

Manuel & Martin High School



Taung Taw

School Projects

School system in Myanmar

The children in Myanmar attend at least one year a kinder garden, which is normally placed in the elementary school. A general education is obligatory for four years (Primary School). If a middle school is within reach, the children go to this until the 8th grade. Then they are about 14 years old and can, after a very rigorous selection, change to the High School. The completion of high school after the 10th grade is only roughly comparable with our High School, but is required if students wish to study.

Situation in Bagan

The schools of the Myanmar Foundation are approximately 40 km west of Bagan (near Mount Popa) in central Myanmar, a desert like, low-moisture region. Many villages have no or only inadequate public schools. The long way to the schools makes it impossible, to attend a school for many children. The population is living on a modest agriculture, the cultivation of beans, peanuts and the harvest of sugar palms. There is neither electricity nor suitable machinery and even the water must often be transported in barrels by ox carts to the villages and to the fields. An average family has 5-6 children, as a large family is the only retirement guarantee. This is a reason more to provide a better and safer future to the children with the schools.

Education program of the Myanmar Foundation

In the years since the Myanmar Foundation was active in the education sector, not only the level of education has improved in the villages, also the number of students has increased significantly. Since the year 2000: 43 schools are being built (03/2014). The costs for a school for 100 children were around EUR 6,000 in the year 2000. Today, the costs of building amounted to more than EUR 30,000; due to the high inflation in Myanmar prices of building materials and furnishing are considerably increased significantly.

The State finances the school maintenance in principle. In the school projects of the Myanmar Foundation the costs of the necessary grants for the maintenance were paid by the Foundation. Even the salaries for teachers, teaching materials and the school uniforms for the students are financed by the Myanmar Foundation. They also are organizing things like sports equipment and sport education and pay for it. Depending on the size of the school the annual grant is between EUR 500 and EUR 2,000. In addition, all schools are equipped with proper toilet buildings, water tanks and drinking water treatment "Portable Aqua Unit for Lifesaving" (PAUL).

Most of the schools were financed and built by earmarked donations of individual donors. The Myanmar Foundation is trying to win the dispenser at least also for a certain time to pay the running costs of their donated school.



We were deeply impressed and fascinated from the friendliness and openness of the residents, when we came for the first time to Myanmar in 2005 when Jürgen von Jordan presented the Verena- and the Elisabeth-School to us. Especially the look in the eyes of the children has enchanted us sustainably. The desire to contribute something for the education of the children developed rapidly. We visited Taung Taw Village on 15th of March 2012 at the end of our second stay in Myanmar and were warmly welcomed by the “dignitaries” and the former head teacher. In our luggage we already had a first donation check for the start-up financing of the „Manuel & Martin High School“.

The Building of the „Manuel & Martin High School“ was completed in 2013, on 23rd of February 2014 the “School Opening Ceremony” was celebrated.



The financing is secured 15.03.2012



The building site to the left of the Haluza Middle School



On an ox cart through the village Taung Taw for Opening Ceremony



Guard of honors to welcome the guests at the school



Dignitaries accompany us to the new school



Air balloons rise into the sky



Manuel Theisen: „Each school is a door“



Martin Theisen: „We love to help“

Speeches and Greetings



Mayor of Taung Taw



Jürgen v. Jordan and translator Moses



Handing-over of the gift certificate to the Officer of Education



Presentation of memorabilia pennants from the hand of the principal



Lacquer ware painting of the new school from the hand of the mayor



Enthusiastic guests: Jürgen von Jordan, Helena von Feury, Babette Adam



Dance performance of the smallest



Bodybuilding-Competition



Dance demonstration hip hop



High School Girls dancing



Thank you Babette! She donated the solar lamps for Taung Taw Village



Thank you Ursel und Eberhard! They donated a water filter PAUL



Name plaque at the school building „our“ High School



One of the four classrooms of the High School



The donators on the last school desk



Group photo with the guests from Germany and Switzerland

SOLARPROJEKT

Most of the schools of Myanmar Foundation are built in rural areas around Bagan. There is no (or only limited to monasteries and official buildings) power supply. In terms of sustainability, the villages should be independent of the ongoing maintenance of the Foundation by funding their village social spending itself.



Therefore the Foundation imports solar lamps from China. Every household in the school villages gets a solar lamp lend free of charge. Once a month the mayor of the village collects from every family (1000 Kyatt = 1 USD) this is the equivalent value for saved candle consumption. This money reduced by 10% for distribution and inkasso and another 10% for service, so 800 Kyatt/household, will be credited to a escrow account for the benefit of the village.

The elder men of the village decide with the consent of the Myanmar Foundation about the use of funds in the social municipal sector, such as for additional teachers, school materials or the water supply.

The advantage of this system is that the villagers are proud to finance their own projects themselves and the Myanmar Foundation has less more running costs.

More than 5,000 households in the school villages around Bagan have been equipped with solar lamps already. So you can trust that the idea is tested, and also the practice of distribution, quality, service and inkasso is a successful concept.

WATERFILTER PAUL

One of the largest and most persistent problems in the villages is the lack of clean water. For this reason, the schools were supplied with waterfilter. The price for the waterfilter PAUL ("Portable Aqua Unit for Live Saving") is EUR 1,000 per unit. Paul was developed at the University of Kassel and enables decentralized supply of drinking water. The device only needs water for function. There are neither chemicals or energy nor trained staff required. The main component of PAUL is a membrane filter unit. Turbidities are completely held back, bacteria and viruses with an efficiency of 99.9%.





© Manuel & Martin Theisen, Elektrastraße 15/102, 81925 München mundm.muc@hotmail.de