



# ***Dalaa MLTV program book 2023***

***(MLTV: Middle and Long-Term Volunteering)***

**“Most of All our MLTV are situated in South Thailand- Minimum stay is 2 months”**

# DaLaa Thailand

International Volunteers for Social Development Association

## Foreword:

Dear reader, you will find in this program book detailed information about our middle and long-term volunteering projects at DaLaa, international volunteers for social development association, South Thailand. We hope with this publication to promote our activities and match interested people with the volunteer project that fits them the best. Thank you for your interest!

Voluntary yours,

DaLaa team

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



# Contents

**A- ABOUT US**

**B- Overview of DaLaa MLTV projects**

**C- Details of Each project**

- Kok Payom
- Lung Jaeng Garden
- Koh Sukorn
- Koh Nang Kham
- Na Nai Kong farm
- Voluntary Service Community
- Bann Prang Mu School
- Suan Som Rom Na Phru
- Ban Kok Riang

**D- Practical information about our MLTV projects**

**E- DaLaa values**

## 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.

# Overview of DaLaa MLTV projects

## 1. Kok Payom Community “Learning Community, Creative English teaching and environment”



DaLaa MLTV project - code: 0950  
Volunteers type: Medium Term (two months minimum)  
Max Number of Volunteers: 4  
Available application period: All year around

Join the dream of a non-formal education center in a small fishermen village of the Andaman coast-South Thailand. From the teaching at local schools, English adults lessons in the evening at community learning center (SaLa) joining activities every Sunday in the mangrove, you will share the daily life of

the villagers, absorbing their wisdom and spread it in your own way with fresh energy to the local kids. Realize also their difficulties and bring your rock for a better future at Kok Payom.

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## 2. Lung Jaeng Garden [Kok Rieng]



Project number: DaLaa 1301MLTV  
Volunteers type: Medium and Long Term (two months minimum)  
Max Number of Volunteers: 3-4  
Available application period: all year round

Lung Jaeng is the kind host of our association office and Voluntary Service Community. He is a great life activist who also welcomes volunteers since 2013 through DaLaa to support his social and non-chemical garden 3 km away from the office. Volunteers will mainly join agricultural work and daily life with Lung Jaeng. They have the possibility to join our members activities.

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## 3. Koh Sukorn “Local culture and agriculture”



DaLaa MLTV project - code: 1402  
Volunteers type: Medium Term (two months minimum)  
Max Number of Volunteers: 4  
Available application period: All year round (except April to June)

Volunteers join a family daily life of the rural island of Andaman coast in South Thailand. In this Muslim community, the main occupation is fishing but many also plant rice and watermelon, raise buffaloes and some have rubber plantation. Volunteers will help their host family to grow the vegetable garden around the house, collect the palm leaves to make roofs, and plant and collect rice and watermelon with other families in the community. There may be some activities with local kids too.

#### 4. Koh Nang Kham (Creative English teaching and activities with kids)



DaLaa MTV project - code: 1702

Periods available: All year around (except March and April)  
at least 2 months

Expected number of volunteers: 2 to 4

Volunteers will join a small Muslim community of South Thailand on the banks of Songkhla Lake. They will organize activities for children of the local school and share the life of the villagers.

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#### 5. Na Nai Kong Frarm (agriculture and sufficiency lifestyle)



DaLaa MLTV project - code: 2101

All year round

Maximum 5 volunteers

Put your hands and feet in the mud, to produce organic rice, fruit and vegetables, clay house building and activities with kids at “Mr Kong rice field” first dedicated to agro-tourism and sufficiency lifestyle, it moves its objectives toward a youngster center thanks to its close link with the artists and activist volunteer world.

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#### 6. Voluntary Service Community (VSC) (Various work at the heart of our association)



DaLaa MTV project - code: 2201

Periods available: All year

At least 2 months

Expected number of volunteers: 2 to 3

The mission of DaLaa is to coordinate the hosting of volunteers in active communities led by our hosts. We always have dreamed to start our own association community. It is the best introduction to all new comers and reveals our values of volunteering to the world, the first entrance to our new members right around our rural office

Since 2015 that we have moved to this village, we have been continuously working on the surrounding, gardening and doing activities with the local kids. Volunteers can also expect cooking class, seeds conservation, recycling, repairing or construction. We wish our motivated volunteers to join English teaching with the local schools.

Moreover, we regularly organize extra activities such as mini work camps in the week-ends, International seminars, visit our MLTV placements and we are open to all new ideas.

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## 7. Bann Prang Mu School (Creative English teaching and activities with kids)



DaLaa MTV project - code: 2202

Periods available: June to September and November to February

At least 2 months

Expected number of volunteers: 2 to 3

Ban Prang Mu School is a very small school in Ban Prang Mu sub district, Phatthalung province, Southern Thailand. The school director, who shares our values, would like to welcome volunteers, to improve English skills for students to be able to communicate in this language.

Volunteers can help to organize English lessons or other fun activities with the 126 students from kindergarten to Grade 6 (6-12 years old). The English skills of the students are very poor. They are not familiar with foreigners. You can experience the local way of life, exchange with other volunteers, villagers and support the children education.

## 8. Suan Som Rom Na Phru (organic farming, cooking and market)



DaLaa MTV project - code: 2203

Periods available: All year round

At least 2 months

Expected number of volunteers: 2

Prapai Thongchern also known as Phi Yoi is a 50 years old single woman pioneer in natural living. She has a long experience in natural color textile and starting local green markets in the province of Phatthalung (South Thailand) that have become really successful. She has restored a family land covering an area of 4 rai (1.6 acre), which used to be a peat swamp field with sago palm dense forest, and turned it into a beautiful farm named "Suan Som Rom Na Phru". This farm is used both as a learning space and to provide her with daily fresh food and environment. The place is ideal for recharging the life energy and finding an inspiration from the simplicity in nature.

## 9. Ban Kok Riang (Creative English teaching and community living)



DaLaa MTV project - code: 2301

Periods available: All year round

At least 2 months

Expected number of volunteers: 3-4

Volunteers will join a small Buddhist community in Klong Hoy Khong district, Sonkhla province, South of Thailand. They will organize activities for kids at the local school and in the village, share the life of the VSC (volunteer service community), helping with other work such

as organize mini work camp in the weekend, helping in gardening and construction work at VSC (volunteers service community)

# Details of Each project

## 1. Kok Payom Community

“Learning Community, Creative English teaching and environment”

DaLaa MLTV project - code: 0950

Open all year round, minimum 2 months stay,  
Number of volunteers: 4



### SHORT DESCRIPTION

Join the dream of a non-formal education center in a small fishermen village of the Andaman coast-South Thailand. From the teaching at local schools, English adults lessons in the evening at community learning center (SaLa) joining activities every Sunday in the mangrove, you will share the daily life of the villagers, absorbing their wisdom and spread it in your own way with fresh energy to the local kids. Realize also their difficulties and bring your rock for a better future at Kok Payom.



### Background

Kok Payom is a small muslim-majority village in Langú district, Satun, in the South of Thailand, with approx. 600 inhabitants. People in the village mainly rely on fishing and agriculture – rice, rubber, palm, fruits, vegetables, spices – as for their daily living and main source of income. There is 1 mosque, a religious school (Tadika) 1 public primary school (kindergarden and grades 1-6), a few small shops and community spaces in the village. 1 NGO established by local people are active in the Village with the main focus on mangrove and environmental conservation and the other.

Kok Payom, is located 10 kilometers away from the town of Langu in Satun Province. The village is only few km from the sea and linked to it through a large river/canal: the water is salty and there is a strong tide. Most families own a boat and go fishing everyday at the river or at the sea. There are also rubber plantations and rice fields. It is a very peaceful location surrounded by an area of mangrove forest. This village is about 100 years old.

Until late 1980's, villagers were working for a company (government concessions) to make coal from the rich wood of the mangrove forest. They cut almost all of it. Then there was the law to definitively stop these concessions and to forbid cutting the rich wood all over Thailand. [This was the start of national parks. But 80 % of the tropical forests of Thailand were already down to exportation...and locals were forbid to cut trees for their own need, even, in many cases people living in the limits of the new called national parks have been forced to leave their houses]. When Kok Payom people realized the fishes and crabs were disappearing from the canal, some villagers made the link and decided to replant and take care of the mangrove. And indeed, most of the life of the canal and the whole ocean is starting in between the roots of the mangrove (and the corals too). Nowadays, many areas have been replanted around the village, and even if the mangrove has only 2 or 3 trees species and most trees are of the same height, the life is growing under, in between the roots that can deal with the tides and salty water. The

villagers want to continue to take care of the mangrove and we would like to support them with hand, head and heart power.

Villagers want also to take care of the social life of the community. The social values of respecting and supporting each other in their traditional way of life are difficult to maintain nowadays. Like everywhere in the world, villagers face more and more challenges. The community has recognized some of these problems and is working hard to find solutions to the environmental and social issues. They greatly welcome visitors, activists and volunteers who can contribute to these efforts.

Since 2009, DaLaa volunteers have been working with the villagers and children especially at the local schools. There have been a big improvement and continuation of useful activities and constructions. Community members are more aware of environmental issues and how to preserve the local beliefs and life style. In 2010, the villagers, creates “Klong Toh Lem school”, an alternative school on the other side of the canal, in the middle of mangrove forest where children were learning about environment, local values, wisdom, and language in a very natural method of learning every Sunday. Since the Covid period, the activities were totally stopped and the nature took over the School, and now the local people want to start the Klong the Lem aschool again together with the volunteers.



## AIMS of the PROJECT.

- 1- To preserve the mangrove forest and the environment
- 2- To support and be part of Kok Payom learning community (to preserve their community values and life style)
- 3- To build a good relationship between volunteers and local people
- 4- To learn about local cultures and wisdom



## WORK AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers can possibly do the activities as follows:

- Create non-formal English classes at local schools
- Create a place where local people and children can learn and become more aware of the importance of our environment (Alternative School –Klong Toh Lem)
- To support some work for community base project (Masjid and Islamic learning centre)
- Organize nature trips with children (awareness of the importance of nature)
- Plant young seedlings in the mangrove forests (occasionally)
- Organize fun and enjoyable activities to the village children at the village meeting place
- Experience Thai Muslim culture, language and local lifestyle with the villagers and support in any useful activities.

## General schedule:

Monday-Thursday Teaching/activities/environment

Friday-Saturday Free time

Sunday Klong Toh Lem school (Alternative School)

## Students' English ability

Most students basically know only easy words, short sentences and the letters in the alphabet.



## REQUIREMENTS

The volunteers should be ready to stay in a remote area, to adapt to the local conditions with only basic facilities and with few people able to speak in English. Volunteers should be able to handle spontaneous working environment and constant changes in the plans. The mentality and way of thinking is very different from the western world. There will have often activities with the children. To have responsibility for yourself, the kids and full involvement in community matters is a must.

Villagers of Kok Payom are Muslim so there is no pork or alcohol in the village. Women should dress modestly although you will discover when you live there that the villagers are very relaxed.

## FOOD and ACCOMODATION

- We will cook meals together with the host family, there is a lot of sea food, rice, vegetables. Because the family is Muslim, there will be no pork nor alcohol.

- Volunteers will stay at the host house. The mosquito nets, pillows, blankets and mattresses are provided. The conditions are simple.

## OTHER PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Laundry: expect to hand-wash your clothes or washing machine service in the village
- Water supply and electricity: available
- Internet/phone access: Mobile internet is available you can buy prepaid Thai sim card here.
- Hat Yai, the main city of South Thailand (close to DaLaa office) is 2 hours by minivan from Langu.
- Clothes worn in the village: You will be living in an area with elderly people and children around so it is appropriate that you dress modestly, for example no short skirts or shorts too far above the knees. Also, women should wear tops that cover your shoulders. Bikini is not appropriate to swim. Please wear a short and a top instead. You will learn more about Thai culture at the introduction day so please don't worry too much. You will quickly learn when it best to dress more informally and when it is important to cover up. Please click on this web link below representing the dress code by our volunteers,  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/176dSkpZl6S23OCBSsloWEzQU8z34foYd/view?usp=sharing>
- Language: not so many people in the village can speak good English. We strongly advice the volunteers to learn at least basic Thai language before or during the start of your project. Non verbal communication will be as well essential.
- Few things not to forget: Flash light, mosquito repellent (nature friendly if possible), light long sleeves clothes, closed shoes and flip flops, rain jacket, hat, something to show your culture, food, pictures..., games, music, your motivation and beautiful smiles.
- Some book, game or any kind of learning tools to cont



## 2. Lung Jaeng garden

(organic farming)

DaLaa MLTV project - code: 1301

All year round

Expected number of volunteers: 3

### SHORT DESCRIPTION

Volunteers will join agricultural work and daily life with Lung Jaeng who is the kind host of our association office and Voluntary Service Community. He is a great life activist who also welcomes volunteers since 2013 through DaLaa to support his social and non-chemical garden 3 km away from the office. Volunteers will also join our members activities.



### AIMS of the PROJECT

1- Start a new kind of community based on love, responsibility, harmony and freedom.

2- Our members grow in wisdom and our garden produces healthy food.

3- We can gather members and children more and more around meaningful volunteer activities.

### WORK- ACTIVITIES

- Agriculture (seeds conservation, planting, potting, caring, collecting, weeding, watering, composting... Chicken care) and daily life (cooking, cleaning...)
- Join our association member activities.



### REQUIREMENTS

This project is for volunteers who are interested and willing to exchange on organic agriculture, self-reliance and Thai traditional cultures. The volunteers will have the possibilities to meet our members and

Volunteers should be ready to adapt to the Thai, local way of life, and willing to create relationships with volunteers' friends, hosts and local people. Some difficult points could be the culture and language barrier, mosquitoes and insects, eating rice at every meal, adapting to the change of plans often..

Volunteers should be able to take responsibility for themselves and the team by taking care of their health and security and be fully involved in the daily tasks.

\*\* Clothes worn in the village- schools and temple: skirts or shorts long enough to cover your knees also when you are sitting. Women should wear tops that cover their shoulders, no low neckline. Bikinis are not appropriate to swim if you go on holidays. Please wear long shorts and a top instead.

## FOOD and ACCOMODATION

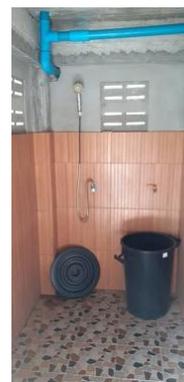
- We will cook meals together and eat at Lung Jaeng house.
- On the other side of the road, volunteers have a private triple hut in the middle of the garden with a balcony and simple toilets. (Mosquito nets, pillows, blankets and mattresses are provided.)
- The place is about 2 km from Kok Rieng village where you have small shops, temples and a school



## OTHER PRACTICAL and LOCAL INFORMATION

- Kok Rieng is situated in Kok Muang sub-district, Klong Hoy Khong District, Songkhla province which is about 20 minutes driving from Hatyai, the biggest city of South Thailand.
- Many people in the area are rubber farmer while others are working in the city.
- The raining season, from about October to December makes it difficult to garden vegetables
- The electricity is from solar cells, and water from the well, you can either handwash your clothes or go to the laundry, about 1 km away.

- **Few things not to forget: Flash light, mosquito repellent (nature friendly if possible), light long sleeves clothes, hat, something to show your culture, food, pictures, games, music, your motivation and beautiful smiles.**



# 3. Koh Sukorn

## Local culture and agriculture

In Palian district, Trang province, Southern Thailand  
Project number: DaLaa 1402MLTV

Volunteer's type: Medium Term (two months minimum)

Max Number of Volunteers: 4

Available application period: All year round (except April to June)



## HISTORY and REASONS OF THE PROJECT

Sukorn Island (Koh Sukorn) is situated in Palian district, Trang province. For this project, we will be conducting activities with communities in Baan Laem and Baan Toong village (2 on the 4 villages of the island). In these 2 villages, there is population of 1,189 or 337 families, 95% of them are Muslims. On this island there are also official offices and institutions of which are government-run namely one pre-school, two primary schools (grade 1 to grade 6), one healthcare center and one police station. General income of villagers is from fishing industry regarded



as main occupation, secondly is rubber plantation and agriculture; growing rice, watermelons, corns and other seasonal vegetables as well as keeping livestock. Koh Sukorn watermelon is widely well-known for its best product because of its sweet juicy taste. The island landscape is geologically plain, partly with small hills. Also, around the shore line, it is lined up with scattered mangrove trees.

In general the villagers are very generous and they 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 have 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 life style and revive the tradition of growing paddy, other traditional agriculture, as well as developing local rice species, and forming farmer's co-op group. They invite us to organize volunteers' activities there in 2013. Few years after, the researcher group is not very active anymore but we have successfully continued activities (mainly agriculture and activities with kids) with villagers and develop good relationships through short term work camps and middle term volunteers. The period is now (since 2016) fixed from August to March as the raining season from April to July has less possible activities for volunteers. It is also important the host family have some time for themselves.

## AIMS of the PROJECT

- 1- Preserving the local agriculture traditions and wisdom
- 2- Acknowledging importance of sustainable agriculture
- 3- Understanding the importance of the village community life
- 4- Long-lasting learning exchange between villagers, their children and international volunteers

## WORK AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers will be staying together with a host family and share the daily life with them. They will mostly join agriculture activities but may be organizing activities with the local kids. Their place in the daily life of the host family is essential. They shouldn't be a burden but a support which can easily be spread to the community around. Since 2016, all the middle term volunteers were staying at JaTak and Bang Meng family and their experience has been really great. Ja Tak would take time every day to explain them what they can help or do. Both hosts are going every morning from dawn to beginning afternoon for fishing but they still have enough energy to do more activities with volunteers after this. There is another family, Ja Yao who is also ready to welcome volunteers.

## YEARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES OF RICE GROWING TRADITION OF THE ISLAND

### August and September

- September is the starting month of rice planting season. Traditionally, villagers will prepare their best-selected paddy. The second step is to sow the fertilized paddy into nursery fields. Thirdly, plough the soil for transplanting the rice.

### October

- Transplant the seedlings from the nursery into the well-prepared rice fields
- Plant watermelon seeds on the rice field ridges
- Take care of the rice field



### November

- Pick up ready-to-eat watermelons
- Take care of the rice field

### December

- Rice harvesting!

**\*\*Every year at the end of December, a special annual event will be organized at the island. People know it as "Bergfah Andaman Festival". This festival is held widely in famous places located in the Andaman Sea. The aim is to promote products made by locals. There will be booths set up in which villagers sell food and sweets, and friendship activities like boat racing, football matches against village teams as well as performances on stage will be also held.**



### January

- Sun-dry paddy for next planting

### March

- Plant watermelon after the harvesting season
- Make compost from rice straw

## FOOD and ACCOMMODATION

The volunteers either share one hut either sleeps inside the house. There will be simple mattress, pillow and mosquito net. You will need to bring sleeping bag. Volunteer will be part of the family who will take care of them for everything including

food, security and transport. You will join daily tasks for collecting food and cooking. Local people eat rice (or noodles) 2 or 3 times a day with side dishes like curries, omelets, local leaves and vegetables and many fishes and sea food. Because the family is Muslim, there will be no pork or alcohol.

### **OTHER PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

- Laundry: expect to hand-wash your clothes
- Water supply and electricity: available
- Internet/phone access: You can use Internet mobile phone sim card...
- Hat Yai, the main city of South Thailand (close to DaLaa office) is about 4 hours by public transport from Koh Sukorn.
- Clothes worn in the village: You will be living in an area with elderly people and children around so it is appropriate that you dress modestly



### **REQUIREMENTS**

The volunteers should be ready to stay in a remote area, to adapt to the local conditions with only basic facilities and with few people able to speak in English. Volunteers should be able to handle spontaneous working environment and constant changes in the plans. The mentality and way of thinking is very different from the western world. There may have activities with the children. To have responsibility for yourself, the kids and full involvement in community matters is a must.

**\*\*For ones who plan to travel in Thailand/Asia besides this voluntary work, having it done before or after the project would be advisable. We hope that volunteers will fully spend their stay in the project without asking for a long holiday break amid the project period. This would cause uncertainty in running activities.**



## 4. Koh Nang Kham

(Creative English teaching and activities with kids)

**Koh Nang Kham, Pattalung Province**

**DaLaa MTV project - code: 1702**

**Periods available: All year around (except March and April) at least 2 months**

**Expected number of volunteers: 2 to 4**

### SHORT DESCRIPTION

**Volunteers will join a small Muslim community of South Thailand on the banks of Songkhla Lake. They will organize activities for children of the local school and share the life of the villagers.**

### HISTORY and REASONS OF THE PROJECT

Koh Nang Kham is a small village situated in Pattalung province, close to the middle part of Songkhla Lake which is Thailand's biggest lake. The community area is a small island inside the lake so the main career of the villagers is fisheries. Some work on rubber and palm plantation, fruit orchards or shrimp farm. During free time, some villagers gain some extra income from making and selling local desserts and fruit

preservation, for instance. You may find more information about Songkhla Lake on this following website:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Songkhla\\_Lake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Songkhla_Lake). The villagers of Koh Nang Kham are Muslim.

### The School

Ban Koh Nang Kham School was founded in 1928. It's a local governmental, educational opportunity-expanded school offering classes from kindergarten to grade 9. There are around 189 pupils and 16 teachers. In the village, there's a mosque where it is centered to bring all Muslims in the community to join in religious activities such as Friday prayer. The long-lasting folk wisdom passing on from one generation to another still gives them a career in the fishery industry and food process. Around the Songkhla Lake, the overwhelming ecosystem of natural resources, aquatic animals, fruits of the palm trees and many other things that people there can make use of, they are still greatly abundant in the present day. This teeming treasure behind this richness still gives them every day's earnings and it has laid great benefit in preservation from generation to generation.

Mr. Somhit Chobngam (Crue Chem), the project initiator, positioned currently in Ban Koh Nang Kham Nuea School together with his co-mate, Miss Aree Leesom positioned presently in Ban Koh Nang Kham School. Both schools are in the same neighborhood. Crue Chem contacted DaLaa first in 2015 to discuss the possibility of hosting international volunteers as he saw the importance of improving

learning methods for the students. He hopes that children can learn about language and cultures naturally by doing activities with volunteers.

In 2015, we organized the first short-term work camp in Ban Koh Nang Kham Nuea School. Other work camps held yearly after that and we had the first team of middle-term volunteers in 2017 for 2 months. The results were very positive and it drew a lot of attention for kids and their families.

In small communities in Thailand, local people hardly have contacts with foreigners, while students are getting pressured from the current educational system to study English but they never have a chance to meet any foreigners. Therefore, this will give them the chance to gain motivation to learn and explore cultural diversity by doing creative activities with international volunteers.

Having international volunteers to learn about local fisherman's lifestyle, it will help the fishermen to feel more motivated to preserve their local knowledge and wisdom. Apart from that, volunteers can also become the link between children and villagers to take part in this community learning activities.



## AIMS of the PROJECT

- 2-way learning process between local children/ villagers and volunteers
- Better understanding towards local culture
- To build a good relationship between volunteers and local people
- Children and adults can learn English with volunteers

## WORK AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers will be arranging creative activities with students. They will be supervised by the teachers. Depending on the volunteers' skills, they will be proposed to organize activities with each class from Grade 1 to Grade 9 twice a week (1-hour session). The idea is that 1 session is more about the English language while the other one is free to decide. Outside the school, a few villagers are willing to invite volunteers to learn about the local fisherman lifestyle on Songkhla Lake and organize other common activities.



## REQUIREMENTS

- Volunteers who apply for this project should be over 20 years of age and/or have a Bachelor's Degree. This is specifically required by the school.
- Volunteers should be ready to stay in a remote area, to adapt to the local conditions with basic facilities and with very few people able to speak in English.
- Volunteers should be able to handle the spontaneous working environment and constant

changes in the plans. The mentality and way of thinking are very different from the western world. There will have often activities with the children.

- To have creativity in providing learning activities for kids and join in activities related to school's matters
- Be open-minded, be positive-thinking and be ready to get involved in community's matters
- Last but not least, love being around with kids J

## FOOD and ACCOMODATION

Volunteers will stay in a local house situated in the



village center. There are a kitchen and bathroom in the house. Volunteers can go on foot to the project school which is not far. There will be a simple mat, pillow and mosquito net. You may need to bring your own sleeping bag and other sleeping gear for your comfort. Lunch will be offered at school. There are some small grocery shops in the village and a lot of fish from the fishermen. Local people eat rice (or noodles) 3 times a day with side dishes like curries, omelets, local leaves and vegetables. Remember there is no pork products provided in the village. Be reminded of not bringing non-halal food or alcohol drink to your house or school. This may sound serious when you first hear it. It is not as that strict as you may imagine. Just the food (pork products and alcohol) that it is not appreciated in the Muslim community.

# 5. Na Nai Kong Farm

(agriculture and sufficiency lifestyle)  
(Ranot district- Songkhla province)

**DaLaa MLTV project - code: 2101**

**All year round**

**Maximum 5 volunteers**



## SHORT DESCRIPTION

Put your hands and feet in the mud, to produce organic rice, fruit and vegetables, clay house building and activities with kids at “Mr Kong rice field ” first dedicated to agro-tourism and sufficiency lifestyle, it moves its objectives toward a youngster center thanks to its close link with the artists and activist volunteer world.

## HISTORY and REASONS OF THE PLACEMENT

Mr Kong is a hard working, creative and organic original farmer and has been back home working for few years



on his big family land on rice fields and sugar palm trees. Recently, he added a melon farm and a nice restaurant with his wife. He has developed a kind of local friendly agrotourism and is an example of sufficiency lifestyle. He has a big network of artists friends and this is how we learn to know him. Mr Kong wish to take an increasing responsibility in the society well being by inviting children and local youth as well as outsider volunteers in his farm.

## AIMS of the Placement

1. To support the social development aspects of Na Nai Kong farm (opening to local children, youth and outsider volunteers)
2. To get to know each others with the local community
3. To work on the building of the clay house that will be welcoming volunteers and social activists
4. To grow in authenticity, responsibility and inclusion values
5. Managing our daily life: cooking, cleaning, harmonious relationships and not being a burden for the host



If you have special needs, please inform us in advance.



## WORK AND ACTIVITIES

1. Clay house construction. Get ready to be dirty!
2. Organic agriculture: compost, seedling, planting, caring...
3. Area and local culture discovery

## REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers should be ready to adapt to the Thai, local way of life, and willing to create relationships with volunteers' friends, hosts and local people. Some difficult points could be the language and culture barrier, mosquitoes and insects, eating rice at every meal, missing feedback, changing plans often.

Volunteers should be able to stay in a remote environment, without public transport.

Volunteers should be able to take responsibility for themselves and the team by taking care of their health and security and be fully involved in the daily tasks.



## Other practical information

We will cook and live together. There is the family restaurant, a coffee shop and a big house for the volunteers with simple conditions

We will provide sleeping material like a small mattress, pillows and a mosquito net

# 6. Volunteers Service Communities (VSC)

(Creative English teaching and activities with kids, communities hosting)

**DaLaa MTV project - code: 2201**

**Periods available: All year**

**At least 2 months**

**Expected number of volunteers: 2 to 3**



The mission of DaLaa is to coordinate the hosting of volunteers in active communities led by our hosts. We always have dreamed to start our own association community. It is the best introduction to all new comers and reveals our values of volunteering to the world, the first entrance to our new members right around our rural office

Since 2015 that we have moved to this village, we have been continuously working or the surrounding, gardening and doing activities with the local kids. Volunteers can also expect cooking class, seeds conservation, recycling, repairing or construction. We wish our motivated volunteers to join English teaching with the local schools.

Moreover, we regularly organize extra activities such as mini work camps in the week-ends, International seminars, visit our MLTV placements and we are open to all new ideas.

We are located in Kok Riang village, Klong Hoy Khong district, Songkhla province, It is about 30 minutes away from Hatyai city and 15 minutes from the airport. Since the pandemic, the permanent residents are now only 2 but it can welcome 8-10 people and on regular basis and up to 20-30 for a few days activities.

## AIMS of the Placement

- 1- To be the portal of our volunteer and peace values
- 2- To keep the association alive and ready to welcome people
- 3- To join with local kids and schools (let children be familiar with volunteers and learn international/multi-culture atmosphere)



## WORK AND ACTIVITIES

- 1- Cooking, gardening, seeds conservation, recycling, repairing and construction
- 2- Give non-formal English classes and other fun activities with the students at primary school and at VSC on weekend
- 3- Organize extra activities such as mini work camps in the week-ends with children or members, to be in team for organize the International seminars, to be work camp assistant or welcoming new volunteers.
- 4- Possibility to support DaLaa office work
- 5- Activities with villagers: cleaning the temple area, sport activities, homemade cooking dessert

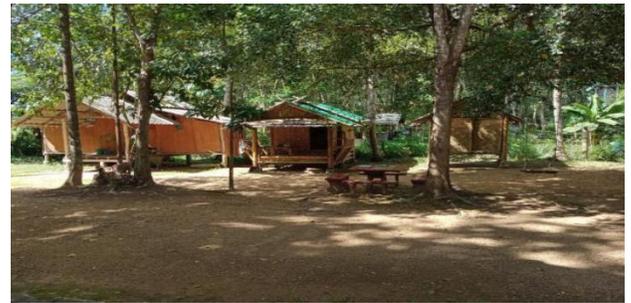
## REQUIREMENTS

The volunteers should be ready to stay in a local area, to adapt to the local conditions with only basic facilities. Very few local people are able to speak in English. Volunteers should be able to be with the kids and prepare some games and material for teaching. Volunteers should be able to stay in a remote environment. Volunteers should be able to take responsibility for themselves and the team by taking care of their health and security and be fully involved in the daily tasks



## FOOD and ACCOMODATION

Volunteers will stay in the volunteers' hut in the DaLaa organization area. There will be simple mats, pillow and mosquito net. There are basic toilets, showers and a kitchen. We cook together with the team and DaLaa staffs. Local people eat rice (or noodles) 3 times a day with side dishes like curries, omelets, local leaves and vegetables. Volunteers will be welcome to cook their own food using the ingredients available there. (No oven, only a gas and woks or pans)



**\*\* Clothes worn in the village- schools and temples:** skirts or shorts long enough to cover your knees also when you are sitting. Women should wear tops that cover their shoulders, no low neckline. Bikinis are not appropriate to swim if you go on holidays. Please wear long shorts and a top instead.

# 7. Ban Prang Mu school

(Creative English teaching and activities with kids)

**DaLaa MTV project - code: 2202**

**Periods available: June 2022 to February 2023**

**At least 2 months**

**Expected number of volunteers: 2 to 3**



## SHORT DESCRIPTION

Ban Prang Mu School is a very small school in Ban Prang Mu sub district, Phatthalung province, Southern Thailand. The school director, who shares our values, would like to welcome volunteers, to improve English skills for students to be able to communicate in this language. Volunteers can help to organize English lessons or other fun activities with the 126 students from kindergarten to Grade 6 (6-12 years old). The English skills of the students are very poor. They are not familiar with foreigners. You can experience the local way of life, exchange with other volunteers, villagers and support the children education.

## HISTORY and REASONS OF THE PLACEMENT

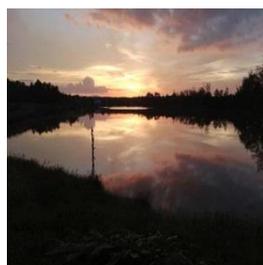
Ban Prang Mu School, Phatthalung Province was founded in 1921 in Prang Mueng Nai temple. There are nowadays 126 students from kindergarten to Grade 6 (6-12 years old). The kids have very few chances for interaction with foreigners and English language is more and more needed for their future. The director Mrs. Chuenchit Kaeosook know us (DaLaa association) since some year ago as she is one of our host

family for other project (Wat Pho school) and now she moving to be the director at Prang Mu school and contacted us to see the possibility to start a cooperation and to have volunteers joining their work. After a survey visit, we decided to start a first work camp in February 2021. After the work camp the school and local teacher want to welcome long term volunteers to continue the activities and to improve the English skills for the kids.



## AIMS of the Placement

1. To support Ban Prang Mu School
2. To be part of the community of Ban Prang Mu village
3. To let children be familiar with volunteers and learn international/multi-culture



atmosphere

4. To improve English skills for students to be able to communicate with foreigners

## WORK AND ACTIVITIES

1. Give non-formal English classes and other fun activities with the students
2. Create teaching materials for teacher and kids
3. Activities with villagers: cleaning the temple area, sport activities, homemade cooking dessert

## REQUIREMENTS

The volunteers should be ready to stay in a local area, to adapt to the local conditions with only basic facilities. Very few local people are able to speak in English. Volunteers should be able to be with the kids and prepare some games and material for teaching.

Volunteers should be able to stay in a remote environment, without public transport.

Volunteers should be able to take responsibility for themselves and the team by taking care of their health and security and be fully involved in the daily tasks.

\*\* Clothes worn in the village- schools and temples: skirts or shorts long enough to cover your knees also when you are sitting. Women should wear tops that cover their shoulders, no low neckline. Bikinis are not appropriate to swim if you go on holidays. Please wear long shorts and a top instead.



## FOOD and ACCOMODATION

Volunteers will stay in the volunteers' house in the school area. There will be simple mats, pillow and mosquito net. There are basic toilets, showers and a kitchen at the school canteen. At first the teachers and villagers will help the volunteers to cook and later on the volunteers will cook by yourself. Local people eat rice (or noodles) 3 times a day with side dishes like curries, omelets, local leaves and vegetables. Volunteers will be welcome to cook their own food using the ingredients available there. (No oven, only a gas and woks or pans).



# 8. Suan Som Rom Na Phru

(organic farming, cooking and market)

DaLaa MLTV project - code: 2203

Periods available: All year round

Expected number of volunteers: 2



## WORK- ACTIVITIES

- Agriculture (seeds conservation, planting, potting, caring, collecting, weeding, watering, composting...)
- Learning about food processing, cooking, Thai dishes, Thai desert.
- Activities with green market network in Phatthalung province.
- Activities with kids in the local small school.
- Thai cultures and Thai language learning.



## SHORT DESCRIPTION

Prapai Thongchern also known as Phi Yoi is a 50 years old single woman pioneer in natural living. She has a a long experience in natural color textiles and starting local green markets in the province of Phatthalung (South Thailand) that have become really successful. She has restored a family land covering an area of 4 rai (1.6 acre), which used to be a peat swamp field with sago palm dense forest, and turned it into a beautiful farm named “Suan Som Rom Na Phru”. This farm is used both as a learning space and to provide her with daily fresh food and environment. The place is ideal for recharging the life energy and finding an inspiration from the simplicity in nature.

## AIMS of the PROJECT

- To learn and support organic farming, self-reliance, cooking and local culture
- To join the life in the community, and possibly exchange culture and language with neighbors and local kids.

## REQUIREMENTS

This project is for volunteers who are interested and willing to stay in a basic environment, exchange on organic agriculture, self-reliance, cooking and Thai traditional cultures. The volunteers will learn more about green market and community network building.

Volunteers should be ready to adapt to the Thai, local way of life, and willing to create relationships with volunteers’ friends, hosts and local people. Some difficult points could be mosquitoes and insects, eating rice at every meal, language and

culture barrier, changing plans often.

Volunteers should be able to take responsibility for themselves and the team by taking care of their health and security and be fully involved in the daily tasks.

\*\* Clothes worn in the village- schools and temple: skirts or shorts long enough to cover your knees also when you are sitting. Women should wear tops that cover their shoulders, no low neckline. Bikinis are not appropriate to swim if you go on holidays. Please wear long shorts and a top instead.



## FOOD and ACCOMODATION

- Volunteers will cook meals together with the host, suitable for vegetarians. (using wooden for cooing)

- Volunteers will stay in a small Thai style house, same area as the host house, mosquito nets, pillows, blankets and mattresses are provided.



## OTHER PRACTICAL and LOCAL INFORMATION

• Baan Suan Som Rom Na Pru is situated in Khuan Khanun District, Phatthalung province South of Thailand, most of people are Buddhist

• The place is not far from the small town, where you can find all necessary things such as bank, hospital, market.

• The electricity is from solar cells, it is enough for the light and charging mobile phone, no refrigerator.

• Most of people in our area are either rubber farmer, oil palm farmer or working in the small shops in the town.

• The weather is the hottest in March-April, from May to September, you will experience more rain.

• Water supply, electricity and mobile internet is available in the house area

• Laundry: hand wash or washing machine

• Patthalung city is the closest city, 40 km from our village: there is a market, banks with ATM and hospital

• Hatyai, the main city of South Thailand where is our office is about 1.5 hours drive by public transport (mini bus)

• Few things not to forget: Flash light, mosquito repellent (nature friendly if possible), light long sleeves clothes, hat, something to show your culture, food, pictures, games, music, your motivation and beautiful smiles.



# 9. Ban Kok Rieng

(Creative English teaching and community living)

DaLaa MLTV project - code: 2301

Open all year round, minimum 2 months stay

Maximum number of volunteers: 3-4



## SHORT DESCRIPTION

Volunteers will join a small Buddhist community in Klong Hoy Khong district, Songkhla province, South of Thailand. They will organize activities for kids at the local school and in the village, share the life of the VSC (volunteer service community), helping with other work such as organize mini work camp in the weekend, helping in gardening and construction work at VSC (volunteers service community).



## HISTORY and REASONS OF THE PROJECT

The village is known as Ban Kok Rieng which is situated in Klong Hoi Khong district of Songkhla province, Southern Thailand. It is about 30 minutes away from Hatyai city and 15 minutes from the airport. The approximate number of villagers settling in this village is about 1,200 people or 140 families. Most of the villagers own fruit orchard and rubber plantation, and nearly all of them are Buddhists. There are a few Buddhist temples in the area and lots of rubber plantation lined up on the sides of the road. Some people living in the village commute to work at nearby city (Hatyai) for factories that export rubber and processed seafood products.



## The school

Baan Plakkla School was founded in 1934 by the abbot of Plakkla temple. There are nowadays 6 teachers and 62 students from kindergarten to Grade 6 (6-12 years old). The kids have very few chances for interaction with foreigners and English language is more and more needed for their future.

Baan Plakkla School is a small school in Kok Muang sub district, Songkhla province, Southern Thailand. The school director, who shares our values, would like to welcome volunteers, to improve English skills for students to be able to communicate in this language. Volunteers can help to organize English lessons or other fun activities with the students from kindergarten to Grade 6 (6-12 years old). The English skills of the students are very poor. They are not familiar with foreigners. You can experience the local way of life, exchange with other volunteers, villagers and support the children education.



Volunteers should be able to stay in a remote environment. Volunteers should be able to take responsibility for themselves and the team by taking care of their health and security and be fully involved in the daily tasks.

**\*\* Clothes worn in the village- schools and temples:** skirts or shorts long enough to cover your knees also when you are sitting. Women should wear tops that cover their shoulders, no low neckline. Bikinis are not appropriate to swim if you go on holidays. Please wear long shorts and a top instead.

## **AIMS of the PLACEMENT**

- 1- To support Local school in the village
- 2- To be part of the community of Ban Kok Rieng village
- 3- To be part of DaLaa organization, sharing life with staffs and other volunteers from VSC project
- 4- To let children be familiar with volunteers and learn international/multi-culture atmosphere
- 5- To improve English skills for students to be able to communicate with foreigners

## **FOOD and ACCOMODATION**

Volunteers will stay in the volunteers' hut in the DaLaa organization area, there are also some DaLaa staff staying in the same place. There will be simple mats, pillow and mosquito net. There are basic toilets, showers and a kitchen. We cook together with the team and DaLaa staffs. Local people eat rice (or noodles) 3 times a day with side dishes like curries, omelets, local leaves and vegetables. Volunteers will be welcome to cook their own food using the ingredients available there. (No oven, only a gas and woks or pans)

## **WORK AND ACTIVITIES**

- 1- Give non-formal English classes and other fun activities with the students at primary school and at VSC on weekend
- 2- Create teaching materials for teacher and kids
- 3- Activities with villagers: cleaning the temple area, sport activities, homemade cooking dessert
- 4- Cooking, gardening, seeds conservation, recycling, repairing and construction at VSC (volunteers service community)



## **REQUIREMENTS**

The volunteers should be ready to stay in a local area, to adapt to the local conditions with only basic facilities. Very few local people are able to speak in English. Volunteers should be able to be with the kids and prepare some games and material for teaching.



# Practical information about our MLTV projects



## Places

Our MLTV projects are all situated in South Thailand (province of Songkhla, Trang, Pattalung and Ratchaburi). The meeting point for all MLTV arrivals is at Hat Yai airport, close to our office where they join our introduction.

## Security

Security for our volunteers is our priority. The area of our projects is safe and small villages. The volunteers will be staying with a host family that we totally trust. A DaLaa staff is in charge of communication for each project. We wrote a safety booklet that we provide to our volunteers to explain risk and emergency situations.



Our projects are NOT situated in the South Thailand insurgency area. See the link below for more information.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Thailand\\_insurgency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Thailand_insurgency)

Choice of the project period:

It is important that the volunteer chose freely the project that fits the most to him/herself. The minimum stay is 2 months and can be planed for up to 1 year. Some of the projects are close during the school holidays (2 months in March, April and a month in October) the most rain in South Thailand is usually from October to December.

## **Fees:**

The fee for a 2-month service is 24,000 Baht, approx. 615 Euro (36 000 Baht for 3 months). From the fourth month on the fee will be 10,000 per month. The fee will be used on one part for living expenses (gas, water, electricity, food) and materials used in projects/activities and for the other part to support financially our organization. Volunteers' fee is our only income.

**\*\*Volunteers should bring their fee payment in cash to our office the first day they arrive. We prefer the Thai currency Not Euro so please exchange it before. In case saving it on an international credit card, you should make sure with your bank if your card really works with any Thai ATM machine. Some of our long-term volunteers had difficulty with this resulting in a long waiting time to receive a new one sent from their home country**

**\*\*Participants are responsible for their own travel and all personal expenses during their free time.**

## **Application Steps:**

1. The volunteers are not able to apply directly to us, but through our partner organizations of their own countries, unless you live in Thailand
2. Once we have received the application, we will reply within 2 weeks.
3. After acceptance, Volunteers will receive a project information sheet with the DaLaa MLTV handbook. It is also provided by the sending organization.

### **Following of the volunteers:**

In DaLaa, we are careful about the learning process of volunteers as well as their participation in the local community.

- Before volunteers start the project itself, they are invited to an on-arrival introduction at our office with MLTV coordinators to receive project details, organizational background, general information about Thailand such as language, culture, and so on. This usually takes 2 or 3 days
- Every month, volunteers will be asked to visit DaLaa office for a meeting with MLTV coordinators to discuss about his/her project, or the coordinators go visit, vice versa.
- There will be a final evaluation in the last week before a volunteer finishes his/her project.
- If you have problems on the project you should first try and manage it by yourself but if you need help then someone from DaLaa will be there for you.

### **Visa**

Participants need to request a “Non-Immigrant type” visa at a Thai Embassy/ Consulate in their country. DaLaa will provide an invitation letter and officially registered paper for this. You need to do it about 1 month minimum in advance.

We also can help our volunteers to renew their visa at the Thai consulate of Penang in Malaysia, few hours from our office.

The price for a single entry (you cannot leave Thailand and come back with the same visa) is about 2000 Baht (approx. 50 Euros) and allows staying 3 months in Thailand.

There are also 2 months tourist visa in case the Non Immigrant one is too complicate to obtain.

### **Insurance**

Participants are responsible for their own insurance. They should make sure in advance with their company what is covered and how to get their expenses back in case they 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. You must provide evidence of medical and travel insurance that will cover Covid-19 for at least the length of your stay.

### **Vaccination**

During the Pandemic Covid-19 , you should had fully vaccinated before coming to Thailand. There is no other mandatory vaccination needed to come to Thailand.

## **DaLaa values**

**Community living:** open to and respect of each other, of the environment, active participation in the daily tasks and community work, conscious responsibility, harmonious relationship, avoid selfishness and hasty judgment, courtesy, kindness, learning process, being able to adapt to the reality of the moment, balance gift/gain of the participants. The connection of people, living together and diversity. The learning community, soul and wisdom

**Alternative education:** Kindness, Patience, coherence, loyalty, Put back human in the harmony of nature (ourselves first), basic of learning process, Value of life, Practical / Learning by doing, self-organization, adapted to local environment, leadership. What and how should we educate the students? What do we learn at the same time? Include our values in the learning process; parents are the main support for the children to learn. Forward the local wisdom to new generation, find solutions to youth difficulties, toward a revolution of society education, open mind and decrease ego, everyone has the right to learn and to share with others. Listen is more important than to speak. Learning of mind, be independent, self-learning, natural way.

**Food autonomy/security:** Be aware of Health, Environment, Preservation, Economy, Responsibility, understanding the basic of life, variety, planting, collecting, compost, seeds conservation, sharing. Local plants. Plant for yourself, the rest for sharing, Green to eat, self-management, easy way of farming.

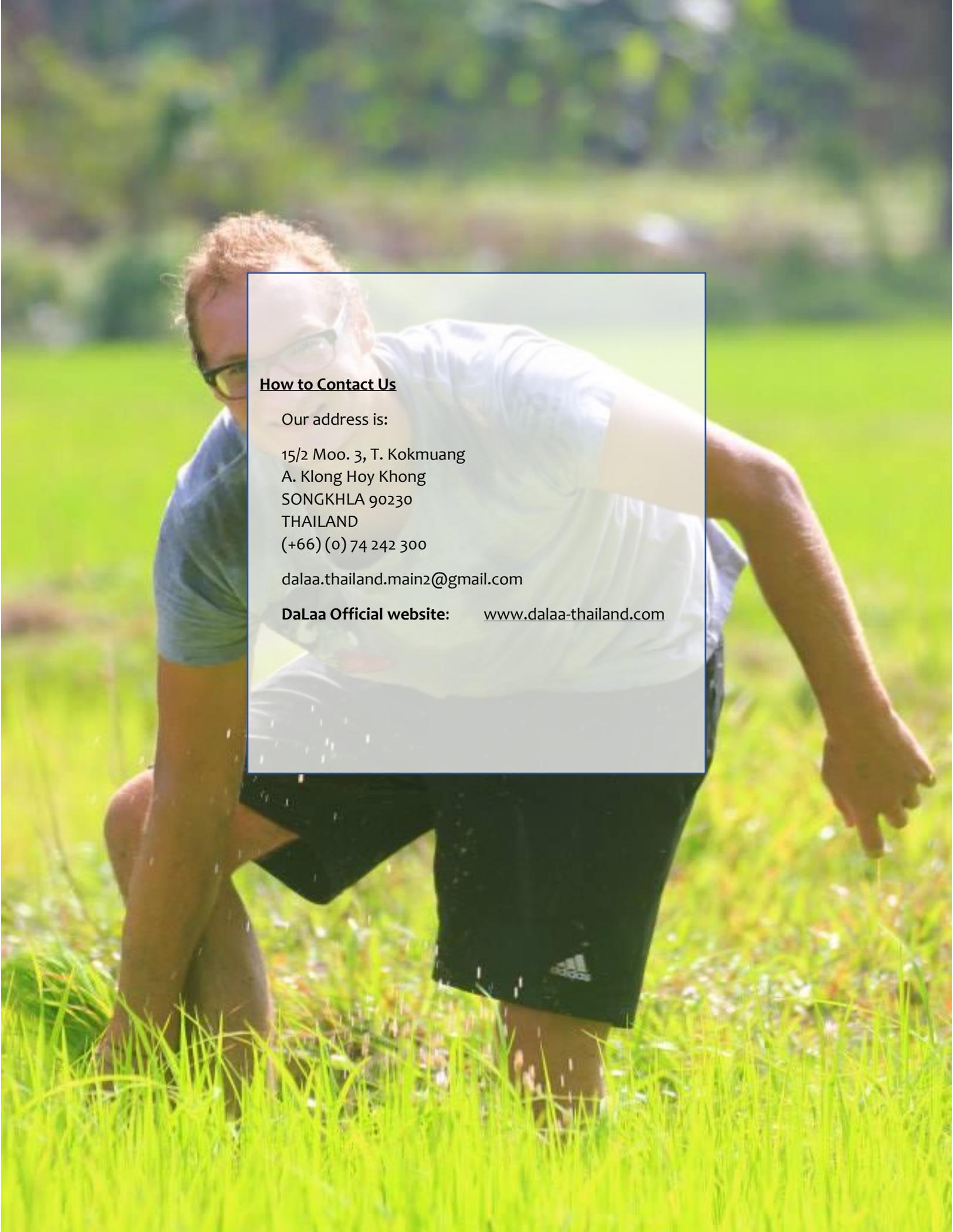
Understand the basics of life include **alternative health** as well.

**Volunteer spirit:** Youth capacity building, giving yourself, sharing minds, understanding yourself and others, working to blossom

**Learning organization:** Facilitate participants self-improvement (capacity building)

**Living, Learning, working TOGETHER**





### **How to Contact Us**

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**DaLaa Official website:**    [www.dalaa-thailand.com](http://www.dalaa-thailand.com)