another Thai friend of Barbara, Peter. They supported us with the language but above all, there were always exciting discussions and a good feeling, that felt like friendship!

I would like to thank the above people mentioned and all of those that I have met and that accompanied me during this enriching time. As you ensured that my experiences will be memorable for a long time. I am happy to think that this joint project is likely to happen, and we will be reunited again in the future.

The goal of the agriculture project is to provide the children and staff in the Orphanage with fresh organic food and at the same time to provide training and housing opportunities for the people supported within the BAAN DOI programs.

More in the next article of this newsletter





## Food for BAAN DOI On the way to sustainability



*First master plan, created in cooperation with BASEhabitat.*

As described in the previous article, we are honored at BAAN DOI to plan and implement our new project, the establishment of our organic agriculture, together with the students of BASEHabitat of the Art University Linz, Austria and the permaculture teacher Mr. Sandot.

BAAN DOI has bought a rice field that will be transformed into an organic farm, step by step in the coming years. The field covers 4 hectares and is located 9.6 kilometers away from the BAAN DOI Children's Home, in a small village called Ban San Sai Moon.

Our goal is to provide the children and staff at BAAN DOI with fresh fruit and vegetables, fish and poultry and thus move towards further sustainability.

At the same time, training and housing opportunities will be created for the children who are supported in our BAAN DOI programs.

In the following, we want to talk about what is planned in the coming years.

### 2018

Research and planning phase in collaboration with BASEhabitat and Mr. Sandot.

In October / November 2018, the first development works (bridge, road) and earthworks (roads, dams) will be carried out. And a bamboo hut will be built to be used as shelter and storage of tools and equipment.

The initial planting of the entire property will be implemented to increase the nitrogen content and improve the quality of the soil.

### 2019/2020

In January / February 2019 the excavation of the ponds and filling of the land will continue. The power supply will be installed.

In October 2019, we will continue with the construction of a detached house with garage for the workers on site, a greenhouse and the installation of the water system. We will also prepare a workshop, a chicken coop and a place for the production of fertilizer.

### 2021–2023

Additional buildings as dormitories for visitors and students will be built. A community center where courses will be held and a kitchen with dining room will be established.

BAAN DOI needs a lot of resources to implement the project in the coming years and we look forward to additional support. By transferring money to our account with the purpose "Food for BAAN DOI", you can help us to build up our organic agriculture project.



## Yearly Camp of the Outreach Child Support Program - from orienteering to online safety



On the 27th and 28th of October 2018 we had our annual "Camp" which is part of our Outreach Child Support Program. This year we organized the event for the fifth time, so it has become a yearly tradition. For the youngsters in the BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program and Orphanage this is a very special event. A total of 37 children and adolescents participated this year.

With an orienteering tour through the mud, camping together, cooking and lots of games, dances and laughter, the young people who are supported in our two programs could get to know each other better and enjoy the community. But there was also the more serious topic of social media to discuss which is very popular among our adolescents. We want the children to be empowered when engaging online or on social media by promoting conscious interaction and self-determination. BAAN DOI has created a special place for the topic "Online Safety" in all our 2018 programs.



Chatting with friends, using messenger services and social media platforms, sharing interests and photos, watching YouTube videos, doing research on school assignments - these and many other activities are done by teenagers on the Internet. In doing so, they satisfy their needs for belonging, exchange and learning. But they can also be confronted with phenomena such as fake information and news, extremist content and cyberbullying to name a few. In order to protect the adolescents from these dangers, it is very important to BAAN DOI to educate and increase awareness in this area. So this year's camp also was under the motto "Online Safety"

Our colleague, Saowaluk Janvong, raised awareness of the dangers through a workshop on how to critically scrutinize content on the web, recognize false news and manipulated images, and who to turn to when viewing untruthful or confusing content. So, the children and adolescents can benefit from the opportunities that social media can provide and are aware of the dangers.

Our staff member Teaw, is responsible for the Outreach Child Support Program and again organized the camp this year. These are her thoughts on the camp and what she wants to tell the children:



*„I think the camp is a very meaningful activity because it's important that the kids have a good time together. At the same time, I would like to convey to the children that they can also give something back to BAAN DOI. It is nice to see that they use their time at camp to get to know each other and better understand their friends. The adolescents are aware of the great opportunity that comes through BAAN DOI in terms of their education, but also through the network with their friends and the community.”*



Susi and Miri with the sponsored fairtrade-bars from dwp - "die WeltPartner" - in front of the "Weltladen Friedrichshafen".

## Susi and Miri on charity tandem tour for BAAN DOI



Susanne Schlichtig and Franz Börner have been the chairpersons of BAAN DOI Germany since 2017, in place of Jo van der Linde. The partner association is based in Lindau am Bodensee and has over 100 members today.

In addition to Germany, there are BAAN DOI partner associations in Austria and Switzerland. If you would like to participate, you can find the contact details on our website under "Support"

From July 29th to the 31st, Susanne Schlichtig (Susi), chairwoman of Baan Doi Germany, and her friend Miriam Kirchner cycled around Lake Constance, Germany. With each kilometer they collected donations for BAAN DOI. Here they report on what they experienced during their tour.

Sunday 29th July: Bregenz - Kreuzlingen - Stein am Rhein (89 km)

In good spirits, we started in Bregenz and completed the first day's stage solo to Kreuzlingen. But we hadn't had enough for one day, so without further ado we continued on to Stein am Rhein. From there, the Swiss Federal Railways took us back to Kreuzlingen. Our hosts Mareike and Emil prepared a delicious dinner, after which we felt exhausted and went to bed.

Monday, July 30th: Kreuzlingen - Meersburg (70 km)

At the start of the next morning, sore muscles had already appeared. Nevertheless, we decided spontaneously to venture the steep path over the Bodanrück and around the Überlinger lake. With the temperature 30 degrees in the shade, we were fighting to make it up each mountain, before finally going downhill to the lake. Then the ferry took us back to the other side of the lake.

Tuesday, July 31st: Meersburg - Bregenz (51 km)

On the third day, we kept close contact with our supporters. After a stop in the "Weltladen Friedrichshafen", we enjoyed an ice cream at "Don Bosco house" and were driven on to make the mayor's reception in Eriskirch. With our last bit of strength, we rode the final 30 km, until we arrived proudly and happily in Bregenz.

In the name of Baan Doi Germany and the whole Baan Doi team in Thailand, we want to thank you for your words of motivation, interest and financial support. Many, many thanks!

*Susi and Miri*

Note: The donation of Euro 2,400.- that Susi and Miri got on the 210km long bike tour, will be allocated to the permaculture project in 2019.



# Thank you very much



BAAN DOI — Home and  
Healing Center for  
Children

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Chiang Rai, Thailand

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