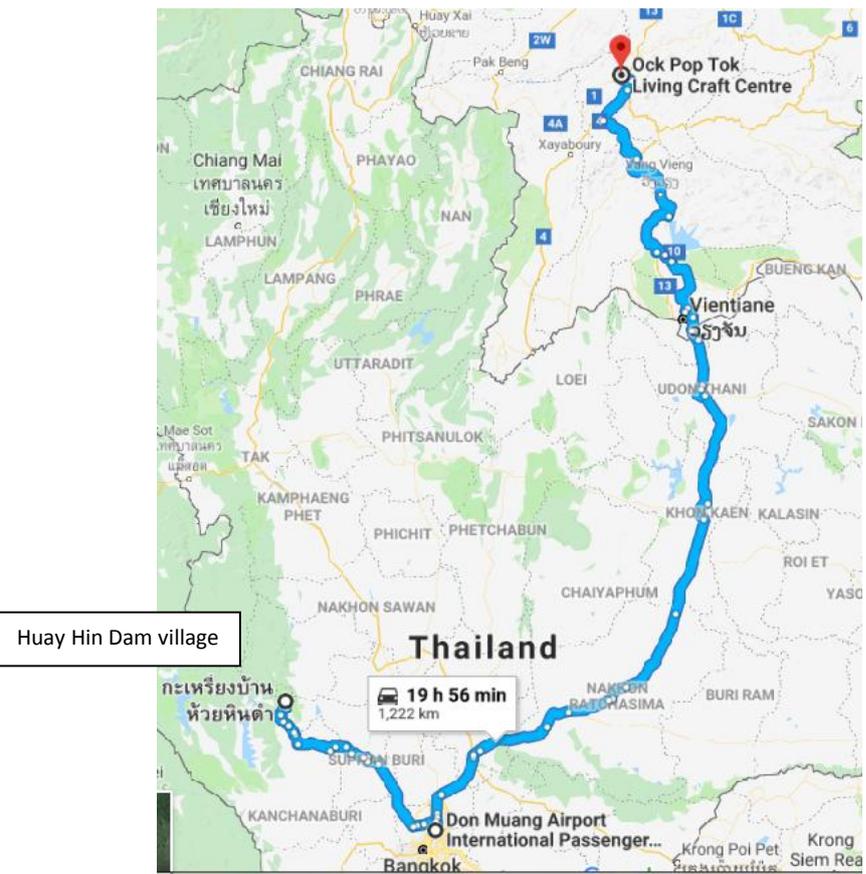


## IATSS Forum Alumni Activity Proposal

<b>Title</b>	Empowering indigenous women through artisanal handicraft social business exposure and exchange
<b>Origin</b>	Thailand IATSS Forum Association (TIFA) and Lao IATSS Forum Association (LIFA)
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<u>Primary beneficiary/target</u> : Pwo Karen women’s weaving group of Huay Hin Dam village, Suphanburi province, Thailand <u>Secondary beneficiary</u> : Ock Pop Tok, the textile fair trade business in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
<b>Partners</b>	The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)
<b>Duration</b>	<u>March-July2019</u> :Preparation and coordination between TIFA-LIFA, with Ock Pop Tok, and with Huay Hin Dam communities, including passport processing <u>19-21 July 2019</u> : (tentative) : Implementation <u>October2019</u> : Report submission
<b>Budget</b>	The budget estimate is detailed in excel attachment sheet. Joint TIFA-LIFA organizing team is in charge of any cost for coordination and communication.  ----- <b>TOTAL budget request      4,000                  USD</b>
<b>Theme</b>	Inspired by the visit during the 9 <sup>th</sup> IAM to Ock Pop Tok, fair trade and socially sustainable business initiative that has the rooted goals of women empowerment, nature-based organic production, and linkage of cultural traditions to social enterprise innovation which form the main theme for this TIFA-LIFA project.
<b>Priority Issue</b>	Women’s weaving group of Huay Hin Dam village is a loosely informal club formed initially by a small number of women leaders who acknowledge the loss of their Pwo Karen’s cultural integrity and traditions because of Thai state assimilation and modernization. In an effort to revitalize their traditional ways of producing Karen clothes, they reckon the impact is not in pieces of the product but the fabric of their identities which tightly knit to their natural environment. They encounter challenges in recollecting the customary knowledge and skills of using forest resources such as barks, leaves, wildflowers, etc. to give natural shades and color in a scientifically sustainable way that can be convincing to the National Park.  The other priority issue isthe transition from a subsistence level to communal entrepreneurship-based livelihood in order to create an economically viable option, especially for the young generation.These issues of losing cultural identity and lacking economic opportunities are interrelated with the out-migration of youth, both boys and girls who migrate to work as the labor in factories or domestic help. To attract the girls, who are more vulnerable, back to the community, new perspective, mindset, and confidence must be gradually cultivated. Direct experiential learning and exposure is the strategic approach to build these for them.

	<p>The priority issues elaborated above pertain to IATSS Forum’s thematic interest in contributing to sustainable community development. In addition, this TIFA-LIFA collaborative project would provide a platform for both alumni associations to work together in the role of social facilitator and connector to link the needs and expertise across the border, creating cross-country exchange and understanding.</p>  <p><i>Caption: Members of women’s weaving group of Huay Hin Dam village</i></p>
<b>Goal</b>	<p>The goal of this project is to support the Pwo Karen women’s weaving group in Huay Hin Dam village in strengthening their livelihood base that is economically viable, culturally sensitive and environmentally sustainable.</p>
<b>Objective (s)</b>	<p>Specifically, this project is expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To enhance the organic dyeing and weaving skills of indigenous women’s group (Pwo Karen ethnic minority) from Huay Hin Dam village;</li> <li>- To expose the target leaders of women’s group to the concept of social business based on artisanal textile and handicraft production;</li> <li>- To connect the women’s group of Huay Hin Dam village with Ock Pop Tok and its local community partner as the possibility to participate in its Village Weaver Project;</li> <li>- To strengthen the collaboration between TIFA and LIFA as the joint facilitator of these women beneficiaries across Thailand and Lao PDR with the potential for long-term engagement.</li> </ul> <p>This project also contributes to the ecotourism and living museum initiatives that Huay Hin Dam villagers are establishing to widen their cultural recognition and income-generating livelihood diversity. In collaboration with the Center for People and Forests, this project links with its small grant on biodiversity protection in Huay Hin Dam village.</p>
<b>Location</b>	<p>Huay Hin Dam village is located in Phu Toei National Park, Suphanburi province. The Park, including the village, forms part of the Western Forest Complex. Approximately 4 hours from Bangkok on road, the village of Pwo Karen ethnic minority is nestled in the frontier of national park and infrastructure expansion. The village settlement went through the heightened and violent conflict with the establishment of National Park in 1998 over the villagers’ rotational rice field for subsistence. Over a decade of inventions and advocacies, the joint management of protected areas was agreed. The village has since been working with the National Park to revitalize and maintain different forms of customary practices in sustainable natural resource protection and use.</p>

The location of the project takes place in the linkage of women’s weaving group of Huay Hin Dam village in Thailand to Ock Pop Tok, a model of handicraft social business in Lao PDR. With the joint vision of women’s economic empowerment through the recognition of nature-based textile and handicrafts, the project facilitates the connection between these 2 sites. The representatives of women’s groups, including the youth, travel from Huay Hin Dam to learn more professional skills both in the practice of textile production and in the social business example. They bring the skills and knowledge back to the group and transfer it to other members in a structured and institutionalized process.



More information about HuayHin Dam village:  
<https://www.facebook.com/HomeStayHuaHinDumVillage/>  
 More information about Ock Pop Tok:  
<https://ockpoptok.com/about/>

**Activities**

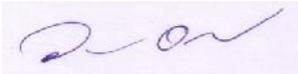
**Main activities with tentative schedule**

**Day 1:** Arrival to LPB

- Visit Ock Pop Tok to participate in 2.1) general introduction, 2.2) session on its business model and strategy, 2.3) other projects, especially the Village Weaver Project – cultural diversity through community collaboration
- TIFA-LIFA reflects with the women community representatives on their visions of business possibility, format and plan.

	<p><b><u>Day 2</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full day class at Ock Pop Tok for 4 women representatives (combined class of dyeing and weaving)</li> <li>• TIFA-LIFA documents the content, process, and methods for learning material production for community use.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Day 3</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit one of the Ock Pop Tok's village site in its Village Weaver Project to understand how this can be tested and replicated among ethnic communities in Western Forest Complex in Thailand.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Day 4:</u></b> Departure from LPB</p>
<b>Action Needed</b>	<p><b>Before the project implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss clear roles and responsibilities among TIFA-LIFA members;</li> <li>- Design a detailed final schedule;</li> <li>- Coordinate with external stakeholder (Ock Pop Tok);</li> <li>- Coordinate with targeted participants (Huay Hin Dam women's group) in identifying the representatives and arranging necessary documents to process their passports;</li> <li>- Arrange for other logistics: transportation, accommodation, etc.;</li> <li>- Procure necessary services, equipment, and materials.</li> </ul> <p><b>During the project implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate the Huay Hin Dam women's group members' learning and exchange with Ock Pop Tok and local community;</li> <li>- Coordinate between TIFA-LIFA organizing team;</li> <li>- Collect photos, data, and testimonials required for reporting and learning material documentation;</li> <li>- Conduct the activities as planned and adjust as necessary</li> </ul> <p><b>After the project implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produce learning material from the implementation (in a format such as a poster, booklet, etc.);</li> <li>- Support Huay Hin Dam women's weaving group to develop a new pattern of products and draft social business plan based on the knowledge gained from this study visit;</li> <li>- Finalize activity report (narrative and financial report).</li> </ul>
<b>M &amp; E Plan</b>	<p>In order to keep track and ensure that progress and results of the proposed project are met, a number of actions are included in the monitoring plan below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A checklist of the work process and the deadline for follow-up will be developed;</li> <li>- Informal discussion and consultation within TIFA-LIFA organizing team, local partner and participants are regularly communicated to make sure that necessary adjustments are followed when required.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Team</b>	<p><b>TIFA members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Worrawan Asawakun, supervision and guidance</li> <li>- Ms. Ratchada Arpornsilp</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ms. Kanokkan Chaiyakan</li><li>- Mr. Hoonsadee Putangoon</li><li>- Ms. Suparindaporn Wongyara</li></ul> <p><b>LIFA members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mr. Chanthanom Theangthong</li><li>- Ms. Maliya Phommasone</li><li>- Ms. Valy Phommachak</li></ul>
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**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Ms. Worrawan Asawakun*

*President,*

*Thailand IATSS Forum Association*



**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Mr. Chanthanom Theangthong*

*President,*

*Lao PDR IATSS Forum Association*

Item	Unit	No. of Unit	TIFA Budget		LIFA Budget		Remarks
			Unit	USD	Unit	USD	
<b>Transportation</b>							
Return flight (BKK - LPB) for 6 persons (4 community members and 2 TIFA alumni)	person	6	200.00	1,200.00			One staff member from partner organization will cover own flight (tentative)
Return travel to/from community-accommodation in BKK- airport for community members	person	4	50.00	200.00			
Van rental and petrol for passport processing in the closest province	lumpsum	1	100.00	100.00			
LIFA alumni travel to LPB	person	3			150.00	450.00	
Van rental (plus petrol and driver) in LPB for 3 days	1 van/days	3			100.00	300.00	
<b>Accommodation</b>							
Accommodation in BKK before and after flight (shared room) for	2 rooms/ 2 nights	4	-	-			By partner organization (RECOFTC)
Accommodation in LPB (shared room/ 3 nights)	5 rooms/ 3 nights	15			35.00	525.00	
<b>Meals</b>							
Meal in BKK for community members	person/meal		-	-			By partner organization (RECOFTC)
Lunch in LPB for 3 days	person/meal	9			15.00	135.00	
Dinner in LPB for 3 days	person/meal	9			30.00	270.00	
<b>Class fee at Ock Pop Tok</b>							
One day class for natural dye and weaving (only for community members)	person	4			69.00	276.00	Cost from Ock Pop Tok (combined classes) ( <a href="https://ockpoptok.com/classes/">https://ockpoptok.com/classes/</a> )
<b>Others</b>							

Passport processing fee	person	4	40.00	160.00		
Learning materials (such as weaving patterns, books, etc.) for further training in community	lumpsum	1	100.00	100.00		
Learning documentation products (such as poster, booklet, or roll-up, etc)	lumpsum	1	150.00	150.00		
Contingencies	lumpsum	1	90.00	90.00		44.00
Token of appreciation to Ock Pop Tok	lumpsum			-		-
Communication and bank charges	lumpsum	1		-		-
Total				2,000.00		2,000.00
GRAND TOTAL						4,000.00

By Huai Hin Dam community