

DRAGON'S EGG

VIENTIANE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (VIS)
COMMUNITY SUPPORT THROUGH THE
LAO SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND (LSDF)



Issue 1 - February 2016

Key Milestones

- 2010 Sister School Project started between VIS and Ban Saphanthong Tai Primary School
- 2010 Establishment of San Fan – a fund set up to support a specialist English teacher at the sister school
- 2012 Official opening of library at sister school
- 2013 Youth Educating Youth School (YEYS) Project initiated by VIS student body
- 2015 Establishment of Lao School Development Fund (LSDF)

What is the Dragon's Egg?

Dragon's Egg was conceived as a scheme to enable VIS - generally thought of as a school for privileged students - to give back to the larger Lao community through targeting Lao schools, teachers and students while at the same time enriching the experience of VIS students.

The VIS Parents and Friends Association (P&F) has been supporting many VIS student initiatives and school projects that bring benefit to different schools in Lao. These student initiatives and school activities are important components of community action and services implemented through the VIS Secondary Action Learning Service Adventure (SALSA), VIS Student Council Sister School Project with a primary school in Ban Saphantong Tai, and VIS Co-Curricular Program (CCP) activities in schools and different institutions around Vientiane and beyond.



Lao School Development Fund (LSDF)

In 2015, in response to the new VIS strategic direction, the P&F envisioned an expansion of its support to student-led initiatives that would benefit other Lao schools in Vientiane and beyond. The LSDF was therefore created to enable this expansion.



The Sister School Project

Since 2010, VIS has maintained an ongoing sister school relationship with Ban Sapanthong Tai, a primary school located nearby, through activities led by teachers and the student body. These included the building and stocking of a library, computer access

through donated devices and ongoing technical support, the building of play areas and infrastructure upgrades, as well as invitations to participate in VIS school events and co-curricular activities to foster student-to-student relationships.

The Sister School Project is made possible through fundraising efforts by the Parents and Friends Association (P&F) and the VIS Student Council, generous support from sponsors, as well as a loan from the school administration which has since been fully paid off.

Youth Educating Youth School (YEYS)

YEYS was initiated by Ms Kim Green and VIS student Beautrice in 2012, and commenced in 2013 as an After School Activity on alternate Saturdays. Lessons taught to grades 1 to 5 students from Ban Saphantong Tai included Music, English, Art, Sports/Games, Maths and Science, and are supervised by VIS teachers.

While lessons take place between students, two VIS teachers conduct English lessons for all four teachers from the sister school.

YEYS, with support from the P&F, used various school events to raise funds to provide lunches during the Saturday sessions, purchase school materials for the sister school, as well as provide scholarships to 10 of their students.



Hopes for the future

Through Dragon's Egg and the creation of the Lao School Development Fund (LSDF), the VIS community envisions an expansion of the Sister School Project and other student-led community services and activities to other schools in Vientiane and beyond.



Year 9 Students painting in Xieng Khouang Province during SALSA.

This is already happening through VIS Secondary Action Learning Service Adventure (SALSA).

In 2015, the VIS Student Council and VIS Students successfully raised a significant portion of funds needed for supporting infrastructure upgrades to 7 schools in Dong Daeng, Champassak province. The funds were matched by the P&F, thus making it possible for VIS students to commence their good work.



Grade 6 mixing concrete for a Village Community Hall during SALSA.

THANK YOU

On behalf of VIS, the P&F would like to thank all our donors for their generous and continued support that has enabled our students to put something back into the wider Lao community.

