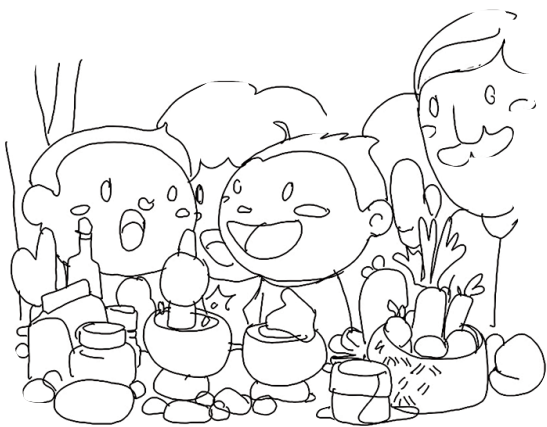
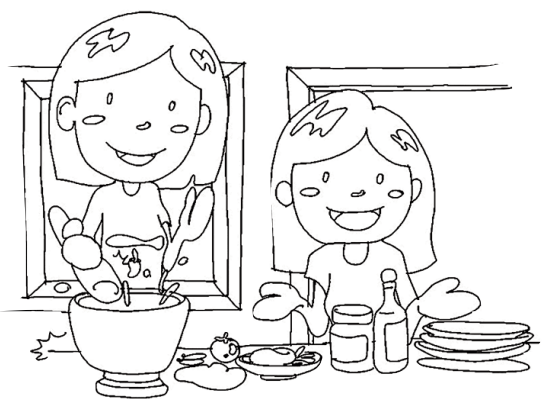


7 Oye loves cooking. His idea is to set up a Dream Buffet with all the sweets and snacks brought by the volunteers.



Phon likes the idea. She says to Oye :
"I am coming with you! My mother taught me how to set an attractive table with a Tammakhung salad.*"



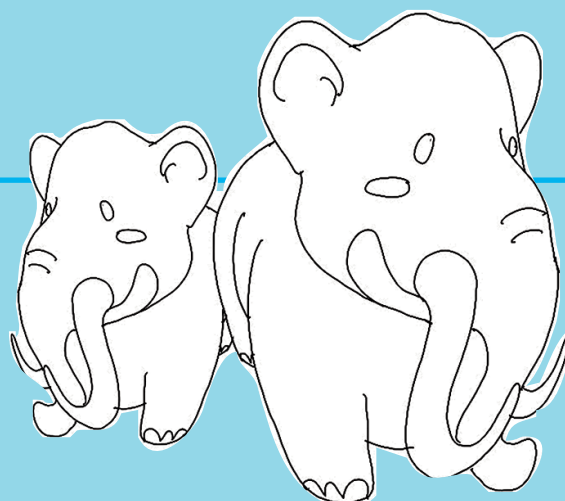
All the children are excited and ask :
"Will you prepare a Dream Party?"

End

One last word to finish this story:

In the past, Laos was named the
"Land of a Million Elephants".
Nowadays, there are not as many elephants
as before! But for sure,
Laos is the Land of a Million Dreams!

You can read the full story on the Internet with the link:
<https://fr.calameo.com/read/00470509341e38e41494c>



8 Viriya arrives just on time for the dance performance that Ming organized. Viriya loves to dance. The Laotian dance is more than a simple dance. It also tells stories about the meaning of life and gives hope to people.



When Laotian people dance, their mind is free of all worries and full of beauty. Fingers are like butterflies, feet are as light as leaves and petals flying in the wind. The dancers feel that they are blooming like the lotus flowers on the peaceful water of a pond.

TAPORI
NEWSLETTER



N° 418, July - September 2018



Drawing by children of Reunion Island

Sabaydee, dear Tapori friends*



Sabaydee*, (pronunciation: sabba-ee-dee) means "Hello" in Laotian. You say it while joining your two hands in front of your chest. In fact, we are now taking you to Laos, a country in Asia. Right now this country is going through hard times. On July 30th, a big dam that was being built in the South collapsed. A huge amount of water flooded the countryside. Many people lost their lives, and more than 6,000 people lost their homes. In the last issue of Tapori there was some news from Laos.

We presented the mini-book **"The Dream Activity"**. This story was written in the Summer of 2016 with the APPREN association in two villages, Dongsavath and Oudomphone, in the province of Vientiane, the capital of Laos. The story was about the life of children there and what they wish for.

First, the children were given blank cards. All the children were asked to write a true story of their lives on the card they each received. They had two days of practice, after which they wrote their story and made drawings on the card. Then they acted out some of the stories and from this activity came the story that you will read in this issue of Tapori Newsletter.



Here is the extract of **"The Dream Activity"**,
a story from Laos.

1 In the morning when Ming comes into the kitchen, she says: "Sabaydee, auntie!" Then she takes a broom and starts sweeping the floor.

Ming is 12-years old. There are six people in her family but they don't all live together. Her two big sisters are already married and they have moved out. Her parents also left with her little brother. They went to Thailand to find work. They send money for Ming's school and Ming lives with her aunt and uncle.

Every morning, after sweeping the floor, she helps to wash the dishes.

But today is a special day!



2 During the school year, when she has some free time, Ming likes to go to the school library and read. But now it is the summer vacation.



She still goes to the school building everyday to help as a volunteer for the summer camp organized by some teachers and volunteers. Young people and mothers from the village are also there to teach weaving or Laotian dance.

From time to time, like today, there are special activities!

Ming very much likes being a volunteer, because she can share what she knows with the little ones. Today, they will have fun!



3 Ming is excited. As soon as she is done with the household chores, she starts on her way to the school. On her way she stops at different doors to remind the families of the activity.

First she stops at Phon's house, then at Yai and his brother's, then at Viriya's and finally at Mailo's. She wants all the children to be there.

As she walks, she wonders what the Dream Activity will be.

The Dream Activity happens only once a year and it is today!



When Ming arrives at the school, Oye is already there. He is sweeping the yard; he likes to do that. He says that it's easy and it makes everyone happy when it is clean.

4 Little by little, children and volunteers arrive at the school. About 80 children altogether! Teachers and volunteers start to organize the groups for the Dream Activity. It is called the Dream Activity because real life and dreams meet there!

How is this possible?

Well, at the Dream Activity, everyone teaches the others what he or she likes. It is Sisavath who starts.



5 Sisavath, a 13-years old girl likes gardening. She presents her activity: "Last month, our class was the winner of the Dream Garden school competition! Today, I have brought new seeds which my father gave me from his garden. Let's plant them together!



My father has taught me new tips to get rid of the insects."

All the children like the school Dream Garden very much. They make money by selling the vegetables which have grown there.

It's helpful for paying for the school projects. And sometimes, the children just cook the vegetables and enjoy eating them together!

6 After Sisavath, Mailo raises his hand: "I've written a new Dream Story! The title is: "The Three Friendly Ants."



All the children know that Mailo's stories are great, so a big group follows him to listen to his story.

Meanwhile, his friends are organizing a bicycle race which will surely be a lot of fun.

At the same time, Yai's brother has brought his fishing rod and is helping the younger ones to make their own lines.

