

## Bridging the Gap: Opening of GED Test Center for migrants and refugees at Thai-Myanmar border

General Education Development/General Education Diploma (GED) Testing Service is a joint program between the American Council on Education (ACE) and Pearson VUE. Thabyay Education Network Foundation opened an authorized select GED Test Center partnering with the Pearson VUE to provide the testing services for the students studying at the Migrant Learning Centers' GED Preparation Programs.

Thabyay's Exam Preparation Outreach Program (EPOP) primarily targets at the Myanmar learners who are living in refugee camps, far from developed cities and towns with lack of the opportunities for higher education but are in great need for education.

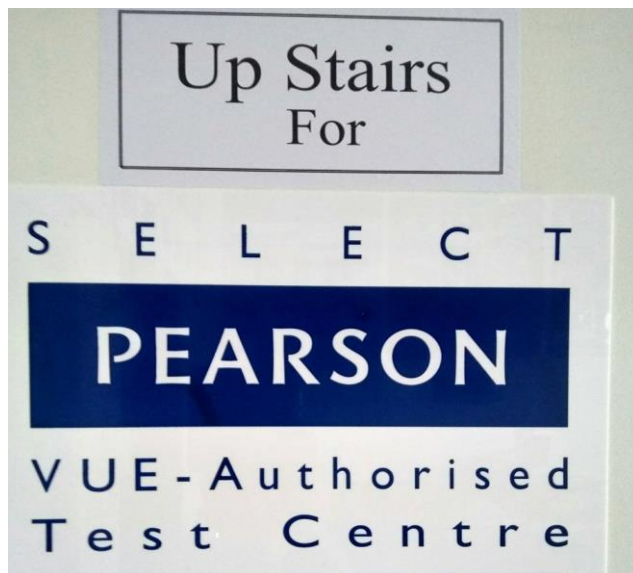


The students of migrant learning centers in Mae Sot come from various family backgrounds and situations. They represent a range of ethnicities, cultures and personalities. Only a few of them have formal high school matriculation level from Myanmar.



Students taking the Diagnostic Test at a Migrant Learning Center in Mae Sot

Most of them have completed their informal education in refugee camps or migrant schools. Several groups of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have jointly helped the students and young adults get the relevant skills according to their needs and aims.



Information Sharing Section at Thabyay GED Test center



Many of the MLC students' aims are higher. They want to continue their education at university level. To get into the national or international programs in the universities, the students need to have a recognized high school diploma. Therefore, the MLCs collect the students along the Thai-Myanmar border areas and refugee camps to help prepare the students to take a high school equivalency test, which is the GED high school equivalency diploma.



When the students are ready for the GED Exam, MLCs had to send their students to the authorized test centers which were only in big cities such as Chiang Mai and Bangkok. To be able to take the GED Test in the cities, migrant and refugee students had faced many difficulties such as visa, transportation, accommodation, etc.

To fill the gap, Thabyay assessed the needs of the GED test center associated with the migrant learning centers in Mae Sot. Gratefully in November 2016, the Pearson VUE authorized select GED Test Center has been officially launched. At the time of reporting in January 2017, more than 80 exams have been administered by Thabyay's GED Test Center in Mae Sot.

Without the help, supports and generosity of the donors through the Global Giving they could not have made these achievements. On behalf of our students and the project team, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who supports our programs. We are looking forward with great enthusiasm and accomplishment of the students.

With our best wishes,  
Sandar Lwin  
Program Manager  
Thabyay e-Learning Platform/Exam Preparation Outreach Program