



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Microfinance and Learning in Southeast Asia
Name: Elizabeth Greenwood
Other Team Members: Kate Craig
Program: NYC - Asia Program
Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001
Location Visited: Thailand
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: Sawadee ka! We traveled to Thailand to gain perspective and appreciation for diverse and cutting- edge business practices in a developing Asian economy. Since we educate young women to be global citizens of tomorrow, we wanted to get a better understanding of how women across the world use their own particular strengths to support themselves and their communities. We went with the intention of brining Wall Street to Bangkok and Bangkok to Wall Street.

While on our fellowship, we met met a diverse range of women, who were all inspiring in distinct ways. We met with women from all corners of the Land of Smiles who are accomplished in a wide range of fields, from small business owners (like travel agents and seamstresses) to wellness professionals (homeopathic specialists) to artists and chefs. Their ingenuity and resourcefulness with limited resources reinvigorated our drive to inspire hope and self- confidence in our students. Even with the adversity of a natural disaster and limited employment opportunities, the Thai businesswomen remain determined to create a brighter future for their children. We witnessed socially responsible business practices that enriched communities and create a sustainable model for future generations to follow.

The connections we forged in continue to strengthen as we reexamine our mission to economically empower young urban women. Our trip has imbued new purpose and resolve in our classroom practices. Korp kun ka, Thailand!

Career Impact: *Learned how to negotiate culturally sensitive scenarios and customs.

*Formed relationships with Thai student peers who will communicate with our students via Skype, email, and other technologies.

*Gained a new appreciation of different business models and the power of a small amount of capital can dramatically alter lives.

*Engaged in cultural dialogue and experiences that could not be replicated anywhere other than Thailand

Classroom/Community Impact:*Brought back first- hand stories and understandings of an unfamiliar country and culture to our students

*Brought back traditional garments, artwork, handicrafts, photos, video, and potential contacts to introduce to our students

*Reinvigorated teaching practices to share with colleagues and administration, including ideas for curricula, professional development, and extracurricular activities

Open Response: We plan on bringing our work in Thailand to life in our school community by developing mini- microfinance projects in our advisory program. Each small advisory group of 12- 15 students will collectively determine an area of interest or skill to develop a project that they will enact over the course of the school year. To create excitement and mirror the actual marketplace, this project will be a competition to see who can make not only the most profitable but the most sustainable impact to their community. We plan on engaging our partners and parents in this endeavor.

Quote: "Same- Same, but different!"

Photos:



Put 'em up for boxing gym owner Gob!



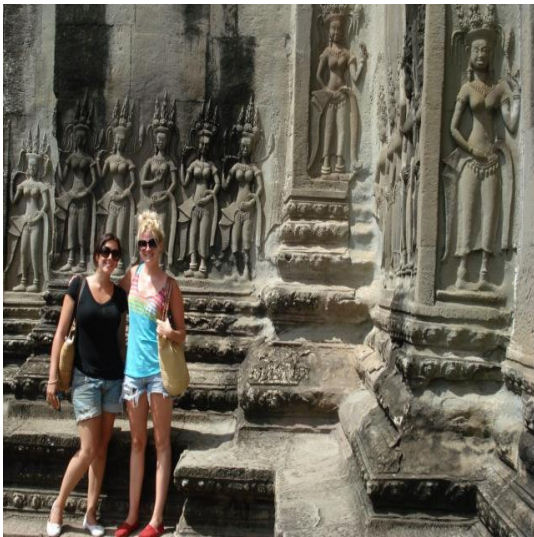
Elephant Nui loves Liz's hand sewn hilltribe clothes!



What's cookin', ladies?



Taking a study break in Chiang Mai!



Getting in touch with our spiritual sides!



Elephant Xing!



Thai Team in Action!



Permission to Launch: Thai Team!