**Conversations 2021**

30.1.2021

[05:31, 30/01/2021] Salilla: I talked to Student X, her school is starting on June 1.

[05:32, 30/01/2021] Salilla: Since she lives not in Bangkok, I will do contract with her by post mail.

[05:32, 30/01/2021] Dominique: Thank you so much Salilla

[07:30, 30/01/2021] Carla: Thank you Salilla. Only in June. But which fee did we pay, I thought it was for uni already. Or was it still highschool?

Can you ask her to send in our LC form, so we understand what we are paying and we will need it anyway. Did I transfer it to the correct account then, I used the new one?

1.2.2021

[09:05, 01/02/2021] Salilla: this is Univ actual receipt, she paid in December

[09:06, 01/02/2021] Salilla: She asked if the scholarship also cover if she wants to buy laptop and printer ?

[09:36, 01/02/2021] Carla: Hi Salilla. Good, then I understood the invoice correctly, but I was confused. Difficult question for laptop. Give us some time to discuss

[09:36, 01/02/2021] Salilla: Yah I understand. I couldn’t answer her right away.

[09:37, 01/02/2021] Salilla: Also more info about her univ

- she will be studying in a 5-year program.

- each year semester fee will be approximately 14,000 THB/year

[09:38, 01/02/2021] Salilla: It’s cheaper than Student X because Student X is studying in government university, while Student X is in private Univ.

[09:57, 01/02/2021] Carla: 14000 is for the fee of the entire year? That’s not much

And her dorm, was about 10000, right?

9.2.2021

[13:03, 09/02/2021] Carla: Hi Salilla, we [Dominique, Caroline, Rob, Carla] have discussed the fees, laptop, printer for Student X. We have decided that we will spread the investment in 2 years time. Budget for laptop and printer is THB 35.000 (max 40.000), which means that it takes up 17.500-20.000 of her budget of this year and next year. She has 2x THB 65000 for this year and next year

This year she used THB 24,000 so far, so it should fit in her budget

Is it clear what we mean?

[13:06, 09/02/2021] Salilla: Dear Rob and Carla, sorry for the late but I was trying to draft the 5 year plan with her so we know budgeting and to decide.[budget Student X included]

[13:07, 09/02/2021] Salilla: It’s just the estimates only for the university expense in her case. Pls have a look.

[13:08, 09/02/2021] Salilla: I understand about the budget for laptop, as to use it within her budget right?

[13:08, 09/02/2021] Salilla: In this spreadsheet it hasn’t included yet the laptop and printer.

[13:23, 09/02/2021] Carla: Thank you Salilla. The budget is clear I think. We will cover the costs related to study, but meal costs go beyond our scope. She will have to cover that herself, maybe she has to find a side job. That’s what our kids also have to do to survive 😜

[13:40, 09/02/2021] Salilla: Yah agree.

[13:57, 09/02/2021] Salilla: I remembered the fee for Univ we just transferred was 14,400thb not 24,000thb. RightV

[14:01, 09/02/2021] Carla: Old message:

Thank you Salilla.

I just made the transfer of THB 14,400 (9900 fee + 4500 dorm).

Kindly let her confirm receipt, as it is a new account (assume she will receive by Wedn/Thurs). Please make sure we get the ‘LC form’ as the invoices are in Thai only.

Did she sign a new contract already?

Thx a lot!

[14:06, 09/02/2021] Caroline: If I understand well, the 14400thb even though it’s paid now, it will be apply on her next school year.

[14:07, 09/02/2021] Carla: Yes. It was for the first year of Uni if I’m right

[14:21, 09/02/2021] Salilla: Yes. It’s for the entrance fee and first semester of year 1. (There are 2 semesters in a year).

1.3.2021

*Caroline*

[06:08, 01/03/2021] Caroline: Dear LC team, i have received an update on Student X, who is graduating this year . Here is the information received.

[06:09, 01/03/2021] Caroline: Student X confirms, she will study Bachelor of X at X University.

Here are acceptance documents.

She is #34 on the list. She will register on March 6th , term fee are 13000thb + 1000thb uniform

*Caroline*

*[08:59, 04/03/2021] Caroline: Thank you!*

*They say they could prepare an invoice in English but doubt they can get it stamp by the university... .. will that create a problem ?*

*I will send them a new contract in the coming days and ask them to send the signed original back by courrier to me !*

*[09:06, 04/03/2021] Salilla: -* Student X *contract is not done. I’m doing it.*

*-* Student X *received the transfer 14,400thb*

*- so for she can buy laptop and printer, but not over 35,000 thb right for 2 years split right?*

*- We don’t cover her meal cost.*

*[08:39, 04/03/2021] Carla: Can you please make sure I get the LC invoice [*Student X*], as this is all in Thai? Is there a new contract yet?*

*[08:40, 04/03/2021] Carla: Salilla, do you have invoice LC and contrat for* Student X *already?*

*[08:59, 04/03/2021] Caroline: They say they could prepare an invoice in English but doubt they can get it stamp by the university... .. will that create a problem ?*

*[*Student X*] [09:22, 04/03/2021] Carla: Correct. The laptop is within her budget, but spread over 2 years. Of course we will pay her in full now, it only effects what she has available next year*

*[09:23, 04/03/2021] Salilla: Ok I’m checking how much that is. I think 35,000 is already too much. My laptop is only 17,000*

*[09:24, 04/03/2021] Salilla: I guess it will fall under Study Material category right?*

*[09:27, 04/03/2021] Carla: Yes, I suppose so...*

*[11:10, 04/03/2021] Salilla: So yearly budget is still 65,000 right?*

*[11:41, 04/03/2021] Carla: Yes!*

*[22:23, 04/03/2021] Rob: Nice that LC is still moving and giving these kids a better future!*

6.3.21

[10:46, 06/03/2021] Salilla: The laptop is about 24,000-25,000 THB / Printer is about 3,000 THB

[13:35, 06/03/2021] Carla: Ok, she can go ahead. Do I need to transfer money already? I will need an invoice, if possible in English or she can ask the company to sign the LC document maybe?

[16:46, 06/03/2021] Salilla: No need to transfer yet.

[16:47, 06/03/2021] Salilla: I will find out about the receipt. I think if she buy it from department store with actual receipt, and put it in our invoice form, should be ok right?

[16:47, 06/03/2021] Carla: Ok, let me know I should

[16:47, 06/03/2021] Carla: Yes, but as long as it’s not only in Thai, as accountant cannot read it

3.5.2021

*Caroline*

Bonjour LC member, I hope you are all good in safe.

Salilla and I have heard from Student X. She is about to start university. Here are some photos and a nice letter she wrote to us.

Because of the covid situation in Thailand , she will start the university online, so she will need a computer urgently.

11.5.2021

*Caroline*

I have been in touch with Student X, one of our student.

I had asked him news , updates , and school report . He took forever to get back to me. His recent report shows a very strong drop in his school results. I have asked the reasons behind this.

2.84 GPA .

[05:33, 11/05/2021] Caroline: He hasn’t given me any updates on his plan for university yet.

[05:35, 11/05/2021] Caroline: Don’t know what to do.... we didn’t commit ourselves with him for university.

If you recall well, this a student who had been picked by the school because he had applied or the scholarship but wasn’t particularly a strong academic one and wasn’t in such a critical financial situation.

[05:38, 11/05/2021] Caroline: I would appreciate your feedback on that

[07:40, 11/05/2021] Rob: Difficult thing; on the one hand he has been very self reflective and the school (i do assume that the attachment is made by the school) is supporting him. His discipline seems to be so so although the covid situation makes things difficult. Maybe Salilla can give him a call in his own language to understand the situation even better? After that we can decide...

[07:48, 11/05/2021] Carla: What I find important is his commitment and if he really needs funds. Maybe he doesn’t really need it. I think we aim to allocate our resources to those who need it most and otherwise don’t have possibility to study. That’s what we have to get clear

[07:51, 11/05/2021] Dominique: Agree with Carla

[07:51, 11/05/2021] Dominique: Also think If Salilla can speak with him we can understand better

[07:53, 11/05/2021] Dominique: We never had a situation where the drop in GPA is so steep .This is not what we expect from our students

[07:53, 11/05/2021] Dominique: We must evaluate before we allocate more funds I think

[07:54, 11/05/2021] Caroline: The portfolio was made by him, the school hasn’t been involved for a while .

Ok,, I will talk with Salilla and arrange her to call him.

Will keep you posted

Thank you

[07:58, 11/05/2021] Carla: But Covid is also extraordinary, we have to take that into account and not easy for all students. But it cannot be something to hide behind. Were school closed all year? I thought that Thailand was open most of the school year as you weren’t affected that badly until recently? Salilla, maybe you can ask for how long his school was closed and in which way they provided alternative education. Can imagine that a lot of students don’t have a laptop and internet.

[08:07, 11/05/2021] Caroline: Student X is from the same school as Student X. The school was closed for only few weeks at the beginning of last school year.

The calendar of the school year changed so they had shorter holidays to compensate the lost of the few weeks at the beginning.

This coming year will probably be affected more with the current situation being not yet under control.

[08:35, 11/05/2021] Salilla: No worry I can call him.

21.6.2021

[12:52, 21/06/2021] Salilla: Hello LC, I'd like to update about Student X

[12:55, 21/06/2021] Salilla:

**A phone conversation**

• School closed due to Covid for about 3 weeks only at the beginning of semester. After that it opens as usual where students go to study at school. He said because his school is not in the city, the covid cases are not that much so they can go to school normally.

• He claims that his grade dropped deeply because of the Covid, as no time to study. It is because when the school reopens, the teacher rushes to teach all the lessons in limited time, and take the exam right away. Normally, it’s more flexible time for the students to study, but this year is different.

• Last year, besides studying, one of his extra-curricular activities is that he was student president of the whole school.

• By being student presidents, he represents students to the teachers and to outsiders. In Thai school, to become student presidents you have to run campaigns (like Trump and Biden) and get major voted from all students at school to win the position. Once you become one, you have quite big responsibility apart from normal classrooms. As the student president, he has to lead all major activities in school. In my view, this shows good leadership of him.

• Apart from student council/president, he was cheer leader and head of a color in Sports day at school.

• For the activities between schools, he and his team participated in a singing & dancing contest, representing his school. Though not winning, he gains a lot of friends from different school.

• One thing he and his student council team came up with is the school notebook design contest. He thought the design has been boring for ages, and he wants to make student activities. So he come up with this idea to change this. It’s quite well-accepted from everyone. Finally, the school notebook design has changed. He encourages this as school tradition for the next coming year onwards. In my view I think this shows good creativity and leadership in him. He’s also quite proactive and popular among the students too.

• Because of all the activities he involves in this latest year, he enjoys teaching other students, engage with teachers, and come up with many new initiatives. This makes him want to become a teacher. So he plans to continue his study in Faculty of Education after high school.

• About his family, he stays with uncle and aunt, who do rice farming, as well as his cousins who one is a teacher at his school, and another is working as a teacher too in Phuket.

• He doesn’t stay with mom and dad but both of them are still alive. His dad was a van driver, staying in X (X Province), who was greatly effected by the Covid as nobody travels. His mom goes to live with dad in X, but working as a factory worker in production field.

• He understands the timeline that he has to keep updating us. I emphasize him to strictly follow it from now on.

**In my view**

• After I talked to him, even he said it’s because of the Covid that gives him less time to study, I think the major reason falls into the activities that he experienced. However, it is really not a bad idea at all to do that, as it’s so valuable to be a part of, once in a lifetime. To be student president is not easy and he seems to do quite well with that. He shows good leadership by nature, creativity, and confidence. More than just studying, it also inspires him for his future career.

• I think next year will be better because he has to hand down the position soon, after this year end. He can then focus on the study again, and the university entrance exam.

• I did not talk to the teacher, because I learned from the conversation that this teacher is very close to him since he starts his school here.

[13:01, 21/06/2021] Caroline: Bottom line Salilla, does he need our financial support ??

[13:04, 21/06/2021] Salilla: If you asked me if he is in needy position, I think it's not that he has plenty but I think he can find supports. There might be some other people who is more needy than him. For example, those with no parents at all.

[13:05, 21/06/2021] Carla: Hello, I have read all this. Good for him, but I wonder why he didn’t touch base with us in between to update us about all this. It’s not clear to me either what exactly he is going to do (teaching), but is there a specific plan, budgeting etc.

If he can manage, indeed we have to think of using our resource in a different way

[13:06, 21/06/2021] Dominique: Agreed

[16:25, 21/06/2021] Salilla: He still has one more year to go for high school. Now he is in M.5.

[23:12, 24/06/2021] Rob: Despite the fact that he didn’t touch base to us, he has experienced great leadership activities. I am supportive to help him out. If I read Salilla correctly, the final decision has to be made within 1 year, right?

[23:12, 24/06/2021] Rob: Salilla: can you agree with him to update us during this year 3x with his progress on study results? So we can then - based on the facts - grant him a scholarship?

[23:13, 24/06/2021] Rob: LC members: think we should follow Salilla view on this given her understanding of Thai school experiences. Agree?

[05:26, 25/06/2021] Salilla: Yes. He has 1 more year to complete high school. For the university plan I think it has to be next year since he hasn’t done any entrance exam yet. It’s one more year until the Univ application. So, we have 1 year to see.

[05:27, 25/06/2021] Salilla: Yes. I did emphasized this also during the call. I will tell him again to do it 3X.

[03:03, 26/06/2021] Dominique: Thank you Sallila .So we go ahead with this last year and we evaluate how he does in school so we can decide if we sign a contract for Uni or not .

[03:03, 26/06/2021] Dominique: I guess that's a fair plan for both the student and LC

[07:39, 26/06/2021] Rob NL: Agree

9.8.2021

*Salilla*

[05:29, 09/08/2021] Salilla: Student X reached out to me, she will need to make the invoice signed by her teacher electronically this time. Is that ok?

[05:30, 09/08/2021] Salilla: Because we are now requested to stay home all the time.

[05:30, 09/08/2021] Salilla: If it's not ok with the account, I will ask her to do it by post mail. Pls let me know.

[07:20, 09/08/2021] Rob: It should be ok in these special circumstances. Let her send the electronic version this time. Tell her it is exceptional and covid related

17.8.2021

*Caroline*

Student X has just sent me her invoice for the coming university fees.

Some expenses are for more than one term and she is aware that the maximum we will pay is 65000thb. In order to avoid some international transfer fees, I would suggest to transfer the 44400thb now and transfer the balance later once needed. What do you think ?

*Rob*

I agree with you Caroline!

20.10.2021

*Caroline*

I had reach out to our students to get updates and feedback , here is what I got from Student X!

[08:42, 20/10/2021] Carla: This is so nice!! Great that you sent it to her sponsor X! This is what we should get from every student to keep the sponsors up to date! Well done Caro

[08:55, 20/10/2021] Dominique: Thank you Carla .Yes this is important and Caroline got great info we can pass along .As Caro suggested maybe we can ask Salilla to push our students to send us docs and news and photos ?

[08:57, 20/10/2021] Carla: Yes Salilla, would be great if we could ask you to make this happen. I must say that Student X English is very good, but maybe not all students

Thanks!

[09:02, 20/10/2021] Dominique: I think if the students are not comfortable in English they can send basic texts in English or something in Thai that we could translate .I am sure that after photos of the kids,school reports and small texts will go a long way for the sponsors

1.11.2021

*Caroline*

Hello! Again some good news from Student X!

“I got a high score of BRU English Test is a second of my university and than i got a certificate of this.i'm very proud of myself. Thank you for support me

[10:21, 01/11/2021] Carla: Nice!

[10:21, 01/11/2021] Dominique: This is really good 👌👍

[10:55, 01/11/2021] Rob: And my sponsor has also decided to continue again (after a break in 2020) to support Student X!!

[10:55, 01/11/2021] Dominique: Bravo !!!

[10:59, 01/11/2021] Caroline: Excellent news!! Bravo !

Agree above as minutes 2020 (due to Covid-19 no live meetings)

19.2.2022