CISV JAPAN – CISV MYANMAR

INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE’S PROJECT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KHAYAY PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT CENTER (KPDC)

OVERCOMING BOUNDARIES


YANGON, MYANMAR

COMPiled BY ERINa IWASAKI
MESSAGE FROM CISV MYANMAR

My name is Hitomi Iwasaki. I am currently the CISV Myanmar’s National Representative. I am also a former CISVer from Japan and went to the Village program at the age of 11 to the Philippines. This experience has impacted my life greatly and allowed me to live abroad since the age of 26 together with my husband who worked for the United Nations.

In 1995, my family and I moved to Myanmar for my husband’s work as Country Director for UNODC. My husband and I decided to make it our home and we are now celebrating our 20th year in Myanmar. During the past 20 years, I have never dreamt that it would be possible to have a CISV chapter here. However, I serendipitously encountered a Myanmar person who came to talk to me about CISV, to my great surprise. This is how I ended meeting Mrs. Junko Imanishi again. She happened to be the promoter for CISV Myanmar.

This story started 5 years ago and since, CISV Myanmar has become a Promotional Association. Although CISV Myanmar is still at its beginnings, thanks to the support of CISV Japan, we could successfully implement an IPP at the end of last year. There is not a lot of international media coverage regarding the ethnic issues affecting Myanmar but it is one major problem that makes the unification of this country hard. With over 135 ethnic groups and a complex history, the country needs peaceful reconciliation. However, Myanmar has fortunately a high literacy rate and through the common language of Myanmar, the Myanmar government is also putting effort in promoting education.

While internal factions and boundaries still exist, many people in Myanmar feel that there is a wall between them and the foreigners due to the fact that the country has been quite closed from the international community for a long time. Boundaries also exist towards the world as well. Taking this reality into account, this is why CISV Myanmar decided to name the IPP “Overcoming Boundaries.”

The IPP participants and staff explore this theme over the 14 days of camp from 3 different perspectives, which were: understanding identity, breaking prejudice and community building. The 15 participants led and ran a kids day camp – which was their hands-on project – for 5 days with 32 children from different ethnic, social and economic backgrounds.

The children came from the 8 major ethnic groups identified by the Myanmar government and we targeted 10 to 14 years old. However, some siblings joined and we had a few younger children aged 7 who participated happily thanks to the participants’ openness, flexibility and skills. Regardless of their skin color, religion, ethnicity, culture and language, children learnt that we can make friends beyond those boundaries and experienced the happiness of being part of a friendship process that only CISV can provide.

This IPP really felt like the first milestone of CISV Myanmar and this could not have happened with the generous and kind donations from PACE foundation and CISV Japan. This IPP has so positively impacted the Myanmar people involved that we decided to transform this IPP into a local Mosaic Project that will run until the end of 2015.
Although CISV Myanmar is still a new chapter with little resource, especially financially, we would like to keep the CISV flame alive as long as possible. We greatly believe that CISV’s approach, philosophy and vision on peace can help melt the different prejudices that exist in Myanmar and realize a peaceful society from within. On behalf of the CISV Myanmar, I would like to extend my gratitude to all the donors and supporters who have made this possible and hope to be engaged with them for future CISV projects.

Sincerely,

Hitomi Iwasaki
CISV Myanmar Representative
CISV Japan – Myanmar
International People’s Project
Overcoming Boundaries
At the Khayay School
Yangon, Myanmar

Introducing the IPP camp staff

From left to right: Myo (CISV Myanmar), Swe (CISV Myanmar), Shimamu (CISV Japan and camp director), Soe (CISV Myanmar), Oo (CISV Myanmar) and Michi (CISV Japan)

Not on the photo: External Staffs (Erina and May)

Description of the Project

This IPP is hosted by CISV Japan in co-operation with CISV Myanmar. This is the first international program in Myanmar.

In Myanmar, the conflicts among several ethnic groups have been an ongoing challenge for the development of the country. CISV Myanmar and CISV Japan in partnership with the Khayay Preschool Development Center (KPDC) decided to host an IPP together to address this issue.

Also, Myanmar has been gradually opening up to the international community in the recent years, and Burmese people, especially children, haven’t have had many chances to interact with foreigners. In this context, this IPP is an opportunity to join local and global communities. This IPP brings together 11-13 year-old children belonging to the various ethnic groups, teachers from KPDC, and CISV adult participants to experience CISV educational activities together.

We believe in learning together with children to accept and celebrate differences and similarities between people, learn new things and overcome prejudice. We want to be part of an experience that will allow us all to open our minds, understand each other and overcome different types of boundaries. Therefore, we would like to think about ethnicity and identity not as barriers but as valuable differences that contribute to the creation of a diverse community together.
The CISV participants are expected to get in contact with Burmese people and feel its culture and life with their own eyes and ears. They had a wonderful opportunity to experience the richness of this different culture and community life. We hope that they have taken with them everything that they have learned through this program and that they will share with their friends and family about their first-hand impression of Myanmar. Finally, we hope that this IPP will be a small but precious experience for everybody to become active global citizens and the first baby steps for CISV Myanmar to grow.

**Introducing the Partner Organization**

Our Partner organization is Khayay Preschool Development Center (KPDC). It is a non-profit early childhood education development center, early childhood teachers training center and preschool, educating children from all backgrounds, with a core curriculum based on emotional, social, linguistic, cognitive and physical development. In Myanmar, we do not have the special course for early childhood educators. Therefore, this organization is committed in letting the society understand about the significance of early childhood education and provides the appropriate basic educational model for the society. It has started in 2004 in Yangon. Since 2008, Khayay Preschool Development Center provided the curriculum to Khayay Preschool International (KPI) and in 2014, KPDC and KPI have established the Khayay School which is authorized under the Myanmar Education Ministry. Through education, KPDC has emphasized the diversity and the dignity of every single child.

**Overcoming Boundaries**

This IPP’s main theme is overcoming boundaries. In order to reach the main goal of overcoming boundaries, we set three sub-themes: understanding identity, breaking prejudices and community building. The theme is the connecting link of everything that will happen during our IPP and that is why all our activities during the program are based on these three sub-themes.

**Participants**

The camp had 15 adult participants from 10 different countries: Norway, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Myanmar, Egypt, Netherlands, Brazil, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

**Highlights of this IPP**

**Hands-on Project: Kid’s Day Camp**

This is the part of the program in which CISV adult participants planned and executed together a practical project. They worked together towards a common cause. The idea of this IPP was to bring Burmese children together from different backgrounds to experience CISV activities. This part of the IPP consisted of a five-day Kids’ DAY Camp with 32 children, aged between 7 and 14. The kids came to the IPP site (KPDC school) from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The participants were in charge of planning, organizing and executing these daily activities.

**CISV- Khayay Teachers’ Exchange**

IPP participants learnt from the KPDC teachers about working with Burmese children. Since the teachers understand them well, know education techniques and have the necessary skills to help us make the best of the five-day Kid’s DAY Camp. With their help the participants prepared for the children beforehand.

The participants also shared with the teachers CISV’s educational goals and approach to learning: Attitudes, Skills and Knowledge (ASK) and ‘learning by doing.’ During the early stages of this IPP, participants also prepared for this exchange of ‘know how.’
Through this workshop both sides learnt from each other, shared resources and learned from the different ways of approaches including non-formal and formal education.

Events and Excursions
We have also prepared some short excursions and events for the participants to experience Burmese culture and get in touch with different agents of the community. These events gave many viewpoints to understand a little more about Myanmar (the diversity of communities, everyday life in Yangon, and some of its landscapes and nature). We believe that these events and excursions were important to explore this IPP’s themes in addition to the hands-on project with the children and the teacher’s workshop.

Baseball Game:
Baseball has a really short history in Myanmar. Mr. Toru Iwasaki, one of the heads of the PO introduced baseball for the first time to Myanmar. A former UN officer, he and his family have worked very hard to establish the national baseball team and develop early childhood education in Myanmar. He and his family are also fellow CISVers! The participants had an opportunity to hear the full story directly from the founder of the national baseball team. Also, two of our staff members are the general secretary and players from the Myanmar Baseball Federation, so this IPP gave the participants the chance of identifying the ways that CISV and sports can complement each other. It just happened that the Japanese high school baseball federation’s selection team would come to Myanmar to play with the Myanmar team, on December 25. It was a great coincidence, considering this IPP is cohosted by CISV Japan and CISV Myanmar. We watched the game and prior to the game the participants did a short CISV activities with the Japanese and Myanmar baseball players. It was a good opportunity to think about the role of education (sports) in building communities and friendships, understanding identities and breaking prejudices.

National Race Village:
We visited the National Village, where the houses of various ethnic groups have been built. The participants could see the similarities and differences among the different groups, about their daily-life, family life and traditions. The place is spacious, so the participants biked around the village. This was another way to deepen the understanding of Burmese cultural diversity.

Pagoda:
Shwedagon Pagoda is the biggest pagoda in Yangon. It is not only a sightseeing spot for visitors but it is also an important religious place to pray for Burmese people. This excursion helped the participants understand more about Burmese identity and community building in Myanmar.

Bogyoke Market:
When we travel abroad, one of the best ways to know about the people’s life is going to a market. A market is a place where people gather, talk and bargain. At Bogyoke Market the participants interacted with new people and enjoyed watching a variety of local food and products they had never seen before. It was a fun experience to end the IPP with and grasp a little of everyday Yangon life. It also helped the participants understand more about Burmese identity and community building in Myanmar.

IPP Schedule
Dec 21 Sun  Arrival, settle-in. Site tour and get to know each other. Welcome to CISV Myanmar.
Dec 22 Mon  Orientation (expectations, rules, norms, IPP goals, P.O. introduction, Staff roles presentation, Theme and CISV Ed, Myanmar)
Dec 23 Tue  CISV- Teachers’ Workshop/ Excursion (Shwe Dagon Pagoda)
Dec 24 Wed  Planning for Kids Day Camp/2 Theme Based Activities
Dec 25 Thu  Excursion (Baseball Game and National Race Village)/ Special Dinner
Dec 26 Fri  Planning for Kids Day Camp/ 1 Theme Based Activities
Dec 27 Sat  Kids Day Camp/ 1 Theme Based Activities
Dec 28 Sun  Kids Day Camp/ 1 Theme Based Activities
Dec 29 Mon  Kids Day Camp/ 1 Theme Based Activities
Dec 30 Tue  Kids Day Camp/ 1 Theme Based Activities
Dec 31 Wed  Kids Day Camp/ New Year’s Eve Party/1 Theme Based Activities
Jan 1 Thu  Excursion (Bogyoke Market) / 1 Theme Based Activities / Reflection Day
Jan 2 Fri  Evaluation/ Packing
Jan 3 Sat  Departure

IPP Day by Day with Pictures
DAY 1 – Monday, December 22, 2014 – ORIENTATION DAY

The participants had arrived the day before and shared a first meal together that was prepared by the excellent kitchen staff of the KPDC. They celebrated one of the participants (Ahmed from Egypt) birthday together. We also did some getting to know each other activities before going to bed.
The next morning, the staff held orientation sessions so that the participants could understand the IPP goals and indicators, the theme of this IPP, present the partner organization, share the campsite rules, introduce the schedule and start working on the CISV-PO exchange for the next day.

DAY 2 – Tuesday, February 22 – WORKSHOP EXCHANGE DAY

The day was spent planning for the CISV-PO teachers’ exchange. The participants planned a Chinese Masters Introduction to CISV for the Khayay Teachers in the morning. They facilitated it in the afternoon of the same day while the teachers had also prepared a short workshop. The day ended with a visit to the Shwedagon pagoda, one of the landmarks of Yangon.
Tracey from New Zealand and Yuka and Lisa from Japan did their theme-based activities in the morning and the participants started the planning for the kids day camp. The staff briefed the participants more on who the kids were and how they were suppose to take in charge the kids day camp. The participants and staff divided themselves in 5 planning groups, one for each day of the kids’ day camp. The participants also planned for a short CISV activity to do with the Japanese and Myanmar baseball players prior to their game the next day. Unfortunately, there are no pictures of the planning of the day. After the hard work, the participants and staff celebrated Christmas Eve at a pizzeria nearby the campsite.
DAY 4 – Thursday, December 25 – EXCURSION DAY (National Races Village and Baseball Game)

On Christmas day, the participants and staff woke up early, put their camp T-shirt on and head out for a whole day of excursion. The participants, staff and a few teachers from the PO went to visit the National Races Village first in the morning and then went to the baseball field. The participants led a few CISV activities at the baseball field together with the Japanese high school players and Myanmar baseball players. The IPPers had a wonderful barbecue in the garden.
DAY 5 – Friday, December 26 – PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR KIDS DAY CAMP

The whole day was dedicated to planning and preparing for the Kids Day Camp and Ahmed from Egypt did his theme based activity. The participants and staff divided in 5 groups for each day of the kids day camp. There were a lot of lively discussions going on how to build the program for the kids.
DAY 6 – Saturday, December 27 – KIDS DAY CAMP 1

Participants finally met the participating children and got to know each other through name games, Myanmar games that the teachers had taught them and getting-to-know-each-other activities. Children were divided into delegations with 2 or 3 adult leaders. In total, there were 7 groups of 4 to 5 children. Children decided on their team names on the first day while making their nametags and place mats. The children enjoyed the delicious lunch prepared by the KPDC kitchen staff and got to know each other and the leaders much better. Each team had their team station they could go back to when needed.

Team Heroes led by Jorgen and Moe

Team Litifly led by Tracey and Carla

Team Winners led by Deb, Alex and Yuka

Team Rose led by Ahmed and Bel
Team Paradise led by Thida and Martin

Team Shining Stars led by Laurien and Lisa

Team Dogs led by Ronja and Reb
DAY 7 – Sunday, December 28 – KIDS DAY CAMP 2

The second day, all 32 children returned to camp. The second planning group in charge led the day with many more CISV activities. They focused on non-verbal communication and introduced more about CISV through another Chinese Master that each team had to solve together. They ended the day with a water game and a theme-based activity from Hong Kong.
DAY 8 – Monday, December 29 – KIDS DAY CAMP 3

The third day of Kids Day Camp was dedicated to trust building and Moe and Thida from Myanmar did their theme-based activity. After dinner, Jorgen from Norway had his theme-based activity too.
DAY 9 – Tuesday, December 30 – KIDS DAY CAMP 4

On the fourth day, children had the opportunity to understand what identity is through the fantasy island activity. They had to create their own island from scratch. Then they did a treasure hunt where they had to liberate their other leader that was taken away by the ogre Prejudice. They ended the day with a running game. After the kids left, the IPPers had 2 theme-based activities from Danemark.
DAY 10 – Wednesday, December 31 – KIDS DAY CAMP 5 (FINAL DAY)

The last day of the Kids Day Camp focused on adjourning, reflecting and making long-lasting memories about this camp. Children and leaders wrote letters to themselves that they will receive back in a year. They managed to find their way out of “Bee-Bap-Boop” which was a very emotional moment of the camp and learnt how to work together. The children were deeply transformed by this camp. As a farewell gift, some children had prepared something to perform to everyone.
After the Kids Day Camp, the IPPers celebrated New Years Eve with the Partner Organization and did the countdown to welcome 2015 at the campsite.
DAY 11 – Thursday, January 1 – REFLECTION DAY/ EXCURSION TO BOGYOKE MARKET

The participants visited the famous Bogyoke Aung San Market after Rebecca and Carla’s theme-based activity on immigration.

After dinner, Bel and Debora from Brazil had their theme-based activity on same-sex marriage.

DAY 12&13 – Friday, January 2 and Saturday, January 3 – EVALUATION DAY/ PACKING/ LEAVING

The day was spent evaluating the whole camp and adjourning the camp. All the participants also contributed in the discussion about the future of CISV Myanmar and left CISV Myanmar with a handful of great ideas and advice to spread the word about CISV.
Conclusion
This IPP was a great success in all aspects. The participants gain the opportunity to challenge themselves to something new and experience a completely new culture. They also could experience at first-hand the beginnings of CISV Myanmar and contribute to a stronger community building with the children during the Kids Day Camp. The children also benefited greatly of this camp as we have seen them grow throughout the 5 days. The teachers from the partner organization were also positively impacted and they are now involved with the staff and Myanmar participants of the camp to shape the Kids Day Camp into a Mosaic project.
CISV IPP in Myanmar
Financial Report

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<table>
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*1: Other activities materials were provided by Partner Organization
*2: 15 Participants, 7 CISV staff, 7 Kitchen staff, 32 Children participants & 18 PO participants for 5 days
*3: Including Camp staff and participants’ WIFI internet.
*4: 3 times excursion’s cost including admission fee of two cultural places
*5: Gift for All
*6: P.O. supported shopping transportation
*7: Pre meeting and 5 days camp transportation from suburbs to Yangon
*8: 12 Local staff including kitchen staff
*9: 2 International staff air flight from Japan to Yangon