

FRIENDS OF THAILAND
Small Project Assistance
REPORT FORM

You may also send photos you take during the implementation of your project as attachment(s) to the email address above.

PREPARE YOUR REPORT TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

Date of Report: Wednesday, 2/28/18

Total Funds Received: 49,837 THB

Type of Report (check one): Final Ongoing (If this is an Ongoing Report, it is ___ (e.g. #1) of ___ (e.g. 3) Reports to be Submitted)

Title of Project: TYT Festival 2018, Pathum Thani

Dates of Project: February 23-25, 2018

Project Manager (PCV Counterpart(s)): Ms.Sudarat Suksa-ard

Name and Group Number of PCV: Kaori Cierra Alonso Yamamoto PCV 129

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/PROJECT:

The Thai Youth Theatre festival is an annual three-day long English & life-skills focused camp in Pathum Thani, Thailand. This year the camp took place on February 23rd, 24th and 25th of 2018. Thirteen different schools and a total of 185 participants came from all around Thailand to present the English spoken plays they had prepared in the months leading up to this camp as well as participate in the variety of acting/English activities provided by the Thai Youth Theatre Committee.

DESCRIBE HOW THE PROGRAM/PROJECT'S OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS WERE MET:

This project's objectives and benefits exceeded those of our original expectations. Our original objectives included improved functional English skills, leadership skills, life skills, developing healthier lifestyles and building connections. We not only were able to provide these students the opportunity to showcase their increased English ability vis-a-vis the plays they had been preparing in their respective communities for months leading up to this event, but we were also able to delve deeper into benefits of theatre as a creative outlet. Each school that arrived had thoroughly prepared their performances, some even bringing elaborate set designs. The volunteers that came with their communities as well as the Thai Youth Theatre committee were proactive and active during the entirety of the camp. This hands-on and tireless work ensured that each student present

was able to benefit from this camp. On the final day of the camp, the majority of students and counterparts that had attended this camp voiced their happiness at its success and were even already asking about attending the camp next year in 2019. It was a real success!

DESCRIBE HOW THE PROJECT SCHEDULE AND INITIATIVES WERE IMPLEMENTED:

Each school was asked to write and prepare plays (in English!) to present at this festival in accordance with this year's theme: Your Local Superhero. The plays were absolutely incredible! Students choices for their local superhero ranged from a (super) Yai to mothers in their community to the local Nayok. The room was overflowing in pride from all sides - students, PCVs and Counterparts.

Other camp sessions included making Ugly Dolls, Little Doors, Levels and Status, and Superhero Comic Book all of which focused on expression, critical thinking and re-thinking beauty standards. These sessions combined with cape-making, lip-sync battles, a drag show and the incomparable energy from each and every one of the participants made for an unforgettable experience. The weekend ended with a goodbye activity focused on appreciating the diversity, open-mindedness, courage and individuality each student brought to the camp. Students, counterparts and PCVs alike left with a greater appreciation for theatre's ability to cultivate functional English skills, a deeper sense of empathy and an overall increase in confidence and self-esteem.

DETAIL THE PROGRAM BUDGET AS IMPLEMENTED:

TYT Festival Meals	50 THB	5	250 THB
TYT Snacks	30 THB	2	60 THB
Total per participant			310 THB
161 participants	x	310 THB per participant	49,910 THB

DETAIL ANY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (IF APPLICABLE):

Each of the 13 school that attended, funded their own round-trip transportation for all of their participants and with the help from their tessabans, were able to make banners and use props and costumes that were funded by their community.

DESCRIBE THE PROGRAM/PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY (IF APPLICABLE):

As TYT is an event organized by a Peace Corps Thailand Volunteer committee, the Thai Youth Theatre festival is an event that will continue to take place annually. In addition, a number of the schools that attend the TYT festival do not currently have Peace Corps Volunteers within their communities and are examples of how schools can continue to

participate in this camp regardless of PCV involvement. TYT also goes deeper than just providing a space for students to perform their plays. It encourages students and Thai counterparts to implement English Theatre clubs within their respective communities as ways of promoting English speaking and other life skills. Even if they find they are unable to attend the camp for financial or logistical reasons, they can use the Thai Youth Theatre festival as an example of what they can accomplish in their own communities. The Thai Youth Theatre committee provides resources (in English and Thai) to help anyone that interested in creating a theatre club at their school. We are lucky to be a part of a program that has been sustainable and beneficial for the past 13 years.