

Graduation Ceremony

Written by Ms Franziska Elisabeth Ferstl (volunteer)

On Friday the 15th of March we celebrated the Graduation Ceremony for Grade 6 and Grade 9 students in School for Life. The ceremony was attended by all students, teachers, volunteers and special guests of two monks and a group of previous volunteers.

Around 9 o'clock everybody gathered in the School Assembly Hall. Prof. Dr. Jürgen Zimmer, co-founder of School for Life, commenced the ceremony with some advice for the students. He recommended the students (most of them from ethnic minorities) to fight for their rights, to request for citizenship and to act entrepreneurial. Next, School Director *Khun Siriporn Hanfaifa* gave a few words and presented the certificates to the graduating students. Junior students cheered clapping their hands. Afterwards a monk gave some wise words of Buddha Quotes and invited the students to live in the temple on summer holiday to being ordained as Buddhist novices for few days or weeks.

Then the Grade 6 students entertained with a song. This year 10 students finished Grade 6, and they are going to continue their study in Grade 7 in School for Life.

Afterwards the Grade 9 students sang a song as well, accompanied by a guitar. This year only four students graduate from Grade 9. They are *Kher, Bas, Tilek and Meeboo*.



Meeboo, Kher, Tilek and Bas (from left to right)



Prof. Dr. Jürgen Zimmer speaks at the ceremony

Kher started to live in School for Life 9 years ago. Last year he took the responsibility as the student head. *Kher* and *Bas* registered to continue study at a Technical College in Chiang Mai. *Tilek* hasn't planned yet to continue his study. *Meeboo* also came to live in School for Life 9 years ago and is going to study in a Vocational College in Chiang Mai.

Of course a lot of group photos were taken with graduating students, volunteers and teachers.

A special funny performance was initiated by *Teacher Boy*, who worked for School for Life already in 2003. He came back and trained a group of young kids in English. These kids, some of them with traumatic experiences in the past, don't like to sit in classrooms, but like to improve their life skills in real projects.

Later that day, the whole school went out to have a dinner. It was in a local shop nearby with some delicious foods. Soon the dinner was accompanied by some karaoke songs. All students, teachers and volunteers enjoyed the dinner and the lovely evening.

We congratulate all graduates of the batch of 2018-19 and wish you a great success in the future!

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Grade 6 students entertain with a song

Grade 9 students sing a song



The kids and *Teacher Boy* (right)







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