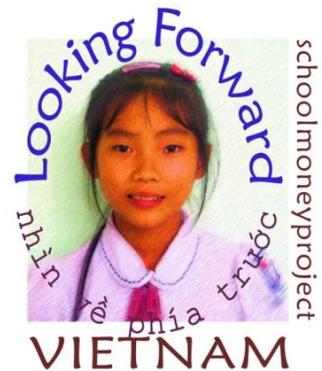


Newsletter 15, 12 July 2016

Dear sponsors and friends of school money project

FOUNDATION LOOKING-FORWARD



You are now reading our 15th newsletter on paper, which you might think is bad for the environment. We keep sending a printed newsletter because we believe this is the most effective way to reach readers. Sending the newsletter by e-mail is cheaper, but they easily disappear in a mailbox maze, unread.

Before we started this Vietnamese school project in 2008, I (Johan) was involved in the local nature and environmental association for more than 15 years. Already in 1991 I went, along with a few more environmentally concerned Dongen servants, to the shopmanagers to ask them not to give one-time plastic bags to their customers, but "our" Eco-cotton reusable bag. These business leaders were considering: a good environment or service to the customer? (*Nowadays, in 2016, the dutch government has banned the plastic disposable bags*)



My natural and environmental heart skips a beat very often during our stay in Viet Nam. If in Europe NOTHING was done/prohibited, the environment would be just like it is nowadays in Viet Nam; thick black smoke soot from chimneys and exhausts. Unprotected farmers who spray their rice fields with heavy toxic pesticides (there is quite a lot of cancer). Garbage is everywhere; next to the roads, in the paddies, in the water of ditches, in the rivers and in the South China Sea (in April of this year, the beaches of Central Viet Nam were covered with millions of poisoned fish washed up dead. The cause was a discharge of a metal factory into the sea).

Last September, I made a 2-day walking tour in the Yok Don National nature reserve (next to the Cambodian border). My guide Huynh asked me if I wanted to sleep in the forest house with the staff or in a tent by myself. "Sleeping outside, in a tent, in a tropical forest; is that safe?" I asked him. "No plobblem; the tent is closed to snakes" he said. "Am I supposed to not be afraid of all wild animals in this primeval forest?". "There aren't any of them anymore," my guide said (I did sleep in the tent, but still..).

The next day I was allowed on the back of the motorbike of Huynh. After a long trip on sandy paths through the nature reserve (without birds!?) Huynh took me along the grave monument of elephant King Ama Kong. With crooked toes I stood at the pompous tomb of someone who had caught and tamed 298 Asian elephants in the jungles of Central Viet Nam. That Ama Kong became (as a thank you?) 102 years old! Education and information is, according to many people (my friends!), the solution to the environmental problem. Someone who is not aware, will not change its behaviour. In order to help and save the environment and nature in Viet Nam we want we want more children to become educated!

Last school year, our project helped 83 pupils-in-need for a full year education. Only one student, 26-1. Phuong Thao, did not complete the school year (grade 11). In February, Thao stopped going to school. Her grades of the 1st semester were not good and because she felt ashamed, she didn't wanted to go to school anymore. It is difficult to persuade an adolescent

of 16 years old. Unfortunately we did not succeed. In August we will visit Thao once more to check how she is doing. Maybe we can persuade her to continue studying at another school. Phuong Thao is already in our school project since May 2010, she's one of us!

Another pupil, 86-1. Thu Ha, will not be coming back to school (class 8) in September. Ha has to go to work, because her mother has problems with her legs and cannot work anymore. Manager Hiep, as well as the Director of the Cau Thang school, have tried to get Ha back to school, but that didn't work. We are very sorry!

In September we start yet again with 83 students in our project. Their places will be filled by new students-in-need, selected by the school boards. Like each year, in September we will visit and check all new pupils at their homes and at school.

We are proud to report that 8 students have passed their final exam in July. In 2009 there was the need to include them in our project. Now, 6 years later, they have their high school diploma. This gives them the opportunity to continue studying. They now have the same opportunities as their classmates. All 8 students have studied well during this 6 years and they did not cause any problems to the foundation.

It will not be easy to say goodbye to them in August. We have a fine, friendly relationship with the now 18-year-old students. They all get a farewell bonus of 2 million Dong (80 Euro) to buy a uniform and school books for the next (vocational) training. Our foundation can't support them anymore, because they are going their own way, to different cities. Luckily now they are able to do it, they are strong people!



Because of these 8 L-F-leavers, new students are nominated to take their place. 7 out of 8 L-F-leavers had a personal supporter in the Netherlands. The supporters of Thien, Kim, Truc, Tin, Nhung, Truong and Lich now have the free choice by starting to sponsor a new pupil or to stop supporting our school project. Of course we strongly hope that these sponsors obtained so much fun, use and have trust in our project, that they will continue sponsoring. Supporters of the early school leavers Thao and Ha have already indicated they want to help a new pupil. In principle, we support no more than one pupil from each family to keep things equal and to prevent corruption. The financial situation of 2 of our L-F-leavers is still very bad. Because of this, the younger brother of these 2 (Truc and Truong) will be joining our project.

We (Lidy and Johan) will once again meet "our" students in Nha Trang and Dien Khanh from

22 August to 13 September 2016.

Follow us during these days on the L-F Website "Reisverslagen"

For the individual supporters of a pupil that want to give a greetings card: write in English, fresh colours, no cat images or holiday snaps. An "English" card. Send to us, so we will receive it no later than 11 August!

During the school year, Manager Hiep settles the finances in Viet Nam in a perfect way. She maintains close contact with the pupils and school boards. We are monitoring everything from a distance, but once a year we travel to Viet Nam. We need/want to meet each student. Together with Hiep we visit all new pupils at their home and we go to the governmental schools that we co-operate with. We wish the project-leaving pupils good luck with their

further life/study. We ask them to contact us. If finances make it possible, we go a day out with all L-F-pupils to a playground/swimming pool/park, every two years.

Similarly this event will take place this year on Sunday 28 August. Hiep is already busy with organising the location, activities, the buses and the permissions of parents/guardians and school boards.

The costs of such a day trip (including a good, healthy meal) are approximately 10 Euro per pupil. Our fund has the possibilities to pay for this, but if there are individual supporters of a pupil that would like to give their pupil something, that would be nice. (We think a day trip is the best thing a supporter can give to their pupil; any L-F-pupil would thus get the same.)



For those who have missed it: in May, the Looking-Forward school project has won an honourable mention in the newspaper BN/DeStem development Prize 2016! We won 500 Euro! We participated in this race, because it was organised by our own regional newspaper. We'll do our best to obtain extra donations for the pupils (yet) without a personal supporter and for other school expenses. However, the number of supported students in Viet Nam should not increase, much more. We think the

individual contact with the pupils on recognizable and friendly basis is very important. Because many pupils have the same (first) name (Thao, Thu, Ngan, Nhung), they all have a L-F-number, but that's just for the administration! We treat all students with respect and equality.

The Looking-Forward school project is doing very well on all part. In addition to sponsors of a particular pupil, our fund has a good number of regular contributors that cover the extra one-time school fees and thus nearly equal the funds balance. (of course we will use extra donations for educational means for children who otherwise would not obtain it). The board and the administration in the Netherlands is well arranged and manager Hiep has everything controlled in Viet Nam.

Financial accountability

On 1 July 2016 an amount of € 7,764.10 is on the bank account of Looking Forward (including prepaid tuitions).

During the school year 2015-2016, the foundation financially supported 84 students = 35 boys and 49 girls.

73 students have a personal supporter. (7 of them by Looking-Forward United Kingdom (England); from September on, this will be even 9)

Private costs are administrated separately from Looking-Forward money.

Percentage cost project management and fund administration in comparison to the income in 2015 = **3.51%**.

All sponsors can get full access to the L F-administration. The policy plan and the statutes of the foundation are published on the L-F website.

Thank you for supporting the Looking-Forward school project in Viet Nam!

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