

Khun Praewa's Dheva Kids Camp 2019

Written by Miss Orawan Prompijarn (Kru Au)

We, two teachers and seventeen children from School for Life Coffee Project, started a journey in the morning on the 14th of February to the Dheva Coffee Camp in Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai Province. The Coffee Camp is about 250 km and four hours drive from the school for Life Chiang Mai. This is our second time camping, and the first time was on 5th-10th February, 2018. The Coffee Camp was well programmed and organized for the Coffee for Life children by Khun Praewa Boonyawan, the Coffee Entrepreneur & head of the Coffee for Life Team Chiang Mai. It was an excursion to Khun Praewa's coffee farm, equipped also with a laboratory and 'green factory'. The content of the Coffee for Life curriculum is focused on the whole process of coffee cultivation, harvesting, selection of coffee beans, coffee lab process, coffee production in the factory and various coffee drinks.

On the first day at the camp, we looked around the coffee field and plant site, the Dheva Specialty Coffee Lab and the Dheva Coffee Factory.

During the five-day-coffee camp, the children had a great opportunity to learn about the various following topics:

- The whole process from selection of seeds to the growing of coffee plants and the making of coffee drinks.
- Harvesting berries of coffee plants and removing flesh for seeds
- Organic farming
- Growing coffee beans & seedlings in nursery beds and polybags; coffee plant propagation; planting in coffee field.
- Technique to make strong and light taste of coffee drinks
- How to select good and bad grade coffee beans
- Roasting coffee beans by machine
- Barista skills
- Coffee business & establishing a coffee shop
- How to make an organic fertile soil with dry leaves to grow cocoa plants
- Growing conditions for coffee and cocoa trees
- Varieties and types of Coffee beans
- Flavors and aromas of coffee
- How to make cookies for coffee shop

In addition, the children learned how to distinguish Robusta and Arabica coffee plants: Robusta plant has big leaves and its leaves are light-green, and Arabica has small leaves and its leaves are dark-green.

In this year camp, the children learned some more new topics than the last year camp. In addition to it, they learned planting of cocoa, selecting of good cocoa beans and making various cocoa drinks this year.

The children now understand that there are two main varieties of coffee plants in Thailand, Robusta and Arabica. Robusta plants are suitable to grow in South of Thailand, and Arabica plants like the cool climate and are suitable to grow in North of Thailand. And, Arabica coffee is considered superior to Robusta because of its delicate flavor and low acidity. So, Arabica is usually sold for a higher price than Robusta beans.

In addition, the children gained knowledge of packing, storage of coffee and art for logo of the coffee package.

Coffee for Life children enjoyed the camp and visited some temples in Chiang Rai Province.

We all are very grateful to Khun Praewa Boonyawan for the opportunity for the children to learn about coffee and cocoa practical education for professional experience at the camp.

Note by the co-founder of School for Life:

In October 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Decoroso GmbH Hamburg, Khun Praewa's Company Jao Kha Kafae Co., Ltd., School for Life, and me. Purpose: import of "Coffee for Life" by Decoroso in Germany, Switzerland and Austria (and Europe at a later stage). Decoroso was willing to sell AA quality "Coffee for Life", produced by Jao Kha Kafae. Praewa was willing to donate 10 THB (about 28 Cent) per sold kg green beans to School for Life Foundation.

This seemed to become a splendid example of social entrepreneurship. But nothing happened since then. Decoroso didn't sell Coffee for Life in Germany until now. The story reminds a bit on Samuel Becket's tragicomedy "Waiting for Godot" (1953), in which two guys, Vladimir and Estragon, wait for the arrival of someone who never arrives. However, we are still hoping that Decoroso GmbH will start the business and sell "Coffee for Life" to as many coffee lovers in Europe as possible. This would benefit the education and livelihood of School for Life's children.

Prof. Dr. Juergen Zimmer

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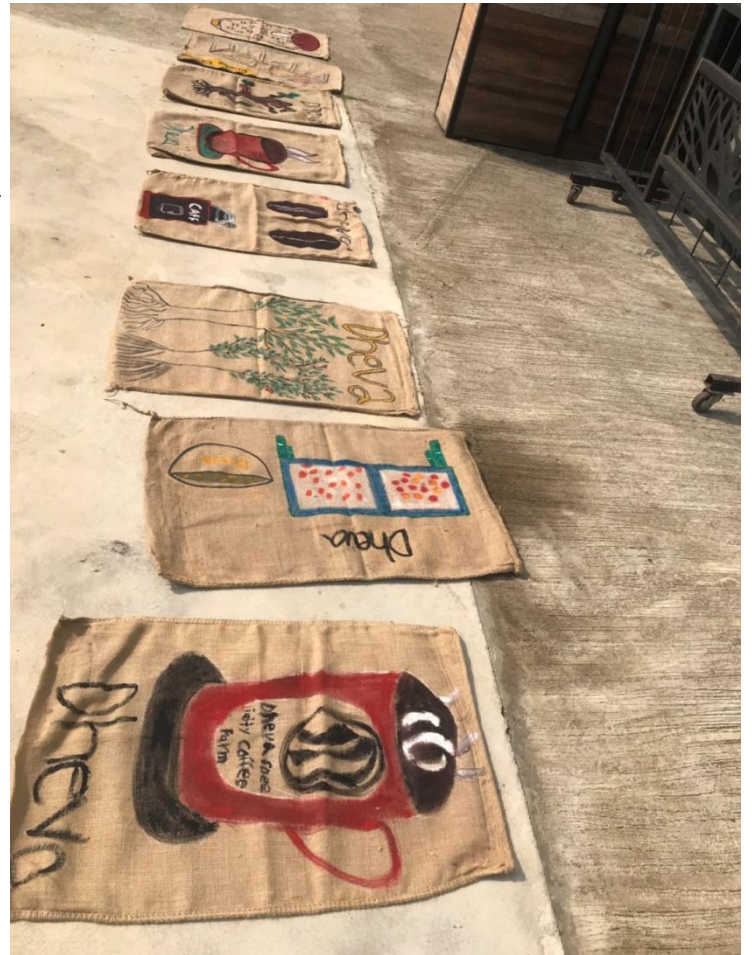
Khun Praewa Boonyawan (Center) with Coffee for Life children



Kru Au (left) and Kru Nona (right) with a Coffee for Life child









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