

DEQP Newsletter



Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, Thailand

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The year 2012 is considered a significant year for Thailand, as it marks the auspicious occasion of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's 80th birthday anniversary

For more than 50 years, Her Majesty has passionately and tirelessly dedicated Her ingenuity and energies alongside His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej to the initiation, sustenance, and further development of multifarious royal development projects for the benefit of Thailand and the well-being of the Thai people. Her Majesty has never hesitated to travel long distances, even to the remotest areas, to help alleviate the suffering of the people. Her Majesty has also graciously and assiduously promoted the improvement of the people's living standards in all aspects. Her Majesty's greatness is acclaimed throughout the Kingdom and the world community.



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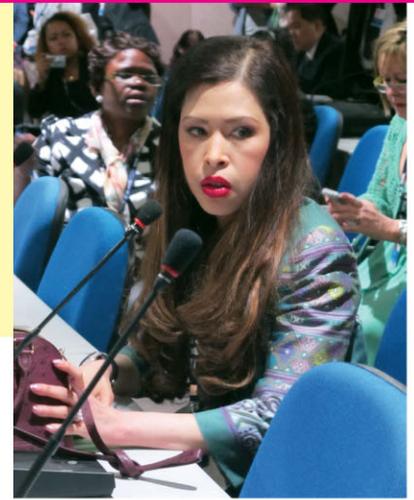
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RIO+20

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development



Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King of Thailand and Head of the Thai Delegation paid an official visit to Brazil to attend the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - UNCSO or Rio+20) on 11-23 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development marked the 40th anniversary of the first major international political conference that specifically had the word "environment" in its title (The UN Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) was held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 5-16 June 1972). The UNCSO secured the renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessed progress and implementation gaps in the previously-agreed commitments, and addressed new and emerging challenges focus on the themes: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD).



Source: UN News

Representatives from 191 UN member states and observers, including 79 Heads of State or Government, addressed the general debate, and approximately 44,000 badges were issued for official meetings, a Rio+20 Partnerships Forum, Sustainable Development Dialogues, SD-Learning. There were as many as 500 side events in the RioCentro, the venue for the Conference itself. The Thai delegation headed by HRH also attended this significant conference. The delegation, comprising government organizations, private sectors, and NGOs with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as the delegation's secretar



In closing the Conference, UNCSO President Dilma Rousseff (Brazil) stressed that Rio+20 was the most participatory conference in history and was a "global expression of democracy."

Participants at Rio+20 were encouraged to make voluntary commitments for actions to implement the conference's goals, and almost 700 had been received by the close of the Conference, with financial commitments from governments, the private sector, civil society and other groups.

The agreement adopted in Rio calls for the UN General Assembly (UNGA), at its next session, to take decisions on, inter alia: designating a body to operationalize the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. In addition to the outcome document, there have been nearly 500 voluntary commitments on sustainable development activities by civil society groups, businesses, governments and universities. In addition, the UN's Global Compact initiative, which concluded its Corporate Sustainability Forum yesterday, announced more than 200 commitments to sustainable development by businesses. In the closing statement made by the UNCSO President Dilma Rousseff also mentioned that Rio+20 demonstrated the multilateralism as a legitimate pathway to build solutions for global problems.





Sai Yai Rak Project Marks Six Years of Good Work

Her Royal Highness Princess Srirasmee, Princess Consort to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, presided over a ceremony to open the celebration of "Six Years of Sai Yai Rak" on 25 July 2012. Her Royal Highness also presented awards to community representatives who were recognized for their efforts in a canal cleaning program, which was held as part of the Sai Yai Rak project, and later visited various an exhibit of the project's various activities.

Mr. Preecha Rengsomboonsuk, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment; Mr. Chote Trachu, Permanent Secretary; and Mr. Sunan Aroonopparat, Director-General of the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, joined officials from the ministry and departments under the ministry at the opening ceremony. The event was held at hall 7 and 8, Impact Muang Thong Thani Exhibition and Convention Center.

The Sai Yai Rak project, under the royal patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, was initiated in response to Princess Srirasmee's belief that a solid family foundation helps to ensure the children's development as model citizens. The warmth of family and a positive living environment, starting from pregnancy to delivery, make children spiritually and mentally strong, supporting their growth as important members of a peaceful and productive society.

The Sai Yai Rak project's objective is to fortify bonds among family members that should be develop the strengthen of community and leads to the sustainable development of the society. The project involves the collaboration and networking of eleven organizations, and is carried out in accordance with the "five means of development". The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment plays a vital role in promoting the five means of development by encouraging proper environmental management through various activities, including the provision of clean water sources and training and awareness building for community residents on waste management (e.g. garbage sorting and recycling bank programs). Other activities are a waste-based invention contest with a trophy from HRH Princess Srirasmee as the grand prize, and reforestation for food.



Youth Scout Model for a Greener World



"Youth Scout Model for a Greener World" was the theme of the first Annual Scout Camp for the Preservation of Natural Resources and the Environment, organized by the Bureau of Youth and Scout Activities in the Department of Environmental Quality and Promotion (DEQP), to celebrate the 80th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit. The camp was held on 17-21 August 2012 at the Vajiravudh Scout Camp in Sriracha, Chonburi.

Mr. Sakda Noppasit, Secretary to the Natural Resources and Environment Minister, presided over the camp's opening ceremony on 18 August. Mr. Sunant Arunpparat, DEQP Director-General, also addressed the opening ceremony, which was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and DEQP, scout instructors and teachers, members of the press, and representatives of related organizations.

In addition to honoring HM Queen Sirikit's birthday on 12 August, the camp also sought to build awareness of natural resource and environmental conservation among scout members, boys and girls alike. The camp was attended by over 1,200 participants, including senior scouts, girl scouts, and scout instructors, from all over the country. To reflect the diversity of its participants, the camp was divided into sub-camps, representing the following five regions in Thailand.

- Northern/Northeastern Region Sub-Camp
- Northeastern Region Sub-Camp
- Central Region Sub-Camp
- Eastern Region Sub-Camp
- Bangkok Sub-Camp

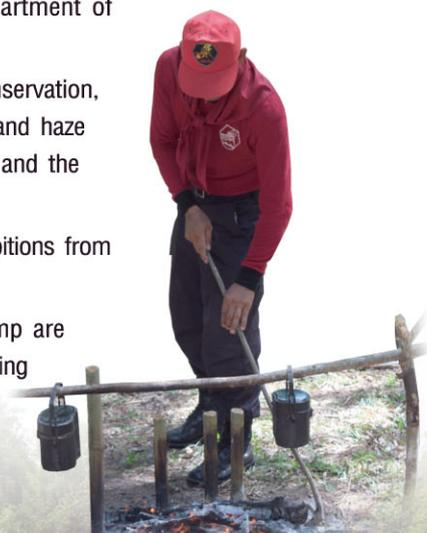


Notable activities at the camp included training programs on natural resources and environment conservation, which received strong support from the Department of Water Resources, Pollution Control Department, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Department of Mineral Resources, Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation, and Creative Thailand Foundation.

Throughout the five-day camping event, scouts gained valuable knowledge of water resources conservation, pollution control, mangrove forest management, waste handling, global warming, geological disasters, and haze and forest fires. Furthermore, they acquired deeper insights into the conservation of natural resources and the environment, while also broadening their awareness of environmental issues.

The camp also featured an exhibition in honor of HM Queen Sirikit's achievements. In addition, exhibitions from each sub-camp showcased the unique qualities of the regions represented at the camp.

The knowledge and learning experiences provided by the natural resources and environment camp are expected to play a vital role in shaping the values of the participating scout members, and in strengthening their commitment to natural resource and environmental conservation and their determination to become model citizens. Using their creative powers, these young scout members certainly have much to contribute to natural resource and environmental conservation now and in the future.





This year, 2012, marks another ASEAN Environment Year (AEY). The AEY is observed once every three year starting in 2000 under the ASOEN (ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment) Flagship Project. AEY celebrations in Thailand are being organized by the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, as national focal point of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education.

The ASEAN Environment Year 2012 conference was hosted by the Malaysian Ministry of Environmental Resources and Environment on 17-18 July in Kuala Lumpur. The conference was also held to acknowledge past achievements and current activities in support of the ASEAN commitment to environmental protection, and to enhance public awareness of various environmental concerns across the region.

As part of the AEY observance in Thailand, the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion took part in the ASEAN Eco School Award, which aimed to promote eco-schools (sustainable development and environmental education schools) throughout the region. The ASEAN Eco-school Award was presented to Baan Ta Kaam School in Prachuab Kirikhan, primary school level, and to Muang Krabi School in Krabi province, high school level. They were honored for their achievements in carrying out Eco-school programs.



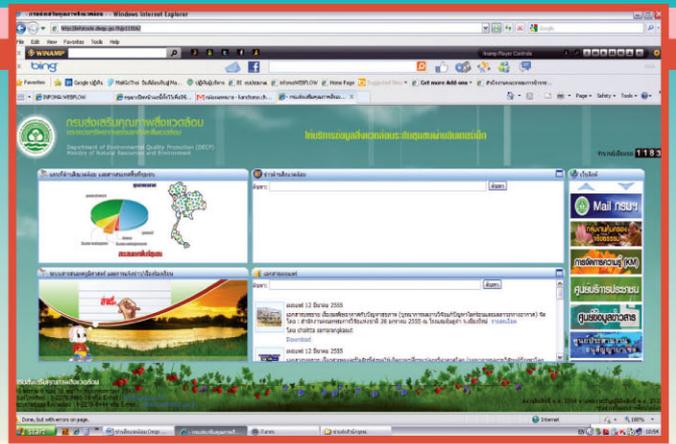
23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (23rd ASOEN)

The 23rd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (ASOEN) and the 9th ASEAN+3 Senior Officials Meeting on the Environment (SOME) took place on 26-31 August 2012 in Cambodia. The two meetings brought together representatives from ASEAN member countries, to discuss various collaborative efforts in environmental management, which were considered and proposed by the ASEAN Working Groups on the concerned issues. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, as ASOEN Chairman, led the Thai delegation.

The Department of Environmental Quality and Promotion (DEQP) has been designated as the focal point of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE). The Ministry assigned the DEQP as representative to the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment -ASOEN 23rd) and related meetings.



Development of Area-based Natural Resources and Environmental Information System (Waste Disposal Site)



The Environmental Information Services Center in the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion has been developing an area-based natural resources and environmental information system (waste disposal site). The objective is to collect information on waste disposal sites and all pollution point-sources in the country. The system is part of the government's policy to minimize or eliminate the impact of waste disposal sites on the well-being of local communities and the environment as a whole.

The Environmental Information Services Center has set up a database of point-source pollution information. The project has a duration of three years from 2011-2013. Information gathering in northern Thailand is being carried out in 2011-2012, and is expected to be completed by September 2012 in northeastern Thailand and by 2013 for the entire country. The complete data can be downloaded from the Department of Environmental quality and Promotion website at www.deqp.go.th, and will also be made available as an e-book that can be downloaded from the same site.

Captions

- Website for accessing processed information: <http://infotools.deqp.go.th/p11016/>
- Situation of waste disposal site
- The program's coverage area
- Waste disposal site information e-book
- Map of waste disposal sites
 - Areas with complete information systems in 2011-2012
 - Areas to be covered in 2013



All about the Green Production symbol

The G Symbol (Green Production) has been developed based on the application of environmental management principles that focus on effective resources utilization, reduction of pollution levels at the pollution source, and use of clean technology in production and services.

The following important issues are taken into account.

1. Efficient use of raw materials in the production process
2. Reduction or elimination of chemical use or application of hazardous raw materials
3. Efficient use of energy or adoption of clean energy
4. Reuse or adoption of technology using alternative energy
5. Proper management of pollution waste from the production process



The Department of Environmental Quality Promotion awards the G Symbol

to honor business establishments that have passed environment-friendly production criteria and are promoting products from local communities and enterprises that observe environmentally sound management. The G symbol also recognizes their efforts to upgrade community products and to provide more varieties to consumers by supporting local community producers, enabling them to operate their businesses following the principles of sustainable environmental management.



The G symbol promotes environment-friendly production processes, making them well known to consumers and visitors and persuading them to patronize eco-friendly products. The G symbol has been the subject of many promotional activities, including a World Environment

Workshop on the Roles of Women in Flood Management



Disasters - due to natural causes or human activities - have brought tremendous losses, and these are most likely to increase and become more severe in the future. This can be seen in the results of the recent major floods in many parts of the country.

Being largely responsible for the welfare of the household, women were particularly affected by the floods. However, most women are lacking in experience and know-how in dealing with disasters in a systematic, logical manner. As a result, many women were affected and injured, and some suffered extreme stress and general hardship.

Recognizing the importance of community readiness and preparedness, especially the need to train women on risk management, the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion organized a workshop, "The Roles of Women in Flood Management" on 28-29 June 2012 at the conference center of the National Council of Women of Thailand and at the Prince Palace Hotel in Mahanak.

Ms. Ratchanee Emaruji, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, presided over the opening ceremony. Lady Natthaka Vadhangavekin Ang-ubolkul, Chairperson of the National Council of Women of Thailand, delivered the welcome address.

The objectives of workshop were to brainstorm and exchange opinions and experiences in flood management in different areas. The workshop was supported by NGOs and academic institutes. These include the Sustainable Development Foundation, National Council of Women of Thailand, Friends of Women Foundation, Bang Ban (Ayutthaya) District Administration, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Chulalongkorn University Wang Noi, Ramkhamhaeng University, Rak Talae Thai Association, Pathum Thani Volunteers for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment, and Songkhla Lake Women's Network. Women's organizations and networks of disaster victims also attended the workshop. The most heavily affected areas are in the central region (Bangkok, Pathum Thani, Nonthaburi, Ayutthaya), northeastern region (Nakhon Ratchasima, Khonkaen, Nong Khai), and northern region (Phayao, Phitsanuloke, Utharadit), and Southern (Surat Thani, Pattalung, Trang).



Day celebration at the Siam Paragon on 5 June 2012 and an exhibition held as part of the "Save the World with KU ECO Library" program at Kasetsart University. The G Symbol exhibits gave visitors an opportunity to learn about G symbol's identity, the intricacies of the green design, the meaning of clean technology, and various certified eco-friendly products.

Businesses interested in G Symbol certification can obtain more information from the Community Businesses and Enterprises Department, Bureau of Public Participatory Promotion, Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, 49, Rama VI Soi 30, Rama VI Road, Phaya Thai District, Bangkok, 10400. Alternatively, call or fax 0 298 565 3 or visit www.envoice.org.





20 Years of Environmental Research: Department of Environmental Quality Promotion



The Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) has a mandate to create awareness of and encourage public participation in environmental management through knowledge management and research in various aspects of the environment. These include water, air, sound, seismic waves, toxic substances, waste and management biomass, eco-economics and socio-ecology research, development and application of clean technology, to name some.

To mark the DEQP's 20th anniversary (1992-2012), the Environmental Research and Training Center organized an academic seminar entitled "20 Years of Environmental Research: Department of Environmental Quality Promotion" at the Miracle Grand Convention Hotel in Bangkok. The commemorative event was held on 26-27 July 2012. The objective was to make the the Center's research works available to interested parties and to encourage the exchange of opinions on how to apply the findings in tackling prevailing and emerging environmental issues throughout the country.

Knowledge management and research pertaining to production processes start from the collection of data which are carefully analyzed, in order to obtain accurate scientific findings that provide the basis for recommendations to solve various environmental problems and issues. New knowledge and technological expertise are applied in carrying out environmental management activities, and are transferred to personnel of relevant organizations, thus building their capacity to make timely and effective responses to environmental problems.

The DEQP's Environmental Research and Training Center has produced many research works in support of the formulation of environmental policies and standards as well as quality control measures to prevent and solve environmental problems. Effective environmental management benefits both the private and, public sectors, while also requiring their cooperation and participation. Environmental management research carried out by the Center encompasses the development of research capabilities, establishment of linkages among pertinent environmental data, exchanges of research outcomes, and application of research findings from previous studies completed by relevant agencies from the government, non-government and private sectors, both at the central and regional levels. This will ensure that research outcomes are widely applied.

Readers' views and ideas regarding "Green Consumption" are most welcomed. Please deliver your message through a questionnaire attached in this newsletter or through e-mail address: interdeqp@gmail.com. We are pleased to provide you a souvenir in return.

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