



Yoshimi Horiuchi
 Director/Founder, Always Reading Caravan
 Blind Japanese Bookaholic

"My dream is to set up a mobile library for children and adults both with and without disabilities in rural areas of Thailand." - Yoshimi -

ARC's Mission

We aim to:

- Promote reading for pleasure;
- Provide equal reading opportunities for children from various background; and
- Encourage children with and without disabilities to mingle with one another, and hence remove the mental barriers between them.

Did you know?

- Average literacy rate in Thailand is 92.3%, but the average number of books a child reads is 5 books per year.
- Generally, Thai people perceive books solely as tools of study, and not as entertainment.
- There are at least 1.1 million people with disabilities in Thailand (1.8% of the total population), of which 77% of them live in rural areas.
- In Thailand, people with disabilities are either pitied or looked down upon and are ostracized by the community.



Always Reading Caravan : ARC

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Always Reading Caravan : ARC



Children having fun in reading
 (Suphanburi Oct. 8-9 2011)

"Read the world"

Always Reading Caravan : ARC





Always Reading Caravan (ARC) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, and non-religious organization, which provides mobile library services to children and adults both with and without disabilities in rural areas of Thailand.

Where Did We Come From?

Always Reading Caravan (ARC) is a non-profit organization founded by Yoshimi Horiuchi, a blind bookaholic from Japan.

While she was studying in Bangkok, she visited many villages and disability-related organizations and realized that people with or without disabilities have very limited access to information and reading material for many reasons, including the high cost of books and lack of libraries in rural areas. This prompted her to devise ways to connect book and people.

Wish to Volunteer?

We depend largely on volunteers both in and outside of Thailand. If you are interested, please contact us via email at volunteer@alwaysreadingcaravan.org or call Yoshimi at (+66) 83-542-7283 in Thai, English, or Japanese.



Where Are We Now?

Project in Central Thailand:

- *Weekend mobile library:* A group of volunteers visits villages, parks, and schools on the weekends and conducts various activities around reading.

Projects in Northern Thailand : (with Warm Heart Foundation)

- *Motorbike library:* A mobile library on a motorbike for children in and around Huai Sai village, Mae Pang Sub district, Phrao District, Chiang Mai Province.
- *Sunshine Kids Center for Akha children :* A preprimary learning center located near Monlarn mountain in Sip-lang village, Wiang-pa-pao District, Chiang Rai Province, to teach basic language skills to the children and boost their confidence.



Where Are We Going?

Decades from now, we envision that our mobile libraries will be in small villages all around the country like mobile ice-cream shops. Children and adults can come and select their favourite books at their doorstep. Also, ARC will work with each community to establish a small library in the village so that bookworms can keep reading even after ARC moves to another location.

At this moment, all of our activities are conducted on donations from generous supporters around the world. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated!

Monetary Donation:

Account Holder: Yoshimi Horiuchi

Bank name: Thai Military Bank

Branch: Arkhaan Yada (Yada Building) Silom branch

Bank No.: Saving Account 232-204-9202

Books Donation:

We are specifically looking for books in Thai or any hill tribe language. Please send your books (except for textbooks) in good condition to the following address.

Ms. Yoshimi Horiuchi

c/o Warm Heart, PO Box 8 T. Wiang, A. Phrao, Chiang Mai 50190, Thailand.



Our journey has just begun. If you would like to join or support us, please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/arcbookworm or contact us via email at : yoshimi.horiuchi@gmail.com