



# NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Dek Noi Pattana Foundation



By Anuje Sirikit

## BEING A GOOD COACH REQUIRES TRUST AND GOOD OBJECTIVES!

At the end of last year, Dek Noi Pattana Foundation organized a workshop to strengthen capacities of coaches with 53 participants through zoom meeting. Participants included Surindra Rajabhat and Roi-et Rajabhat Universities faculty members, Ms. Tida Pitaksinsuk, President of the Association of Kindergarten, and a certified coach from International Coaching Federation (IFC), RLG Institute and ECD teachers.

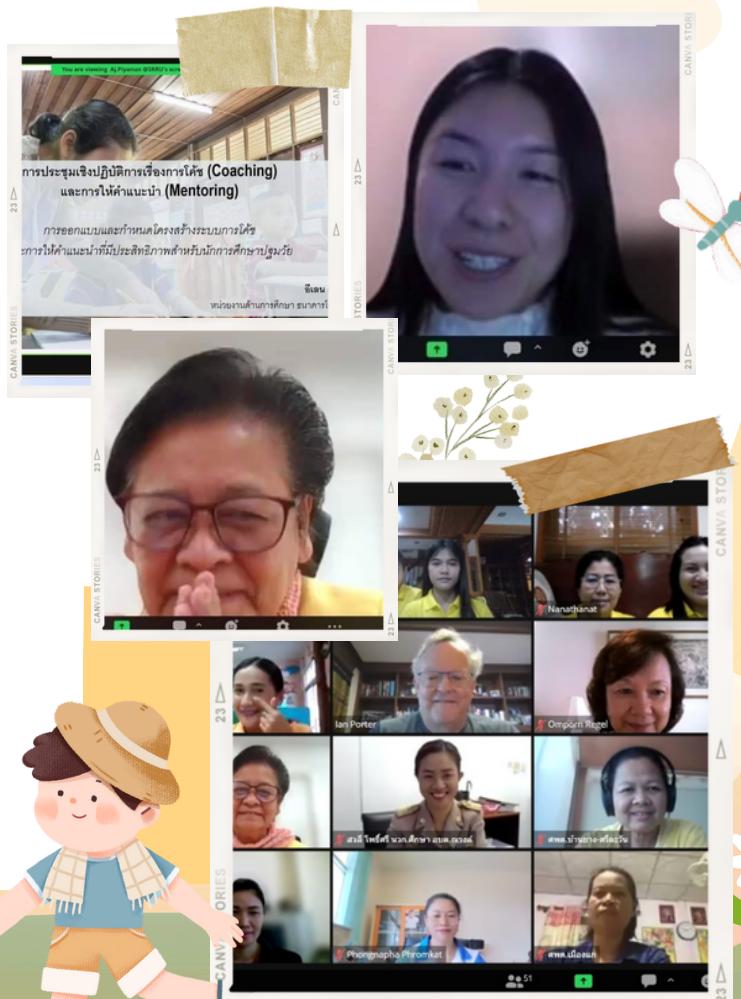
Ms. Elaine Ding, World Bank, Global Education Practice, was the resource person for the technical workshop held on the 6th of December 2023. She informed the meeting that she was an ECD teacher before becoming the World Bank's education specialist. She mentioned that being a good teacher does not mean being a coach. Being a good coach requires trust and good intentions. Adult's learning is different from children's learning.

Ms. Ding presentation focused on "Designing and conducting effective one-on-one coaching and coaching system network.

The presentation included best practices for pedagogical leaders/ coaches and roles and responsibilities with principles, standards, and efficiency. The following guidelines were provided.

1. Pedagogical leaders should not support teachers and act as evaluators at the same time.
2. They should spend time for observing teachers' teaching at least 30 minutes.
3. They should visit teachers once a month.

The coaching cycle should provide continuous support, offer opportunities to provide feedback that will allow teachers to improve and apply their skills. Quality support through the coaching system consists of the following steps: 1. preparing, planning, reviewing information, setting goals; 2. observing, using observation tool(s) to reflect; 3. conducting one-on one coaching and 4. planning on setting goals for coaching (i.e. when and how, with evidence from the observation tools to improve efficiency).





At the end of the workshop, Ms. Ding suggested to the participants ways to structure the school and cluster based professional development.

- Groups of teachers from the same school
- Teachers from a cluster of several schools
- A combination of the two
- Focusing on identifying the best way to group teachers
- Focusing on the ideal frequency of meeting
- Identifying the ideal profile of an individual who leads/facilitates the set groupings
- Focusing on developing quality training and support for facilitators in their roles

During the discussion with the participants Ms. Ding emphasized that “one-on-one” coaching should be performed at specific times, with focused content, specific strategies, and examples. Reflection should include observation tools for teachers to do self-evaluation and reflect on how they did it. Reflection tools should be specific to suggest ways for improvement.

A follow-up coaching session was done by Ms. Tida Pitaksinsuk and colleagues at Plearnpattana school (see Plearnpattana study visit).

## STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF TEACHERS AS COACHES

Following the online technical workshop on coaching on the 4th of December 2023, Dek Noi Pattana Foundation organized an on-site workshop on strengthening the capacities of teachers as coaches and a study visit to Plearnpattana school on the 7th of December. Participants included DNPF management and a technical team, faculty members of Surindra Rajabhat University, Roi-et Rajabhat University, chief administrator of Sri-suk SAO, Surin, chief administrator of Noan Sa-nnga SAO, Roi-et, directors of education sector of Sri-suk SAO, Narong SAO, Noan Sa-gna SAO (Roi-et) and ECD teachers of Srisuk and Narong ECD centers.

The study visits for the participants to observe best practices in several classrooms and outdoor activities took place in the morning. While in the afternoon, the participants shared their reflections with **Ajarn Tida** and management team of Plearnpattana school. After the discussions and sharing of experiences with the participants, Ajarn Tida gave a very comprehensive session on the role, competencies, and the process of an effective coach.

The following feedback from the participants and knowledge gained on the study visit was very encouraging:

- A coaching system increases efficiency in organizing learning experiences for children. All teachers are efficient through a coaching system and monitoring of the results of activities organized.

- Every space is children's learning space both inside and outside classrooms. Children can choose activities they would like to do freely depending on their interests and can learn from the environment surrounding them.
- Planning activities for children in each grade that respond to their needs and facilitate good learning through organizing them systematically by education levels.
- Teachers act as facilitators, who encourage children's learning process and allow them to learn more through play in the form of active learning.

Participants now have better understanding on strengthening teachers' capacity as coaches for improving own potentials and that of other teachers.





# WORLD BANK TEAM VISIT TO SURIN

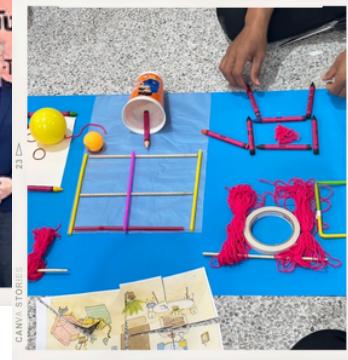
The Work Bank team made a visit to Surin at the end of last year to familiarize themselves with the work of the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF) on the grounds. The two-day visit included observations of children's activities at two ECD centers.

The visit started with a presentation on “Early Childhood Development and the Partnership between the Surin Provincial Administration, Surindra Rajabhat University (SRRU), and the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation”, by **Mr. Ian Porter, Chair of DNPF**. Khun Ian ended the presentation by touching on the financial support for the work of DNPF. DNPF benefited from financial support from Thai organizations, Thai and foreign individuals including through the World Bank Group Community Connections Campaign (CCC).

The DNPF's management team, the World Bank team, faculty members of SRRU, representatives of Surin Provincial Administration and Surin Provincial Education Office visited Narong ECD center in Sri-Narong district and Ban Sawai ECD center in Muang district to observe activities to enhance children's skills development i.e. physical, social, emotional and cognitive development through active learning approach. Everyone was very impressed with the progress made.

After observing the activities in the classroom, the whole team made a concerted effort on community service by painting the playground and decorating areas outside the classrooms. At the end of the day everyone was very pleased with their work and the collaborative efforts by all parties. They all felt very inspired and have promised to come back next year.





## EMPOWERING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS: INSIGHTS INTO ACTIVE LEARNING APPROACH:

During November 20 to 24, 2023, DNPF in collaboration with Surindra Rajabhat University and Surin Provincial Local Administration organized the 2nd bi-annual in-service training for 2023. The training included creative learning techniques with Khun Sasipin Punyasvasti from the House of Toy.

A session on enhancing fine and gross motor skills through outdoor and playdough activities was led by a team from New International School (NIST). The resource persons included Khun Duangjai Kruekrongsuk, Khun Supawan Cotter and Khun Paweena Noisopha. The team has been very supportive for the past seven consecutive years.

“Game-based learning in early childhood”: The highlight was the session from **Mrs. Gayle Holmes**, a resource person from Australia on improving early childhood teachers with active learning approach. Mrs. Holmes guided the teachers to create games for children and emphasized that games are particularly important for young learners and learning should be fun.

