

SCA-UK Bursary 2015/2016

As much as there has been heartbreaking news from own home land, Shan State, this year, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our supporters, current students and prospective students, on the silver lining for our younger generations. Education, which is the foundation to the peaceful, stable and developed nation, has always been one of the most important projects that SCA-UK has undertaken. Last year, SCA-UK education committee has doubled the amount of bursary for our students. This year, SCA-UK has granted bursary to two more students to support them for their university education. Therefore, I would like to start off my report by congratulating our old students (Nang Lao Lao, Sao Gan-Dha Vati and Sai Khay Hseng) who have successfully completed yet another year of their university study and would like to welcome our new students (Sai Hlaing Han and Sai Kyaw Min Thu) to SCA-UK bursary family.

I would also like to express our gratitude towards Sai Aung Mong and Sai Pae who have been excellent in supporting SCA-UK education project back in Myanmar.

As it is my favourite quote from our chairman, I would like to emphasize again that Tai/Shan people are travelling towards the direction of living in the freer world. Nevertheless, we still have a long way to go to achieve our goals of equality and justice in our homeland. The main steps towards this is undoubtedly good education. An enormous amount still remains to be done to help our younger generations acquire education of a standard that would enable them to take our nation forward.

The SCA-UK, education project has grown so much since its foundation. And I wish to thank all of our supporters who have supported this education project thus far. While SCA-UK is slowly but truly expanding our university education project, we genuinely wish that you continue to support our students.

The followings are the 6 bursaries set up to provide financial support to Tai/Shan university students who are studying in various parts of Myanmar. SCA-UK is planning a long term education project to support more students who are pursuing their dreams for a better future of our people. The bursaries are named after “Khu Maw Lik” or Shan scholars who had contributed a great deal towards the history of Shan. They are:

- a) Dr Sao Ba Nyan Medical Student Bursary

There are two bursaries for medical student. Dr Sao Ba Nyan was born in Hsi Paw. He is known as the father of “Shan Nationalism”. He designed the Shan National Flag “Kham Sarm Tar and Lurn Kham (Three Golder Strips and Golden Moon)”. This idea has recently been adapted to be the Myanmar National Flag. He was one of the first early Shan Doctors in Modern Medicine. He was also a gifted composer. He composed the Shan National Anthem “Alurm Kham Sarm Tar”.

b) Nang Kham Gu Bursary

There are two bursaries for students studying literature and arts. Nang Kham Gu was a well known female poet and an accomplished novelist in the early 19th Century. Her most famous work was a love story called “Khun Sarm Law and Nang Oo Pim”, that is still very well known now-a-days.

c) Sao Garng Sor Bursary

Sao Garn Sor was the greatest poet and composer ever recorded in Shan history in the late 18th and early 19th Century. His work including nearly 200 Lik Loang manuscripts have captured interest of many modern scholars and have become the subjects of many researches carried out in many well known institutions such as SOAS. He was the father of Nang Kham Gu.

d) Sao Amat Luong Merng Nong Bursary

He was once chief minister for Saofa, ruling prince of Merng Nong in central Shan State. In his later life, he was known for his dedication and achievement in Buddhist studies and meditation.

This year, SCA-UK education project is proud to continue supporting three enthusiastic university students, namely: Nang Lao Lao (Kyauk-me, Northern Shan State), Sai Khay Hseng (Taunggyi, Southern Shan State), and Sao Gan Dha Vati (Lawk Sauk, Southern Shan State).

Nang Lao Lao is studying Medicine at University of Medicine 1, Yangon. She has been awarded Dr Sao Ba Nyan Bursary. She is in her third year, and been one of the top students in her class in Pathology. Congratulations Nang Lao Lao!

Sai Khay Hseng is a student at University of Technology (Yadanabon Cyber City), studying Advanced Material Engineering. He has been awarded Sao Garng Hso Bursary. He has completed his third year and in his final year of study.

Sao Gandha Vati has recently took her final year exam in Industrial Chemistry at Yadanabon University Mandalay. She has been awarded Nang Kham Gu Bursary. In addition to that she has received Diploma in English from Mandalay University of Foreign Language whist also completed LCCI (London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examination) level 1 and 2. Congratulations for your inspiring achievement!!

One of our new students is Sai Hlaing Han. He is studying Medicine at the University of Medicine, Mandalay. Sai Hlaing Han has become second student awarded Dr Sao Ba Nyan Medical Student Bursary. He has successfully completed his second year study.

Sai Kyaw Min Thu is studying Dentistry at the University of Dental Medicine, Mandalay. He has been awarded Sao Amat Luong Merng Nong Bursary.

I have the pleasure and am proud to include the testimonials from our students,

“Thank you to all the members of Shan Cultural Association in the United Kingdom (SCA-UK). Without all your support I would not be at this state. Thank you so much and deeply appreciate for your continuous support for my education expenses.Thank you for your kindness.” - Sao Ghan-Dha Vati.

“My whole family sincerely thank all of you and I also must say I would try my best in my study with your support.” - Sai Khay Hseng.

SCA-UK therefore extend our appeal to our friends and supporters all over the world for your generous giving to help us expand our education project. Every penny of your donation will make a difference to the prospects of our students and hence of our country as a whole for Education is the best gift that one can provide for our future generations.

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