



Child's Dream Foundation

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A non-profit organisation
supporting children in need
in the Mekong Sub-Region

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Facts about the new Child's Dream Foundation Office you might be interested in...

Dear friends of Child's Dream

We are tremendously grateful and happy to have moved into our own office premises in 2008. As many of you might be aware, Child's Dream was based in rented, residential housing ever since it was founded in October 2003. A steady and continuous growth in donations, projects, programmes and staff members and the expiry of the three year lease agreement of the house we rented on Muandam Phrakot Road made an additional change of location necessary. We were strongly encouraged by our Thai foundation board members in May 2007 to search for a property belonging to the foundation, since owning a property would also significantly increase our credibility vis-a-vis the Royal Thai government. Acceptance and credibility was of utmost importance to us since it allows us to operate smoothly.

Where did the money for this office come from?

From the very start of our office dreams, it was important to us that no money must be used from the Child's Dream general donation pool. We did not want to spend donation money that was entrusted to us for children and communities in need for our own organisation's infrastructure needs. We started searching for donors who would be willing to donate money specifically for our own plot of land and a suitably sized building that would host Child's Dream in the decades to come. We were extraordinarily lucky! In a very short period of time we found three independent donors who understood how important such a permanent office location was to safeguard sustainable charity operations and Child's Dream's longevity. A very special thank you from the bottom of our hearts to our three office donors!

Was the land and the construction expensive?

Compared to other so centrally located plots of the same size in Chiang Mai our plot was inexpensive. Comparable plots cost at least double the price. We were able to acquire the land from a Thai physician who understood the benefits of selling his land to a Thai foundation helping underprivileged children and communities in the Mekong Sub-Region. Therefore a substantial discount on the official land price was granted to us.

After having launched an architectural competition in October/November 2007, our architects - locally based "plankrich Co. Ltd." - emerged as the most inexpensive from seven competition entries in total. Not only were they the most inexpensive, but they also suggested a proposal which was nearest to our own taste and architectural preferences. The building looks very modern. It is very simple, sober in style and has an industrial touch to it. This meant spending much less money on facades and interior finishing. The majority of wood used is recycled from other buildings. The office has a double roof; therefore, no air conditioning is needed (apart from our meeting rooms). Large windows allow working with daylight, wooden panels in front of the windows and plants offer shade. Building maintenance is easy. We believe that our new building offers sufficient space for the decade(s) to come. A small house caters to a caretaker family permanently living on office premises. They take care of the cleaning, the garden and security. The badminton court is the only "extra". It was a gift for Daniel Siegfried's 30th birthday, which was donated by a Japanese friend of ours. It will enable healthy and fun badminton matches.

How many people work here?

In March 2010, Child's Dream has 21 full time employees in Chiang Mai and five staff members work in our office in Siem Reap/Cambodia. The office in Chiang Mai has space for 30 employees in total.

Will you further expand?

Future expansion of Child's Dream will happen in "field offices" located in the areas in which we work. We plan to open another field office in Laos. This will allow us to be closer to our project sites and therefore further reduce cost, since travel expenses will be much lower.