

Overview

We at Thabyay Education Network's Arohana Scholarship Fund would like to extend our gratitude to all of you who have donated to our 'University Scholarships for Students from Burma' project on GlobalGiving. So far, we have raised a total of US\$ 65,296 since the 1st September 2010 so we are well on our way to our target of US\$ 99,000!

After the deduction of GlobalGiving administrative fees, we have now received a total of approximately US\$ 60,959 in disbursements from GlobalGiving for the University Scholarships for Students from Burma project (funds are received over time in Thai Baht at different exchange rates, so USD figures can only be approximately calculated).

By the 8th September 2013, we had disbursed approximately US\$ 60,658 to scholarship awards.

Selection and awards

Since the last report on 8th September, the Arohana Scholarship Fund Committee has made one further award totalling approximately US\$ 301.

The total funds now raised by the 'University Scholarships for Students from Burma' project have therefore supported 49 awards enabling 40 students from marginalised communities across Burma to start or continue their Bachelor's, Master's or PhD studies at universities across Asia.

The recipients of these awards comprise 20 women and 20 men, ranging in age from 19 to 51 (average age of approximately 26, representing nine ethnic groups, studying 30 different majors at 17 different universities in 5 countries across Asia.

The table below provides detailed information about the new award made.

Name	Sex	Age	Ethnicity	Subject	University	Level	Type	Award (US\$)
Soe Min Tun	M	24	Kachin	English	Hong Kong Polytechnic	BA	Top Up Award	\$301

N.B. Names of award recipients have been changed to protect their identities.

Award Recipient Profiles

Name:	Soe Min Tun
Age:	23
Ethnicity:	Kachin
Subject of Study:	English
Level of Study:	Bachelor's
Institution of Study:	Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Award amount:	US\$301

Brief overview of candidate

Soe Min Tun was raised in a small farming town in an area of Kachin State ravaged by civil war. His parents were both illiterate. His father worked as a labourer on farms. He was often away from the family, moving from place to place to avoid being forcibly conscripted into one of the military groups. Consequently, his mother had to feed, clothe and school her children largely single-handed. Soe Min Tun's elder brother left school at thirteen in order to help his mother, but Soe Min Tun managed to complete middle school and then went to Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State, where he completed his high school.

After graduating in 2007, Soe Min Tun went to Yangon to enrol in a Bachelor of Arts program. In his second year study he accompanied two senior students asked on an internship teaching English to children in poor areas of Kachin State. This experience was transformative as it made him realize the impact that he could have on children from poor backgrounds similar to his own. For the next three years, during the summer break, he continued to work as a volunteer, teaching English to the children across Kachin State. He also worked as a coordinator for the Bachelor of Arts program, helping students in Kachin State to prepare for the entrance exam. In 2012, Soe Min successfully applied for a scholarship to study English at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Now in his second year of study at Poly U, Soe Min's scholarship is mostly funded by the university with support funding from Thabyay.

In his own words:

"When I graduate, I plan to become an English teacher, educational advisor, and activist in Burma to promote upward social mobility, especially in rural areas of Kachin State. I will provide open English classes, and open an education center in Myitkyina to advise students about scholarships and study abroad opportunities."

Future Plans

The Arohana Scholarship Fund (ASF) is expecting further funds to be disbursed in late March by GlobalGiving, at which point further scholarship awards will be made.

Closing Statement

We hope that this report shows clearly the potential of these scholarship recipients to become catalysts for incremental social change in Burma, and that you can appreciate the direct link between quality higher education and grassroots development in communities in Burma. We also hope that it demonstrates that even the smallest contribution of US\$ 10 can make a difference in terms of keeping a Burmese scholarship student in university education.

We would like to reiterate our gratitude to all of you who have helped raise funds for this project by making donations and spreading the word. We hope that this report will inspire you to continue to support us in the future. The beneficiaries of these awards, the students, have individually expressed their gratitude to us for the support they have received. We would like to pass on their thanks to you.

If you have any questions about this report, or about our work, please do get in touch.

With our best wishes,



Katie Hodges

Program Manager, Scholarships and Student Support

Thabyay Education Network

Email: katieh@thabyay.org

Websites: www.thabyay.org
www.arohanascholarships.org