

ENGAGE Annual Meeting
July 30-31, 2005, San Francisco
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Chris Westcott, Ellen Roggemann, Mike Risley, Allyn Steele, Nat Coburn, Sarah Constantine Atchaarporn Chaowahem, Enoka Herat, Katrina Brink, Phil Mangis, Graham Inglesbe, Amanda Altman, Li Heffner, Jesse Mandel, Megan Winter,

1. Introductions
2. Updates
 - a. Note from Sarah (Spring 2005) reflection on CIEE as a student
3. Board of Peers
 - a. Members: Wayne Tomac, KTJ Scott, Allyn Steele, Laura Millay Nico Lustig, Sarah Constantine and Enoka Herat were brought in through a nomination process in February.
 - b. Duties: Monthly meetings, keeping up with proposals/ideas brought to listserv, checking in with the SF office, internship process, manage budget and 501c3 status
 - c. **Will take on more fundraising, will appoint a member to liaise with the SF office and the KK office, will restructure and appoint an Advisory Board (suggested members, Dave, Decha, Peggy Reents, Laura Millay, Nico Lustig)**
4. San Francisco Office
 - a. Chris: set up the office in Jan. has worked with AlterEco to get free office space (although may have to relocate soon), coordinated funding for farmer tour, sent out multiple fundraising proposals, developed relationships with Global Exchange, TransFair USA and other relevant Bay Area NGOs
 - b. Ellen: Finished school in May and moved down to SF in the past month, developed the Fair Trade rice organizer's packet, is interning with TransFair USA and working on their FT Rice project, has worked to coordinate farmer tour.
 - c. **Let's give a round of applause for all of the hard work and kick ass progress of Chris, Ellen and the SF ENGAGE Office!!!**
5. Internship updates
 - a. Process: Posted internship opportunities on the Listserv, sent out about 10 packets. (Packets include internship overview, database of past interns, internship reflection packet and application). 8 applied in the end and we did what we could to accommodate all of them. After a round of phone interviews, the Board and Dave gave their opinions and the final group was decided upon.
 - b. The Fall Group:
 - i. Phil (Fall 2003), Aat (Spring 2003), Graham (Spring 2004), Amanda (Fall 2004) and Kyra (?) in Thailand, Ellen and Chris in SF. The interns introduced themselves and explained why they wanted to go to Thailand and what they hope to do there.
 - c. This is the first time we were able to fly in an intern from Thailand (Aat) and we were all very excited to have her there.
6. Vision
 - a. Thinkpiece: Expanded ENGAGE mission—ENGAGE uses the energy of former study abroad students to link communities globally in grassroots action for social justice. Under this mission ENGAGE would have 3 functions:
 - i. *Study Abroad Affiliate Programs*
 1. like CIEE, ENGAGE would link with other study abroad programs that are inclined to social justice work
 - a. Chiappas Mexico program,
 - b. A study abroad advisor gave ENGAGE a list of 20 potential programs to look into
 - c. Criteria for what an affiliated program should be
 - i. Have a "Human Perspective"
 - ii. Empower students
 - iii. Community oriented with established relationships in the communities

- iv. Should have a good process
 - v. Local staff
 - vi. Delves into issues of oppression and people's movements
 - d. How to pitch ENGAGE to affiliated programs
 - i. Pitch it like grad school/peace corp (an alternative to peace corps?)
 - ii. Write up f student projects, testimonials
 - iii. Get references from CIEE, IRN etc.
 - iv. Materials including Thailand Case study
 - v. Documenting success of ENGAGE
 - e. **Get pitch materials ready by Oct. 31:**
 - i. **Think piece wordsmithing (Phil, Graham, Carleen, Sarah, by Sept. 23rd)**
 - ii. **Develop a 'contact card' (aka business cards) through www.vistaprints.com for free (Li by September 1st)**
 - iii. **Research programs and narrow down list of 20 according to above criteria. (Chris, Carleen, Katie, Sarah, Nat and Enoka by Oct. 20)**
 - f. **KK Interns (Phil +Graham) will work with Dan and Dave to produce a brief Thailand Case Study**
 - g. **Letters of support and testimonials. Oxfam Thailand (Ferny Pinto—Graham, Phil) IRN (Allyn) CIEE and Global Exchange (Chris) (by Nov. 7th)**
- ii. *International Internship Placement Program*
1. ENGAGE would place former study abroad students as interns anywhere in the ENGAGE network of affiliated programs eg. Work on water issues in Thailand or India as a placement program
 - a. Annual conference to see off interns that would include trainings on:
 - i. Philosophy of ENGAGE, group dynamics, how to organize
 - ii. Contact info, issue crossover
 - iii. NGO speakers, community members
 - b. In country crash course training
 - i. Country info, history, culture shock etc.
 - c. First intern in other program would be old student from that program, past ENGAGE intern, decided on a case by case basis.
- iii. *Alumni Action Network*
1. Sets of listservs that would connect former study abroad groups (like the ENGAGE listserv for other programs and other listserv that would connect former students on specific issues
 - a. Dedicated website
 2. This began a discussion of what was needed to improve ENGAGE membership:
 - a. **Mike will contact friends to help automate membership updating, Enoka will send emails to groups of ENGAGERS living in the same town**
 - b. **Phil will send Enoka a list of the Fall students, with their school and hometown info and Enoka will try to link them up with ENGAGERS in either/both locations**
- iv. *Connecting ENGAGE to the Association of Socially ENGAGED International Education*
1. This is an existing association that Dave is a part of. They have an annual event which will take place next June (?) and ENGAGE members are planning to go to pitch the above ideas. In the meantime, CIEE's annual meeting of program directors will take place in November and ENGAGE members would like to go to present the above ideas.
7. Fair Trade Rice Campaign
- a. ENGAGE is building a national campaign to increased demand of Fair Trade rice in the US, and raise awareness about injustices of the global rice trade that threaten the livelihoods of small scale

farmers. Fair trade rice is available through two different companies; Alter Eco who carries Red Jasmine, Jasmine, and Coral Rice from Thailand, and Ahaar Organics a company carrying White and Brown Basmati rice from India. Because ENGAGE is supporting both of these companies and is focusing on broader trade justice issues the campaign is called the 'Fair Trade Rice Campaign' instead of the 'Jasmine Rice Campaign'. AlterEco is a successful fair trade dealer in France and fair trade rice will be their first line of products in the US. They have already contacted the major companies that act as distributors to natural food stores but more groundwork needs to be done to contact retail stores (Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, local coops) in order to get the rice on shelves across the country.

- b. Farmer tour to the US: Through much hard work, Chris and Ellen have managed to get a grant from Oxfam to bring three Surin Farmers to the US for a farmer tour from September 4-November 1 (P'Yeh, Pah Poom, P'Gunya) in the following locations/events:
 - i. Maine—Common Ground Festival. Nico and Laura are working on raising money to get the farmers to the festival and are organizing activities around their visit
 - ii. Washington DC—September 24th-29th, Green Festival workshop, Thai/US FTA organizing
 1. Get together ENGAGE DC group and work to hand out flyers, talk to the Wat, local Coops, work with Ginny to get Trade Justice groups on board, hold a rally against the FTA? Make engage t-shirts? (Enoka, eherat@gmail.com)
 - iii. Chicago—Fair Trade Futures (Ellen, Laura Hollinger)
 - iv. LA—Thai Community Development Center (CDC) Sustainable Foods Movement
 - v. San Francisco—Fair Trade Month events, FTA/CAFTA work with local FT orgs, restaurants (Chris Tyler, Sarah Constantine, Li Heffner, Meaghan Winter)
 - c. Knowledge: In addition to promoting the rice, it is important that consumers know why they are buying it. Info should balance trade justice and other aspects of fair trade
 - d. We broke into groups depending on area to brainstorm activities. For more info contact or to get involved, get in touch with the relevant point person listed above.
 - e. What ENGAGE can do generally: create flyers, petition cards to be sent to Whole Foods, get the Organizer packet out to everyone, raise money, host fair trade parties,
 - f. Before the tour, in Thailand there will be a number of events in Bangkok:
 - i. Press conference (with Focus, FTWatch, Rafa, SFS, Oxfam) (Graham and Kyra to help organize. Get photos from Surin)
 - ii. Rally in front of the embassy
 - iii. Create a press packet
 - iv. Have a student moderator from CIEE?
 - v. Have event at Sulak's BKK ashram
8. Other
- a. Land/Water networks
 - i. No clear projects, little feedback
 - ii. No US link or no Thai link
 - iii. In the future, get interns to meet with L/W networks
 - iv. **Get students to develop updates for the networks after their visits**
 - b. Website
 - i. **Mike will pass on how to info to Ellen**
 - ii. **Get the tour packet on the web, make the tour the home page**
 - iii. **Li and Aat will help edit**
 - iv. **Web based membership, Mike and Eno**
 - v. **Semester student updates available on the web—Aat**
 - c. Fundraising
 - i. **Send out Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) to funders (Kyra)**
 - ii. **Board project "Blitzcash" by Sept. 1st.**
 - iii. **Aat will look into Thai funding options**
 - iv. **LOI committee (Katie, Meg, Chris, maybe Graham)**
 - v. **Contact Oxfam, ask for advice on general support grants (interns)**

9. Action Steps

- a. **Graham—work on press conference materials, and vision materials, contact funders in Thailand, student facilitator**
- b. **Allyn—fundraising, bringing FT rice to wofford**
- c. **Ellen—(DC) talk to ginny, organize trade justice event, tlak to progressive zines, thai community, USFT University contact (Mark), flyer, (Chicago) work on contacts (general) funding, budget, template for flyers, send out info, website work**
- d. **Chris—Bay Area coordination, contacts, slanted door, Thai association, global Exchange, CAFTA, Coordinating Maine, raising money**
- e. **Phil—Contacts in Chicago, student facilitator work on vision materials**
- f. **Enoka—DC coordination, talk to Wat, fundraising, materials, DC coops, membership coordination, continue internship process**
- g. **Sarah—Bay Area group, fundraising**
- h. **Aat—Thai fundraising, website work, increase Thai participation**
- i. **Li—Bay Area group, sponsorship, business cards**
- j. **Amanda—Anne Arbor, community intern**
- k. **Meg—Work on getting East Bay involved, get list of folks who want Bulk**
- l. **Nat—Bring FT Rice to natural food store in Wofford**

10. Reflections

- a. To be improved
 - i. Less big picture, more about what we can do now—maybe larger picture discussions over beer, use meeting time for action oriented
 - ii. Hear more voices—assign facilitator ahead of time
 - iii. Facilitators write up summary to be read at next year's annual meeting
 - iv. Paying didn't go well, maybe realistic conference dues
 - v. Work to get more people to attend
 - vi. Be more active (eg. Go to a coop in SF together and talk with them about FT rice)
 - vii. Plan earlier so more people could come
 - viii. Bring in speakers?
 - ix. Do a lengthier check in to begin
- b. To maintain
 - i. Good that interns were there, maybe timing should always depend on interns
 - ii. Vision work first day (though more focused discussion) and campaign work second day is good schedule
 - iii. A lot of momentum and good energy
 - iv. Open and friendly
 - v. Guilt free
 - vi. People came for the parts they were interested in
 - vii. Provided opportunities for getting involved
 - viii. Great time had by all! Thanks everyone!!!