

“We are so grateful to the Betterment of Life Foundation for providing us the funding for this drinking water project”

Principal Dawit Bhuddhisai, Chumchon bosanphan mittrapabthii 211 School

Name of school: Chumchon bosanphan mittrapabthii 211

Location: This school is located in Tambon Oomjarn, Amphae Kusumarn, Sakonnakorn province.

Number of students and teachers: There are 554 students from kindergarten to grade 6, and 33 teachers and staff.

Status of project: Completed

The coordinator of the Betterment of Life Foundation visited the school. Below is her experience. The images tell their own story.

The school has a large land area of 75 rai and this makes the school the second largest school in Amphoe Kusumarn. The school is part of the Princess Sirindhorn Project. There are 6 villages in its education area; Ban bophangkhaen Moo 2 and 15, Ban saenphan Moo 6, 11, 14 and 17



This is a very special school for it not only provides academic education but also provides vocational training. For example one vocational project allows students to make trinket from coconut shell. Another project “Lunch Project” which is also part of the Princess Sirindhorn Projects enables the students in grade 5 and 6 to learn responsibilities such as Fish feeding. There are 3 ponds full of fish full covering a wide range and the students are entrusted with the tasks of feeding, catching and selling fish to the school’s co-op. The school’s co-op will in turn use the fish in preparing the students lunch.



“When the students are cleaning up the fish pond, they are so happy. That makes me want to join them” Mr. Dawit Bhuddhisai, the principal of Chumchon bosanphan mittrapabthii 211 School, said with a smile on his face.

The school’s lunch menu is set by the teacher. This ensures that the students are having enough nutrition from their lunch. “Students had to look at the lunch menu before catching fish or plucking vegetables so that they can supply what the kitchen needs” There are other projects for the children to learn and practice their skill and also learn to manage not only the “Fish Project”, but also the “Chicken Project” and the “Vegetable Project” as well.

Even though the school is large they face the same problem as the small schools, in not having not having sufficient funds. And this results in the schools



inability to provide clean drinking water to students. The students had to drink ground water directly from the water tap in the school or bring drinking water from their own homes

“Now we once we restore the water tank we can let the ground water flow through the pipe and the students can finally drink directly from the water tap. Three years ago, when I started work here, the students used to drink water from the fish ponds, can you believe it? Most of them subsequently started bringing a bottle of water from their own homes. Their parents are how ever worried about this. They do not want their kids to drink water from the fish ponds. Sure, it’s not for drinking, isn’t it?” The principal of the school Mr. Dawit said



“We will install the water filter and 10 drinking water points all over school” The principal Dawit said while leading us around the school. *“We are so grateful to the Betterment of Life Foundation for providing us the funding for this drinking water project”*



Beside the concerns of over the drinking water, the Principal informed that the school lacks funds to replace some of the class rooms used for the grade 1 and 2 classes which are 32 years old. The school also needs some computers. At present they have 4 old computers which are being used and more computers are needed to teach the school children.