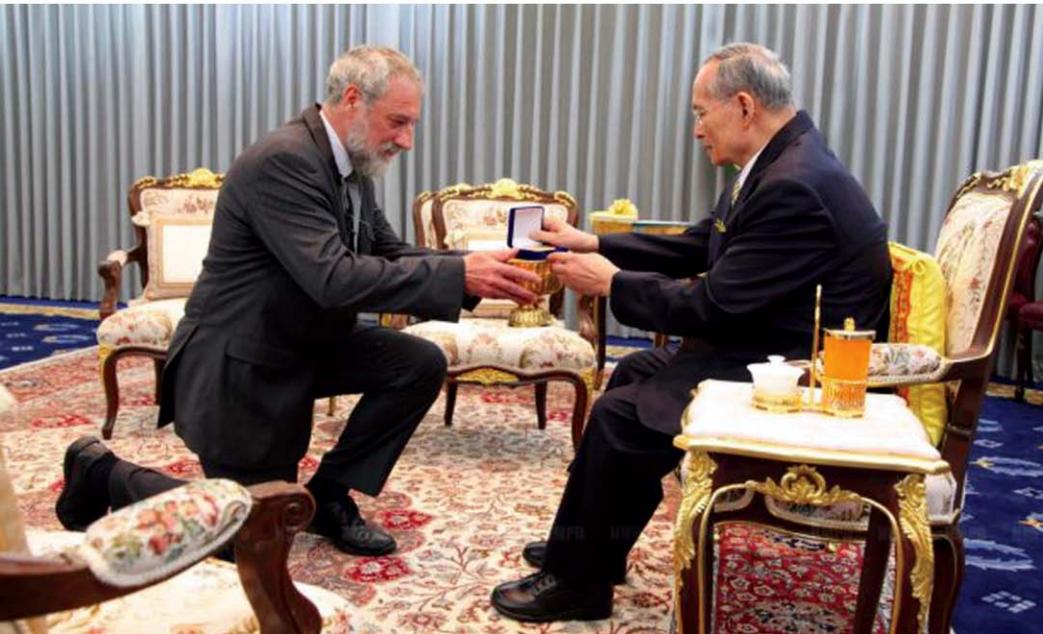


DEQP Newsletter



Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, Thailand

Volume 3, Number 8: June 2012



Special Report: Global Award for HM the King as Humanitarian Soil Scientist

BANGKOK - The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) has honored His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej with the first-ever award of the global title as Humanitarian Soil Scientist in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of soil management. The award presentation was held during a Royal audience granted by His Majesty to the IUSS Chairman, Dr. Stephen Northcliff, and IUSS representatives at Siriraj Hospital on (date). The IUSS Chairman called attention to His Majesty's leadership in developing different methods to improve soil quality and to ensure effective soil management, adding that the IUSS committee has been particularly impressed with His Majesty's vision with regard sustainable soil management.

Since its founding in 1924, the IUSS has sought to promote the study of all branches of soil science, and to support soil scientists throughout the world in their pursuit of research and other activities.

His Majesty has consistently worked towards sustainable soil management, with a view to improving the welfare of Thai farmers and their families. The 17th World Congress of Soil Science held in Bangkok in August 2002 which provided an appropriate forum to reaffirm His Majesty's commitment in this regard. His Majesty has played a leading role in addressing the problem of soil degradation. This has been reflected, for example, in his recommendation to use vetiver grass to conserve the country's soil and water resources. He has also provided cultivable agricultural land to Thai farmers, initiated several Royal Projects, and Centers across Thailand to help Thai citizens cope with soil problems.



Contents

Page

Special Report: Global Award for HM the King as Humanitarian Soil Scientist	1
Highlight Activities	2-4
★ Her Royal Highness Princess Srirasmi preside over the opening ceremony on World Environment Day 2012	
★ The Bonn Climate Change Conference 2012	
★ HM the King's Cup for Do Good Deeds for the Country: Zero Waste Project 2011, 84 Years 84 Communities, and HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Cup for Recycle Bank Project 2011	
Kid Toong video clip contest	5
Initiative Projects	6-7
★ Workshop on Climate Change and Environmental Quality in Chao Phraya Basin	
★ Workshop on Strengthen Cooperation Network in Local Natural Resource and Environmental Management in the Eastern Region	
★ Promoting Knowledge of Adaptation to Climate Change via www.environnet.in.th	
Green Movements	8
★ Public and private sectors join forces to restore Prem Prachakorn Canal	
★ DEQP welcomes officials from Lao People's Democratic Republic	



Her Royal Highness Princess Srirasmi preside over the opening ceremony on World Environment Day 2012

Her Royal Highness Princess Srirasmi, the royal consort of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, presided over the opening ceremony of the World Environment Day 2012 on 5 June 2012 at the Royal Paragon Hall, Siam Paragon Department Store. Among the high-ranking officials at the event were Mr. Preecha Rengsomboonsuk, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment; Mr. Chote Trachu, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; and Mr. Sunun Arunnopparat, Director-General of the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP). They were joined by officials from various agencies concerned with environmental matters.

On this occasion, Her Royal Highness Princess Srirasmi presented awards to six women in recognition of their outstanding work in environmental conservation. Her Royal Highness also visited WED exhibitions.

Various activities were presented under the theme "Green Economy: Does it Include You?" This means that you are the power that moves the economy. The featured activities included the launching of a project to promote sustainable production and consumption, and a ceremony to present environmental awards as follows: 118 awards under the G-label standards for entrepreneurs and schools project, 19 awards under the Do Good Deeds for the Country: Reduce Carbon, Reduce Global Warming project, and 28 awards under the Clean School: Reduce Water Consumption, Reduce Wastewater for a Clean Chao Phraya River project. The objectives were to promote learning and understanding among the public and to encourage everyone's participation in environment-friendly production and consumption.

There were also stage performances, including a comedy show by the Yong Choen Yim band and a Rak Thai Rak Loalke concert by the Thai National Symphony Orchestra from Silpakorn University.



The Bonn Climate Change Conference 2012



In December 2011, the UN Climate Conference provided a defining moment to put global negotiations back on track in order to mitigate the catastrophic effects of global warming, as agreed by the Parties at the COP 17 in Durban. To address both current and emerging climate change issues, representatives from many governments, especially in developing countries, met in Durban for the purpose of reinforcing national and global efforts. They based their discussions on scientific findings, with a view to building on legally binding agreements reached through the Climate Convention and Kyoto Protocol and following the roadmap agreed to by all countries in Bali in 2007.

However, the Durban conference provided an opportunity to review the progress of international climate negotiations to address fundamental challenges, as well as to share equitably the benefits of achievements to-date, as well as to ensure that the impacts of climate change in both rich and poor countries are properly evaluated. Under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, the Parties are expected to negotiate a new "protocol, another legal instrument or agreed outcome with a legal force" to be agreed upon by 2015 and to come into effect by 2020.

Moreover, discussions by the developed countries at the Durban conference on their obligations concerning emission cuts were limited, signifying weaknesses in their level of commitment. Clearly, there is a strong need to strengthen commitments at the international level in 2012, in order to reinforce concerted action to address climate change and to fulfill the mandates that have been agreed upon under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Bali Action Plan.

With the implementation of the Durban decision, significant progress has been made towards reaching an agreement concerning the goals of the Bonn Climate Change Conference. The conference, held from 14 to 25 May 2012 in Bonn, Germany, comprised the 36th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the 15th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), the 17th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP), and the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP).

More than 180 organizations, 263 observer organizations, 25 media groups, and several thousand delegates participated in the Bonn Climate Change Conference. Thailand was represented by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, the country's focal point in this endeavor, together with relevant organizations. Members of the Thai delegation were assigned specific responsibilities. The Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) was assigned to follow three sessions: the Article 6 and Capacity Building both under SBI, and Research and Systematic Observation under SBSTA. Overall, discussions during the three sessions proceeded slowly, especially the session on the Article 6, which started in the second week. Because of the slow pace of discussions among the developed countries, negotiations were delayed and a decision on the draft proposal could only be made at the end of conference. The Parties discussed a draft text submitted by China on recommendations to be considered for the Doha Work Programme. The SBI agreed to consider this item at SBI 37, on the basis of the draft text contained in the annex.



Moreover, Key issues discussed under the SBI included loss and damage due to climate change, national adaptation plans (NAPs), and reporting by Annex I and non-Annex I Parties. The SBSTA focused on agriculture, research and systematic observation, and methodological guidance on REDD+ Technology. Response measures were considered under both the SBI and SBSTA. The AWG-KP focused on issues that needed to be finalized in order to adopt a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, and to enable the AWG-KP to conclude its work at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8).

Under the AWG-LCA, the Parties initially debated on the agenda and reviewed it to determine if it adequately reflected progress since the adoption of the Bali Action Plan at COP 13 in 2007. After agreement on the agenda was reached, debates continued on which issues required consideration so that the AWG-LCA can finalize its work at the COP 18 in Doha.

The ADP focused on discussions of the agenda and on the election of officers. After nearly two weeks of discussions, the ADP plenary adopted the agenda and agreed on the election of officers at the final day of the conference.

The Parties at the Bonn conference presented different perspectives on the future impacts of climate change and effective measures to mitigate their effects. The world cannot wait much longer, however, climate change discussions should translate into effective action. Feasible and sustainable solutions must be agreed upon so that the outcome of the Bonn conference can move forward to the UNFCCC COP 18 in Doha, Qatar.



Bajaree Sanguanwongse
General Administrative Officer

HM the King's Cup for Do Good Deeds for the Country: Zero Waste Project 2011, 84 Years 84 Communities, and HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Cup for Recycle Bank Project 2011



The Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment conducted the "Do Good Deeds for the country: Zero Waste Project 2011, 84 Years 84 Communities" to celebrate the 84th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and the Recycle Bank Project 2011 to recognize schools and communities with outstanding recycle bank operations. The objective of the Recycle Bank Project is to share experiences in effective waste management, particularly the efficient operation of recycle banks, thereby promoting efforts in environmental and natural resources management and encouraging public participation



The award recipients were honored with His Majesty the King's Cup for the Do Good Deeds to the Country: Zero Waste Project and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Cup for the Recycle Bank Project 2011. The award ceremony was held on 25-26 April 2012 at the Miracle Grand Hotel in Bangkok.

Honorary awards were presented to schools with outstanding recycle bank operations. Bronze medals (provincial level) were given to 40 schools, while silver medals (regional level) were given to five schools. In addition to the presentation of awards, a seminar was held to exchange experiences in managing zero waste communities and in operating recycle banks. There were also exhibits on environmental conservation and stage performances of traditional Thai puppet show and Northeastern dances, in addition to a dance performance by dancers with recycled costumes and a musical show conveying environmental messages.



First prize winners of the "Do Good Deeds for the Country: Zero Waste Project", national level

Award	Small-size Community	Medium-size Community	Large-size Community
1 st Prize	Non Khee Lek community, Municipality of Phra Tai district, Nakhon Ratchasima province	Nong Sra Pang community, Municipality of Pang Khon district, Sakhon Nakhon province	In Pattana community, Municipality of Pitsanulok district, Pitsanulok province

Award	Primary School	Secondary School
1 st Prize	Mapammarit Community School Choomporn province	Taelsiri Wittaya School Surin province





KID TOONG VIDEO CLIP CONTEST



The Kid Toong (Think Bag) video clip contest was launched on 4 April 2012 by Mr. Kasemsun Chinnvaso, Director-General of the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP), Mr. Piyawat Titasattavorakul, Managing Director of CP All Public Company, and Ms. Pensri Arunwattanamongkol, President of the Thai Webmaster Association. The contest is an environmental conservation project initiated by 7 Eleven to promote environmental awareness and responsible use of natural resources. The opening ceremony was held in Campus Class Room 2-3, Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel. The theme of the Kid Toong video clip contest is "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle".

Students and youth between the ages of 15 and 25 who have a talent for design and video clip making are invited to submit fresh and practical ideas that would benefit the society and the environment.

The selection criteria are based on creativity and clarity of content and focus on practical day-to-day life. Interested contestants are invited to upload their video clips or check out www.kidtoong.com for more details. Successful first-round contestants are entitled to attend a training workshop to gain more environmental knowledge and strengthen their creativity. Contestants can apply what they have learned from the workshop to produce video clips that can be uploaded on the website. Video clips will be evaluated by the judges and later voted upon by the public. The final selection of award-winning video clip entries will be made in August 2012. Three award-winning teams will receive certificates, scholarships, and cash prizes valued up to 200,000 Baht.



Workshop on Climate Change and Environmental Quality in Chao Phraya Basin



The Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP), together with state and private agencies and the Office of Volunteers and Networks organized a workshop, "Reinforcement and Cooperation Network in Support of Preparations for Climate Change and Environmental Quality in the Chao Phraya Basin". It was held on 31 May-1 June 2012 at the Woraburi Ayothaya Convention Hotel & Resort in Ayutthaya province.

The objectives were to develop mechanisms to encourage cooperation and capacity building to develop networks among local organizations and their personnel, and to promote effective adaptation and preparations for natural disasters as well as climate change. The workshop welcomed around 200 participants, including local government authorities and representatives from the Chao Phraya River Basin Water Conservation and Quality Monitoring Network, Natural Resources and Environmental Volunteer Network, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and concerned government agencies. Dr. Pithaya Pookaman, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, presided over the opening ceremony, which was attended by distinguished guests including Mr. Wittaya Phewpong, the Governor of Ayutthaya; Ms. Preeya Palipho, Ayutthaya Deputy Governor; and Ms. Somsong Pancharoenworakul, President of Ayutthaya Provincial Administrative Organization.

The major outcomes of the workshop are as follows:

1. Formulation of an action plan and pilot activities to prepare local communities to handle possible risks caused by climate change and natural disasters in provinces around the Chao Phraya River basin, namely Nakhon Sawan, Chainat, Singburi, Ang-thong, Ayutthaya, Pathumthani, Nonthabuti and Samut Prakarn.
2. Initiation of steps towards the management of natural resources and environment in the Chao Phraya River basin, including the appointment of the Chao Phraya Basin Conservation Network Committee which composed of 18 committee members by representing eight provinces, namely Nakhon Sawan, Chainat, Singburi, Ang-thong, Ayutthaya, Pathumthani, Nonthabuti, and Samut Prakarn.
3. Signing of the Declaration on the Chao Phraya Basin Conservation Network by concerned parties.



Workshop on Strengthen Cooperation Network in Local Natural Resource and Environmental Management in the Eastern Region

Mr. Sakda Noppasit, Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, presided at the opening of a workshop on strengthen cooperation network in the management of local natural resources and the environment in the eastern region. He was welcomed by Mr. Pakkaratorn Teainchai Deputy to the Chonburi Governor. The workshop was held on 6 June 2012 at the Asia Hotel Pattaya, Chonburi province.



The workshop is a collaboration between the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) and Regional Environmental Office 13 and provincial offices of Natural Resources and Environment in Chonburi, Chachoengsao, Sa Keaw, Rayong, Chanthaburi, and Trat, representing the Natural Resources and Environmental Volunteer Network in each province. The objectives were to strengthen cooperation in the management of local natural resources and the environment in the eastern region, as well as to improve collaboration between the Natural Resources and Environmental Volunteer Network and private organizations, community agencies, networks, and local administrative organizations in managing natural resources and the environment, under the normal conditions and in the event of natural disasters.

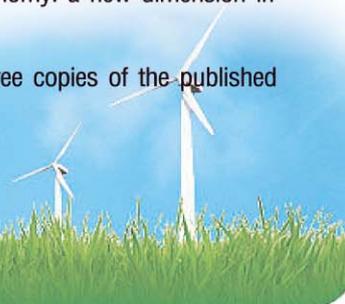
Promoting Knowledge of Adaptation to Climate Change via www.environnet.in.th

The impacts of climate change are increasingly affecting the seawater level, rain redistribution, the volume of water consumption, water quality in coastal areas, quality of forest areas, biodiversity, agricultural productivity, food security, and the physical and mental health of human beings. The extent of these impacts is wide-ranging and can be temporary or permanent in nature. The rise in global temperature is seen as a key contributor to climate change.

According to scientific and statistical data, continuing changes in the climate and the state of the environment have necessitated adaptation by human beings and other living things in response to such changes. So far such adaptation has been spontaneous in nature, occurring as a natural response to certain climatic and environmental changes. However, with advanced scientific technologies and know-how planned adaptation has become possible, enabling the readiness and preparedness of individuals, households, and communities to effectively respond to climate change. Moreover, national policies to address potential climatic and environmental changes can be formulated and implemented.

On-line information on adaptation to climate change has been made available by the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) at the following website: www.environnet.in.th. The website's easy-to-understand presentation also features related issues and possible effects triggered by climate change. It covers the following topics: 1) Royal duties of His Majesty the King; 2) factors behind climate change and the need for adaptation; 3) relevant information regarding the agricultural and industrial sectors and urban and community development as they relate to family welfare and livelihoods, and so on; 4) relevant research studies; and 5) low-carbon economy: a new dimension in Thailand's industrial development.

Please visit www.environnet.in.th for more information. For free copies of the published information, please contact the DEQP at 0 2298 5638.



The annual meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Volunteer Network 2012 was held on 27-29 March 2012 at the Woraburi Ayutthaya Convention Hotel & Resort, Ayutthaya province. The meeting took into account the government's natural disaster management policy as a guideline in a proposal for the management of natural resources and the environment in the eastern region, to be presented on 7 June 2012 in the form of a discussion forum to be attended by various concerned parties.

The workshop's keynote speakers included Dr. Kitichai Rattana from Kasetsart University; Ms. Weena Namcharoensombut, special lecturer from the Education Institute for International Sustainable Development; and Mr. Surachai Sangtaksin, Director of Regional Environmental Office 13. The meeting presented the management of natural resources and the environment policy as a guideline in the implementation of provincial-level policy. The workshop included a study visit by the Natural Resources and Environmental Volunteer Network to Nong Nooch Garden, Na Jomtien sub-district, Sattahip district, Chonburi province, to further learn about natural resource and environmental management in preparation for the impacts of global warming. The study visit also provided an opportunity to experience local art and culture.





Public and private sectors join forces to restore Prem Prachakorn Canal

Mr. Preecha Rengsomboonsuk, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, presided over a ceremony to launch a public-private sector project to restore the Prem Prachakorn canal. The ceremony was held at Wat Don Muang, Phra Ar-ram Luang, Don Muang district on 25 April 2012. The canal restoration project is a collaboration between the DEQP under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and 16 local communities located around the Prem Prachakorn canal, as well as associated local agencies, such as the Don Muang District Office, Support Service Department of the Royal Thai Army, and Don Muang Police. The project is also supported by local MPs Karun Hosakul and Surachart Thienthong, and members of the Bangkok Metropolitan Council. The project is aimed at improving water quality in the Prem Prachakorn canal through water quality monitoring and waste water treatment using Dasta Balls; and at implementing effective waste management and environmental restoration of the canal through cooperation between local agencies and communities.



DEQP welcomes officials from Lao People's Democratic Republic



Ms. Rachanee Emaruchi, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP), together with senior officials welcomed high-ranking government officials from the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The visitors were led by the Director-General of the Department of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment; and the Deputy Director-General and Chief of the Pollution Control Unit, along with officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and representatives from Vientiane Municipality and UNDP Thailand. The study visit was conducted on 2 April 2012.

A briefing on DEQP operations was presented, providing background information and showing the organizational structure of DEQP. The briefing concentrated on environmental studies and public participation. Experiences and views on environmental management were exchanged during the study visit.



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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