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## Dear BAAN DOI Friends,

BAAN DOI places great value on sustainability and our long-term goal is to achieve greater sustainability in all areas. This begins by fostering the independence of the children in the orphanage. At BAAN DOI the children have the opportunity to learn various practical skills, for example, the production of small handicrafts or to participate in agricultural activities. During her internship, Elisabeth Loipold from Austria was a part of the daily workings at Baan Doi, and reports on her experiences.

In order to secure a long-term path out of poverty for the families in the Outreach Child Support Program, further education or vocational training is very important. Four out of the eleven young people supported by BAAN DOI in their higher education report on their experiences and wishes.

A lot has happened in the BAAN DOI agricultural project, which will supply the orphanage with its own organic food in the future. The first rice has already been har-

vested and Sandra Köster, one of the eleven students of BASEhabitat, Linz University of Art in Austria, reports on the progress on the construction site.

*We thank you very much for your valuable support. We wish you all*

**Happy holidays and a good start into the New Year!**

*Barbara and Graziella*





*The permaculture field from above*

## BASEhabitat construction site - a field report

By Sandra Köster, Student of Architecture | BASEhabitat, Linz University of Art in Austria

A year ago, six students from BASEhabitat, Linz University of Art, were in Thailand to do research on site and to get to know the construction conditions. As a result, the master plan for the BAAN DOI Permaculture Project was developed in cooperation with BASEhabitat and BAAN DOI. Now one year later 7 students, 3 volunteers and the site manager Domink Abbrederis from BASEhabitat are on site again to help with the construction of the first buildings. Sandra Köster, one of the students, reports.

Finally, after a planning period of one year of the master plan in the sense of permaculture, we are now allowed to start with the realization of a garage and a house. Exactly one year ago we, 6 out of 11 students, started our exciting research trip.

In mid-September this year we, Dominik, Jitka and Sandra, arrived at BAAN DOI as a small preparation team two weeks before the other students. Our first walk on the property was impressive. The former rice field was barely recognizable. Now there is a large pond exactly where we had planned it with a view on the beautiful mountains in the background. A heavenly idyll can be seen here. Banana trees surround regularly the complete green property and all plants seem already have matured. Next to a small rice house, there is already a big hall with a 6 m long water pool for bamboo treatment and a water tower. In the bamboo hall 1/3 of the bamboo canes were cleaned, drilled, treated against termites

and dried.

After the arrival of the complete team, our weeks were from then on in the same rhythm of getting up, breakfast and departure at 7:30 with a pick-up in a 30 minute drive to the construction site and in the evening we were back home around 18:00 o'clock. In the first two weeks we received an introductory course on building with bamboo from Christian de la Sola from Spain. He has already gained a lot of experience with bamboo in Malaysia and Thailand. With him we got to know the correct handling of the material, its properties and the processing in practice. Many of the bamboos screwed on too tightly by us, had split lengthwise and had to be replaced.

With this new knowledge we finished the bamboo frames for the garage and finished it with a metal sheet with a trapezoidal design on top.

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)





*The house is taking on forms*



For storage of agricultural equipment we have planned a small room. It will have a cast strip foundation with a thin base plate. On the strip foundation we first laid a foil against the rising damp and then clay bricks of BAAN DOI from old times. At the end of the process the house gets a clay ring beam brick concreted with a reinforcement bar. The walls are then given a beautiful red-brown textured plaster.

Parallel to this work, another team is already producing bamboo frames for the house. And the Thai workers are working at full speed on the reinforcement and formwork for the strip foundations and the floor plate. After these have been concreted, the work continues directly with the pillars and the ring beam on the 1st floor. And then everything goes very quickly. The bricks for the walls are delivered and built up directly. The first wooden ceiling beams are laid. The first prefabricated bamboo supports are set in place and the bamboo frames are fixed to them. Now it already looks like a house. We still have three weeks construction time and our big goal is to fasten all roof battens on the roof and to install the complete covering so that the house is inhabitable.

*Next year, students from BASEhabitat will again travel to Thailand to complete the construction of the house and continue the construction of other buildings that are already planned. BAAN DOI is very grateful for the valuable support and the good cooperation.*

More information about the building processes and some events around them can be found on this blog of the students of BASEhabitat.

<https://onthethaisite.wordpress.com/>





*Elisabeth Loipold from Austria during her 3-month internship at BAAN DOI*

## **My internship at Baan Doi**

### **From Elisabeth Loipold**



#### **PROFILE:**

**Elisabeth Loipold**

**Age: 46 years**

**Lives in:**

**Kuchl/Tennengau/Salzburg  
/Austria**

**Education: Office clerk**

**Current further training:**

**Social work at the  
"Fachhochschule  
Salzburg", Austria**

**Biggest challenges:**

**Initially very hot**

**Scooter breakdown**

**Toilet block**

**Learning Thai - it's really  
hard**

As part of my studies in social work at the "Fachhochschule Salzburg" in Austria, I was allowed to do a social internship at Baan Doi in Thailand from July to September 2019, which I would like to report about here.

After a few days settling in to Thailand I started my internship.

As soon as Barbara and I discussed the plan for the first month, I realized that my internship would be very multifaceted. I would have the chance to gain insight into all four programs offered at Baan Doi, this made me very curious.

So I was allowed to take part not only in the office work, the work in the orphanage with the children/youth and the new agricultural project, but I could also visit homes and schools in nearby and more distant places.

These visits in to the realities of Thai families were extremely exciting and instructive for me - especially from a social worker's point of view. I saw extremely simple houses and a lot of poverty, combined with individual problems. Often the low income is simply not enough for sufficient health care and/or for the education of the children. Some parents or legal guardians do not recognize the necessity of a good school education and leave the children at home or need them as workers. Others go to work in the big city and send money each month for housing and food, but the young people are left at home on their own.

Baan Doi not only provides support financially, but also by listening,

mediating, educating and networking. The families are strengthened to such an extent that they can free themselves from poverty and lead a good life.

The visits of the Baan Doi staff take place at regular intervals and the life situation of over 45 families can thus be sustainably improved.

#### **Orphanage**

I found the time together with the children/youth from the orphanage very valuable and beautiful. It seems to me that these kids are very lucky to be able to live here, they are doing extremely well at Baan Doi. I have experienced them cheerful, playing, singing and laughing a lot.

Everyone is very polite and respectful with each other and there is a pleasant atmosphere. As an intern I felt very welcome and cared for.

I was able to take part in the English lessons in the clay house and was also allowed to teach a unit. I was also able to accompany the kids to their music lessons.

The child caretakers at Baan Doi are a real blessing and bring structure into the children's everyday life. They keep an eye out that the rules are followed and are there as loving and empathetic contact persons.

(continued on next page)



*English lessons with Elisabeth in the clay house*



*During the production of lunchbags.*

### Handicraft project

Together with some children and a child care taker we started a handicraft project at Baan Doi. We produced "lunchbags" for sale in Austria. These are bags made of fabric, which we have sewn with a washable inside. Ideal for a school or student's snack, but also for taking along on hikes, etc. These lunch bags should help to minimize the consumption of plastic bags and thus strengthen sustainability.

Thanks to the motivation and cooperation of the Baan Doi Kids we were able to reach our set target much faster than expected. Then we started on the production of small zipper pouches, which the children are still producing today.

For me, it was especially nice to see how dynamic the handicraft project has become and the enthusiasm and ambition that the kids have developed.

They were very passionate about it. In relation to participation, all steps were discussed and worked out together. The children were involved in everything from the selection of the color of the fabric to the economic considerations for the sale.

In this way, they did not only learn individual working steps, but also got to understand the whole process, including why the project is being carried out and what the goal is.

A special highlight for me personally was the rice planting day in the new agricultural project. Again, all the children and team members were involved. After a short schooling by the cook "Pa Tu" we were allowed - each in our own speed and skill - to put the plants under water into the muddy ground. Well protected from direct sunlight, we all worked together until the two fields were completely planted. What an experience!

I am very grateful for the many experiences I had during these ten weeks, as well as the people I got to know, the insights into Thai culture and the wonderful nature.

***Thank you Baan Doi for this wonderful time!***

### PROFILE (continuation)

Best experiences:

Happy child laughter

The togetherness at Baan Doi

Excursions to the mountains / nature

Very tasty food

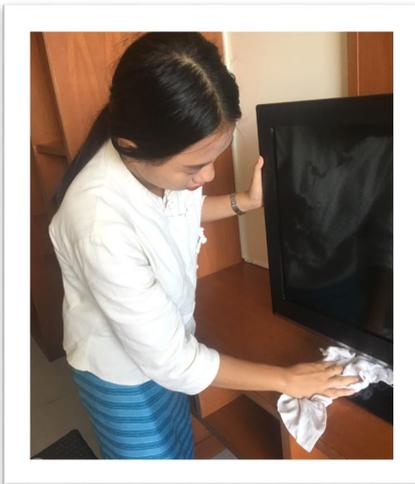
Soothing Thai massages



## Further education in the Outreach Child Support Program

BAAN DOI finances further education - vocational training or university studies - for particularly hard-working and gifted students in the Outreach Child Support Program. This gives the young people a positive future and is intended to help secure a sustainable path out of poverty.

In 2019, 11 young adults were supported in their higher education. What they all have in common is that they grew up in difficult family circumstances and poor living conditions. We interviewed four of the eleven young people and asked them how their lives had changed thanks to BAAN DOI's support. What are their dreams for the future? And what they would like to tell the people who support them?



**Poo**, 18 years old, vocational training in hospitality at Vocational College Chiang Rai

**How has your life changed thanks to the support of BAAN DOI?**

BAAN DOI has been supporting my family and me for 8 years. Since then I have always had enough money for school, lunch and even a snack like my friends. For my family the support of BAAN DOI is a great relief.

**What are your dreams for the future?**

When I have finished my vocational training, I would like to study. My dream is to become an English teacher.

**What would you like to tell the people who support you?**

Thank you very much for this chance. I will do my best and hope to get a good degree.



**Best**, 26 years old, studies in social sciences at the Rajphat University Chiang Rai

**How has your life changed thanks to the support of BAAN DOI?**

Since we didn't have enough money and my grandmother, who I grew up with got sick, I had to drop out of my studies twice to go and work. With the support of BAAN DOI my dream came true and I don't have to worry about my future anymore.

**What are your dreams for the future?**

I want to become a civil servant. A big dream would be to study abroad. I want to earn enough money later so that I can take care of my family.

**What would you like to tell the people who support you?**

Thank you very much for your support. When I have the opportunity later, I want to give something back and help others in need.

### BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program

The BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program enables orphans and half-orphans from very poor backgrounds to stay with their relatives while being well cared for and receiving education and medical care. The program supports families by providing:

- Financial support for education
- Financial support for medicine and food
- Activities and trainings
- Guidance and advice

The families are often from mountain tribes, or migrants and refugees from neighboring countries. If they are stateless, they are denied access to free health care. Also access to education, land and labor law is limited or non-existent. These circumstances create a picture of desolation, reflecting a life in the poorest conditions, with no prospect of escaping poverty. The fear is often even greater when families cannot afford to take their children regularly to hospital or school. In 2019, BAAN DOI supported a total of 47 families in the Outreach Child Support Program.



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**Nina, 22 years old, studies in Science & Technology at the Rajhaphat University Chiang Rai**

**How has your life changed thanks to the support of BAAN DOI?**

BAAN DOI has been supporting my family and me since I was in grade 11. I really wanted to finish high school and study. I have a positive future ahead of me and if I have a Bachelor's degree, I will be able to apply for Thai citizenship. Thanks to the support of BAAN DOI, I will graduate with a Bachelor's degree next year.

**What are your dreams for the future?**

I would like to work in a hospital laboratory or in the product quality department of a company. This is what I studied for and with this kind of job I can take care of myself and my family.

**What would you like to tell the people who support you?**

I am very grateful for the support. BAAN DOI has not only supported me financially, but I have found a family here that gives me more than I ever expected. Thank you very much for that!



**Tong, 19 years old, vocational training as cook**

**How has your life changed thanks to the support of BAAN DOI?**

When I was 10 years old I came to the BAAN DOI orphanage. There I was given a new life. A new family, in which I was safe and got everything I needed and the chance for a good education. I will become a cook!

**What are your dreams for the future?**

I wish that even more children will have the same chances and opportunities as I had. That they can go to school and get an education. And that they will be happy.

**What would you like to tell the people who support you?**

I am very grateful for the support through which I can free myself from poverty and now have a positive future ahead of me.

With an annual donation of EUR 1600 you can give an underprivileged adolescent the opportunity to pursue vocational training or university studies.

Thank you very much for your valuable support!

# Thank you very much



BAAN DOI – Home and  
Healing Center for  
Children

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Chiang Rai, Thailand

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