

139th anniversary of the Karenni National Day's Report

June, 14, 2014

Location: Des Moines, IA

Report date: July 10, 2014

- Brief Background of Karenni National Day
- Report summary
- Report positive outcomes
- Report challenges
- Recommendations
- Future planning
- Financial report

Brief background

The Karenni National Day's celebration is based on the history of the British and the Burmese King signed an agreement on June 21, 1875 in recognizing the Karenni state's sovereignty and independence during the British's colony in Burma/Myanmar. With this agreement, Karenni people defined, the June 21 as the Karenni National Day.

The Karenni National Day celebration was unable to widely known and celebrated in Karenni state during the past 6 decades due to the Burmese government oppression toward Karenni people political freedom; however the Karenni people, who live in remote area and also Thailand, continue to maintain this history and celebrate the Karenni National Day annually on June 21st.

The joint Karenni National Day in the U.S was originally initiated by the Karenni Community in Rockford, IL, then followed by Milwaukee, WI, St. Paul, MN and Des Moines, IA.

Annually, the KND's committee holds several teleconference meetings for planning prior to the KND's event takes place. The committee comprised of community representatives from each state, those committee members are responsible for the fund raising to support the KND's event and participate in activity planning.

The goal of this joint celebration is to form social connection/friendship, raise awareness on youth education and encourage younger generation to continue holding on the unique values of Karenni in social transition.

Along with the goal, the communities gather at the KND annually in the month of June and build our connection and friendship through KND's sport tournament. The youth also got opportunities to present our own cultural dances and musical performances.

The purpose of celebrating the joint KND along with sport tournament is to give youth opportunity to focus on their physical exercises and building friendship through various sport activities.

The ceremony is also other platform opportunity for youth to learn our own social values and political history through senior community members' speech delivery, statement reading and educational remarks.

Youth also got opportunity to express their musical talents and performed cultural dances at the event ceremony. More than that, the event was a unique way to promote those talented and dedicated artists to a broader Karenni audience.

Introduction:

Des Moines, IA hosted 139th anniversary of the joint Karenni National Day Celebration on June 14, 2014.

This joint National Day celebration was held with the purpose of gathering Karenni people from different part of United States once a year, honoring our formal homeland history and forming a stronger social connection by having sport activity, cultural and musical shows during the day celebration.

Around 1,300 Karenni from different part of the United States joined the celebration in Des Moines, IA. States that participated in the Karenni National Day celebration were Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Texas, and Georgia.

Some of those mentioned states participated in discussion of planning, organizing and sending donation for the Karenni National Day celebration base on the size of population and participation.

This joint celebration could not have been done successfully without a great support from Karenni fellows from mentioned states and Karenni families in Des Moines, IA.

Karenni National Day Organizing Committee would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation toward to Shadaw Journal for the event photos and video documentations, and also all Karenni Families from several states for supporting this Karenni National Day celebration.

Sincerely,

Karenni National Day's event organizing committee

Positive outcome of the celebration

KND's planning

- The Karenni Community of Des Moines, IA had done a better performance in organizing the 139th anniversary of the KND's joint celebration on June 14, 2014.
- Hosted 1300 people from different states at the one-day KND's event.
- Majority of the KND's participants took part in the event with their positive attitude and friendliness.
- Planning committee members from other states were also actively involved in the planning, some of them travelled to Des Moines a few days in advance for the planning preparation. That was a great support to the joint event organizing.
- Adult and youth were effectively took part in cooking and directing Karenni guests from other state to different houses, soccer field and ceremony venues.
- Des Moines, IA adults were able to keep the soccer field clear and clean right after the tournament was completed.
- The host community has done a great job in food delivery without having the event participants going hunger.

Night ceremony agenda and venue

- The night ceremony event agenda was greatly organized and entertaining.
- Youth from different communities, who took part in the event show were organized in presenting their cultural dances/performances.
- Three Karenni artists from TX and Arizona were at the event and performed free of charge for the event. They contributed their time, energy and other resources to the Karenni National Day celebration
- We also saw the youth, who joined the event dressed up nicer than previous years and did not get involved in fight and argument with fellow friends. More people dressed up the Karenni costumes to the event than previous years.
- The night event ceremony venue was a comfortable space and able to host all participants, who joined the KND's show.
- The car parking space was large enough to host the event participants' vehicles.

Event documentation and publicity.

- Shadaw Journal took volunteer effort to document the entire KND's event activity and publicized on the Journal's website.
- Shadaw Journal awarded a dedicated Karenni's artist, Pray Reh for his consistency and passion in producing Karenni music.

- Shadaw Journal will continue to take future responsibility in entertainment and documentation session field.

Sport tournament

- Able to host 16 male soccer teams, 14 cane ball teams, and 15 female volleyball teams at the 139th anniversary of the KND's sport tournament.
- Able to get all sport teams signed the sport rules before the games started. All sport teams were able to comply with sport rules and procedures.
- Sport tournament was completed without any major physical and emotional fights. This was also other improvement with the sport tournament competition.

Counterproductive condition or challenges

Planning

- Karenni National Day is on June 21; however we were not able to celebrate on the exact day due to venue registration and planning difficulty.
- Communication for planning was not inclusive enough due to some outdated or inactive emails address. Some states community representatives were unable to participate in teleconference meeting and was unaware of the meeting's decision.
- Lack of communication and on time responses was also another factor that created challenges for the host community to make a plan that meet all participants' need and expectations.
- Did not have enough people to help out with cooking food and packing food. Did not get enough food to soccer field.

Food & Accommodation

- Host community does not have food cooking center or space. They had to use one of the family's backyards and cooked food for all of the participants at the KND. This was very inconvenient and could create potential problem for the host families with the neighborhood.
- Limited accommodation was also another challenging issue that host community had to struggle with. The city housing code is not permitted more than 2 people in one bedroom but the host families had to accommodate more than the city legal code allowed.

Sport

- Tournament was not able to get it done by (7:00) pm on June 14, 2014 as expected or scheduled.
- Soccer game organizing did not have well prepared referees and linemen for soccer, cane ball and volleyball tournament.
- Sport organizing committee had to find referees and linemen during the tournament.
- Planning committee was unable to accept more than 16 soccer teams this year due to limited time for one day tournament. The planning committee tried their best to give priority to all states to have one soccer team to join the tournament; however some states were late in registration and other soccer teams filled up the spot and was unable to make change and accept late registration.
- One soccer and volleyball team was not happy with referee's decisions and procedures.
- Soccer field did not mow the grass short enough for soccer games.
- Evening event and drinking in public area
- Evening ceremony was not able to start on time as expected schedule, since event participants had to take extra time to have food and take shower after playing sports, and navigate around the new city to ceremony held location.
- Some adult and youth stayed up late at night and had beer at a parking lot and that created some concerns for the host residence.
- Some people had beer and broke bottles at sport playground.

Recommendations

Base on counterproductive condition, future event will need more precisely organized.

Organizing committee has to pay more attention to counterproductive condition and how the committee would needs to address those issues and prepare to deal with potential conflict and problem base on this year and previous year's experiences. General recommendations will be as the following;

- Organizing committee needs to have sport rules and procedures on paper and present the paper rules and procedures to all coaches or team captains, on how the committee will make decision, if there is a conflict.
- Each team or group needs to have a written plan and present its plan to tournament participants or event participants prior to the event start or take place.
- Keeping positive attitudes will build a stronger cooperation and friendly environment in the event organizing work.

- Understanding the nature of the event organizing and know how to deal with stress and different opinions will keep us away from negative influence, while organizing the event.
- Do not let our emotion ruin our decision, when we are facing something that is unfair and injustice. Resolve any conflict base on rules and procedures by communicating effectively and positively rather than walk out of the game and stay under negative influences.
- Take full responsibility to finish or complete the tasks that are assigned to each of us.
- Each state needs to comply with organizing committee meeting's decision and action plan.
- Each state should nominate 5 referees/linemen to assist with the sport tournament.
- Planning committee needs to consider alternative way of food accommodation.
- We need to pay more attention on security at night time.
- Every team, who wants to participate with the tournament, they need to register their team in according with the committee meeting's decision's deadline.
- The planning committee should re-establish an updated contact with each state representative and send out planning teleconference meeting.
- Communication should be more than one attempt and should also use phone, email and also Facebook group due to different people use different communication preferences.
- Community representative must seriously pay attention to the meeting date and time to participate in teleconference meeting.
- Response to meeting decision on time is crucial and also is a must. Planning committee will have to plan according to the response numbers and donation amount. Responding late or requesting something changes in a close range, this won't be easy for the planning committee to make changes.
- Community representatives should encourage more event participants to dress up Karenni attire or clothes.
- Encourage community to have fund raising group at the event in selling foods, soft drink and other legal permitted items at the event.
- Ceremony agendas should divide into 2 sessions. Part-I agenda is opening ceremony with music or group song or background music with marching group, then follow by senior community opening speeches, educational remarks and some cultural dances or performances. Part-II agenda will be entertainment session.

Future Planning

We have got a confirmation from Karenni Community of Omaha, NE, to host the 140th anniversary of the Karenni National Day. We would like to say thank you for their earlier

confirmation and this will give us plenty of time for planning and discussion, on how to raise fund and organize our activity.

At the last KND's celebration, community senior and KND's planning committee had a meeting on KND's goal and objective discussion. The meeting also elected advisory board members. The board members advised KND's planning committee to recruit more KND's committee members to take part in future planning. The KND's planning committee will also continue working with advisory board as needed during the process of implementing the KND's event planning.

The host community will have to start conducting search on sport tournament field & rental fee, ceremony venue & rental fee, event security fee and also other extra cost that might involve in the activity organizing.

The host community will also have to maintain a regular contact with the KND's committee members and inform the update; the host will also need to propose meeting date and also celebration date for 140th anniversary celebration.

Shadaw Journal confirmed to take responsibility in coordinating the ceremony and entertainment for the KND's future event. The Shadaw Journal will also take responsibility for the KND's event photos and video documentations. The cost of the project will be discussed more in the upcoming teleconference meeting.

The future planning will also need to come up with a precise micro-project organizing profile, such as a project goal, objective, planning, managing, outcomes, financial estimate and also reporting for any sub-project of the KND.

Financial report

Des Moines, IA, Karenni National Day's organizing committee received total amount of \$18,229 from stated of WI, NE, SD, TX, IL,GA,IN, IA and MN. Other remaining states made their contribution through soccer tournament registration fees, volley ball and cane ball fees.

The amount of the donation spent \$17,391.76 on food, sports materials, sport prize awards, facility rent, church donation, security fee to Des Moines, A police and transportation.

Balance of the donation is \$1,237.24 According to the last committee's meeting decided to keep this balance for fund raising purpose. We will have to organize another meeting and how and who should keep and what type of fund raising we should do next. At this time the balance is still holding at IA-KND financial coordinator, MS. May RE.

Our expenditure is totally different from last years. We spent more than last year because of the population, more expensive venues, place, and items that we used. And totally we did not get

B) Sport purchasing items

1	Category	Amount	Remark
2	Volley ball and net at Merle Hay Mall	264.3	
3	Cane ball and net	\$49.36	
4	Flag and vest	\$105	
5	Sport materials for referees at Merle Hay Mall	\$115.27	
6	String and machine paint	\$300	
7	Trash bag and gloves	\$89	
8	Trophy for first place	\$442	
9	First Aids	\$50	
10	Sport material at soccer store	345.56	

Total Amount **\$ 1,760.49**

C) Rented Items

1	Val air ballroom Venues	\$3,000	
2	Des Moines police for KND's security	\$1,250	
3	Music Band and sound systems	\$500	
4	Water work park event field	\$500	
5	Portable Toilet	\$200	
6	Pans, pots, big spoon and gas stoves	\$100	
7			

Total Amount **\$ 5,550**

D) Sport prizes

1	Soccer First prize	\$1,600	
2	Soccer Second place	\$1400	
3	Volley ball First place	\$320	
4	Volley ball Second place	\$300	
5	Cane ball First place	\$200	
6	Cane ball Second place	\$150	
7	Art First place	\$100	
8	Art Second place	\$50	
9			

Total Amount **\$ 4,120**

D) Facilities Fee

1	Transportation cost for KND event organizing	\$ 60	
2	Help with Poe Reh Electric and water bills for cook food at their garage and field.	\$150	
3	Exchange for gas	\$ 100	

Total Amount **\$ 310**

Financial Report

3) Balance

No	Category	Amount
1	Total Amount Received	\$ 18,229
2	Total Amount Expenses	\$ 17,391.76
Total balance		\$ 837.24

From donation Box at evening show + \$ 400

Total Amount balance \$ 1,237.24

Administered and Financed By: May Re

Confirmed By: Ree Reh

Confirmed By: Peter Dee De

Confirmed By: Ah No

Confirmed By: Lee Meh