

**Newsletter No. 7: Opening in Myanmar + School Floor in Laos**

Hello Everyone! I hope you are all well and happy! The long silence is due to the longish period of no news as i have been involved in other things... But now here is the



NEW NEWS...

1. The building for the orphanage in Myanmar has undergone the soft Opening On October 16. Ah yes, you probably don't know what soft opening is. The question was whether to leave the new building empty until i could go next year or to have a sort of

preliminary opening and then The-Real-Thing next year so that the building could be occupied. OF COURSE we chose the latter and so here are the pictures for the pre-opening = soft



opening until next year when we will have



the full opening.

Here is the letter from Tinn Winn Nge who has worked so hard to make this a good project =



no waste, well built, in tune with the place etc. She has visited and kept track of the money throughout the process of the last 7+ months. Thank you Nge-nge from us and from the girls who will live there. Here is her letter:



Dear Sunim,

On 16th Oct 2010, we opened the new building at Twantay Orphanage school compound. All children were delighted to get a new building. We offered 18 monks lunch and donated lunch for 550 kids. We departure from hotel early 6:30 am and arrived there around 8:00 am morning. And we started to arrange the new



curtains, new pillows, bed sheets and linoleum for upper flooring. The ceremony was held on 9:00 am auspicious time. After that we had the monk's speech for a little while and later on ribbon cutting ceremony.

Bath room and toilet block are finished. U Japan (Nge-nge's husband's nickname) took many of photos for you. I send some for you to review. Sunim, for your information your balance of cash. We used for linoleum flooring around 71100 kyats (around 80 USD) but still have around 400,000 kyats in hand (USD 400) I keep recorded everything. When are you expect to come ? I am sure that when you see the new building you will be

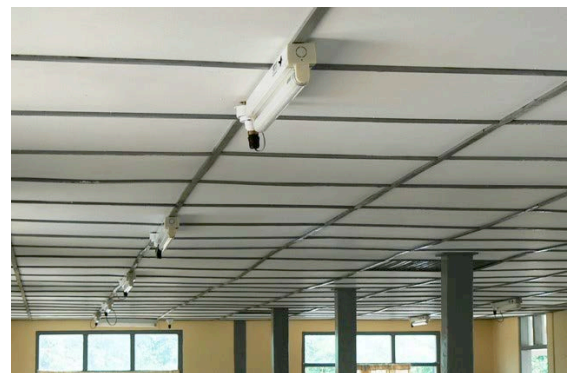
truly pleased from your heart. Well...for on behalf of DAC, we are happy to do all your donations.and look forward to do many more for it.. Thanks and best regards, nge nge



This was not a solo effort. Not only did some Singapore Buddhists club together under my dear friend Ven. Mun-cheng Soofoo of Khoon Chee Vihara to finance the toilets, bathrooms and cupboards but also an entire family aided our efforts by supplying the electricity. My heart is always warmed by

people getting together to do something for we are so lucky that if we don't share with the less fortunate then we negate our humanness, we waste our precious

human birth and close our hearts.



Generosity is a special gift which benefits the giver and the receiver. Actually the ideal giving is when the giver, the gift and the receiver merge so that there is no distinction. For between the giver, the gift and the receiver there should be no division. This means that the perfume of the greatness of giving is maintained without being spoiled by expectation or judgment.

Personally i think this is one of the reasons that in Asia you never open a gift in front of the giver



but wait until you have returned home. Thus there is no disappointment at not having received what was wanted.....

1. Last year we suggested to Melinda Lies, an American woman specialized in children and peace studies, to go to help Wayne at Wat Opot and she has gone there to help

[www.watopot.org](http://www.watopot.org). Please have a look at her lovely essay on the art center <http://www.watopot.org/princessfiona-has-arrived/>. It looks as if she might stay awhile...

2. The floor of the school in Laos has been completed. Unfortunately they miss calculated and had



some money left over AND the people of the village decided to add what they could. Result? They built a little of the walls....!!!!???? In fact this poor school, way off in the wilds suffered from destruction every time there was a heavy rain. Now they have a solid floor and life goes on...



That's all for now. May you all be well and happy! **Best Wishes for the New Year**, mujin

