



Dr. Robert Dyckerhoff-Foundation

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The Robert Dyckerhoff Foundation (RDF) has been taking care of hill tribe children from the mountain regions in North West Thailand for the past 10 years.

Dr. Robert Dyckerhoff reached the age of 103 mainly due to the splendid care given to him by his Thai nurse. On his 100th birthday he asked her how he could express his gratitude, and she replied „please help the poorest of the poor children in my remote area of North West Thailand to get a decent education, so that they can then help to develop the region.“ As a consequence of this conversation Dr. Dyckerhoff decided to give his nephew Gert an amount of money and responsibility for founding the RDF under the umbrella of “Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft”, an organization that supports the administrative handling of small foundations.



During the past 10 years RDF has achieved a lot. The Foundation has built a dormitory for children from remote villages of the hill tribes in the grounds of the public Thai school in Mae Sariang. The dormitory provides space for 40 children ranging in age of 15 to 19.

Under the supervision of house teachers the students learn to master the everyday life skills together. Private tutors give extra classes in several subjects every week to enhance their performances at school. RDF students often finish among the very best in their class.



The Foundation supports the studies at university of up to four of the best students of each graduation class. At present RDF supports 15 university students. 16 former RDF-fellows already have degrees as medical doctors, teachers or public servants. They are now working back in the Mae Hong Son province helping to improve the infrastructure of their remote region of origin.



The RDF has financed all its actions with revenue of 1.2 million Euros, which had been accumulated over the years including some donations.

The foundation now realizes that the support of academic careers only represents a small part of the task in developing the region, handicraft skills such as electricians, plumbers or mechanics are also needed.



As a result the Foundation has started to cooperate with the local Vocational College, where students are able to receive a comprehensive theoretical job training in the various trades. This system is very similar to that of apprenticeships in Germany.



Consequently the RDF set up a program in cooperation with the Vocational College. Similar to the German dual system, students spend half their time in a workshop and the other half at college learning the theory of their craft. This “dual vocational education system” was introduced by the German Foreign Ministry in cooperation with the Thai Government.



However, this is only one part of the Foundation’s future plans. The prospective apprentices need accommodation close to the college and for this reason the RDF needs additional funds to finance both the education and living costs for a total of 40 high school students and 40 vocational students.



We need to raise additional 800.000 Euros to reach a capital of 2 million Euros. This amount will guarantee a revenue of approximately 85.000 Euros per year, sufficient to cover the normal and ongoing costs for all 80 students. The Foundation has been very fortunate recently in receiving donations of 500.000 Euros but a further 300.000 Euros are needed. It is our target to obtain this amount of money by the summer of 2016, when it is proposed that the vocational education project will start.



**More urgently needed are funds for a new dormitory: The total estimated costs are 200.000 Euros and we have only been able to raise 70.000 Euros until now.**



**Your support is highly appreciated. Every donation helps!**

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Imprint:

Dr. Robert Dyckerhoff-Stiftung im Stifterverband  
für die Deutsche Wissenschaft e.V.

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