

Nr. 30 / December 2023

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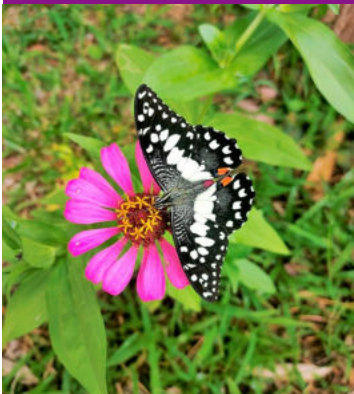
Introduced:

Lina, a volunteer from Germany talks about her time at BAAN DOI

The Outreach Child Support Program with our camp for all participants

Experience Report:

Charity Bike Tour around Lake Constance, September 15th to 17th, 2023



Dear BAAN DOI friends

There are still trees that smile in blossoms,
there are still fish jumping in the water,
there are still birds that build nests,
there are still forests that support life.

Don't let it be the last
Don't let it be the last
We are given to each other for life
To love, to live
and peace is up to us.

There's still water we can drink,
there are still fields that provide us grains,
there is still airflow that gives us breath,
There is the sun in whose rays we bathe.

Don't let it be the last
Don't let it be the last
We are given to each other for life
To love, to live
and peace is up to us.

There are still hands that share what they have,
There are still backs that carry the weak,
There are still voices that speak for the silent,
there are still people who trust each other.

Don't let it be the last
Don't let it be the last
We are given to each other for life
To love, to live
and peace is up to us.

There are still hearts that seek heaven,
there are still eyes that greet each other lovingly,
there are still young people who dream of the future,
there are still children dancing for joy.

Don't let it be the last
Don't let it be the last

We are given to each other for life
To love, to live
and peace is up to us.

from Christa Peikerl-Flaspöler

May all people reflect on what really counts in life and recognise that the gift of life and the divine connection is unique. May peace, harmony and the appreciation of all living beings represent the new power and may contentment spread in the hearts of everyone.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Barbara & BAAN DOI team, families and children





My time at the BAAN DOI home

When I landed at the airport in Chiang Rai, the weather was very typical for Thailand in October. It was very warm and it rained, that was one of my first impressions of this country. On the car ride to BAAN DOI, we bought fresh pineapples at a small stand. It was very sweet and had a strong taste, which is often unknown from fruits in Germany.

When I arrived in BAAN DOI I was warmly welcomed and I immediately started painting with the children. I was very impressed with how well they were able to do this. During my stay, I had my own room with a bathroom. I was very happy about this because it gave me a place where I could enjoy my privacy.

The meals were mostly rice, but the various side dishes didn't make it boring. I eat vegan, so I was always given a dish without meat. Otherwise, it wasn't a problem to get vegan food.

Since the children still had school in the first week, I spent three days on BAAN DOI's organic farm to help out. The work there was very tiring because of the hot weather and the sun, but I really enjoyed it because I got to experience Thailand's agriculture and the work was very close to nature.

We dug up the field there and planted new plants. Unlike in Germany, there were no large machines to do the work. In the evening we cooked and ate together, then played the guitar and sang.

A week later we were on the farm together with the children. During this time, adobe bricks were made which would be later used to build another guesthouse. It was nice to see how interested and eager the children were to help.

When we were in BAAN DOI, we often played a game in which you use a certain technique to jump over a rubber rope that was held higher and higher over time.

But other games, such as ball sports or catching, are also very popular among children. In general, the children mostly played outside, they were only playing indoors when there was heavy rain or in the evening when it was dark. Playing with the children made up most of my stay.



Above right: Teaching English

Above: A trip to a zoo

Below:
Garden work and making
Adobe bricks



Lina from Germany spent the whole month of October at BAAN DOI, to help out during the children's holidays.



Even though there were many language barriers, communication between them and me was not a problem. New ways were always found to explain, for example, how the game works or what we do next.

I was very happy that there was a boy who was my age and could speak English well. I enjoyed talking to him. We exchanged ideas and talked about the different cultures of our country of origin. Among other things, these conversations allowed me to learn something about the culture of Thailand.

But I also learned many new things about Thailand's culture and customs at the farm and while cooking. On a special Buddhist holiday we went to a festival in the morning.

It was at a temple and there were stalls selling food everywhere. Much of it was free that day and everyone could take part. There was music and

dancing and spaces offering games and contests. I really liked it there because I saw how people celebrate in this region.

I am very happy about this as it was my first time travelling alone and outside of Europe. I learnt a lot here, which makes me very happy.

Many of the experiences I have gained have been very instructive for me. I spent a great and varied month here, which was characterised by beautiful but also instructive moments. I am very grateful for that.

Lina Weber

Thank you Lina for your report and the amazing time we had together!!!



To have the chance to spend a few months in a new country with a different culture, can be an amazing experience.

At BAAN DOI we provide the possibility for interns and volunteers to work and live with us.

For the year 2024, all free places have already been taken.





BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program

With our **Outreach Child Support Program (OCS)**, we support 55 families in the province of Chiang Rai every year. The focus of the program is to encourage and strengthen families, despite all the difficulties they face, to take care of their children by themselves and to support them in mastering the challenges of raising and providing good care for their children.

The focus is on improving the quality of life on four different levels.

1. Health

The families learn how they can support the healthy development of their children and our staff members accompany the families to the doctor if they have health problems, as well as help financially.

2. Education

Families learn to see the value in a good education and learn to set educational goals together with their children. Monthly financial support for school expenses is secured by BAAN DOI.

3. Official registration

The families receive knowledge about their rights and learn methods on how to claim them in relation to official registration. They are also supported in the registration process with advice, transport services and financial support.

4. Income generating activities

Families receive the opportunity for training and financial support for business ideas that help them save money and earn additional income.



Above: Through different games children learn to get to know each other better

Below: presentation of a group work

I has been a really successful camp, as we could see from the feedback session with our youngsters.

"I am very grateful to be able to attend the camp every year! I again enjoyed it very much! Many thanks to BAAN DOI for all the opportunities offered to us. The financial support for our schooling and the support for income-generating activities for our families just make so many things easier." Chai





Above: all children attending the OCS-Camp 2023

Below: Beatrix Baumann speaking about health and hygiene during adolescence



"It was so much fun. I really liked the activity about training opportunities and I'm more and more sure that I want to become a chef." Daria

"It was really cool! Such a beautiful place and the food was great. I met a few boys who go to secondary school in the city of Chiang Rai. Next year I will be one of them too." Way

BAAN DOI employs 2 staff members who are responsible for the Outreach Child Support Program and accompanying the families. Our employees regularly make home visits to talk to the children and relatives and make sure that the funding is being used appropriately.

They also visit schools and talk with the teachers to learn more about the children's lives. Our staff members keep records to evaluate the success of BAAN DOI's support in terms of positive changes in the families, with a particular focus on sustainable developments.

One of the most important events of the year was the OCS camp, in which all children, young people and their relatives took part.

Our eighth camp was held at Sila-manee Resort from October 18th to 20th, 2023. 54 children and young people and 31 relatives, as well as 8 of our employees and 10 guest speakers took part in the three-day event.

Many different activities and methods made the program very diverse and exciting for everyone involved.

On the first and second days, the children and their families took part in the following activities:

In the large group, the child protection policy, designed by the families and staff members specifically for the OCS program, has been revised and approved.

The main aim was to show families a common direction with regard to children's rights, with special attention put upon participation in everyday and family matters and non-violent interaction with one another.

The second part of the program, also in connection with child protection and health, was first aid and basic medical care.

Each family received a small package with basic first aid equipment to be able to provide the children with first aid in case of minor accidents or illnesses.

Everyone was particularly pleased that our Swiss guest speakers Beatrix Baumann and Beatrice Gurini were there. They spoke about the changes in the body and health and hygiene during adolescence.

They made a valuable contribution to the event with their "days for girls" project and by providing their self-sewn kits (reusable sanitary pads) for the menstrual days.

I has been a really successful camp, as we could see from the feedback session with our youngsters, where everyone really enjoyed themselves and were able to take a lot of positive impressions with them.

Thanks to all participants!



Selena is 21 years old and works as a translator and child caretaker at BAAN DOI. She traveled all the way from Thailand to be able to join the Charity Bike Tour. On the first evening she did a presentation about the construction of the first guesthouse at the BAAN DOI organic farm.

Charity Bike Tour around Lake Constance

In September 2023, after a year's break, our charity bike tour around Lake Constance took place for the second time, in aid of *BAAN DOI Thailand*. This was thanks to the joint campaign of our three support associations: Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

This time we raised money to build the next two guesthouses on BAAN DOI's organic farm. Thanks to the good organisation and preparation of the association *BAAN DOI Germany*, and thanks to many sponsors and motivated participants from all three countries, an amount of over 26,000 Euros has been raised.

The bike tour started in Bregenz. The first part of the tour took us to Eriskirch, to the Don Bosco House, which celebrated its open day and where we celebrated together in the evening. We were treated to coffee

and cake, Thai food, sausages, magical music from the Zeppelin Ensemble and Dixie compositions from the Wine Guys. There was also a raffle with great prizes.

The BAAN DOI co-founder, Graziella Ramponi-Najai, presented the project and shared her personal experiences. Selena, a young woman and team member of BAAN DOI, came especially from Thailand for the bike tour and used an array of impressive images to explain how the first guest house at the BAAN DOI organic farm was constructed.

Everyone was particularly happy about the video greetings from patrons *Gottfried Mernyi* (Kindernothilfe Austria) and *Fadri Barandun* (professional mountain biker from the Engadin, Switzerland) and this also gave an additional boost of motivation.





Back to Bregenz, everyone was tired but also really happy.

The second day took us to Konstanz and Kreuzlingen. We particularly looked forward to the stop-overs where we were served delicious snacks and beverages by smiling faces.

The individual groups of cyclists also met each other here time and time again. Some of the cyclists took the shortcut across the lake with the ferry, which saved them a few kilometres.

It was a free evening and all groups booked their own accommodation. As an Austrian group, we stayed on a farm in the area around Kreuzlingen.

Here we found, among other things, beds made from straw and a caravan in which we spent the night. After a hearty breakfast on Sunday, we went to the agreed starting point for the day and took the group photo.

On the Swiss side of Lake Constance, we cycled back towards Bregenz on Sunday. The Swiss participants said goodbye in Rorschach, where we were once again treated to delicious food.

All other participants arrived in Bregenz healthy and happy in the afternoon.

We are very pleased that the joint campaign by the three support associations has once again been so successful and is now becoming a tradition.

With the same goal in mind of supporting BAAN DOI in Thailand, the charity bike tour was once again a special experience!

Elisabeth Loipold

SAVE THE DATE!

Charity Bike Tour
around
Lake Constance

July 4th - 6th, 2025





THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



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

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