



Art for All Camp 2011: “Celebrating Diversity”
14-18 July 2011, Bangkok and Nakhon Nayok Province, Thailand

“Art for All” project was initiated to show how human differences of disadvantage can be blended into a co-operative combination. They can complement one another to form one big harmonious and diverse society. “Art for All” unites the blind, deaf, physical and mental handicaps, as well as people without disabilities through integrated programmes of visual, performing and literary arts. The project is a harmonious mixture of sciences, social sciences and various fields of arts.

By bringing together children with different skills and abilities, “Art for All” provides a learning place that will equip them with experiences to cope with the outside world. The blind can be the ears for those who are deaf. The deaf helps the blind to see. The people without arms and legs are the brain for the mentally challenged, while the mentally challenged are the arms and legs for those who cannot walk. With support from ones without handicaps, they form a unit of a complete, skillful and able human resource as illustrated in the slogan of the project:

“Five People Together Make One Genius”.

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| <i>One blind person</i> | <i>cannot see</i> | <i>but has a voice to speak</i> |
| <i>One deaf person</i> | <i>cannot hear</i> | <i>but has eyes to see</i> |
| <i>One without arms</i> | <i>still has a brain</i> | <i>or legs to think</i> |
| <i>One who is mentally challenged</i> | <i>physical strength and energy</i> | <i>still has to share</i> |
| <i>One non-disabled</i> | <i>unites</i> | <i>the other four</i> |
| | | |
| <i>When the five</i> | <i>become one</i> | <i>to create</i> |
| <i>To complement</i> | <i>and compensate</i> | <i>for what the others lack</i> |
| <i>As eyes,</i> | <i>ears,</i> | <i>body and brain</i> |
| <i>What at first seems out of reach</i> | | <i>comes true in the end.</i> |

“Art for All” uses art as a medium for instilling moral and ethical principles in the young people. Art is also used to stimulate the right side of the brain, where creativity and initiative reside. Through a wide range of artistic activities, the young participants can learn and adapt themselves with others while having fun. They enjoy creating works of art in an environment of natural beauty. “Art for All” provides the children and youth with an invaluable opportunity to explore their potential and develop their creative skills. By encouraging them to make works of art, the project allows the children and youth to express themselves freely which is an essential part of their humanity – the desire to create beauty. “Art for All” also uses art as a means to improve hand-eye co-ordination and other physical skills. It is a form of physical and psychological therapy that serves as an important emotional expression to build confidence and self-esteem.

BACKGROUND

The "Art for All" project was initiated by Associate Professor Dr. Channarong Pornrungrroj started this project in the year 1999 with an intense aim to build bridges through art to link the peoples with different disabilities and those without. The project was first organised when a seminar on visual arts for people with disabilities and an art camp for children and youth with and without disabilities. Since then, the “Art for All” project was annually implemented.

The project commences with a seminar on subjects relating to various aspects of arts connected to the disabled. The main event is an art camp where the disabled and non-disabled join together in order to learn to adjust themselves in different circumstances. Through arts as a media, these children and youth get a chance to acquire knowledge and experience to develop their talent and further improve their potential to the full extent. The camp activities are designed and conducted by the National Artists and renowned artists together with instructors in different fields of arts including visiting participants from overseas.

The art works produced during the art camp will be set up into an exhibition displayed on various occasions. Some of the outstanding artworks are selected to be printed in UNESCAP calendar. The final outcome of the project is a publication which is disseminated to related organisations and institutions within and outside Thailand. The "Art for All" website has been created with the plan to insert pictures of paintings and other forms of art products made by the children and youth with disabilities who participated in the art camp.

Throughout the year, the "Art for All" project includes a number of activities. These include seminars, conferences, art camps, and special Sunday sessions in different regions around the country and in neighboring countries. "Art for All" also organises exhibitions, performances, research and produces printed materials including books, videotapes, CDs, etc. Art for All not only organises art camps for the disabled but also expands its scope into a programme of boosting up moral and spirit of the inmates, vocational training in rural areas.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a caring society through new approaches of art for the people from all walks of life especially the disabled and disadvantaged children and youth.
2. To develop skills and enhance creativity in various fields of arts among children and youth with and without disabilities.
3. To provide an opportunity for more interaction and exchange of knowledge and experience among different groups of people concerned with the disabled, such as: parents, art instructors/experts, in caring/tending children and youth with disabilities.

CAMP PARTICIPANTS

Group A. Children and Youth

150 children and youth at the age of 14-17 years including those with different kinds of disabilities i.e. blind, deaf, physical, mental; the disadvantageous group i.e. ethnic minority, street youth, socially abused, substance abuse (former), chronically ill; genius and non-disabled.

Group B. Semi-professional Youth

30 youth age between 18-25 years both disabled and non-disabled who possess potential and aim to pursue their career in arts will attend the inter-discipline art training course conducted by prominent artists.

Group C. Art Instructors

30 art instructors at secondary school and university levels in Thailand will attend the training workshop on the development of art teaching techniques.

Group D. International Participants

Participants from ASEAN member countries and overseas are invited to attend and conduct art activities/sessions at the art camp.

For more information, please visit our website: www.artforall.or.th