

# Volunteering at LEOT



LEOT is a UK Charity that has been working in Laos for ten years. In our early years we gave educational scholarships to enable students from the very poorest families the opportunity to attend Colleges and Universities.

We opened the LEOT School in 2012 and plan to have 250 places for our fifth academic year of teaching from September 2016. Our students all come from the very poorest families and their classes are completely free. Many of our students are Novice Monks or at High School, some work in local hotels or restaurants.

## What Does a Volunteer do?

Many of LEOT's volunteers are trained teachers from different Countries others have IT skills or undertake projects from building shelves to mending students' bikes. To find out if your skills fit simply send us an email. Our volunteers' commitment varies from a couple of weeks to up to three months. It can be all of the day or part of the day. We insist that you are reliable and that it is not simply a break in a holiday. It is importantly to tell you that if you are a teacher we don't want you to teach a daily class.

So how can you help?

- If you are a trained teacher become a Mentor and work with one of our Lao teachers as a trainer in the staff room and by observing in class.
- Help us develop our curriculum.
- Provide structured teacher training sessions.
- Hold educational workshops.
- Hold student conversation classes.
- Help develop our Computer Studies programme.
- Give IT training to our teachers.
- Assist a teacher in an IT Class
- Help us with our marketing
- Help develop a community programme
- Maintain our school.
- Help mend our students bikes
- How can you help?

# Travelling to Laos

Independent travel to Laos is easily arranged on line or through a travel agent. It usually means a long flight to a hub airport such as Bangkok or Hanoi then connecting with a short local flight to Luang Prabang International Airport. It's only a short journey into town by TukTuk. Depending on your budget there are many reasonable priced guest houses that you can look up on sites like Trip Advisor, Expedia or Agoda. Remember it's nicest but most expensive to come between October and February. The low season is much cheaper. We don't expect you to pay to volunteer at LEOT but you have to be able to get here by yourself.

## Medical Advice

Medical services in Laos are very poor so please bring a basic first aid kit with you together with the basic drugs to deal with an upset stomach, bites and scrapes. You must follow travel advice particularly with regard to preventing Malaria. Have a look at your own Countries travel advice to Laos. You must have full medical Insurance to enable you to fly out if you have an accident or major illness.

## The Culture of Laos

Laos is a traditional Buddhist Country its people are warm, gentle and expects visitors to respect its traditions. Lao people seldom show anger and almost never say no. Please dress modestly at School we ask men to wear long trousers and a shirt with a collar. Ladies please cover your shoulders and wear trousers or a knee length skirt. Non formal is OK but not tourist. Many Novice Monks are students at school we show them the respect of full Monks. They will not sit by a girl. Please do not touch anybody on the head or show the soles of your feet. Please read a good guide book to understand the culture of Laos.

## Fitting In

We hope we haven't put you off volunteering. Laos is a wonderful Country and helping at LEOT is a real delight. Our Boss, Director and Trustee is Jeannette and comes from Australia. She makes sure we have a very happy team and puts us in our place when we get out of order. Our volunteers have a rewarding experience by joining us and we set out for all to leave a legacy. It's not the place to come for a holiday but our volunteers leave having made a real difference to our young and ambitious students.