



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

OF THE FOUNDATION ANGELS FOR CHILDREN



BRESLAU, JANUARY 1945

Following a radio announcement to the civilian population my parents leave the icy and snowy city on a bike with me and my little sister. One day later our father manages to get us on a crowded train leaving from Freiburg/Silesia to Dresden. He himself has to remain behind. We survive the bombardment of Dresden. My mother takes the opportunity to board a military train to Bavaria – final stop Grafenwöhr. I was so lucky: born in middle Europe, growing up in West Germany following the war events. I was given access to a diverse education and was able to make the most of it.





VIENTIANE, JANUARY 2003

A visit to Laos and Cambodia leaves me thoughtful. What opportunities are given to children in these countries? Surely not the ones I was presented with or if so, then they would have to follow a more difficult path. How could I help at least a few of these children? In order to seize opportunities you need to know the odds. My mother was able to help me understand by providing a good education.

All children – no matter where they are born – should have the same chances.

With our family foundation “Angels for Children” we want to help children in Laos achieve that goal.



PREFACE

In 2018 Angels for Children celebrated its 15th anniversary: On 23 May 2003, the foundation Angels for Children was recognised by the government of the Oberpfalz as a foundation under public law. The founder Ingrid Engel formulated the purpose of the foundation, which is still valid today:

„All children in the world should - no matter where they were born - have the same opportunities for life and development.“

As a refugee she and her family had to leave behind their previous life in Breslau at the beginning of 1945 and flee to Bavaria. Although she had seemingly lost everything, she still had a future ahead of her due to her school education. After a successful career as a trade teacher, she decided to give others the chance to get a good education together with her husband Paul Engel, her sons Christian and Lars Engel and her sister-in-law Gerlinde Engel. To this day, her vision lives on in the actions of the foundation in Laos.

In the 15 years of the foundation's activities, two primary and one secondary school have been completely renovated and successively expanded. Through the expansion of the premises, sports and leisure amenities, as well as the improvement of the school organisation and above all the teaching, more than 1,700 children now have the opportunity of a better school education every year. Despite the private support, the three schools are still state-run, so the parents of the children do not have to pay school fees.

Since Gerlinde Engel remained living in Laos after her retirement until today, a close and long-term relationship between

the foundation and the schools, directors, teachers, authorities and pupils has always existed. In the 15 years many success stories of pupils emerged, who had seized their chances, aspired to their dream to become doctors, artists, diplomats or engineers and thereby made a better future for themselves and their families possible. With the opening of the Ingrid Engel library in September 2018, this concern of the foundation's founder was once again emphasized and will live on in 2019 and beyond.

We would like to thank all donors and supporters who make this work possible again and again. Thank You and Khop Chai Lai Lai!

Ways to Support

For its work in Laos, the foundation relies on donations from both private individuals and companies. However, the support of volunteers, doctors, vocational school teachers and specialists, who are interested in working in Laos, is also crucial. Donations in kind such as school books, teaching materials, sports equipment, articles for dental care and other school equipment are also a valuable contribution.



Further information about the work of the Foundation can be found

- on the Internet, on the homepage and on the website www.engelfuerkinder.de
- the Facebook page www.facebook.de/stiftungengelfuerkinder
- the English project blog with PH Karlsruhe www.thelaosexperience.com
- the interactive pageflow <http://multimedia.hd-campus.tv/laos#3000>
- and the project website of BHS Corrugated www.rtp-laos.com

For any further questions, please feel free to contact us!

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— THE FOUNDATION

The foundation Engel für Kinder - Angels for Children (AfC) helps children in disadvantaged regions of the world by:

- **building and maintaining educational establishments**
- **provision of teaching and learning materials**
- **education-supporting programs**
- **medical measures**

and is a legally responsible and public foundation of civil law – a charitable and private foundation of the family Engel.

The founders are:

† Paul Engel
† Ingrid Engel
Christian Engel
Lars Engel

Chairmen of the board: Gerlinde Engel, Christian Engel

Foundation council: Lars Engel, Daniel Wensauer-Sieber, Prof. Dr. Erich Bauer



2018 REVIEW OF

THE FOUNDATION ON THE NET - WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In addition to the website www.engel-fuer-kinder.de, the foundation Angels for Children is represented on many other platforms and social media channels. In addition to the Facebook page www.facebook.com/stiftungengelfuerkinder, where articles, pictures and videos are regularly published, the Foundation also has its own channel on Instagram since June: www.instagram.com/angels_for_children. Videos can also be found on the youtube channel.

In cooperation with the College of Education Karlsruhe, the English blog www.thelaosexperience.com on the project „Teaching English in Laos“ was created in 2015 as well. The blog publishes weekly articles from German and Laotian side. The interactive medium Pageflow <http://multimedia.hd-campus.tv/laos#3000>, where videos, pictures and audio recordings flow together, offers a very lively impression of the work on site.

On the project website www.rtp-laos.com you will find information and articles about the Recruitment and Training Programme of BHS Corrugated at the Lao-German Technical College.

We hope you enjoy browsing through the many sources of information!



Facebook



Youtube





25 JANUARY: STUDENTS OF THE OTH AMBERG-WEIDEN DONATE TO THE FOUNDATION ANGELS FOR CHILDREN

At the beginning of the year Angels for Children received a generous donation of more than 400 € from the student body business administration and industrial engineering of the OTH Amberg-Weiden . The donations were collected in the pre-Christmas time 2017 at the Christmas market of the university by selling drinks. The money was used to equip the „Ingrid Engel library“ at the primary school in Ban Phang Heng with books (see entry in September) during the year. In the presence of Prof. Ulrich

Müller, vice president of the University, student representative Lisa Wandhoff handed over the donation to foundation council Lars Engel.





18 FEBRUARY: TEAM VI OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION CONTINUES „TEACHING ENGLISH IN LAOS”

On February 18, the sixth group of volunteers of the PH Karlsruhe took over the work of their predecessors. The project for the further education of Lao teachers at eye level by German teacher training students and graduates is thus also entering its sixth phase. Five volunteers at the Foundation's three schools and two at the Lao-German Technical College tied in with the achievements of the previous five groups and were able to approach new purviews.

After the extension of the project to science lessons the year before, Team VI also started the further education of the mathematics teachers at the secondary school in Ban Phang Heng. Through the contemporary and effective use of new methods and

materials, the quality of teaching is to be improved in order to allow students to receive better education. Especially through mathematics lessons and the natural sciences, the transition from school to vocational education is to be improved.





09 APRIL: FIRST PHASE OF IN-COMPANY TRAINING FOR APPRENTICES OF THE „RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES“

In September 2016, 44 graduates of the secondary school in Ban Phang Heng supported by Angels for Children began vocational training in the „Recruitment and Training Programme“ (RTP). In the RTP, graduates receive a three-year free education from BHS Corrugated at Lao-German Technical College, the leading vocational school in Laos.

After three semesters of theoretical and practical training at the vocational school, a rotating system begins in the fourth semester, alternating between the vocational school and the training companies every two months. On April 9, this dual system began for the first time - for the 41 remaining trainees company training positions were created in 13 companies in Laos, as well as two companies in Thailand, including the BHS Corrugated branch in Bangkok and a customer of BHS Corrugated.

Together with BHS Corrugated, the foundation Angels for Children wants to use this project to combat poverty, poor education and unemployment - in a sustainable and long-term way, the educational path of the pupils from primary to secondary school to vocational training in secure working conditions is to be accompanied.

Further information on the RTP can be found on the English project website www.rtp-laos.com





BEGINNING OF APRIL: VISIT PROGROUP & LARS ENGEL

At the beginning of April Lars Engel, member of the foundation board and managing director of BHS Corrugated, visited the Angels for Children Foundation in Laos together with a tour group from Progroup GmbH, a customer of BHS Corrugated. Progroup GmbH has been a regular donor to the foundation for a long time and organised a stopover in Laos as part of the „Next“ initiative. In the „Next“ programme, Progroup offers customers and interested parties the opportunity to travel parts of the historic Silk Road in East and Central Asia by various means of transport. Although

Laos is not on this historic route, the group travelled by off-road vehicles to get to know the Foundation's work. Tour guides in Laos were foundation director Gerlinde Engel in the primary and secondary schools, as well as Training Manager Bernhard Fürst at the Lao-German Technical College. At the end of the visit, the travel group handed over a donation of €7000 to the foundation. We would like to thank Progroup GmbH and all participants of the travel group for the visit and the generous donation!





29 APRIL: CHARITY CONCERT OF THE TEEN CHOIR OF THE PARISH SCHIRMITZ

Already for the eleventh time the traditional concert of the teen choir of the parish Schirmitz took place at the Innovision Center of the BHS Corrugated in Weiherhammer on April 29th. Under the direction of Wolfgang Ziegler, the big choir was able to inspire the audience. During the concert, lively impressions in the form of a slide show took the guests on a trip to the schools of the foundation and revealed an insight into the lessons, everyday life, culture and traditions in Laos. During the performance several thousand Euros were collected as donations. We would like to

thank the teen choir for their many years of cooperation and commitment and look forward to the next benefit concerts.

Further information on the teen choir can be found here:
<http://www.teeniechor.de/>





01 JUNE - 01 JULY: HANTHAVONG FAMILY VISITS GERMANY

For the third time in a row, Bouangeun „Linda“ Hanathavong, her husband Boontee and their ten-year-old son Thonee visited Gerlinde Engel in her house in Floss. Bouangeun Hanthavong is the secretary of Gerlinde Engel in Laos, as well as an accountant, project manager and much more. The two have been working together closely for more than ten years and live side by side in Laos, on the school grounds of the primary school in Ban Sikeud. Her husband Boontee is a paediatrician, does his national service

in the province of Huaphan and plans to return to Ban Sikeud in 2019 to open a practice there. Their son Thonee is currently in 5th grade at Ban Sikeud Primary School.

The family spent their annual vacation in Germany and had the opportunity to meet many old friends again, explore new places and exchange many experiences and plans.

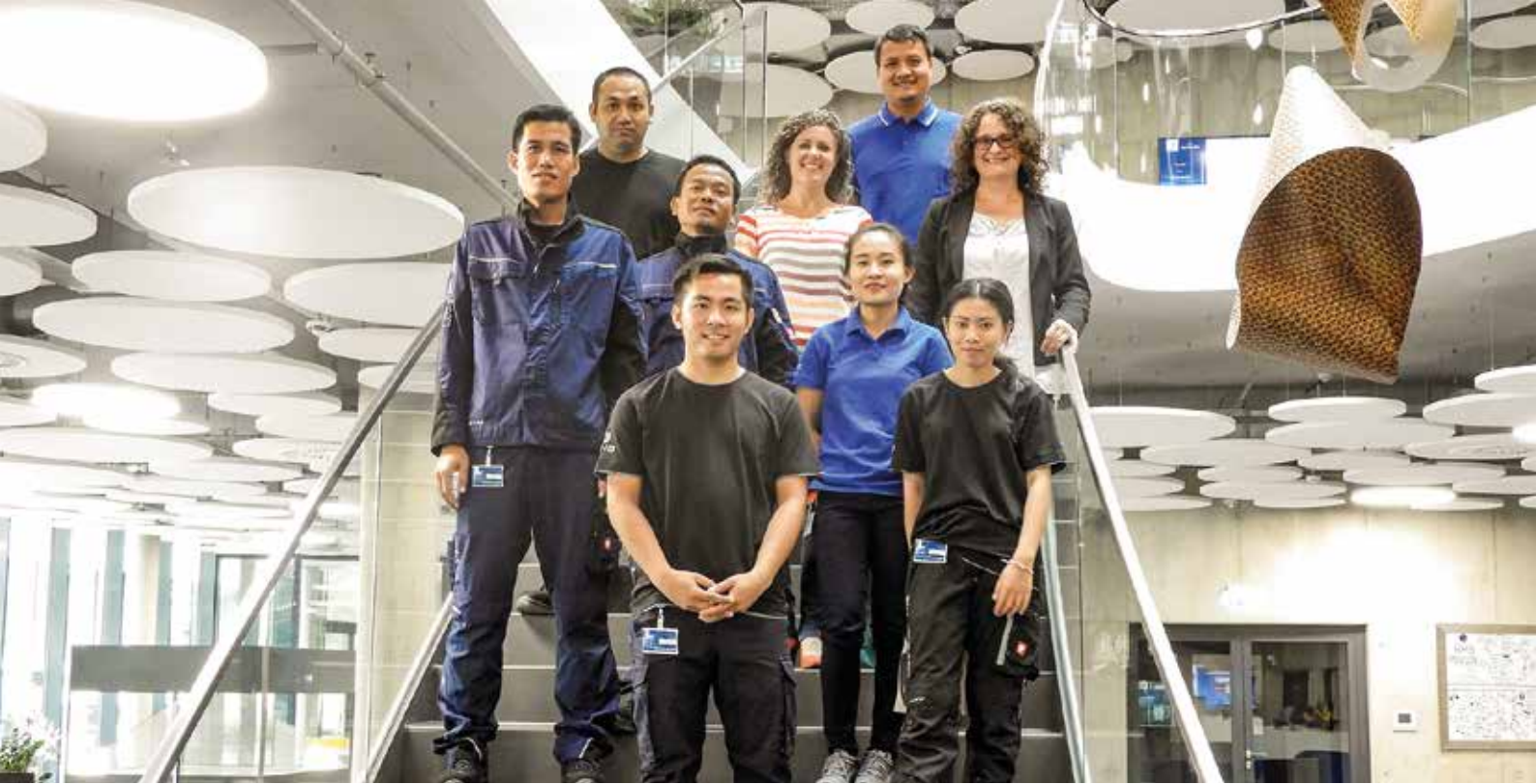




Whoever knows Bouangeun Hanthavong knows what a responsible, empathetic and highly reliable person she is. Originally a teacher, she worked in the Laotian textile industry for a long time and got to know Gerlinde Engel this way. Together they became a strong team that has been conscientiously carrying out the work of the foundation in Laos for years and is close to the people who need its help. Problems are approached directly

and pragmatically by the two of them and pursued to the solution and beyond through their permanent presence. The foundation owes much to Bouangeun's commitment, especially thanks to her incorruptibility, her understanding and intercultural thinking, her persistence and her eyes and ears everywhere. She does not miss even the smallest detail.





03 JULY: FURTHER EDUCATION FOR LAOTIAN TRAINING PARTICIPANTS IN WEIHERHAMMER

As part of the „Recruitment and Training Programme“ sponsored by BHS Corrugated, in July and August the company invited five Laotian trainers and two Laotian trainees in their second year of training to Weiherhammer for four to eight weeks of further training. In a modular training programme at the Überbetrieblichen Bildungszentrum in Ostbayern (ÜBZO, industry wide training centre) and in the production and assembly halls of BHS Corrugated, the participants learned theoretical and, above all, practical knowledge as well as the structure of the German dual training system.

The close cooperation between the Foundation, BHS Corrugated and the ÜBZO for the sustainable fight against poverty, poor education and unemployment is particularly evident here: Siliphone

Arnousavanh and Soksay Aphaiyalath, the two trainees of the programme, both attended the primary and secondary school supported by the foundation and began their vocational training at the Lao-German Technical College in the pilot year 2016. Soksay worked in the in-house service team of a customer of BHS Corrugated in Thailand during the in-company training and was able to gain a comprehensive insight into the corrugated board industry. Siliphone worked as an electrician in the in-house service team at Trio Export Co. Ltd. in Ban Sikeud - the textile company that was managed by Gerlinde Engel until the foundation of Angels for Children.

In the future, too, the circle from primary school to secondary school and from need-oriented vocational training to permanent employment is to be closed on a sustainable basis.





22 JULY: THE FOUNDATION'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER PARTY

The Angel for Children Foundation was officially established on 23 May 2003. For the 15th anniversary in 2018, a summer party took place on 22 July in the Elements Restaurant in Weiherhammer, to which young and old companions of the foundation were invited: the foundation board members Gerlinde and Christian Engel, the foundation council members Lars Engel, Prof. Dr. Erich Bauer and Daniel Wensauer-Sieber, as well as the project managers of the various individual projects Prof. Dr. Isabel Martin, Bernhard Fürst and Johannes Zeck. Besides close friends of the foundation like

the families Bradatsch and Engel, as well as three new volunteers of the College of Education Karlsruhe from team VII, Patricia Hopp, Dilara Erdogan and Nicole Wiesa.

Guests of honour were the seven Laotian training participants of the Lao-German Technical College, who turned the evening into a true German-Laotian evening. Together they thought about past projects and tackled new ones - just for the next 15 years.



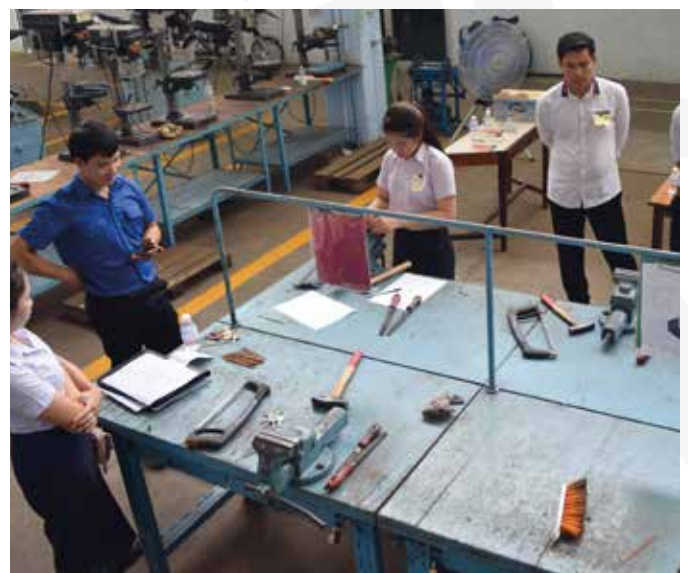


22 - 24 AUGUST: TECHNOLOGY CAMP FOR GRADUATES OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN BAN PHANG HENG AT THE LAO-GERMAN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Also in 2018, graduates of the Angels for Children sponsored secondary school in Ban Phang Heng had the opportunity to apply for a professional scholarship of the Recruitment and Training Programme of BHS Corrugated. In a three-day technology camp at the Lao-German Technical College, the young people had the opportunity to get to know the activities involved in training and had to demonstrate their skills in various fields. With the support of the Überbetrieblichen Bildungszentrum in Ostbayern (ÜBZO), vocational orientation tasks were carried out, such as spatial imagination, geometry and mathematics. The young people were also tested in English and had the opportunity to present their motivation and future prospects in a personal interview.

2018 to June 2021. More than 100 graduates of the secondary school supported by Angels for Children were able to start vocational training at the Lao-German Technical College with the third year of trainees. By closely linking school and vocational training in cooperation with private companies, the vicious circle of poor education, poverty and unemployment is to be broken in the long term.

After completing three intensive days, 33 young people received the promise of vocational training from the beginning of October





SEPTEMBER: SCHOOL UNIFORM IN LAOS

At the beginning of the new school year 2018/19, almost 1,000 pupils from the two primary schools in Ban Sikeud and Ban Phang Heng received free polo shirts from the foundation Angels for Children. Wearing a school uniform is compulsory in Laos, girls wear a black, ankle-length skirt with a blue-white-red border at the hem and boys wear black, long trousers. The white polo shirts with the foundation's red embroidered logo are worn by boys and girls alike. Due to her decades of work in the clothing industry, Gerlinde Engel, the foundation director, still has close acquaintances with textile companies in Laos. The fabric for the polo shirts is regularly donated from the remains of these companies.

In secondary schools, too, a school uniform is obligatory, but polo shirts are no longer worn, but shirts with short or long sleeves. The pupils are obliged to sew on their name and their class above the left breast - with more than 800 pupils necessary for the school management and the teachers to keep track.

Pupils with good school results are also allowed to wear the blue shirts of the „Lao Youth Union“ instead of the regular white shirts. The „Lao Youth Union“ is the youth organisation of the communist party of Laos and supports pupils at secondary schools and grammar schools as well as students at universities.





18 SEPTEMBER: TEAM VII OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION KARLSRUHE CONTINUES „TEACHING ENGLISH IN LAOS“.

At the beginning of the new school year 2018/19, the work of the seventh group of volunteers at the College of Education Karlsruhe began, which is directly linked to the work of the previous groups. Seven volunteers at the Foundation's three schools and three at the Lao-German Technical College are working in Laos until March 2019 to train teachers in partnership. The extension of the program to mathematics lessons could also be continued and intensified with Team VII - two volunteers work closely together with the mathematics teachers of the Ban Phang Heng secondary school in order to incorporate modern methodology and didactics into this department as well.

Pupils benefit from the program through more varied and instructive lessons, as well as through the diverse activities offered by the volunteers - Singlish, English Games Club, Conversation Club, Math Club, science activities or the Mopsy program for preschoolers.



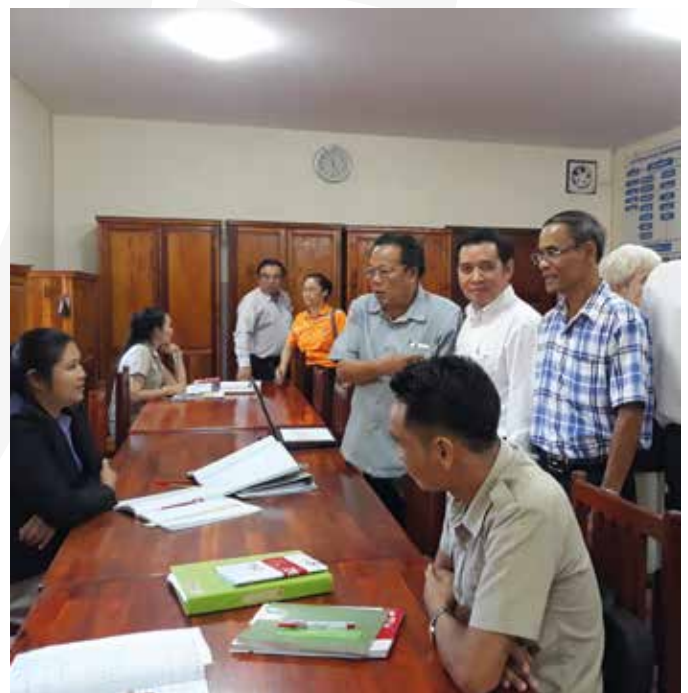


NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A TEACHER'S ROOM IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL BAN PHANG HENG

At about the same time as the „Ingrid Engel library“, the new teachers' room at the neighbouring secondary school in Ban Phang Heng was also completed. Due to the steadily increasing number of students in recent years, it was not only necessary to build new classrooms or adapt the use of existing space, but also to build a larger teachers' room. In the school year 2018/19 more than 800 children attend the secondary school in Ban Phang Heng, almost

150 more than in the previous year. Therefore, new teachers had to be hired again and again in order to be able to serve all subjects and classes.

In the new teachers' room and the adjacent storage room for textbooks and materials, the over 30 teachers of the school now have their own seats and storage space in the cupboards.





OPENING OF THE „INGRID ENGEL LIBRARY“ IN BAN PHANG HENG PRIMARY SCHOOL

What had already begun at the end of last year was completed during the school holidays in August 2018: a new library for the primary school in Ban Phang Heng; christened „Ingrid Engel library“ in honour of the founder of the foundation. During school time the library is used for lessons, after the end of regular school time it is open to all interested children every afternoon from 15:00 to 16:00 o'clock. The children are looked after by three teachers who help the six to eleven-year-old children to learn and

practice reading. Age-appropriate books and materials in English and Lao are intended to awaken the children's enthusiasm for reading.





27 OCTOBER: STORY WORKSHOPS WITH PUPILS FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS BAN SIKEUD AND BAN PHANG HENG

In cooperation with the Laotian publishing house Pum Anh, in September the idea was born to hold story workshops with pupils from both primary schools in order to awaken their creativity to write their own stories with methodical guidance. In October, the two workshops took place in the Ingrid Engel library, where more than 35 pupils between the ages of seven and eleven were able to work out their stories. After reviewing the more than 30 Laotian stories of the children, seven were selected and translated into English. Illustrators and some of the students from the arts club at Ban Phang Heng Secondary School will draw pictures to the seven stories.

These bilingual stories with pictures will be printed in small series as books in Laos in spring 2019 in order to expand the libraries of both primary schools and to use them in Germany as gifts for long-term donors.

On behalf of the foundation we would like to thank the Laotian English teachers Mrs. Bounpheng Singhalath and Mrs. Mittaphone „Mit“ Sichampa as well as the volunteers Meike Weis and Pauline Faix of Team VII for their close support of the project!





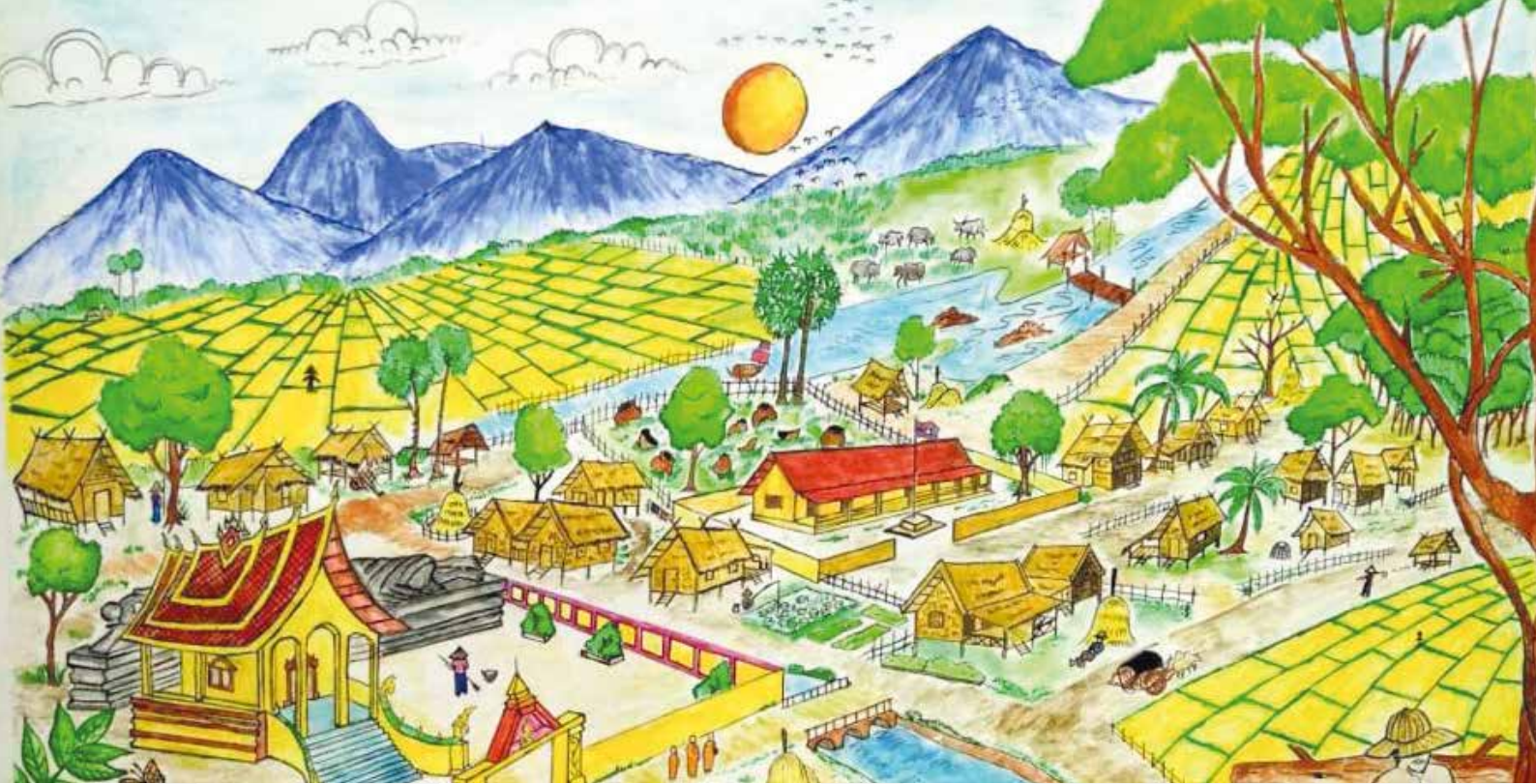
DONATION OF MORE THAN 20 FOOTBALL JERSEY SETS FROM TSG WEIHERHAMMER

At the beginning of July, the Angels for Children Foundation received a generous donation of more than 20 discarded children's and youth football tricot sets from the TSG Weierhammer e.V. football club. The tricots were donated to support the foundation's youth work in Laos on the occasion of several 2018 club anniversary celebrations. The freight costs of the transport were donated by BHS Corrugated.

In Laos, the tricots were distributed to the school teams of the three schools, as well as to private football clubs in the area.

In addition, jersey sets were donated to other schools in Laos. We would like to thank TSG Weierhammer very much for this donation!





LIVING IMPRESSIONS - A LAOTIAN VILLAGE AS A WORK OF ART

Under the supervision of a teacher, the ten to 15-year-old students of the secondary school Ban Phang Heng can freely live out their creativity during the activity time with watercolours, colour pencils, handicraft accessories and much more. Painting is done mainly on cardboard, such as empty Kellogg's corn flakes packaging or leftover product signs from the nearby textile factory Trio - small-scale recycling. The pupils are free to choose their motifs - from everyday life in their village to abstract motifs. At the end of November, Mr Sonexai Mueangsand, a 9th grade student, completed a large-format painting of a picturesque Laotian landscape. The picture shows a Buddhist temple in the left foreground with a lying

Buddha statue behind it, as well as three monks in orange gowns walking towards the village. In the middle of the village, consisting of simple bamboo huts with vegetable gardens and farm animals, lies a school. Around the village there are rice fields, rivers and meadows where water buffaloes graze - a very realistic representation of many villages and parts of Laos.

Recycling also plays a role in the picture - it was painted on the large-format cheque that the Progroup visitor group handed over to the foundation in April.





05 NOVEMBER: COMPANY TRAINING FOR 41 TRAINEES IN 14 PARTNER COMPANIES

The vocational training project „Recruitment and Training Programme“ by BHS Corrugated and the foundation Angels for Children with the Lao-German Technical College also includes two-months in-company training in addition to vocational school training. Starting with half of the three-year training courses in the electrical and metal sectors, the trainees change every two months between training company and vocational school. In the three two-months phases, trainees can put the knowledge they have acquired at the Lao-German Technical College into practice. 14 partner companies participated in the project in the second company training phase from November 5, 2018 to

January 4, 2019; twelve companies from Laos, one customer of BHS Corrugated from Thailand, and the production site of BHS Corrugated in Shanghai.

The training companies in Laos in the electrical sector were mainly household and industrial installation and service companies, especially for air conditioning systems. The companies in the metal sector specialize primarily in contract manufacturing, as well as two industrial companies that integrated the trainees into existing service teams.





DECEMBER: NEW BUILDING OF A MULTI-PURPOSE HALL IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL BAN SIKEUD

Following another generous donation from the Austrian textile company KTC Co Ltd, the parent company of the Laotian-based textile factory Trio Co Ltd, the construction of a new multi-purpose hall for Ban Sikeud primary school began in December.

Already two years ago, the primary school in Ban Phang Heng received such a hall, which provides shade during the dry season and protection from the monsoon during the rainy season for sports activities, school meetings and parents' evenings. So far, the hall has been equipped with gym mats and table tennis tables

with accessories. In addition, a separate toilet house was built, which is not only available to the pupils during school hours, but also to the local football teams who train on the sports field in the afternoons and weekends. Construction work began at the beginning of November and will be finished in April 2019.





CHRISTMAS MOTIFS FROM LAOS

Although most Laotians are Buddhists and do not celebrate Christmas - the Christmas holidays are normal school and work days - many students draw western Christmas motifs towards the end of the year. The classic idea of a white Christmas, snowmen with cylinders, a red Santa Claus and a large Christmas tree can therefore also be found in Laos at 25-30 degrees in December. And some Christmas hats can also be found on the heads of some students - as with the end of the rainy season in October each year, temperatures begin to drop until they start to rise again in March. At higher altitudes above 1,000 metres, there can be frost

and ice - but without a Christmas tree. Although the calendar and business year also end on 31 December in Laos, the culturally more important turn of the year takes place in mid-April with the Laotian New Year festival „Pi Mai Lao“, dated according to the lunar calendar. For „Pi Mai Lao“ no fireworks are set off, but the old year is symbolically washed off with water to celebrate the new year.



PRESS REPORTS

COLLECTED NEWSPAPER REPORTS FROM 2018

- PH Aktuell – Ausgabe 1 (März/April 2018): “Teaching English in Laos – 3. Projektjahr (Team V und VI)”, 10.
- O.netz 27.04.2018: Schirmitzer Teeniechor singt am Sonntag, 29. April, in Weiherhammer. Starke Stimmen für Kinder in Laos
- O.netz 30.04.2018: Schirmitzer Teeniechor begeistert im Innovision Center Kontrastreich
- O.netz 03.07.2018: Jubeln wie Ronaldo
- O.netz 17.12.2018: Unterstützung für „Angels for Children“





COUNTRY OF DESTINATION: LAOS

Angels for Children supports three governmental schools in Ban Sikeud and Ban Phang Heng, two villages about 15 km outside of the Laotian capital Vientiane. So far, the three schools have been renovated and were equipped with new furniture and teaching materials. More than 1,700 students are currently enrolled in the three schools, 440 in the Ban Sikeud primary school, about 500 in the Ban Phang Heng primary school and about 800 in the secondary school in Ban Phang Heng; taught by more than 70 teachers. Angels for Children finances new teaching materials and hires qualified teachers to provide a better education for the pupils. Despite the private support by the foundation, the three schools

are still public governmental schools, therefore the parents do not have to pay school fees. In addition, Angels for Children also takes care of the basic medical care for pupils, offers additional sports and leisure activities and supports the transition to vocational training after the pupils' graduation.





BAN PHANG HENG AND BAN SIKEUD

Ban Sikeud and Ban Phang Heng are two relatively large villages at the outskirts of the Laotian capital, with about 500 houses and 2500 residents in each village. In former times, the majority of the area of today's villages was farmland, in particular for rice cultivation and nearly all villagers were farmers. After the communist revolution in 1975, many foreign companies settled, especially from China, Thailand and Vietnam, which needed workers. Thus many people came with their families from all around the country to Ban Phang Heng and Ban Sikeud in the hope of better jobs and living conditions. In addition, city dwellers were also attracted by the low prices for land and the possibility to build bigger and more beautiful houses in the villages. These immigration waves caused a growth of the villages, as well as a change in the employment structure of the inhabitants. The majority of the villagers used to be farmers, nowadays only 10% of the inhabitants are still farmers; especially since many areas that used to be farmland are now developed lands. Another 10% of the inhabitants are owners of small shops or restaurants; the big majority of the inhabitants are employed in local companies.

In order to be considered as a village, a settlement in Laos must have a school, a temple, a hospital and a market. The schools in the villages are supported by Angels for Children: the primary schools in both villages, as well as the lower secondary school in Ban Phang Heng. There is also a temple in both villages. The public hospital of the district Naxaythong, which consists of 51 villages, is located in the district capital Ban Naxaythong. However, only Ban Sikeud has a market, which is frequented by the people of Ban Phang Heng and other villages, too. There and at the roadside about 30 dealers sell fresh fruit and vegetables, rice, meat and fish products. Apart from the public holidays, which are uniform for all organizations in Laos,

every year an „annual festival“ is celebrated in the villages. This is a kind of street festival; each household invites family members and friends and celebrates with them. Each village celebrates its' „annual festival“ at another time, the date has to be changed every year and needs to be approved by the government. The traditional background of the annual festival is the commemoration of the deceased, which is why the inhabitants of the villages eat food in a kind of procession. Money as a gift for the dead is brought to the temple of the village. A committee decides afterwards, for what purpose the money should be used.





ORIENTATION IN LAOS

Laos is a centralized state with 18 provinces and about 6.7 million inhabitants living in it, on an area which corresponds to about 2/3 of the area of Germany. Today's territory goes back to the former kingdom of Lan Xang , whose name and translation is still associated with today's Laos: the land of one million elephants. In 1893, Laos was occupied by France and incorporated as a protectorate into the colony of Indochina with the present-day states of Cambodia and Vietnam. With the acquisition of independence from France in 1954, the Kingdom of Laos came into being, in 1975 the communist party Pathet Lao took power after a long civil war and proclaimed the present state of the Lao

People's Democratic Republic. After a period of isolation, the country opened up in the 1990s and became an increasingly popular tourist destination.

Administratively, the 18 provinces are divided into districts (muang), administrative groups made up of several villages (" groups") and individual villages (ban). The Mekong flows through the whole country of Laos and forms most of the Lao border with Thailand. Located by the Mekong is the Laotian capital Vientiane with its 800,000 inhabitants - by far the largest city in the country. Although the urban centre of the country, Vientiane is





also divided into muangs , administrative groups („ group „) and bans . This and the cityscape show that the city has gradually grown from individual villages into one core.

Ban Sikeud and Ban Phang Heng - the ban is here the additive for village - are located in the province Vientiane Capital, in the district Naxaythong, about 15km from the city centre of the capital. The district comprises more than 30 villages grouped into individual administrative groups. The school authority also works according to this structure - most villages have a primary school, each administrative group has a lower secondary school, and the entire district has a high school.

Ban Sikeud and Ban Phang Heng each have a primary school, which have been supported by the Foundation since 2004 and 2013 respectively. Together with six other villages, they form an administrative group that has a secondary school - the lower secondary school in Ban Phang Heng supported by Angels for Children since 2010.

You would like to visit the foundation in Laos?
Feel free to contact us! info@engelfuerkinder.de





SCHOOL SYSTEM IN LAOS

In Laos, the regular school period is nine years, five of which are primary school and four secondary school years. There are hardly any kindergartens or they are only gradually being established in the cities. Family cohesion in Laos is very strong - either family members look after the children when the parents go to work, or the children are taken to work with them.

After nine years of regular schooling, graduates leave secondary school at the age of 14-17. They can then either start vocational

training at a state vocational school like the Lao-German Technical College, look for a job as an unskilled worker or go on to grammar school for another three years. After successful graduation from grammar school, the pupils receive the Abitur, with which they can start studying at a Laotian university. There are several universities in Laos, the largest being the National University of Laos in Vientiane with more than 20,000 students. In the larger cities such as Luang Prabang, Pakse or Savannakhet, there are smaller universities and other vocational schools.





The formal school system was established in Laos during the French colonial period from 1893 to 1954. However, the traditional education system is much older and was and still is located in Buddhist temples and monasteries. The visit of temple schools was and is a possibility, especially for poor families, to give their children a good education. From primary schools to grammar schools, temples and monasteries still operate a school system

equivalent to formal education. The children live as monks in the facilities during their school time and follow the Buddhist rites and lifestyles there.









Photos by: Isabel Martin, Bernhard Fürst, Johannes Zeck, Bouangeun Hanthavong, Khamsing Nanthavongdouangsy, Isabell Kaemmer, Shirin Ud-Din, Julia Gruettner, Svenja Walschburger, Fabian Stober, Meike Weis, Malin Frahm, Jasmin Unterweger, Pauline Faix, Anja Schuler, Natalie Wickmann, Marleen Linder, Veronika Golla und Eva Seifried (o.netz).



„ALL CHILDREN IN THE WORLD SHOULD
- NO MATTER WHERE THEY WERE BORN -
HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE
AND DEVELOPMENT.“

† INGRID ENGEL





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This report was created by the foundation „Angels for Children“, in the following designated as „AfC“.

AfC is a foundation of civil law in accordance with paragraph 80, 81 based in Weiherhammer. Certificate of recognition from the Government of Upper Palatinate, Regensburg, 29. October 2003.