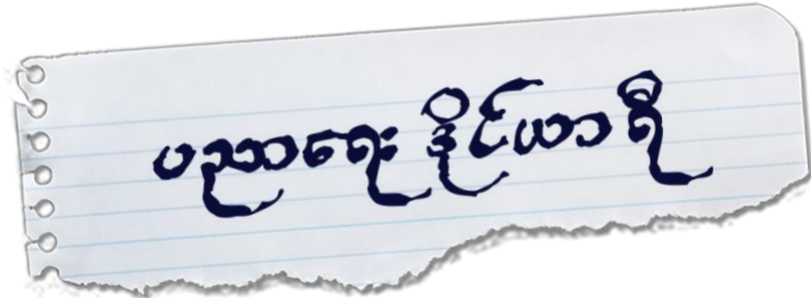




Burmese Migrant Workers' Education Committee

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Education Diary
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MIGRANT LEARNING CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION TASKFORCE



In this 2020-2021 academic year, BMWEC, in collaboration with other education organizations, reviewed BMWEC's Child Protection guidelines and worked diligently to form the Migrant Learning Centre for Child Protection Taskforce (MLCCPT). One of the purposes of this association is to properly keep track of cooperation of teachers in different education organizations and streamline the management of children in migrant learning centers while also decreasing the exploitation of teachers by their employers and providing education to the students' parents.

This taskforce will conduct a Safe Child Guiding Risk Assessment in every migrant learning centre in Tak province. It will analyze and assess the guidelines established by migrant schools. Depending on the results, the taskforce is planning to either reinforce or improve the guidelines so that they can be more effective. To launch this assessment project, a workshop was held in November to prepare teacher representatives from migrant learning centers and three representatives from umbrella organizations.



UPDATE ON REOPENING SCHOOLS

In the last edition of Education Diary, we explained BMWEC's and other migrant education organizations' efforts to get government approval for schools to be able to reopen. In September, BMWEC checked on schools to assess whether they were eligible, and only 7 of them were advised by the committee to continue home-based learning in October, while the remaining schools were advised to keep in touch with the organization for any further updates.



Unfortunately, however, a week after the approval, there was a COVID-19 case in Mae Sot. This case made school openings impossible and also resulted immediately in cessation of all home-based learning activities until the last week of October. During that period, the schools undertook no activities, except for the school cleaning and lesson planning carried on by teachers in the hope that schools would be allowed to open eventually. Local Thai authorities quickly shut down the township where the COVID-19 case emerged, and the situation came under control soon after with no new other cases surfacing. As during the summer, the schools faced numerous complaints from

dissatisfied parents who, among other things that were mentioned in the previous edition of this Education Diary, questioned why the schools were not opened yet when the Thai schools had been opened. And the BMWEC and Learning Centre heads had tried to respond to their concerns. As a result, for this school year, BMWEC has 23 migrant learning centers under its management and 2 schools had to take a break, 1 had been teaching using online-based learning while the rest were teaching through home-based learning system.

On October 27th, migrant education organizations and the local education authorities held a Unified Migrant Educational Strategy Workshop. At the workshop it was decided that every migrant education organization should try to use the current education curriculum being used in Myanmar by any means possible. At the time of this writing, COVID-19 cases in Myanmar are still rising with no ending in sight. Thus the Ministry of Education in Myanmar has arranged to broadcast the lessons live on national television, which means students can study and catch up from their homes without having to go to school. Two-third of the overall curriculum is expected to be finished within this school year, regardless of the different methods each school would take to reach the goal. The migrant education organizations in Tak decided to study this programme and utilize a similar method of teaching to give migrant students a chance to continue their education during the pandemic. Even though times are extremely difficult, it is very encouraging to see that educators continue to do their best with what they have and hold heads high.



BMWEC ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE COMING DECADE



The BMWEC was founded in 1999-2000, and this year marks its 20 year anniversary. Over the years our aim has been to create the means for migrant children in 5 cities within Tak province to pursue education. In 2009-2010, we established a 10-year plan to ensure quality education for the children in migrant areas that would have the recognition of the local government. We have fulfilled this goal within this ten year period. Before 2010, due to lack of recognition, the students who graduated from migrant schools could not resume or pursue further education back in their home country. Now there are 176 out of 849 Tak-based migrant students who have taken and passed the Burmese Matriculation Exams and then

pursued university education in Myanmar. And there are currently 698 students from migrant schools who have been able to transfer to official government schools in Myanmar.

In October, 2020, BMWEC successfully held an Organizational Development Workshop with the benefactor Cotton On in order to revise and establish a new 10-year plan for migrant education. It decided that the new vision would be to strive to put migrant standard education on a par with ASEAN standard education. Since development of this vision is an ongoing process, BMWEC needs support and guidance from different education organizations to improve the current education standard. Thus the BMWEC invites all interested in migrant education to share their visions and strategies with current donors and partner organizations.

