



FUND ISAAN ANNUAL REPORT 2023

February 2024

A FUTURE FOR EVERY CHILD
Rony Wuytjens

“A Future for Every Child”



Our scholarship student Num Nim, graduated with a higher degree in Office Management



Scholarship student Pam in her last year to become a Mathematics Teacher

Fund Isaan Annual Report 2023

1. Introduction:

Fund Isaan is a non-profit organization established in 2008. From day one until today our objective has always been to support and improve the level of education for children in the Isaan region of Thailand.

To achieve our objective we:

- (i) provide non-refundable scholarships to children with high intellectual potential but limited financial means,
- (ii) provide IT solutions to rural schools and students,
- (iii) send carefully selected and well prepared foreign volunteers to the region to help language teachers raising the level of their English language courses;

Fund Isaan refers to:

- (i) Fund Isaan, a fund managed by the [King Baudouin Foundation](#) (KBS) in Belgium and
- (ii) [Fund Isaan](#) Thailand, a Non-Profit organization registered under number Sor. Ror. 3/2556 with the Ministry of Commerce in Thailand.

The numbers in this annual report are the consolidated numbers for both entities.

During the pandemic some of our activities were temporary cancelled or impaired. 2022 was the year of the gradual return to the new normal. In 2023 we were able to run a full year focusing on all of our core activities; scholarships, IT classes and volunteers.

The need for our services is proven once again by the global English Proficiency Index 2023, as illustrated by below article in the Bangkok Post of November 27, 2023:

"Thailand has been ranked 8th, or "very low", among Asean countries and 101st worldwide in the English Proficiency Index 2023.

Thailand lags not only Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia but also Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar and Cambodia in English-speaking ability, the index showed.

The English Proficiency Index 2023 by language institute EF is based on test results of 2.2 million adults in 113 countries and regions. Thailand scored 416 and is ranked 101st among them... ..In the Asean region, eight countries were included in the test..."

The highlight of 2023 is undoubtedly our collaboration with Surin Rajabhat University, more specifically the faculty of Science and Technology. This has given our computer program a whole new dimension focusing on STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) trainings.

Financially Fund Isaan remains healthy and well equipped to assure its commitments. For the purpose of the report we applied an average exchange rate of 36,38 Baht/Euro for 2023 and 36,28 Baht/Euro for 2022 (based on the actuals received on the bank transfers from the KBS in Belgium to our GSB bank in Thailand).

2. Short overview:

In 2023, Fund Isaan successfully managed following projects:

1. We added nine new scholarship student to our scholarship program (compared to one in 2022);
2. We ran a full year volunteering program.
3. We installed ten new computer classes in rural schools in Surin.
4. We concluded a formal collaboration with Surin Rajabhat University, Faculty of Science and Technology.
5. We organized nine one day IT Bootcamps for students and teachers.



Volunteer Elyne at Ban Thanong School

3. Our Sponsors

In 2023 Fund Isaan received 2 280 037,56 Thai Baht (62 672,83 Euro) in financial donations, which is almost equal to 2022 [2 296 161,20 Thai Baht (63 290,00 Euro)].

Private individuals represent approximately 25% of our budget.
Over 75% of our budget was donated by non-profits and corporates.

Our most important non-profit/corporate sponsors continue to be:



▶▶ 3 AMB, a fund managed by the [King Baudouin Foundation](#) (Click to website)



▶▶ [Deloitte Belgium](#) (Click to website)



▶▶ [delaware](#) (Click to website)



▶▶ [Close The Gap](#) a non-profit based in Belgium (Click to website)



▶▶ [Thaise vrienden Wevelgem](#) a non-profit organization set up by a group of goodhearted friends in Belgium.

4. Our scholarship students

In 2023 we added nine new students to our scholarship program. In total we supported 332 students. Throughout academic year 2023/2024 we had an average of 84 active students to whom we paid a total of 1 019 000,00 Thai Baht (28 009,90 Euro) in the course of 2023. This equals on average an amount of 12 130,95 Thai Baht (333,45 Euro) per year/student.

We assure each sponsor that his entire donation and more goes to his scholarship student.

To protect the privacy of our scholarship students and in line with existing legislation we do not make publicly available names and/or addresses of our scholarship student. When we do refer to our scholarship students in our public forums we only mention their nickname. Each sponsor can follow the whereabouts of his scholarship student through a personal log in on our website.

Our alumni program has shown that the financial support we give to our students throughout the entire duration of their studies is substantially decreasing the financial pressure on the students and their families, allowing them to focus on their studies and improving their opportunities to complete the education of their choice. Of all our alumni 92% graduated and only a small minority stopped school earlier than planned, often because they were offered a job they could not refuse. Global studies have proven that proper education does not only benefit the individual but also their families, communities and ultimately the entire society.

At least as important as the scholarship is the personal attention we give to our students, explaining the success ratio of 92% mentioned in the previous paragraph. During each visit or contact, whether initiated by us or by the student, we have a personal conversation with the student. Where needed we increase our financial support but more importantly we give our students moral support in an environment where the necessity of studying and obtaining a good degree is not always properly understood. As we follow our students until the completion of their education, we often have to travel long distances. The universities our students attend are spread across the entire country. It took us several weeks and more than 5000 kilometres to meet with each and everyone of them.

In 2023 27 of our active students graduated. One of our main sponsors announced in 2021 that they will gradually reduce their contribution starting 2022. For that reason we purposely decrease the number of active students in the program. Not by abandoning existing scholarship student but by accepting less new students to the program. This will also be the case in 2024.



Alumni Om, graduated in 2023 and is now working as a nurse in a local hospital

5. Computer program

Thanks to the support of our loyal sponsors Thaise Vrienden Wevelgem and Deloitte Belgium we were able to install 10 new computer classes in May 2023!

Like always we ordered the equipment, 210 portable computers, including windows and office licenses, from Close The Gap in Belgium.

On May 13, 2023 the pc's arrived in Bangkok and were customs cleared. In the next days we tested each and every computer, adjusted the keyboards to the Thai language, activated the office license and installed our own software.

A week later we were ready to hand the notebooks over to the schools. These were pre-selected with to the help of Fund Isaan friend Mr. Thongpoon of the Surin Education Advisory Board and the Surin Education Office. This way we made sure the computers went to those schools that needed them most.

The selected schools were:

1. Muang Thee School in Muang District;
2. Surin Pittayakom School in Muang District;
3. Surin Phakdee School in Muang District;
4. Nong Sano Wittaya School in Sangkha District;
5. Ban Chan School in Sangkha District;
6. Mattayam Srisampaaloon School in Buached District;
7. Ban Charas School in Buached District;
8. Pracha Samakhi School in Kap Choeng District;
9. Ban Roon School in Phanom Dong Rak District;
10. Ban Khok Klang School in Phanom Dong Rak District.

The remaining notebooks were donated to Saikeaw school to replace some of the broken desktops in their existing Fund Isaan classroom.



6. Volunteers supporting English Classes

2023 was the first year in which our volunteering program was back in full swing after the pandemic. We welcomed volunteers from our loyal partners Deloitte Belgium and Delaware.

Despite our very good relationship with the Thai Embassy in Brussels the process of obtaining visas (a process which is now fully automated) proved to be more challenging and time-consuming than expected, caused by shortfalls in the online system and changes in the consular staff at the Embassy. Eventually all visa were obtained in time and our volunteers could travel to Thailand as scheduled.

The volunteering program is a real success not only for the teachers and students at the schools we support but also for the volunteers who get the opportunity to spend time in a country and culture that is completely new for them.

The majority of the volunteers spent six weeks at one school and live in a guest family affiliated with that school. A smaller, more senior group of volunteers travelled to Thailand for two weeks, to assist in our IT bootcamps, which once again proved a great success.



Our volunteers Mathilde, Kyrill and Nicolas during an English Camp

7. Collaboration with Surin Rajabhat University

In June 2023 we were contacted by Dr. Choojit Sarapak from Surin Rajabhat University, Faculty of Science and Technology. Dr. Choojit presented us her network of secondary schools which she and her team assist with STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) trainings.

Her request was simple:

- (i) Do you have access to good STEM online training material we could use and
- (ii) Could you help us procure computers for some of the secondary schools in our network.

For the first question we connected Dr. Choojit with Edukomondo VZW, a non-profit in Belgium (edukomondo.org) that has developed high quality online classes for beginners. Only one problem, they are not in Thai! Thanks to AI (Artificial Intelligence) and an intense collaboration between Dr. Choojit's team and the team of Edukomondo, 21 courses were translated in Thai and made available not only to Surin Rajabhat but to the broader public via YouTube.

For the second question we showed Dr. Choojit the Fund Isaan classes installed in May and agreed that going forward we will partner for:

1. The selection of the schools Fund Isaan will donate the computers to;
2. The training of the teachers;
3. The follow up of the actual use of the computers

Furthermore, for each computer class (20 notebooks) donated in 2024, Surin Rajabhat will donate 10 STEM starter kits, provided teachers follow a mandatory STEM training at Surin Rajabhat University.



8. Overhead Cost

We managed to keep our overhead cost at 159 773,29 Thai Baht (4 398,04 Euro) which is 6,26% of our total spending.

This mainly because our Thai (and only) office is made available to us for free by our founder and his spouse and because we do no longer have employees.

The main contributors to our overhead cost were:

- ▶ 31 850 Thai Baht (875,48 Euro) travel and accommodation during visits to our scholarship students, which is 20% of the total overhead costs;
- ▶ 106 548,29 Thai Baht (2928,76 Euro) management fees charged by the King Baudouin Foundation, which is 67% of the total overhead costs and on which we have no influence.

To avoid any discussion or conflict of interest no salaries, management fees or expense reimbursements are paid to members of our board. Their contribution, regardless the cost or time involved, is purely pro-deo.

8. Detailed financials

Fund Isaan consolidated annual account	2023		2022	
Current Assets				
Cash:	76 995,00		99,05	
Thai Government Savings Bank:	30 095,15		10 565,40	
Project Account KBS	2 071 772,61		2 429 568,20	
Total current Assets	2 178 862,76		2 440 232,65	
Income and Expenses				
<u>Income</u>				
Thai Government Savings Bank:				
Project Account KBS:	2 280 037,56		2 296 161,20	
Computer sales GSB				
Bank Interest:	567,74		934,51	
Total	2 280 605,30		2 297 095,71	
<u>Volunteer time value</u>				
3 months Volunteers				
6 weeks Volunteers	180 000,00		30 000,00	
2 weeks Volunteers	30 000,00		30 000,00	
Total	210.000,00		60 000,00	
Total income:	2 492 424,30		2 357 095,71	
<u>Expenses</u>				
<u>Operation Expenses</u>				
Scholarships	1 019 000,00	39,96%	1 329 500,00	69,94%
Computer program	832 939,65	32,66%		
Volunteers	538 620,98	21,12%	339 974,78	17,88%
Total	2 390 560,63	93,74%	1 669 474,78	87,82%
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>				
Office equipment	14 432,00	0,56%	46 915,00	2,47%
Transport scholarships	31 850,00	1,25%	64 100,00	3,37%
Auditor Fees	5 150,00	0,20%	3000,00	0,16%
Taxes	93,00	0,00%	8 056,06	0,43%
Bank Charges	1 700,00	0,07%	1 579,00	0,08%
Management Fee KBS	106 548,29	4,18%	107 810,37	5,67%
Total	159 773,29	6,26%	231 460,43	12,18%
Total expenses:	2 550 333,92	100%	1 900 935,21	100%

