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Vorgestellt:

Jo van der Linde from BAAN DOI Germany reports about his visit at BAAN DOI in March 2022

Victoria Holzinger lets us be part of her experience at the construction site of BAAN DOI's organic farm

Susanne Reisinger has founded and led our supporting association in Switzerland and talks about her motivation and her ways to support BAAN DOI



Barbara could participate in the Charity-act at the „Heuriger“ organized by the Thai Austrian Society in Bangkok, with all donations dedicated to BAAN DOI.

Dear BAAN DOI Friends,

The main goal of BAAN DOI's work is the lasting improvement in the quality of life for children and families in need in Chiang Rai province. The last 13 years has been filled with establishing and managing Baan Doi to achieve this purpose.

What started with a lot of optimism and a big portion of idealism has over the years continuously developed and grown. Our BAAN DOI team offers the children and families' protection, security and many opportunities for a better life.

It is only through the support and goodwill of many individuals and organizations who understand our purpose and what we are creating that we have been able to make this all happen. In this issue of the BAAN DOI Newsletter, we report from the perspective of the people behind BAAN DOI and how each in their own way makes a valuable contribution to the accomplishment of the whole.

Jo van der Linde, founder of our supporting organization Baan Doi Germany, describes his visit to the project in March.

Victoria Holzinger, one of the students of the Art university in Linz, who spent 6 weeks on the construction site of the BAAN DOI farm discusses her involvement.

Susanne Reisinger who led Baan Doi Switzerland for the last 8 years with a lot of heart and soul, reports about her experiences.

We are pleased, that we are also receiving increased support in Thailand. Particularly that TAS (Thai Austrian Society) dedicated their charity act at the „Heuriger – Austrian Gemütlichkeit“ on 28. Mai 2022 again to the children at BAAN DOI.

Have fun while reading!

We wish you an amazing summer 2022!

Barbara Meisl & BAAN DOI Team





Travelgroup "Cheerful" from Berlin visiting BAAN DOI

The Christmas issue of the Baan Doi Newsletter No. 26 of December 2021 was the initial spark for the members of the travel group "Cheerful" to visit Thailand- quote from page 1 of the BAAN DOI Newsletter: "Fortunately, the children, families and staff of Baan Doi are all healthy and unaffected by the Corona virus!"

"The chance to escape winter and recharge in the sun finally came after three years of travel restrictions to Thailand due to the Corona virus. At the same time, it gave us the opportunity to visit the Baan Doi project," said Marion Wegener from Berlin - Neukölln.

Kerstin Blisse and me, Jo van der Linde from Berlin-Charlottenburg were always involved in the planning and our dreaming and hoping turned into reality. With the three of us onboard; Marion, Kerstin and Jo, our travel group formed.

Arriving in Thailand, we were reenergized by a vacation of several weeks on the small and unusually quiet island of Ko Chang in the Andaman Sea. At the beginning of March 2022 it was finally time to travel north to Chiang Rai. In view of the current corona situation in Thailand, we made a very last telephone check with the director of the Baan Doi project Barbara Meisl. She gave us the "green light" and so there was nothing more standing in the way of our travel group to start its Baan Doi adventure.

One of the highlights of the journey was travelling to the small tranquil village of Thaton which is located on the border of Myanmar, along the Mae Kok River. Here we met with Gerhard and Barbara Meisl, who came to pick us up. Gerhard is the master of preparing original Berlin sausages and brought this specialty to with him to Chiang Mai. He is also a diligent fundraiser: in his favorite Berlin pub "Simons", he beats the donation drum every year.

He is a very good example of the many different ways people engage with and support BAAN DOI.

On Sunday the 6th of March the long-awaited visit to the Baan Doi project became reality.

To finally meet and hug again, after three long years! It was wonderful to see almost all the children on their day off from school. What a joy on both sides!

Not only the children, but also the cook Pa Tu and all the staff gave us such a warm welcome. We even shed a tear or two of joy. After a tour around the grounds, Barbara explained the changes and investments that have been made over the last three years.

To our surprise a welcome dinner was waiting us in the last light of the setting sun! "Auntie" Pa Tu, the master of Thai cuisine not only prepares nutritious, healthy meals for the children every day, but she also knows exactly which delicacies of northern Thai cuisine from her own garden will please the visitors' palates!

The fact that we got to know the four people from BASEhabitat (Linz University of Art and Design, Architecture for Development), who are doing their hands-on work at the permaculture project construction site, is an additional treat on our first day of the visit.



Above right: Marion, Jo and Kerstin

Above: Kerstin and Jo with their god child

Below: Gerhard hands donations for BAAN DOI

Below right: Dinner at BAAN DOI



Gerhard Weihrauch lives 50/50 in Thaton and Berlin. Jo introduced us to Gerhard and since then he has been supporting BAAN DOI every year.

Thank you so much!



Above: the first inspection of the construction site



Children weeding and harvesting the vegetables



On the 08th of March the members of "Cheerful" drove from the Chian Guesthouse in Chiang Rai with Barbara to the permaculture project of BAAN DOI.

Barbara explained at the start of the tour how the corona virus had caused a standstill in the project, in particular, the construction of the first house on the site. At first glance this is not at all noticeable to us, instead, we were amazed how professionally the house has been built from clay and bamboo.

On the one hand, the house will provide living space for the people who work on the farm and on the other hand space for guests and visitors. The house offers a kitchen and a large lounge as well as 2 storage rooms on the first floor and bedrooms on the second floor.

In addition, the spaciousness of the four hectares of rice and vegetable fields and the fish ponds on which a flock of ducks were swimming and quacking was a warm welcome. And on the distant horizon the picturesque Doi Nang Non mountain range

(mountain of the sleeping lady) can be seen...Wow, how peaceful & harmonious this looks to the viewer, we were totally impressed by the whole atmosphere!

Barbara and the students of BASEhabitat took time to answer all of our questions.

We learnt about how they used clay and applied it in the building process, building with bamboo, and what lies behind the philosophy of permaculture. Our questions were answered so comprehensively that we were glad for a small break at lunch.

The fact that we were kindly welcomed by the local workers should also not be left unmentioned here.

All in all, we felt like part of a big family. Intercultural collaboration on a construction site - a very, very impressive experience for the three of us!

Joachim (Jo) van der Linde

Joachim van der Linde founded the first supporting association for BAAN DOI in 2011 in Lindau, Germany.

Today the association counts over 100 members and provides secure support for BAAN DOI.

Through the kindness and commitment of many individuals BAAN DOI can evolve and offer many opportunities to children and families in need.





Above:
Cooperation of BASEhabitat and
our local construction team

Construction site on the BAAN DOI Farm Organic agriculture for the BAAN DOI Home

Below:
Our organic farm from above and
the mountain view at the pond



Three years ago, the construction of a community house started on BAAN DOI's farm in the middle of a huge rice field.

Here, the children and youth of BAAN DOI are taught the principles of permaculture in order to show them a basis for sustainable living. In addition, this project is ensuring the self-sufficiency of the children's home.

In 2019, students from the University of Arts Linz, Austria, designed and helped with the building's first steps.

After a two-year break, a small group of three students and one construction manager were finally able to return and help with the completion of the building.

Together with a local construction team we tried to prepare the building for the rainy season and make it habitable within six weeks. Our tasks included building walls, laying floors, planning the kitchen and the electrical equipment, and preparing the next construction project on the property.

Our first job was building the walls from a bamboo weave that we covered with clay plaster. We mixed the clay plaster ourselves in a huge barrel by stomping

around in it for hours. This mixing-action was our first closeup contact with the workers on site.

Despite a large language barrier, communication worked surprisingly well. Individual words, which they taught us, were perfectly sufficient for the linguistic exchange on the construction site.

In addition, we had a translator named Dave with us for three weeks, who enthusiastically helped on the construction site and made communication a lot easier. Barbara was also often on site to help with translating and decision making.

Working together worked out flawlessly. We were taught new methods and techniques that are common in Thailand and in return, but not as often, we were able to show the workers something new.

One could feel the joy for the project all around, which made the work on the construction site an unforgettable experience. Everyone was thrilled about how much we achieved together during a span of six weeks. Seeing how the house gradually took its desired shape was impressive to watch.



Above and below right: Constructing with bamboo and clay

Above left: The first building on the farm is completed.

Below: good atmosphere at the construction site



The materials of bamboo, clay, wood, and brick created a beautiful warm atmosphere in the interior and this provides an immediate feel-good character.

On the outside, a lime plaster was used, which by its white colour transformed the building into a modern Thai farmhouse.

Despite its unconventional construction, the building fits perfectly with its property and represents the principles of the BASEhabitat course from the University of Arts Linz.

In addition to the basic construction work, a small BBQ with beer and rice liquor, which the workers prepared for us once a week, was also part of the "Construction Site Thailand" experience.

We got to know each other more, laughed together, talked proudly about the project, and were even given Thai nicknames.

This made for an even better working atmosphere and both sides opened up more and more over the weeks.

We felt very welcome. Despite the physical challenges and the sometimes not so easy to endure heat, we enjoyed going to the construction site every day anew.

I am very happy to have been able to participate in this project and all the experiences that came with it.

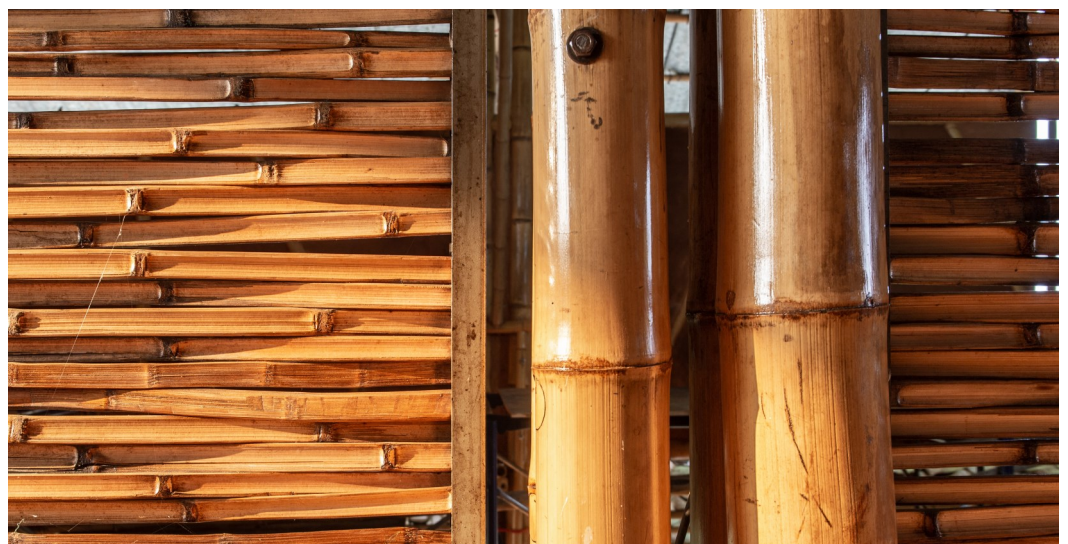
Thanks to Barbara, thanks to the whole construction team of Sak and thanks to the kids! I hope to see you again.

Victoria Holzinger

Since the very beginnings of our farm project we are cooperating with BASEhabitat (architecture for change, University of Art, Linz, Austria).

The students create the plans at the university in Linz and then come to realize the construction of the houses at our farm in Northern Thailand.

This creates space for many new and joyful experiences for all participants.



Dear Supporters of BAAN DOI,



Above: Susanne and Graziella

Below:
A painting from the children to say thanks for the valuable support.



Preparations for the Charity Dinner

Susanne Reisinger founded the supporting association "BAAN DOI Switzerland" together with Graziella Ramponi-Najai in 2014.

After 8 years in the position as president (chairman of association in Switzerland), I was able to hand over the presidency of Baan Doi Switzerland to Graziella at the end of March 2022. When I think back on my period as president, the joy of having made a difference clearly prevails!

We began from a small group of people from the Young Chamber of Commerce, who believed BAAN DOI to be a great vision. Within 8 days, we founded the association and a stable community emerged, which although constantly re-forming, single-mindedly pursued the goal of giving the children in BAAN DOI a good future.

My Baan Doi story started in 2010 when Graziella Ramponi Najai, the co-founder of BAAN DOI, was in the Engadin for the birth of her daughter. After she told me about BAAN DOI, it was clear to us as a family that we wanted to visit BAAN DOI, once we found some time on our hands.

A year later, the four of us traveled to BAAN DOI and stayed there for almost a month. It was much smaller then, a maximum of 12 children could find a home there. Nevertheless, we did not run out of things to do! Our boys were eager to meet the children in BAAN DOI and vice versa. Not even half an hour passed and they were already into it! So, it clearly showed us that children do not know any language barrier.

During this visit, Wan, the mother of a child in BAAN DOI, was very sick. She lived in Graziella's house and together we took care of her. We wanted to give her the best chance to live with dignity. But this circumstance also opened a lot of insights into the Thai system, how difficult and at the same time how easy it was to deal with it. A totally different world was revealed to me!

The situation of the hill tribes had a huge impact on me and our time with Wan allowed us to closely experience what this meant. Through Graziella's support, many things became possible.

At the same time, I felt a closeness to Wan that I took home with me in my heart. When she died shortly afterwards, it underlined the need for a place of security for orphans that only BAAN DOI could provide! The fact that life is finite has moved me to remain loyal to BAAN DOI and to strive to make sustainable support possible.

After our association was founded, it quickly became apparent that we were successful with our approach able to collect donations for BAAN DOI. This filled me with joy from the beginning!

To be able to act out of conviction made everything so easy. To report with enthusiasm and humility about the children in BAAN DOI and to feel that people responded positively filled me with joy. We were able to receive very generous donations that were sent to Thailand practically untouched. This filled me with pride! The fact that our financial support enables BAAN DOI to be an attractive employer with the noble goal of being able to offer children a future - what more can you ask for?

Leading the committee, rolling out ideas, following up on crazy ideas, actually setting up valuable events, using my network, exchanging ideas with my committee, discussing - all this was an enormous pleasure for me.





Dear Susanne,

Thank you so much for your amazing work and personal commitment for BAAN DOI!

During these 8 years, the contact between me and Graziella became more and more intense.

It was important for me to stay up to date. Not only as far as BAAN DOI was concerned, but also Graziella's story was important to me. I was very impressed to see how modestly she lived her life. And then there were her husband and two daughters.

With their regular visits to Switzerland, this relationship deepened and when the decision was made that they wanted to move to Switzerland, I was very happy!

It was clear that with the move to Bever, Graziella would now also bring a lot to our committee. What an enrichment! Having the co-founder of BAAN DOI in our midst was the best thing that could have happened to us.

It was also clear to me that I wanted to put the presidency of the association in her hands. Who was better suited for this position than Graziella!

Now, I am happy to continue my engagement for BAAN DOI. Perhaps with a little less drive, but certainly with just as much heart and soul as I have had since the beginning.

I am very touched to see that the children we visited in BAAN DOI in 2012 have now grown up. We have gained a piece of happiness with every child who goes on to live a self-confident and independent life. It shows how important constancy is in life. Especially for children who had nothing and then gain everything!

I hope that BAAN DOI will remain what it is now. A home full of promise and warmth.

For that, it is worth to keep on going.

Cordially, **Susanne Reisinger**

Upcoming Charity Events of our Supporting Associations

Austria:

26. June 2022

From 09:30, Pfarrcafe in 5431 Kuchl

10. September 2022

10 year anniversary BAAN DOI Austria

The celebration starts at 14:00 in Pfarrzentrum Kuchl

- Author reading with Karin Engel
- Music-Workshops with Liz
- Video Message from BAAN DOI Thailand
- Raffle with amazing prices
- Coffee/Cakes/Thai Food

We are looking forward to meeting you!

Germany:

12. September 2022

Author reading with Karin Engel

19:30, Bürgerhaus Alte Schule, 88097 Eriskirch

13. September 2022

Author reading with Karin Engel

19:30, Zeughaus, 88131 Lindau

Switzerland

25. November 2022

Charity Dinner

Location will be announced.

SAVE THE DATE! Charity-Biketour around the Constance Lake from 15. to 17.09.2023



Thank you so much!



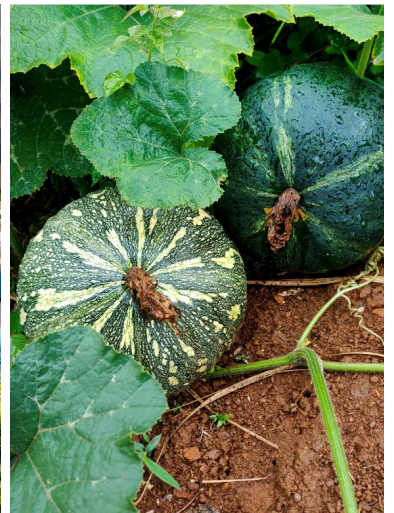
**BAAN DOI — Home and
Healing Center for
Children**

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