

Karen Hill Tribe School - Student Sponsorship

At Death Railway Tours (DRT) we are sponsoring a Year 7 (2015) student from the Umphang Wittayakom School (UWS) in the Umphang district of the Tak Province Thailand.

Students who attend this school come from a very poor background; some have no surname, are Orphans or from poor farming communities.

"When the students graduate, they can carry with them the knowledge and skills learned in this programme to enter the job market or they can use the new skills as the foundation for obtaining higher-education". Mr Somprasong (UWS Principal).

Students can live in the school (Dormitory style) or travel to school from home. Lack of exposure to the Thai education system is due chiefly because of location and the tyranny of distance, as this school is 700kms from Bangkok on the Thai/Burmese border. It is very remote and difficult to reach, but located in a tranquil setting.

The other problem with access to education is the unclear citizenship of the students; some may not even have a surname or official birth certificates and other identification documents.

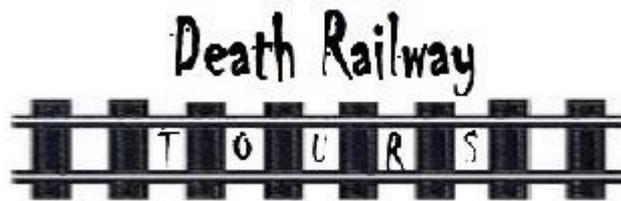
"UWS expects to foster among our students a high quality of life equal to that of students who attend good schools in the larger cities in Thailand, even though our students are hill tribe people, have no surname and are under privileged", said Mr Somprasong (UWS Principal).

Sponsoring this young lady with full room and board, school uniforms, books and an education we hope makes a difference to her individually; to her family and maybe later to her community.

Our MaeKlong Village student is Ms Lawan and she is in Matthayom 1 (Year 7) at Umphangn this year (2015). She is a Karen girl whose family lives about 60kms from the school and are a farming family; she lives at the school because her parents are very poor. The family's income is not enough to support their three children which is why Lawan has to stay in the school dormitory.

Lawan wants to become a teacher and I'm told she is a very good student; she wants to teach back in her village so she can develop her own hometown. The school will communicate with me over the coming years with her progress and as they do I will keep this record up to date (as best I receive any information).

If you would like to make a donation please discuss this on the trip. Or please bring school books and educational items with you and we'll post them up to the school when we get the chance on tour. You can pay for postage when we are in Kanchanaburi and we can stop at the post office to send items to this border school.



We hope Death Railway Tours can help more kids like Lawan in the future.

Dec 2015 Update. Lawan received a good school report and is going well I am informed. I hope when she is close to finishing Year 12 we can visit.

References:

[www.bangkokpost.com/learning/education-features/30886/developing-skills-for-success.](http://www.bangkokpost.com/learning/education-features/30886/developing-skills-for-success)