

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**between**  
**the Angels for Children foundation**  
**and**  
**the University of Education Karlsruhe**

**Background**

The foundation Angels for Children (short "AfC") was founded in 2003 by Ingrid and Paul Engel and their sons Christian and Lars Engel, to support and develop education in Laos. The foundation has supported three governmental schools since 2003 in Ban Sikeud and Ban Phang Heng, Naxaythong district: two primary and one secondary with 1,600 students to date. With the intent to professionalize the AfC volunteer teaching programme for English lessons in order to enable pupils to communicate in English and thus to continue into higher education, AfC members suggested to chairman Christian Engel in June 2015 that he meet the Head of the Institute of Multilingualism and English Department and Centre of Self-Study of the University of Education in Karlsruhe (*Paedagogische Hochschule Karlsruhe*, short "PH Karlsruhe"), Professor Dr. Isabel Martin. Her specific approaches in English didactics and methodology as well as her experience in teaching English as a foreign language in many non-English speaking countries and at all age and competence levels could help AfC to reach this goal.

AfC subsequently invited her for an exploratory research visit in October/November 2015. Prof. Martin prepared a team of five graduate English teachers from the PH Karlsruhe for the pilot test teaching project she had designed, which was to adapt her approaches to the schools supported by AfC, in line with Lao culture, values and the prevailing educational system.

With the aim to gain information and impressions from within the school system, the team started their work late in October 2015 and will continue until mid-January 2016. During this time contacts and offers of cooperation were made to different institutions of the Ministry of Education and Sports (short "MoES"), such as the Dongkhamxang Teacher Training College (short "TTC"), the Faculty of Letters from the National University of Laos (short "FoL"), and the Language Resource Centre of the Research Institute for Educational Sciences (short "RIES"). Visits were also made to the Lao German Technical College (short "LGTC"), the Vocational Education Development Institute (short "VEDI") and the German Society for International Cooperation (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*, short "GIZ"). Workshops and further meetings strengthened these new connections, and efforts towards cooperation were swiftly agreed upon and are to be expanded and made more concrete, to pave the way to a formalized collaboration.

The collected and documented experiences made in this pilot project will be the basis for preparing a joint agenda between AfC and the PH Karlsruhe for a future official role model programme to improve English education in Laos, starting in September 2016.

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## **Preamble**

This Memorandum is jointly prepared to set up a long-term cooperation to develop English education in Laos between Angels for Children and the University of Education Karlsruhe. Both sides hereby agree to foster this partnership.

## **Areas of cooperation**

Both sides will work together to develop the model status of the schools supported by AfC. The ulterior aim of this programme is to improve school development and English education at the schools in Ban Sikeud and Ban Phang Heng in order to set an example to the educational system in Laos. The outcomes achieved by this cooperation will be shared with the above-mentioned institutions of the MoES.

The premises and conditions for the success of the project are a close collaboration between AfC and the PH Karlsruhe and the responsible Lao state institutions.

The tasks cover the following areas and they follow the governmental curriculum for the subject of English:

- (1) Further development of the model schools
- (2) Improvement of fluency, accuracy (lexis, grammar and pronunciation), and literacy of Lao English teachers and students with the goal of communicative competence
- (3) Improvement of didactics and methodology
- (4) Reduction of illiteracy especially in the field of English
- (5) School and classroom management and organization of the English departments in the schools
- (6) Equipment of the schools with modern teaching material and media accompanied by instructional workshops
- (7) Further workshops about communicative teaching methodology and continuous exchanges with the above-mentioned institutions of the MoES to foster this focus at all levels of education
- (8) Other activities based on mutual consent

## **Coordination**

For Angels for Children the responsibility for the coordination of this Memorandum and the activities hereunder is with the chairman Mr. Christian Engel, for the University of Education Karlsruhe with the Head of the Institute of Multilingualism, Prof. Dr. Isabel Martin. The parties agree to meet and confer regularly for the coordination and advancement of the project.

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**Validity**

This Memorandum is valid for five (5) years from the effective date and may be renewed, in writing, before the expiry date by agreement between both sides.

**Amendments**

This Memorandum may be amended with the written approval of both parties. Such amendments shall become parts of the Memorandum.

**Termination**

This Memorandum may be terminated by either party with a six-month prior written notice after the first five years. In the event of termination any activities already commenced shall be completed as planned.

**Copies**

This Memorandum shall be made available in three (3) identical copies.

**Equal opportunities and non-discrimination**

The two parties subscribe to a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination.


**Other**

The implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding is to be in conformity with the current laws of Germany and Lao PDR and with the rules and regulations of both parties.

In witness whereof

For Angels for Children

For the University of Education Karlsruhe



Mr. Christian Engel

Chairman of the Foundation

Date:



Prof. Dr. Isabel Martin

Head of the English department

Date: 15.12.2015