**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$ 54,810 since the 1st September 2010 so we are now more than half way to our target of US$ 99,000!

After the deduction of GlobalGiving administrative fees, we have now received a total of approximately US$ 50,881 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 4th March 2013, we had disbursed approximately US$ 50,069 to scholarship awards.

**Selection and awards**

Since the last report on 4th March, the Arohana Scholarship Fund Committee has made one further award totalling approximately US$ 812.

The total funds now raised by the ‘University Scholarships for Students from Burma’ project have therefore supported 46 awards enabling 39 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 19 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 five countries across Asia.

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

| **Name** | **Sex** | **Age** | **Ethnicity** | **Subject** | **University** | **Level** | **Type** | **Award (US$)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nway Nway Lin  | F | 20 | Mixed | Journalism | Hong Kong University  | BA | Top Up | 812 |

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

**Award Recipient Profiles**

Name: **Nway Nway Lin**

Age: **20**

Ethnicity: **Mixed**

Subject of Study: **Journalism**

Level of Study: **Bachelor’s**

Institution of Study: **Hong Kong University**

Award amount: **US$ 812**

**Brief overview of candidate**

Nway Nway Lin faced many difficulties as a young student aiming to finish high school and obtain high marks to allow her to go to university. With her family’s land taken, and opportunities for employment limited due to the military occupation of her home town, Nway Nway Lin did not have the resources to attend a boarding house at a better school in the city like many other students from her town. Nevertheless, Nway Nway Lin attended the local school and became one of the best students in her class through studying hard. She finished her high school exam with high scores and relocated to the Thai-Burma border for a better opportunity for further education.

After attending a post-10 school for a further two years, she was one of hundreds who sat the annul entrance exam to be admitted to an international GED program, one of the few internationally recognised education programs available along the Thai-Burma border. The one-year of intensive study in US-standard grade 12 studies helped to prepare Nway Nway Lin for international university studies and helped her to recognise her passion for writing and journalism. In the final exam, Nway Nway Lin scored in the highest percentile rank for Language Arts – Reading, a remarkable achievement.

Having been admitted on a full tuition scholarship to The University of Hong Kong to study a Bachelor of Journalism, Nway Nway Lin required a small amount of funding to travel to Yangon to obtain a passport and undertake an official English language test, as required by the university. This funding has allowed her to obtain all the necessary documents to accept her offer from The University of Hong Kong, where she will begin studying in September.

**In her own words:**

*“I believe that a media of an international standard should be fair and free of bias. If I become a journalist, I will find out the true stories of these conflicts and reveal to the world and deliver justice to the innocent people. I will use the media freedoms that have been granted recently to write stories that are free of bias and stand on the right side. To be able to do so, I need researching, analysing, and reporting skills. By studying in Hong Kong, I believe I will develop the knowledge I need to work on my plan to stand for the equality.”*

**Future Plans**

The Arohana Scholarship Fund (ASF) is expecting further funds to be disbursed in late July 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

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