

Whispering Earth

Shwenadi Monastic School: Sustainable Training Centre

The Project



To build a training hall with bamboo and earth that brings the outside in and the inside out and has the power to inspire. The hall which can house 60 is the center piece of a bigger training complex encompassing a dining hall, kitchen, and accommodation space. The training hall will be used by the over 450 ethnic Chin children living in the monastic school, local NGO's, CBO's and the local community.



The Work



The Change

- Significant portion of the training hall completed
- Over 80 attendees joined for the ten day bamboo construction training workshop with over 40 remaining for the duration
- 2 Bamboo treatment tanks built and operational ready to supply to local community
- Team of 35 community members from across Myanmar can now share their newly gained bamboo and earth skills within their local communities
- Select group identified to become master trainers
- Community revenue stream created from bamboo treatment tank
- Increased community engagement in the monastic school
- Shwenadi Bamboo Network established for participants to share skills, connections and participate in projects together

About Us

Whispering Earth is a natural building and permaculture consultancy based in Myanmar.

We promote the use of sustainable earthen and bamboo construction practices and permaculture. Through our consultancy, construction and training services we build local capacity with every new project.



The Difference



- **Building with natural materials** creates a far more comfortable environment offering insulation in both hot and cold weather
- **Sustainable materials** which are plentiful and locally sourced reduce costs and negative environmental impacts
- **Training with every construction** ensures capacity is built within the community creating long term independence and therefore a multiplier effect on the impact
- **Bamboo treatment** creates the opportunity for social enterprise and a long term revenue stream
- **Community development** all projects undertaken involve the building and expansion of community infrastructure both directly but also through the post training support and networking

The People



- **U Yuzana-Head Buddhist monk at Shwenadi Monastery**
Wood and Forests are getting less in Myanmar. I believe that we can use bamboo instead of wood in the future. Bamboo is very useful not only for people but also for the earth. It is also plentiful in my country. So, I make this Bamboo workshop to reach the communities more.
- **Ko Phoe Zaw-Metta Development Foundation-Myanmar NGO**
This is a really good workshop. I got new knowledge and also practice. I want to suggest that we should set up a network from this workshop and make more bamboo workshops in other places also.
- **U Than O-Pyo Khin Thit Foundation-Delta Region**
Bamboo is important for community development. Now, I have new experiences about bamboo not only knowledge but also practice. So, I will bring this experience to my community and sharing with them. I want to suggest to make this kind of workshop more because we can earn for our survival if we can plant bamboo in the proper way even though bamboo building will be a little bit difficult for us.



The Future

Shwenadi Monastic School Sustainable training Centre: new design and work continues on the 7,000 square foot training complex with training hall, accommodation and dining hall

Naung Taung Monastic School & Eco Temple: following the successful treatment tank training in early 2016 the head monk is keen to build a classroom with earth and bamboo to showcase the use of natural materials. Naung Taung is a large monastic school catering to 1,700 ethnic Pa-O children mostly from Southern Shan State. In addition to providing much needed classroom space the building will serve as a training for local community members across Myanmar.