

## Minmahaw Higher Education Program Mae Sot, Thailand



<b>Grant Category:</b>	Education
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	Child's Dream Foundation
<b>Project Status:</b>	Ongoing
<b>Start Date:</b>	May 2011
<b>Completion Date:</b>	May 2017

### Project Description

Minmahaw Higher Education Program has two key elements:

1. A university preparation course that runs annually in line with the academic calendar. Potential students are assessed via a series of exams held in 12 regions. The program provides intensive tuition and essential techniques to improve students' time management and research skills. Teachers' work closely with students on an individual and class format basis to teach the curriculum and assess management of the tasks assigned.
2. University Scholarships are available to MHEP graduates and alumni with numbers varying from year to year.

### Objective

The program aims to overcome the barriers to entry into higher education experienced by migrant students due to lack of access to formal education and limited study and research skills.

MHEP provides preparation courses to enable students to sit internationally accredited high school exams (GED) to gain access to university, and full scholarships to leading students.

### Impact

Over the past 5 years 92 students have completed the MHEP university preparation course, with 86 students successfully passing the University Entrance Exams. Pass rates for the 5 years have been consistently well above the average required to receive a Pass of 450 at an average of 513. 60% of graduates or 55 students have gone on to University.

Two university scholarships area funded per annum, totalling 8 students to date.

### Background

Mae Sot is situated in Western Thailand and is one of only two border crossings into Myanmar. It is estimated that up to half of the city's population is Burmese migrants, both legal and illegal, and the local economy is reliant on this steady flow of workers. Conditions are difficult for many who end up working in poor conditions for little pay and most have no way out with limited or no access to government education or health care.