

IN THAILAND: PRIVATE ISLAMIC SCHOOL REFORM

SUPPORTING TEACHERS

Due to limited funding in private Islamic schools (pondok), there are few opportunities to provide teachers with professional development training. The result has been an inconsistent level of instruction and low test scores for students in pondok schools. With support from The Asia Foundation, teachers are reforming the education process and raising the standards of their instruction.

“WHEN I STARTED TEACHING CHEMISTRY

I realized I needed to do more to capture students’ imagination when describing things that cannot be seen with your eyes,” says

Sateehawa Chenik. With the support of The Asia Foundation, teachers like Ms. Sateehawa and Ms. Asnee Jehsoh from Attarkiah Islamiah school in the southern province of Narathiwat are not only capturing the imagination of their students, but are transforming their school into one of Thailand’s leading private Islamic schools.



Asnee Jehsoh and Sateehawa Chenik are teachers at Attarkiah Islamiah School in the southern province of Narathiwat.

Working with local education reformers, the Foundation supports training programs designed to help teachers develop modern pedagogy skills. “We have been to teacher training in Bangkok learning how to better engage students in the

classroom, taken training classes on how to organize extracurricular camps, and we are now helping design lesson plans that will soon be introduced in all (participating) schools,” says Ms. Asnee.

With the dedication of teachers like Ms. Jehsoh and Ms. Chenik, Attarkiah Islamiah school is now widely regarded as one of the top private Islamic schools in Thailand.

“Working at Attarkiah Islamiah School is a great opportunity to keep learning and developing our skills. With the help of The Asia Foundation, we have created a positive and productive learning environment and our school is now producing students who have unlimited potential.”

— Ms. Sateehawa Chenik

To support dedicated teachers like Sateehawa Chenik and Asnee Jehsoh, the Foundation has been working with private Islamic schools in Thailand to improve the quality of their secular instruction. Currently, the Foundation is supporting initiatives by local education reformers to train teachers, build quality lesson plans, and provide students with educational extracurricular activities. With a strong secular education, Islamic secondary school students will be better prepared to enter Thailand’s competitive job market and gain access to higher education.

THE ASIA FOUNDATION is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation supports programs in Asia that help improve governance and law, women’s empowerment, economic reform and development, and international relations.