

Memorandum of Understanding

BETWEEN

Graduate School, Khon Kaen University (KKU)

AND

Thabyay Educational Network (TEN)

The Graduate School Khon Kaen University, Thailand (KKU) and Thabyay Education Network (TEN) agree to enter into a formal collaborative agreement on a program to enable students from Myanmar, Lao P.D.R and Cambodia to obtain jointly funded scholarships for graduate programs at the Graduate School. This document governs the operation of the program.

1. Program Objectives

To provide opportunities and scholarships for high quality, graduate study in the Graduate School to candidates who demonstrate both academic excellence and potential to become leaders, decision makers and agents of change.

2. Period of Agreement

This agreement will start from the date of signing and run for a period of 3 years, with possible extension subject to agreement by all parties. Any review or amendments sought by any party should be made by the end of March in any year in respect of the program as it applies to the following academic year.

3. Number of Awards

The number of awards granted will be contingent upon the criteria and objectives of the organizations that will review the applications for scholarship funding.

4. Award Components

Each award will provide for payment of tuition fees, including examination

5. Financial Responsibility

The Graduate School agrees to provide an exception of overseas student fees which is equivalent to 430 US\$ for each award. Thabyay Educational Network Foundation agrees to fundraise for all the other costs associated with the award, including costs related to any additional internship.

6. Specified Program of Study

The awards will be available for study on the Master of Rural Development Management (MRDM), Graduate School, KKU.

7. Condition of Eligibility

Applicants must:

- a. hold a Bachelor's degree with honors;
- b. have experience working for development in Myanmar, Lao P.D.R and Cambodia;

- c. have strong commitment to return to their community after graduation and work to further peace, development and ethnic reconciliation in Myanmar, Lao P.D.R and Cambodia; and
- d. if coming from a university at which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, have proof of English proficiency by satisfying the conditions TOEFL = 475, IELTS = 5.0

8. Duration of Awards

The awards, excluding any additional internship support, will be for a maximum period of 2 years.

9. Condition of Award

Awards will be granted under the conditions that scholars must complete their degree within the time period specified above, and maintain a minimum GPA in keeping with the University's standards. Any extension of this period due to poor health or other unavoidable circumstances must be agreed by all parties including TEN and the Graduate School. All scholars must sign a grant letter agreeing to the terms and conditions set out by the funding organization and return it to Thabyay before receipt of funds.

10. Recruitment and Selection Procedure

Advertising

TEN will put together an announcement and application package that will cover the opportunities at the Graduate School. This will be advertised through a network of 'Student Support Officers' based at educational institutions, CBOs and NGOs around Myanmar, Lao P.D.R. and Cambodia. TEN will support applicants to apply to the Graduate School directly.

Final Selection: TEN will liaise with the Graduate School and donor organizations on a final list of candidates who are acceptable by all parties. Where possible, TEN will support students to travel to the Graduate School for interview and exams. In the case of candidates based inside Myanmar, TEN will endeavour to make alternative arrangements such as phone interviews or conditional offers based on satisfactory completion of the Graduate School acceptance process in the week preceding the opening of the school year.

Notification

TEN will inform all candidates of the outcome of the selection and placement and produce and distribute Grant Award Letters.

11. Responsibilities of the Thabyay Education Network

- a. organize promotion of the program, and selection of students as outlined above;
- b. secure funding for all scholars through the Masters Scholarships for Myanmar Students, the Supplementary Grants Program Burma, and Prospect Burma scholarship programs, and any additional funding organizations interested in the program;


- c. make all the necessary administrative and logistical arrangements for the scholars to obtain student visas and arrive at the Graduate School in a timely fashion.
- d. Thoroughly brief the scholars on the amount of and conditions related to the awards;
- e. liaise with funding organizations, including meeting all their reporting requirements, and ensuring that the students do likewise;
- f. visit the appropriate Graduate School staff and scholars at least once per academic year to monitor the awards;

12. Responsibilities of the Graduate School

- a. process applicants under this program within the time period agreed above;
- b. provide an exception for international student fees which is equivalent to 430 US\$ for each award;
- c. provide TEN with the necessary information and documents in a timely fashion to ensure the smooth operation of the program, including but not limited to:
 - documents required for procurement of student visas
 - transcripts and academic reference letters as required by scholarship funding organizations.
- d. meet with representatives of TEN and/or scholarship funding organizations who come to monitor the grant; and
- e. promptly inform TEN of any problems or difficulties that the scholar are having;


This agreement shall be in force and effective from the date of signing.

Signed and agreed by:



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lampang Manmart
Dean of the Graduate School
Khon Kaen University

Date April 2, 2009



Shona Kirkwood
Director
Thabyay Education Network

Date June 10th, 2009