

A letter from Krongtong Boonprakong, director of the ASI JITTAMETT, Bangkok and president of THOSA, the Thai Orff-Schulwerk Association to all the members of the International Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg

Bangkok, April 25th, 2020

Dear all, dear IOSFS members

I was asked by Barbara to describe our activities triggered by the Corona crisis. I would like to explain and share the ideas that we have developed and implemented in these last weeks:

The COVID-19 situation in Bangkok and in Thailand is getting much better, this is because everyone has been helping each other and cooperating nicely, wearing masks and keeping social distance. We have health care volunteers who would be going around the villages to provide information and help and to take care of people. Those in hospitals and in health care units have been working really hard to keep everyone safe. We also support each other in many different ways: donations, equipments, food and supplies and including moral support to those in need. Hotels provide facilities for doctors and nurses to rest in during this time, and also used as State Quarantine for those who travelled back from foreign countries. The number of affected patients has decreased substantially but we are unsure whether it will rise again.

About sharing with the Forum, as Jittamett Kindergarten, we are happy to share about what we do. All kinds of efforts have been put to use.

- We have built up a school network to share ideas and prepare everyone for this new situation, how we can best create learning in this circumstance, while trying not to impose too much screen time onto children.
- We plan to focus on working with parents alongside with organising learning activities. We understand well how life at home will undergo a lot of changes, parents do have to struggle between working from home and taking care of their children. We addressed their worries about when will the children go back to school (The government's policy has set a date for the schools to open again in July, moving away from the normal mid-May opening date.) We try our best to offer companionship to parents to cocreate learning for all the children that we see is appropriate for their home lifestyle in real-life situation.
- We have been promoting what we believe strongly that children learn best through play so we try to make parents see the benefits of play too so that it helps them reduce stress and anxiety.
- We are in the process of preparing our Home-Based Learning curriculum

and making learning environment at home most agreeable for each child, and relating to each child and each one's family members. Home must be a place where children learn through play and understand how to live with others happily. Home must be a place where fundamental relationship is built and warmth is created, a place where one can see the value in oneself and in one another.

- At the same time, our school is also a donation centre for parents to connect help and distribute essential medical supplies for doctors, volunteers, and for hospitals and health care units.

As for THOSA, we are now experimenting, learning, and gathering all the information regarding teaching ideas and activities that we see could be beneficial to share with parents and teachers, both for member and non-members. Many of us, Board of THOSA, are now engaging actively in sending out all kinds of help for those in need. Hopefully we can share more about it with the Forum some time soon.

Sending our best wishes to you to take care of your self and stay strong and healthy. We are worrying about the situation in your countries. We hope that the crisis will soon pass so that we can meet again at the Forum and not via online platform. Hope that we can all give each other a big hug soon.

Big Hugs and Warm Regards,

KruKa  
(Krongtong Boonprakong, Jittamett)