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Foreigners in the heart of Lanna

Why they live in Chiangmai?

One of 178 countries in the world is Thailand. And one of the 76 provinces in Thailand is Chiangmai; the northern city, where some foreigners choose to live. Why they live in Chiangmai? Does anyone know?

ANNELIE HENDRIKS

The founder of the Samsara Foundation in The Netherlands, which helps poor schools in rural areas in northern Thailand to give the children good education, good health and with that a good life.

7 years ago, the director of management training in Holland quits her job and she decided to stay in Chiangmai. She visited Chiangmai in 1999 for the first time while taking care of her friend's house at Doi Saket. She loved to bike around in the countryside and 8 years later chooses Chiangmai as the city to spend the rest of her life in because of its temples, its good location in the valley surrounded by mountains, the great atmosphere, the climate, the economic developments, the very friendly people and in that time the stable political situation. Even more, Thai food she loves such as Panang – Kai/Koong, Kang Rieng (Thai soup), Yum (spicy salad), Hoemok (seafood in coconut).

“ By living here we will bring all our money to Thailand. So if I loose my money here I will have nothing anymore, no job, no house, and no money. Therefore I must be sure that it is safe for foreigners to live here. So Far Thailand is a very pleasant country to live in.

About her fundraising activities for the Samsara Foundation she said

“I can live here in a very nice house surrounded by very beautiful nature, with very nice people, eat very nice food and live in very nice climate. Anyway, I feel very happy about what Thailand gives me therefore I think I need to give something back to Thailand. To give the poor children a better opportunity to education is my choice because they are the future. I think I can find the funds for Samsara activities because I have many friends everywhere, I can organize very well.

Samsara Foundation gives funds for the construction of school facilities such as dormitories, canteens, water purification installations, toilet buildings, books and scholarships to poor schools in the mountains of Mae Lanoi, Sop Moei and Mae Sariang.

