

# DaLaa Work Camp Program 2025

THAILAND



**International Volunteers  
for  
Social Development Association  
(DaLaa)**

“Thrive through authenticity, responsibility, and inclusion”

# Work camps Calendar

## second semester 2025

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Transport Hub</i>
September 4-10	Koh Sukorn	Rice planting and activities with kids.	Trang city South Thailand
October 10-23	DaLaa Anniversary	Children activities and community life	Hat Yai city (Songkhla province)
December 14-23	Kong Por Neua	Universal Peace and culture exchange in Karen community - Chiang Mai	Chiang Mai city, North Thailand
December 15-21	Koh Sukorn	Rice and watermelon harvesting	Trang city- South Thailand



Down there you will find the main information of each workcamp. It is still not the complete infosheet.

# Koh Sukorn

1- Rice planting and activities with kids: 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

2. Rice and watermelon harvesting: 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> December, 2025

## SHORT DESCRIPTION

**Koh Sukorn** is a preserved island of Andaman Sea in South Thailand. During this work camp, we will have the chance to join hands with the community members to preserve the local agriculture while we can learn about their way of life. Moreover, we will be creating activities and games with children and young people to open their views and let them learn about international culture together with the volunteers. We will need your creativity and ideas of games and activities that will create a multi-cultural atmosphere for them



## Project Background

Sukorn Island (Koh Sukorn) is a small island situated in Palian district, Trang province. The island covers an area of 14 sq km. Like every year, we will be conducting activities with communities of Baan Laem and Baan Toong. In these 2 villages, there is population of 1,200 or 337 families, of which 95% are Muslims. The common occupations of the villagers are fishing, rubber tapping, as well as agriculture; growing paddy, watermelons, traditional way of growing vegetables, and keeping livestock. In general, the villagers are very generous and still remain the culture of supporting and sharing with each other. Furthermore, they also believe that paddy and agriculture is the main food stability of the village.

Already some years, a group of local researchers had been working with the 2 communities mentioned above. In one community, the village members are still remaining their traditional way of living, while in another, people started to drop their old values and turning to development from the cities. Less and less people are working on

paddy fields, or growing their own food supply as it is easier to buy. Therefore, these researchers aim to bring awareness to the locals to keep their old lifestyle and revive the tradition of growing paddy, other traditional agriculture, as well as developing local rice species and doing farmer's co-operative. The researcher team has been present only a few years but with DaLaa volunteers, both short and long term, we have been continuously organizing activities (mainly agriculture and activities with kids) with villagers and develop good relationships.



## AIMS of the PROJECT

- To support the initiatives of local agricultural activities
- To fully and wisely utilize local resources
- To learn about Thai way of life and be part of the communities
- To let children be familiar with volunteers and learn in international/multi-cultural atmosphere

## WORK AND ACTIVITIES

These 2 workcamps are following the culture of rice:

- 1- For the first one (September 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>), the main work is to replant rice in flooded fields-

*The rice (seeds) is first sowed. After a few weeks, the young seedlings are harvested in bunches. These are then separated into individual plants and replanted in the flooded rice fields in evenly spaced rows to allow the plant to grow to full size. This improves the yield of seeds the plants will produce.*

- 2- For the second one (December 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>), the main work is to harvest rice and watermelons

*Harvesting rice by hand: The rice has been replanted in late August- September. The field are flooded for the first 2 months during the raining season then November and December are the start of the dry season. The rice will be ready at that time and the farmers will cut the top part of the plant where the rice seeds are located. This is the work that the volunteers will experience. It's usually very hot in the field and one must protect oneself from the sun.*

For both camps, we will have more cultures exchanges/discovery programs and activities with children on the weekends.

## FOOD and ACCOMODATION

Volunteers will stay at the local people house. You will be provided, a small mattress, a pillow and a mosquito net. It's good if you can bring your own light blanket/sleeping bag/bed sheet while the temperature will be around 25 in the night. The living condition is very simple, you may find it completely different than in your country. There are basic toilets and showers and a kitchen where volunteers will cook by themselves. The ingredients can be purchased at local grocery stores. It may be helpful if you bring some ingredients from home, so that you can share some of your traditional food with other volunteers. (No oven, only a gas and woks or pans). As mention that it's a Muslim village, so there will be no pork used for cooking.

**\*\*Please do not expect intensive comfort during your time at the project**

## PARTICIPATION FEES

**The fee is fixed to 6,500 Baht per person for the 7 days.** The fee includes with the cost of on-arrival pick-up and departure to and from the meeting point, charter boat to and from the island, for living expenses (gas, water, electricity, food, transport) and materials used in projects/activities and for the other part to support financially our organization. Volunteers' fee is our only income.

# DaLaa Anniversary

## Children activities and Community living

Dates: 10<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2025

### SHORT DESCRIPTION

Volunteers will spend 2 weeks together to experience and practice the values of our association “Living, learning and working together”. During this School break we’ll have children coming every morning at our center. In this camp you will organize activities with kids and experience voluntary spirit and community power. We’ll have plenty of space for everyone to discuss, share, play, heal, learn, help, and work together. We welcome everyone to join such as DaLaa’s staff, hosts, old and new volunteers and children regardless of their ages.



### PROJECT BACKGROUND

Since the establishment of the association in October 2004, we have organized a celebration each year. In 2015, we moved our office from Hat Yai to a local village known as Baan Kok Sak in order to get away from bustling city to live a simple life in the countryside. Again, this year, the flower of DaLaa still blooms, we go over another step and turn 21.

Baan Kok Sak village is located in Klong Hoi Khong district of Songkhla, the approximate number of villagers settling in this village is about 1,200 populations or 140 families. Most of them own fruit gardens and rubber plantation. Nearly all of them are Buddhists. There are a few Buddhism temples in the area and lots of rubber plantation lined up on the sides of the road.

## AIMS of the PROJECT

- To create activities for children during school holidays
- To gather up DaLaa members (old and new), international volunteers, old friends, project hosts and interested people
- To manage our daily life smoothly in a spontaneous environment and activities, mixing all ages
- To promote and raise the understanding of our common values and IVS (International Voluntary Service)
- To celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> year Anniversary of DaLaa organization



## WORK AND ACTIVITIES

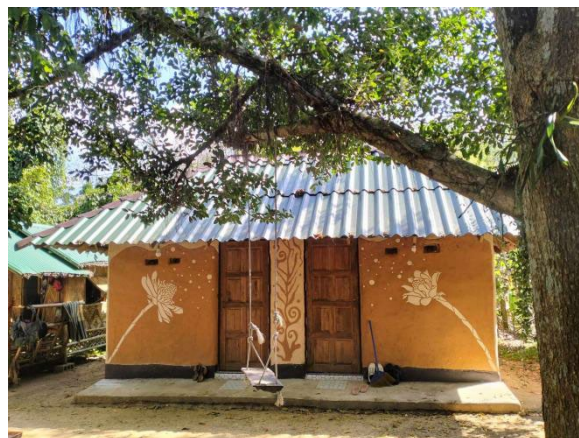
The ACTIVITIES to strengthen the relationship and to support the aims are roughly planned as below.

- Organize activities with kids in the village every morning
- Adjust surroundings around the volunteer service community
- Create forums-discussions on “Voluntary Service”
- Organize DaLaa 21<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration



## FOOD and ACCOMODATION

Volunteers will sleep in the small huts or the tents. There will be thin mattresses, yoga mats, pillows, and mosquito nets. There are basic toilets and showers and a kitchen where volunteers will cook by themselves. The ingredients can be purchased at local grocery stores. It may be helpful if you bring some ingredients from home, so that you can share some of your traditional food with other volunteers.



## PARTICIPATION FEE

The fee for family volunteers is fixed to **9,500 Baht** for the 2 weeks. The fee will be used for living expenses (gas, water, electricity, food, transportation), materials used in projects/activities, and financial support of our organization.

# Kong Por Neua

Universal Peace and culture exchange

in Karen community - Chiang Mai

Dates: 14<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2025

## SHORT DESCRIPTION

Immerse yourself in the fresh winter environment of a Northern Hill tribe at Kong Por Neua, a remote Karen community from Chiang Mai province. Staying at the local temple, volunteers will help to organize an important Buddhist ceremony there, a full day of activities with students at the local School and a 3 days- Universal Moral & Ethics Camp at the temple (our living place) with Karen children, youth and adults. Even with the presence of a few translators, volunteers should be ready to practice communication in a multi languages environment (Karen, Thai and English). We'll create together activities to support values of morals, ethics, international peace, culture exchange, solidarity, team building, leadership... The workcamp is co-organized by the local monk Too Neuk, the foundation Watcharaparamita and Dala association. Volunteers may help with vegan cooking, organization of activities, such as games for adults and children, take parts in the discussions and share their own culture. The last day will be dedicated to local culture and forest discovery/preservation awareness together with our hosts.





## PROJECT BACKGROUND

This project is born from the gathering between Too Neuk, the local monk, the foundation Watcharaparamita and DaLaa, International volunteers for Social Development association in 2024- We had our first workcamp in December and it was a real success. DaLaa organizes international workcamps often in the education field with children and youth in Thailand. The foundation Watcharaparamita based in Chiang Mai organizes Universal Moral & Ethics Camps for adults. It will be the 4th time they will do such an event in the Ban Kong Por Neua temple and the second time for DaLaa volunteers to join them. Too Neuk, the active monk there is keeping the local people active in the village and organizes often events with them.

We wish to expand our love to children there and embrace the foundation's camp (19-21 December) by creating meaningful activities for the children in both the school and the temple toward international culture exchange, having fun while respecting each other's, learning about ourselves and peace. Volunteers may focus on children activities during the Moral & Ethics camp depending on their interest.

This year, Too Neuk wished the volunteers to be part of this very special annual event: The Chedi/Stupa watering ceremony (on 15 night and 16 December) that welcome several hundreds of people from the whole district and probably 30-40 monks from the area.

*Too Neuk giving a speech in his monastery, our local host*



*The team of the Watcharaparamita foundation*



## AIMS of the PROJECT

1. Allow children to broaden their horizons and learn English speaking skills.
2. Create fun activities on the basis of love and kindness.
3. Strengthen love and unity without discrimination of social classes, ethnicity and religion
4. Bring love and kindness to create great power. Join hands to develop ourselves, develop the society, and develop the nation.

## WORK AND ACTIVITIES

- 1- Preparation and organize the service of the ‘Watering Chedi ceremony’ event at the temple
- 2- Organize 1 full day students’ activities at the local School
- 3- Organize and join 3 full days of the Ethics and Moral camp
- 4- Discovery of the area and culture exchange



School students’ activities



Presentation of Dharma in the monastery main room

## FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION

We will have a cooking team (that you can join). They will provide volunteers with 3 meals a day. The **food will be vegan for the whole stay** - No meat is allowed in the temple.



We will provide volunteers with drinking water tanks/closed bottles. Local people are actually drinking rain water mostly.

We will all stay in the compound of Kong Por Neua monastery. There is a communal building and you will be provided with simple sleeping equipment like thin mats, pillows and blankets. We will sleep in communal rooms (1 for females and 1 for males). These rooms will be used in the day time for the camp so we will need to pack up our sleeping stuff every morning. If you need more privacy, we advise you to bring your own tent that you can pitch in the yard.

In December, it will be winter: **the temperature can be as low as 10 degrees in the morning** so volunteers are encouraged to prepare additional winter equipment such as warm clothes, hats, socks, gloves, and scarves. The day time should be warmer.

There are many toilets and shower rooms. You actually shower by throwing water on you with a bucket from a tank. The water is collected from the rain but there should be enough for daily use. – No hot water.

There is no electricity in the village but there are solar panels at the monastery so this should be fine to recharge your phone.

## **PARTICIPATION FEE**

**The fee is fixed to 9,000 Baht per person.** The fee includes with the cost of on-arrival pick-up and departure to and from the meeting point, for living expenses (gas, water, food, transport) and materials used in projects/activities and for the other part to support financially our organization.

## **For all the DaLaa workcamps:**

### **REQUIREMENTS**

The volunteers should be ready to stay in a remote area, to adapt to the local conditions with only basic facilities. Very few local people are able to speak in English and even most of the elders do not understand Thai language. Volunteers should be able to handle spontaneous working environment. The mentality and way of thinking is very different from the western world. There will have activities with the children. To have responsibility for you, the kids and full involvement in community matters is a must. For the 10 days, you will be led by a DaLaa member/staff who will help to coordinate the project.

### **OFFICIAL MATTERS (VISA, IMMIGRATION, INSURANCE)**

- Most of the western countries passports holders can get 60 days stay for free in Thailand. It's called "on arrival visa". Immigration officers may ask for a valid return ticket and sufficient funds.
- Participants are responsible for their own insurance. You should talk to your company or working place about what is covered, and how to get your expenses back in case you need it. Be aware that only few hospitals in big cities will directly reimburse the medical fees. It is more likely that you will need to pay first.
- There is no vaccination required to come to Thailand. There is also no malaria history at the project place.

### **DALAA organization**

We are officially recognized and known as "International Volunteers for Social Development Association (DaLaa)". Our office is situated close to Hatyai city in the south of Thailand, less than 2 hours from the project. Our main aim is to contribute to long lasting social development. Our secondary aims are support, preserving and friendship. This is achieved through projects and activities that create opportunities where volunteers and local people can work, live, and have fun together.

*Please take a look at our web-site ([www.dalaa-thailand.com](http://www.dalaa-thailand.com)) to learn more about us*



DaLaa is a member of international voluntary networks: CCIVS (Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service) and NVDA (Network for Voluntary Development in Asia). We desire to support local communities and existing development projects, to create mutual understanding between both international and Thai volunteers as well as local people, and to preserve nature and culture as good as possible.

DaLaa desire to gather people all around the world for working, living and being happily time together in order to make a better world with more multi-cultural understanding.

DaLaa organizes work-camps as well as Middle and Long Term projects (MLTV). Furthermore, the organization support and empower Thai members and youth to take parts in our projects and to join work-camps and MLTV organized by our partner organizations abroad (Outgoing).

## **Our Mission**

To coordinate the hosting of volunteers in active communities working for social growth and environmental preservation

## **Our Vision**

Thriving through authenticity, responsibility, and inclusion.

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## **Living Learning Working TOGETHER**



# Our Activities

## Workcamps

Work-camps last usually about 2 weeks. The projects can be as various as teaching English, environmental activities, constructional work, and art & music camps. These camps are organized together with local organizations, local government, schools and dedicated individuals in order to meet local's needs and be a part of volunteers and communities.

## Middle and Long Term Projects

Middle and Long Term Volunteer (MLTV) Projects need good preparation and independence of the volunteers. The teams are usually small (up to six volunteers). In the Long Term Projects, volunteers also have some freedom to introduce their own activities and small projects with the community. Volunteers should stay at least 2 or 3 months

In each project, there is a host who is the initiator and the one responsible for the whole project.

The host assure the continuity and the spirit of the project. The hosts are also the DaLaa's advisors.

## Out-going Projects

DaLaa has been preparing and sending Thai volunteers to join the work-camps or projects with our international partners. We recruit directly from Thai residents who want to become volunteers with our partners or with us.

## Voluntary Service Center (VSC)

Voluntary Service Center is our own community that includes daily activities and members' support for continuous and short activities; we call it VSC, it is the open gate for new interested people to become a volunteer.

# Passport Holders who can enter Thailand without a Visa



Revised 16 July 2024

## VISA EXEMPTION (60 DAYS)

Effective on 15 July 2024, nationals of **93 countries and territories** are entitled to visa exemption for the purpose of tourism, business engagements or urgent work/ad-hoc work, **for up to 60-day period of stay and can be extended for another period not exceeding 30 days**. Extension of stay is solely at the discretion of the immigration officer.

### List of Countries and Territories:

Albania	Finland	Lithuania	San Marino
Andorra	France	Luxembourg	Saudi Arabia
Australia	Georgia	Macao	Singapore
Austria	Germany	Malaysia	Slovakia
Bahrain	Greece	Maldives	Slovenia
Belgium	Guatemala	Malta	South Africa
Bhutan	Hong Kong	Mauritius	Spain
Brazil	Hungary	Mexico	Sri Lanka
Brunei	Iceland	Monaco	Sweden
Bulgaria	India	Mongolia	Switzerland
Cambodia	Indonesia	Morocco	Taiwan
Canada	Ireland	Netherlands	Tonga
China	Israel	New Zealand	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	Italy	Norway	Türkiye
Croatia	Jamaica	Oman	Ukraine
Cuba	Japan	Panama	UAE
Cyprus	Jordan	Papua New Guinea	UK
Czechia	Kazakhstan	Peru	USA
Denmark	Korea (ROK)	Philippines	Uruguay
Dominica	Kosovo	Poland	Uzbekistan
Dominican Republic	Kuwait	Portugal	Vietnam
Ecuador	Laos	Qatar	
Estonia	Latvia	Romania	
Fiji	Liechtenstein	Russia	



The following countries have bilateral agreements for visa exemption with Thailand  
Argentina, Chile, Myanmar (International airports only)  
(The period of stay is based on respective bilateral agreements)

## Tips for Volunteers

- Volunteers are expected to take full commitment in the voluntary project in which he/she is attending. However, try not to create big expectations about the work you will do. Instead, please bear in mind that you are not coming to save the project from its problem, but you are coming to learn about the host country and to lend a hand in the process.

You will have to be flexible with limitation or some certain condition that something might not be able to be done or changed.

- Try to take as much initiative as possible. This is one of the qualities you are expected to show in your project and it is a basic tool for your development in the project.

- Responsibility is essential. The projects may not have specific rules but when the hosts ask you to do or not to do something, please follow their instructions. If you follow them, people will be impressed by and appreciate your cooperation, respect and goodwill.

- Do your best to become a part of the team. This is very important and will help ensure that your placement is a positive and rewarding experience. In your role as the newcomer, you will have to make the effort to reach out to the project hosts, community members, and other volunteers in order to develop a good and healthy relationship.

- Give yourself time to understand the reasons why things are done the way they are. Sometimes the reasons will not be easy to understand from your point of view but you need to be patient and accepting.

- Be creative but at the same time always be respectful.

- Volunteers should take care of their own belongings such as money, passport, flight tickets, electrical devices, etc. DaLaa will not be responsible for any loses. However, volunteers can leave a copy of their passport and flight ticket at DaLaa Office, in case of emergency.