

## **Research preparation phase in Thailand**

During 4 weeks in Bangkok between middle of June and middle of July, 2010, I was able to visit more than 10 institutions for children with disabilities.

Next to visiting specialised and inclusive schools, I got an idea of the situation of orphans with disabilities through visiting a government-run home and I gained insights into NGO – activities and new perspectives through discussions with Thai experts.

Together with our research partners at Srinakharinwirot University a first draft of the organisation of field phase 1 in Bangkok has been developed and adapted through discussion.



**Photo by Michelle Proyer**

## **Michelle Proyer, researcher Bangkok**

## **Research preparation phase in Ethiopia**

The pre-phase of our research project in Addis Ababa started in March 2010. During my stay, I visited 10 different schools and three organisations for people with disabilities. Furthermore, I had the chance to interview the advisor of the minister for education as well as special needs experts in the ministry for education. All of these visits provided me with a comprehensive picture of the situation of children with disabilities in Addis Ababa and the future developments that different organisations and the government aim to achieve.

Based on this experience we can start the first phase of field research in November 2010 with the help of the staff of the Special Needs Department at Addis Ababa University (and especially with the support by my assistant Yeshitla Mulat).



**Photo by Margarita Schiemer**

## **Margarita Schiemer, researcher Addis Ababa**

## **Research preparation phase in Austria**

Based on the support of the Vienna Board of Education (Stadtschulrat Wien) we got the official permission for the realisation of our study in the schools of Vienna early on, so that a pre-test could take place on May and June 2010. In addition to the testing and the quantitative evaluation of our research instruments, we conducted cognitive interviews, discussions with experts and reflections in the research seminar “Societal and cultural aspects in classification of disabilities” at the University of Vienna, in order to achieve improvement of the questionnaires. Furthermore, in this research phase I got in contact with the 11 schools that participate in our study and I had the opportunity to get interesting insights in different aspects of the schools and their students. Currently, the first phase of field research is organised in cooperation with these institutions.

## **Michaela Kramann, researcher Vienna**