



Part I: Nominees must describe in less than 800 words the results of initiative they are undertaking to reduce the impact of disasters and build disaster resilience, who are involved and the level of outreach. State the challenges being confronted and the solution that is being proposed.

Watching hundreds of children studying in shelter as their school buildings had been severely damaged by the country's worst earthquake in Chiang Rai on May 5, 2014, followed by hundreds of aftershocks in the weeks after, Design for Disasters (D4D) found these schoolchildren were deprived of the right to safe schooling and living.

Without a proper training about disaster prevention and mitigation, about 2,000 schoolchildren were left studying in the ragged canteen-turned-temporary classroom or two classes clammed into one room, we knew these young students needed more than just textbooks. Apart from two death and dozens of injuries, over 50,000 people were affected from the natural disaster.

"Earthquake Recovery Project: Reconstruction of Schools Affected by Earthquake in Chiang Rai" was then originated by the D4D team and a few volunteers, with a hope to build safe school buildings for nine schools severely damaged, and arm the young students with knowledge about disaster prevention and mitigation.

A survey on sociology and geography was immediately conducted to find the practical and safe schools for them. While doing the field survey on the needs of the victims in Chiang Rai, we approached emerging architects to help design new buildings which will be the classrooms but also the shelter in times of disasters in the future.

In two weeks, we became the oasis of the professionals in architecture, engineering, and construction. Apart from the nine architects, the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASA) guided us while the Engineering Institute of Thailand under H.M. The King's Patronage and the Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand provided engineering knowhow, the Thai Contractors Association under H.M. The King's Patronage offered consults in construction – all pro bono – to help build safe schools for children.

The project resulted in Hong-rian Pordee Pordee (modest school) for each school affected by the 6.3-magnitude earthquake. The earthquake-resistant school building is designed to be easily built by local contractors, and the materials are the affordable ones which can be found in any parts of the country. Situated in the earthquake-prone area, the buildings expect to be converted into community shelter in times of disasters.



Five months later, the earthquake did not only shatter the school building, but also blurred the business boundaries of the sponsors. A mixed of 400 staffers and volunteers from more than 70 organizations have joined the project. The picture of major business rivals like Ch Karnchang and Italian-Thai agreed to work in the same project – although each is constructing a school building for different schools – is rare.

With great assistance from ASA, D4D has been matched with large-scale organizations and corporates who later became our donors.

The cooperation of the professionals has continued to expand. After having raised over USD800,000 for the project, we keep on raising more to get another USD307,000 to complete the nine schools. The project expects to be fully complete next year.

After the infrastructure completion, “Survive!” workshop – a joint project between D4D and Emergency Medicine Institute of Thailand under a collaboration of Royal Thai Government and World Health Organization – will be held at the schools to educate the teachers and students about the possible disasters, prevention and mitigation. They will also learn how to turn their earthquake-resistant buildings into shelters for the community. Workshops on evacuation route map and plan will also be conducted.

Disasters are uncertain, yet can be prevented and mitigated. Children are our future. We hope all the efforts can help prepare our children to be able to handle the disasters and inspire them to learn about the safe, resilient, and sustainable future.