

Center for Culture Sensitive Tourism and the link with curriculum

Written by Miss *Pannapa Panyalak* (teacher *Stamp*)

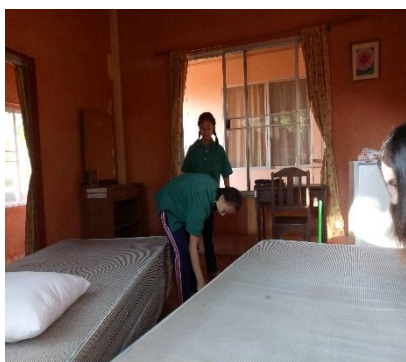


Kru Stamp (right)

Hello, my name is Miss *Pannapa Panyalak*, nickname *Stamp*. I take the responsibility for projects of the "Center for Culture Sensitive Tourism" at School for Life. There are students who are more interested in "action learning" outside, rather than "academic learning" in the classroom. It is a career-oriented learning that can be used in real life after graduation. I am convinced that "learning hotel management" is one of the most practical chances for learning.



Although we do not go to study in big hotels in Chiang Mai due to our limited teaching time, students who are interested in learning guest related management can browse the hotel websites. They can study via internet about hotel operations by focusing i.e. on modernizing the guest rooms. And they can learn about different needs of different groups of guests, Thais or foreigners, who are staying with us in the guest area.





After surfing the internet about hotels and hotel management, a group of students, including myself, acted in a real place, the little hotel of School for Life. Through learning by doing we developed a curriculum about culture sensitive tourism and a family style hotel management.



We also focus on learning about foreign food with the help of guests from abroad. They give useful advice to students to understand their cultures. In addition, students receive conceptual knowledge from these activities. Our experiences can be integrated into the National Curriculum that students have to study. One of the activities of our Center is an English language course. It improves the students in i.e.: communication skills; learning new vocabularies about food; cleaning methods and equipment of the guest room. In Thai language, students learn about the culture of hospitality.

Students can also learn art by preparing beautiful dishes; bio-technology and science, when they are developing eco-friendly methods of cleaning the guest bungalows; nutrition and health when they are harvesting organic vegetables for guests, and social studies through communication between Thais and foreigners.



School for Life Chiang Mai

185/3, Moo 4, T. Pamieng, Doi Saket, Chiang Mai 50220, Thailand.