

Please give us a chance –  
knowledge exchange



Make your support count!

A voluntary project to support the Christian Foundation for the Blind in Thailand (CFTB), with the goal to support, maintain and promote knowledge exchange between Thailand and Europe.

## Please give us a chance

Under the creed “Please give us a chance” CFTB helps blind people regardless of gender, ethnic or religion.

## An uphill struggle for the right to education

The foundation was founded in 1978 by Prayat Punong-ong, a 29 year old teacher who lost his eyesight during a car accident at the age of eight. The situation for blind people at the time was abysmal with no educational, job related or other perspectives. Therefore he had to fight for his right to education. His struggle, his history, his passion to teach inspire until today, where the situation is still critical for blind people in Thailand.



## Under the auspices of his majesty the king of Thailand



Prayat Punong-ong founded CFTB immediately after attaining his university degree and began teaching the first few children. He took up and continued in the fight for the betterment of his proteges!

Since 1984 the foundation is under the auspices of his majesty the king of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej. Together with 40 students he marched to Bangkok in 1985. During the eleven day trip, they covered 450km and successfully raised nationwide awareness for their issues.

## Broad support of the blind

Today, CFTB is running a total of 15 schools and service centers in all parts of Thailand and is supporting 4000 blind people annually. The curriculum of the schools are very diverse. There is a regular education for the blind without further disabilities preparing them for a fulfilled life in their respective communities, as well as schools for blind people with multiple handicaps that are effectively giving them a home where they can live.



Matthias worked in the Bangkok “Home for the Blind with Multiple Disabilities” during three months as a volunteer while he was on an extensive round trip in Asia. During this time he met with Songpakorn, a son of the founder, and together they developed the idea for the “Please give us a chance – knowledge exchange” project.

# Your support counts!

### **The goals of the project**

The voluntary project “Please give us a chance – knowledge exchange” enables and supports the knowledge exchange between CFTB and institutions for the blind in Europe such as schools, homes, and organizations for the blind. During his voluntary stay in Thailand, Matthias realized that there is little to non contact to western institutions what so ever, due to cultural and linguistic barriers. Matthias decided it is time for a change.

### **How is the project implemented?**

A study trip will be organized for three responsible persons of CFTB to come to Europe and meet and greet their counterparts in European institutions in order to establish a knowledge transfer. The group will consist of Songakorn and two other persons of CFTB. The trip shall take two weeks and will take place in the spring of 2016.

### **How is the project financed?**

As the means and financial resources of CFTB are very limited, Matthias decided to raise 10'000 swiss francs to enable the people in charge at CFTB to come to Europe and gain knowledge for the betterment of their protegeses. And this is, where you come in. Every franc counts toward the goal, so please, give us a chance!



# **Your support counts!**

## Five ways to support the project

**Words** Talk about it! Raise awareness for the issue and the project. Share your compassion!

**Ideas** You have an idea for the project? Great, let me know.

**Money** You want to contribute towards the 10'000 franc goal? Please wire funds to the following account, no matter how small they are, every franc counts and is greatly appreciated. Thanks!

**Banküberweisung** iComGu, Matthias Höfliger, 6300 Zug  
PC: 61-605314-5  
IBAN: CH17 0900 0000 6160 5314 5  
Purpose: «CFBT KE» and your e-mail address

**Paypal** [icomgu@gmail.com](mailto:icomgu@gmail.com)

**Door opener** You know someone who works in an institution, school, union etc. who should hear about this project? Let me know, please.

**Time** You would like to help in giving some of your time and skills (for example as a cook, photographer, with an accommodation etc.)? This would be very much welcomed, just let me know.

## Where can you find us?

Further information about the project “Please give us a chance – knowledge exchange” can be found at

[www.iComGu.com](http://www.iComGu.com)

IcomGu is the abbreviation for “Intercultural Communication and Global Understanding”. It is an organization founded by Matthias in the summer of 2014 with the goal to act as a vessel for projects involving intercultural dimensions.



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