

# THAILAND NEWSLETTER

Projects Abroad

Issue 60  
March 2013

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## I.M.'s Note.

SawasdeeKrub and As-salamalaykum, everyone. Welcome to the new issue of the Projects Abroad Thailand Newsletter.

Released frequently since August 2007, Projects Abroad Thailand Newsletter is a monthly publication which contains stories of what has happened to our volunteers during their stay in the land of smiles.

However, after Issue 59 had been released back in August 2012, we have not released any new issues. Not because there has been nothing going on during the time, but due to the fact that "Mr.V" Vishal Pawa, our former Social Media Manager, has been promoted to sit as a Conservation Manager in November 2012. Since then, this position of the "in-house journalist" had been vacant. After months of searching, Projects Abroad Thailand had chosen me as their new Information Manager. With that twist-of-fate decision, here comes a new issue of Projects Abroad Thailand Newsletter, filled with the awesomeness of people and activities as always.

My name is Im, the Information Manager of Projects Abroad Thailand. Literature is my passion, therefore I decided to write and translate for a living. I am originally from Krabi, which is surprisingly hard to find in this office full of people from somewhere else. But after weeks of working here, I come to see this aspect as the beauty of Projects Abroad.

Projects Abroad, in my humble opinion, is the company which brings people from around the world together to do something they can be proud of. Read through our newsletter and you will see exactly what I mean.

For anyone who is thinking about coming to Thailand and joining us, I hope newsletter can be something to help you make that decision. If you think what you see here is so tempting, do not hesitate to come and join us. Remember, no experience or journey of anyone as awesome as yours and what you have learnt first-hand. So why wait?

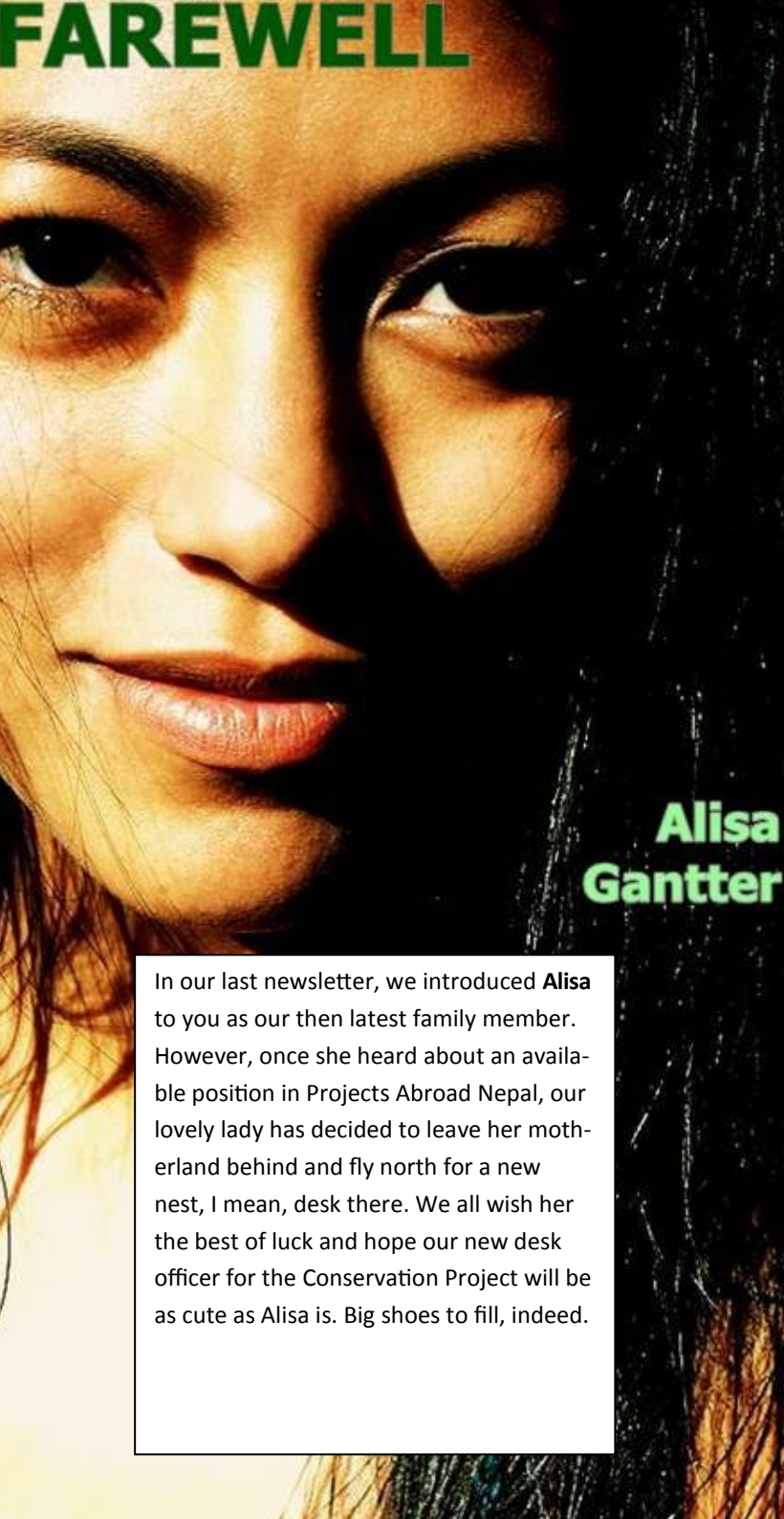
Let's see where this Projects Abroad will take us...

Prasan "Na'im" Ngankhaeng

Information Manager



# FAREWELL



**Alisa  
Gantter**

In our last newsletter, we introduced **Alisa** to you as our then latest family member. However, once she heard about an available position in Projects Abroad Nepal, our lovely lady has decided to leave her motherland behind and fly north for a new nest, I mean, desk there. We all wish her the best of luck and hope our new desk officer for the Conservation Project will be as cute as Alisa is. Big shoes to fill, indeed.

# SPECIAL WELCOME

**Paula** from Global Information Office in Cape Town, South Africa and **Seang** from Projects Abroad Cambodia had visited Projects Abroad Thailand. The purpose of this visit is for Paula to have a training session with **Im**, our new Information Manager, and **Seang**, an Information Manager from Cambodia during March 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 2013. Apart from the training session, Paula and Seang had a chance to visit various placements of Community Projects, the Conservation Project in Krabi and Medical Project in Surat Thani. After Seang left on March 9<sup>th</sup>, Paula decided to extend her stay until March 13<sup>th</sup>. Paula has her contribution in this issue of Projects Abroad Thailand Newsletter as she is the writer of our Volunteer Story.

**Paula  
Rabeling**

**Seang  
Kim**



# WELCOME

**Prasan  
"Na'im"  
Ngankhaeng**

**Niruth  
"Darid"  
Bannob**



**Darid** (left) is a Muslim guy who was born and raised in Krabi. He attended Ammartpanichanukul School where he was widely known among his peers as one of the top students and school performers. As a true Thai guy, Darid is kind, generous, and always has a smile on his face. He has a strong passion for traveling. After years of living in Bangkok, Projects Abroad Thailand is the first job that Darid gets to be back to work full-time in his beautiful hometown he loves, started on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Darid is our new care project coordinator who is in training to replace Miew. The entire above paragraph can also be used to describe our new information manager, **Na'im** a.k.a. **Im**.





Rotterdam resident discovers her passion while volunteering in Thailand

Twenty-two-year-old recent theatre school graduate Samantha Tiney always wanted to be an actress and be on television. During her two-year's after graduating from Roc van Amsterdam, she had the feeling that she wanted to do something more.

In her home in the Netherlands, Samantha began giving a workshop which she created for the children of a poorer area there. "I got the kids together, there were about 15 to 20 kids, and we started to make rap music. They had to express who they were and what they like."

After doing this, she started to look into doing volunteering work in a different country; she found Projects Aboard and signed up to do a three month Care Project.

Samantha was really passionate and determined to have this opportunity to travel to a completely different culture to help children. "I took two jobs to raise the funds to do this project. I feel so blessed and thankful to have this opportunity."

Thailand was Samantha's country of choice to travel to, to do her project, "I am a very spiritual person. When it came to deciding where I wanted to go, my heart said Thailand; when I was looking at the map with all the possible destinations circled, my eyes kept going to Thailand." Samantha's placement was at a school called, AnubaaNongThalay School.

At AnubaaNongThalay, she did activities with the children and played games with them. She highlights one activity that she did with the children: "I did this name game with the kids. First, one of the girls held a toy bear and had to say her name, then throw it to another kid and then they had to say their name. After this game, the ice was broken. The span was gone and it was easy to make a connection with the kids."

Samantha loved the children at her school, one of her most memorable moments revolved around being with them: "When I came to the school one morning, all the kids came running, calling my name and fighting over who got to hold my hand. I really felt loved."

Having her parents being from Surinam originally, a similar place to Thailand she said, she didn't experience that much of a culture shock. How the Thai people treat each other in a very respectful way is similar to that of her parent's home country.

Thailand's nature was Samantha's favourite aspect of her time in the country. "I loved looking at the nature and feeling that I could really breathe. I don't really know how to explain it. I love the moun-



Among the children

tains, the trees and the water." Samantha also enjoyed Thai food, "I love fried rice! It is my favourite food."

Living with a host family in Krabi was difficult in the beginning for Samantha as it was very different to what she was used to, but as some time went by, she got used to it. "My host family was really nice and respectful. They looked after me and I felt very safe and loved. I am happy that I had this host family during my time in Thailand."

Her experience as a volunteer has inspired her to change her career path, "I want to study to become an English teacher when I return home. Being a volunteer has been a dream job for me, so now I want to travel the world to poor countries to teach children. When I think about my time in Thailand, it is a big motivation for me to become a



teacher." Through this experience, she has learnt that it is not about the money, "You should do what you want and feel in your heart, and then you will be happy."

Her advice to people who are thinking about becoming a volunteer and having a similar experience is to do it for the right reasons. "Only do it if you really feel it in your heart."

We hope great stories like Samantha's inspires more to join Projects Aboard in making a difference, and by doing so, learn something themselves along the way.



With volunteers



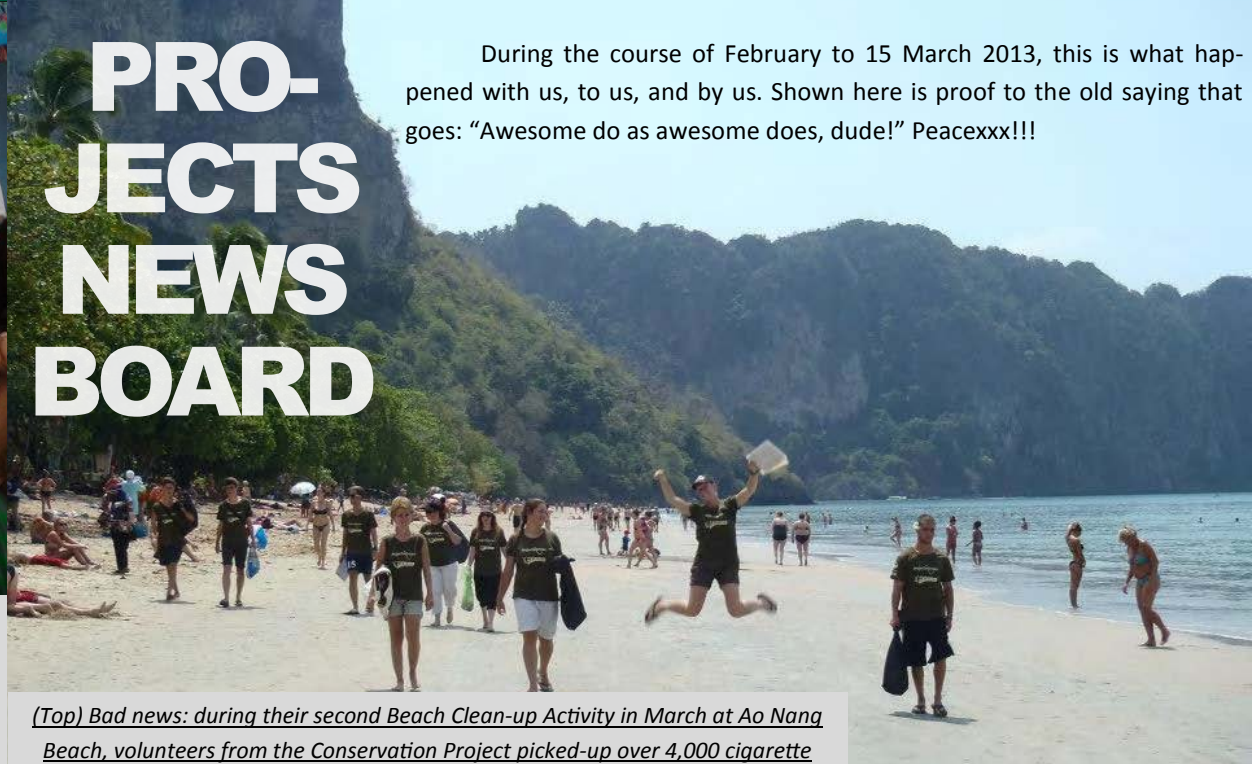
# PROJECTS NEWS BOARD

During the course of February to 15 March 2013, this is what happened with us, to us, and by us. Shown here is proof to the old saying that goes: "Awesome do as awesome does, dude!" Peacexxx!!!



(Top) Miss Thailand World finalists visit Baan Lung Pitak in Phuket during their pre-pageant activities.

(Bottom) In the midst of Valentine's Day, an army of kids in red t-shirts visited Nai Han Beach with the Care Project volunteers in Phuket.



(Top) Bad news: during their second Beach Clean-up Activity in March at Ao Nang Beach, volunteers from the Conservation Project picked-up over 4,000 cigarette butts! Good news: volunteers seem to have a blast, as always.

(Bottom) Students at Ban Nong Tale School enjoy their two-day special activity held by the Community Project volunteers and staff in Krabi.



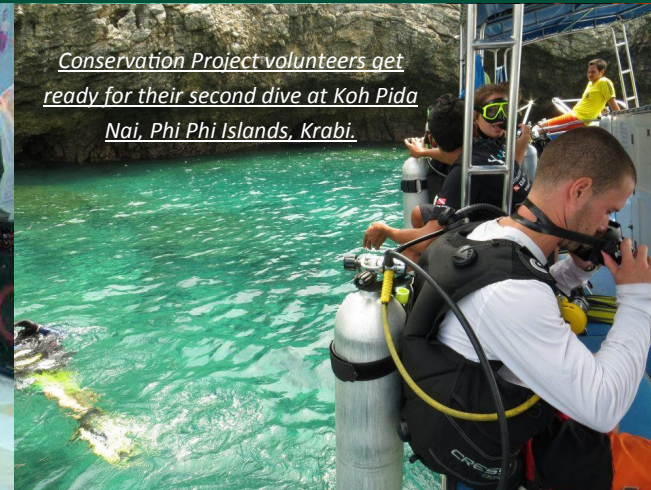




(Top-left) After three months, Maria had to say goodbye to her host family in Surat Thani where she was a medical volunteer at Surat Thani Hospital's Occupational Therapy Department.



(Top-middle) With about a dozen roses in her hands, Federica looks bella during her last day at her Baan Lung Pitak Day Care Centre in Phuket.



Conservation Project volunteers get ready for their second dive at Koh Pida Nai, Phi Phi Islands, Krabi.



(Bottom-left) Outreach Activity March 2013: Clean Krabi Public Library.



Being a special needs boy makes Man stand-out, but what made us become very fond of him is the fact that he seems to like everyone from Projects Abroad. All he asks of us is a fraction of attention...and a big hug sometimes.





*(Top) After three Beach Clean-up Activities in February, the Conservation Project volunteers kicked-off their first Friday ritual in March at Nopparattara Beach. Hundreds of students from other provinces came for a field trip there that day; our team had a taste of their fifteen minutes of fame as they were asked to be taken photos with.*

*(Bottom-Left) Pool party with real turtles! Exclusive event for the Conservation Project volunteers at Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC) in Phuket.*

*(Right) Even behind bars are never too far for volunteers from Projects Abroad in Phuket to reach out their hands and help.*