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MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



In March there was a Pre-School Graduation Ceremony and 117 students graduated. Each one was given a certificate and they will now start in a kindergarten class.

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After 25 students were given their certificates, some of them danced, and then another 25 certificates were given out, and this went on until the end. The children were very well behaved and were extremely happy.



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SCHOOL TRIP TO SIN KAUNG

On 28th March some of our high school students went to a village which is 2 hours away by truck, to learn about a plastic project which is going on there, and for them to see the situation and how it is being dealt with. It was a very good and worthwhile experience for them as we teach about the environment. Please see a report written by one of our students.

Plastic pollution

By Tun Tun Soe (age 17)

Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as a rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products is more than the world's ability to deal with them. Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or non-existent. But the developing world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, also has trouble with collecting plastic.



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How did this happen?

Plastic made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. Production and developing of thousands of new plastic products are the modern age that life without plastic would be unrecognizable today. Plastic has led to a throw away culture that reveals the material's dark side. Today single use plastic accounts for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year. Many of these products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they persist in the environment for thousands of years.

Where does it go...?

Most of the plastic trash ends up in the oceans. Trash is also carried to the sea by major rivers, which acts as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal water. But once caught up in ocean currents it can be transported around the world. Once at sea, sun light, wind and wave action break down plastic waste into small particles, often less than one-fifth of an inch across. These so called microplastics are spread throughout the water column and have been found in every corner of the world. Microplastics are breaking down even into smaller and smaller pieces. Millions of sea animals are killed by eating those microplastics as their food every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones are affected. Nearly every species of seabird eats plastic. Seals, whales, turtles and other animals are sometimes strangled by abandoned plastic waste.

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Microplastics have been found in more than 100 aquatic species, destined for our dinner plates. In many cases, these tiny bits pass through the digestive system and are expelled without consequence. But plastic has also been found to have blocked digestive tracts or pierced organs causing death.



Trash collection in Jaydaw and Sin Kaung Villages

Ma Inkyinn Pwint, who is the leader of the POP project teaches and oversees a team pick up trash on the beach. They sort the trash that they pick up, collect the trash that can be recycled and throw the trash that can no longer be used into the trash area. Plastic water bottles, plastic fishing nets, ropes, and other recyclable things are sent to the recycle factory and the things that could not be recycled have to go to the rubbish dump.

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Working with local residents of the village, participating villagers are paid for collecting plastic. They only collect the trash they can pick up for a day and then paid depending on how much plastic they pick so everyone picks up trash as much as they can. This is a good way to clean our environment and also it is a great help for poverty. And by doing these things, the litterers will see what they are doing and gain awareness and do small actions to educate them about the bad things of plastic. I think we need more trash collection like this around Myanmar and around the world too.



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Benefits of POP trash collection...

Thanks to Ma Inkyinn Pwint and POP project the beaches of Jaydaw and Sin Kaung are cleaner. It can protect the lives of sea animals, birds and land animals, including humans too. We can have a better, healthier and cleaner environment because of this trash collection. By picking up the trash of the poor villagers, it helps them in their livelihood. It is a chance for those who are struggling to make a living due to poverty and those who cannot take care of the environment. Now they do not need to worry for their livelihood and keep the environment clean too. Therefore, we invite everyone to help to keep our environment clean and beautiful. So, let's work together to clean up our environment.



As the years go by the world will be filled with plastic and will be destroyed. So, as we are the human beings of this world and we are responsible to protect this world. We can only fix the world together, not alone.

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HEALTHCARE

This man who is married and has two children had a stroke and was paralysed from the waist down.



We paid for his medical expenses and now he can sit up, and is trying to walk again. He is a fisherman and his wife dries fish, so they are very poor. We hope that he will be able to walk again and then be able to work.



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Thu Thu Win who had vitamin B1 deficiency which affected her back and leg and she was in a lot of pain, is now better as she was given food for one month and also her medication. Now she can lead a normal life.



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TRASH FOR FOOD CONTINUES

With the rising cost of food and not enough jobs, there are many people in great difficulties.

Therefore, for the unemployed people it helps them greatly, because after 4 days they get a sack of rice or other food they need. It also helps keep the environment clean.



WE BELIEVE THAT EACH STUDENT IS THE CREATOR
OF THEIR OWN FUTURE GIVEN THE RIGHT
EDUCATION.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US ACHIEVE THIS.