



## **Application Pack for 2012 Study Tour to the Thai-Burma border.**

This Application Pack has an initial information brief plus an application form should you decide to apply. Deadline for applications is 30 September 2011

This year's tour starts from Bangkok on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 and concludes in Mae Sot on 28<sup>th</sup> January. The estimated total cost of the tour is \$1000 max. Inclusions are detailed on the following pages.

The tour is a great opportunity to meet with the leading political, union and community figures involved in the struggle for democracy in Burma, as well as understand the situation of Burmese migrants in Thailand. The tour is run at cost and the organisers will endeavour to honour all programme arrangements, but because of the nature of the political situation and unexpected commitments of the Burmese participants which might arise we must reserve the right to vary the programme.

If you would like to apply to join us on the 2012 Study Tour to the Thai-Burma border, please fill in the application form and return it to us as soon as possible, but no later than 5pm, Friday 30 September 2011. The timeline for the application process is:

- 2nd September Applications close.
- 9<sup>th</sup> September Applicants notified and 20% deposit requested.
- 30th September 20% deposit due (\$140)
- 9<sup>th</sup> December Balance due
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Study Tour starts in Bangkok

### **Information Brief**

UnionAID has been working actively with our project partner, FTUB, in Mae Sot since 2003. With the help of NZAid funding we have supported human and labour rights training and, over the past 6 months, the building of a skills training centre for young Burmese migrant women. Travelling with UnionAID and being part of the study tour is a unique opportunity to meet our project partners in Mae Sot and find out about their work first hand, and to better understand the situation of migrants in Thailand. There will also be time to talk to other local activists about their hopes and aspirations for a new democratic Burma, and how they plan to achieve it. This will be done in the context of discussion about international aid and development generally and what are the best ways for unionists to assist social justice objectives.

## **Proposed Itinerary**

The tour starts in Bangkok and finishes in Mae Sot. This provides the opportunity for you to make your own arrangements for further travel within Thailand.

The tentative timetable is as follows:

### **Day 1 (23 Jan) Arrive Bangkok (own travel arrangements)**

Hotel (to be advised)

**5pm:** Meet with Min Zar Ni and Soe Nandar Linn (alumni (2009) of UnionAID Young Leaders programme for briefing on their work and perspective on Burma.

**6pm:** Briefing and dinner; including a perspective on Burma by Dr Zaw Oo. U Zaw Oo is one of the directors of the CDCE programme which provides students for our Young Leaders programme at Victoria University

### **Day 2 (24 Jan) 8.00: Meet in hotel lobby**

**9.00 Depart by bus from Bus Terminal for Mae Sot**

**Travel to Mae Sot 9.00 – 6pm**

Check into Guest House

**7.30** Meet with Poe Pheing and other alumni of UnionAID Young Leaders Programme “An introduction to Mae Sot –basic facts and issues.”

**8.30 Dinner** at Aija Burmese Restaurant

### **Day 3 (25 Jan) The FTUB – making a difference**

**9am: FTUB and Women’s Committee: UnionAID Project**

FTUB Human Rights Secretary and UnionAID Project Leader Min Lwin provides an overview of FTUB, the democracy movement, and the partnership project work with UnionAID.

**10am Visit the Skills training centre:** Htwe Nge/Jasmine: tour of occupational training centre, school, fishery, gardens and women’s safe house etc.

Women’s Committee members provide background to their work and time for discussion/questions

**12.00 – Lunch**

**1.30 Meeting and discussion with U Maung Maung** General Secretary of the FTUB and the National Council of the Union of Burma

**2.30 The challenge of union organising** – on the border and inside Burma.

- A briefing by Min Lwin.
- Visit to a factory or other workplace if possible

**4.30pm Trip to bridge** by Burma border/shopping at Bridge market

**7.00 Dinner** at night market

**Day 4 (26 Jan)**

**Migrant workers and refugees**

**8am** Visit to Burmese market

**9am** Jasmine– the reasons for migration and the risks and issues for migrant workers and refugees.

**10.30 am** Visit to Melar refugee camp

**1pm** Lunch

**1pm** Visit to the Mae Tao Clinic

**3pm** - Meeting with Back Pack Health Worker Team

**7.00 Dinner** at garden cafe

**Day 5 (27 Jan)**

**Migrant workers and refugees**

**9am** Poe Pheing General Secretary of Palaung Women's Organisation - the work of PWO

**10.30** Visit to Association for the Assistance of Political Prisoners (AAPP)

**12noon** Lunch

**1pm** Moan Kaein Education Programme Co-ordinator Shan Women's Action Network – the work of SWAN.

**2pm** Visit school

**4pm** Review and discussion with the FTUB team at the skills training centre - an opportunity for questions and discussion.

**5.30 Evening meal and farewell concert at the school**

**Day 6 (28 Jan)**

Home - own arrangements

We will be travelling in a group, with each person bringing their own perspective to our collective experience. We will need to be supportive and willing to challenge

each other about what we learn and, just as importantly, what we are going to do about it on our return to New Zealand. Each night there will be an opportunity over a few quiet drinks, to reflect on the day's activities and discuss the issues which you found interesting (or confusing).

### **Who should apply?**

UnionAID study tours are designed for people active in the New Zealand trade union movement and their workplaces, with a genuine interest in international aid and development. The study tour is a chance for you to engage with UnionAID projects overseas, and we expect you to actively participate in all the activities. We hope that on returning from the study tour you will take the opportunity to speak to other people about your experiences and educate them about UnionAID and our projects. We are looking for people who are active in their workplaces, who can bring enthusiasm to the study tour, and use the experience as an opportunity to learn, share and educate.

### **What does it cost and what does the price include?**

Study tour costs for 2012 are estimated to be \$1,000 max. This includes: 1 night's accommodation in Bangkok, travel from Bangkok to Mae Sot, 4 nights' accommodation in Mae Sot (single room), and all transport and evening meals there. There is also the input of our project partners, and other group meetings and activities.

NOTE: It is intended that the tour is not profit-making but we need to ensure there are at least 8 people to cover the costs of transport and make the trip worthwhile.



**Thai- Burma Border Study Tour**  
*Application and Personal Details Form*

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: (h) ..... (w) .....

(mob) ..... fax: .....

Email: .....

Occupation:

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Workplace: .....

Trade Union: .....

Union Position (eg. Delegate/member):

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Date of Birth: ..... Gender:.....

Place of Birth: ..... Passport Number: .....

Nationality: .....

Do you have any health conditions/medical needs that the Study Tour Coordinator should know about? If so, please state below or contact the Study Tour Coordinator in person.

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Are you Kiwi Solidarity Member or regular donor UnionAID?

\_ Yes \_ No

KS number .....

**1. What do you hope to get out of the study tour?**

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**3. Have you travelled in a developing country before?**

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**4. Do you have any prior knowledge or experience of Burma and its history?**

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**5. Any areas of particular interest?**

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7. UnionAID study tours are designed for people active in the trade union movement and their workplace, with a genuine interest in international aid and development. We hope that on returning from the study tour you will take the opportunity to speak to others about your experiences and to educate them about UnionAID and our overseas projects.

**How might you continue to support the work of UnionAID on your return and into the future?**

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**8. In what ways do you currently contribute to your union and/or workplace?**

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**9. How did you hear about the UnionAID study tour?**

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