Freunde
der Bunong
មិតជាង់ឃួនីង

Annual Report 2022/2023

As 2023 draws to a close, we look back on the first 1.5 years of our association's activity.

Successes 2022/2023

We were delighted to receive generous donations in the first six months of our existence.

The association was thus able to contribute to a total of 51 young Bunong students in 2022 and 48 in 2023. Student Dorm of the Bunong Indigenous People Association (BIPA) in Phnom Penh and being successfully supported in their studies.

In addition to their studies, BIPA enables students to take part in internal workshops. In 2023, BIPA organized three events on the topic of 'Over-indebtedness of families through microcredits' with the support of the association.

The students investigated the following questions together:

'What were micro loans taken out for?'

'How do you think your family/you can pay off the loans?'

'Is parental debt the responsibility of the child?'

'What can you do to remain emotionally stable during your studies, despite the family's over-indebtedness?'

Thanks to the association's support, BIPA 2023 was able to cover the tuition fees for four students for one semester each, who would otherwise have had to drop out of their studies.

At the end of 2023, many young Bunong were once again interested in a place to live.

BIPA is delighted that, for the first time, more women than men have applied for a place in the Student Dorm, namely 14 out of 25.

With the 21 new students, 52 young Bunong, 23 of whom are women, will take up the offer in 2024.

Thanks to our donors, BIPA was able to continue its agricultural projects in Busra in the province of Mondulkiri in 2022 and provide advice, training and technical support to around 600 Bunong families in the cultivation, care and processing of coffee, pepper, rubber and other crops.

Individual training on a farm

Group training on fungal diseases

Training on a farm of a rubber group member

With the financial support of the association, BIPA 2022 was able to initiate the project "Community grazing of buffaloes and cows" with a total of 43 families in initially three of the seven villages of Busra.

Vaccination training at the communal pasture

We are delighted that HEKS/EPER has provided us with substantial funding for these agricultural activities in 2023 and has commissioned BIPA to carry out a peer-to-peer program in sustainable agriculture in three other districts of Mondulkiri for the first time.

This will enable BIPA to intensify the dissemination and exchange of knowledge among the Bunong families in Mondulkiri.

Maintaining contacts and on-site visits

Regular contact between the Board members and BIPA management and employees via Zoom, emails and line messages, as well as visits to Phnom Penh and Mondulkiri in August, November/December 2022 and November/December 2023, provided an in-depth insight into the conditions and events on the ground.

In 2022, 8 students completed their studies, which was duly celebrated with a graduation ceremony attended by all students, parents and staff.

Diploma awarded by Board member Catherine Scheer

Student Dorm/Head Office, Phnom Penh 2023

Office Busra/BIPA General Assembly 2022

In November 2023, Monika Leemann was able to attend the presentation of BIPA's interim report on the peer-to-peer program at the HEKS office in Phnom Penh as a representative of the association.

Visit to the tree nursery of the 2023 peer-to-peer program.

Outlook 2024

The focus of our commitment in the coming year will continue to be on supporting young Bunong students on their way to a university degree and on supporting Bunong farming families on their way from shifting cultivation to sustainable permanent agriculture.

We are therefore delighted that we have already received another generous donation. We are also very pleased that HEKS BIPA is once again providing funds as part of a follow-up order to continue and further develop the newly launched peer-to-peer program with 14 farmers as multipliers for 7 village communities in the Oraing Ov district in Mondulkiri.

We would like to thank all donors, other supporters and interested parties for their support and, in particular, all members for their diverse and great commitment.

Monika Leemann, President