

Project Update: December 2012

December 10th-14th 2012

Attended the Community Based Eco-Tourism (CBET) Seminar

Mr. Phanuwachr served as representative from the Mangrove SME group of Kamphuan Community to attend the Community Based Eco-Tourism (CBET) Seminar in Surat Thani Province. This seminar was arranged by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), under the project "Promoting and Driving the Process of CBET Networks Development 2012". The advisor team of this project is from the College of Innovation, Thammasart University.

The main objectives were:

1. Open the opportunity for the representatives from the six pilot network provinces to get to know each other.
2. A place to share their learning experience in the development of CBET.
3. Understand the network's members and representatives from the Office of Tourism and Sports Thailand according to promoting and driving the process of CBET Network development together.
4. To study and learn the operation and management of the CBET Network prototype.
5. To draft the CBET set of regulations.

We had learned that Community Based Eco-Tourism (CBET) is "*responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.*"

CBET, different from nature tourism, is tourism that takes place in nature, benefits the local communities and preserves nature.



December 11th, 2012

Organising the mangrove processing training for students with an emphasis on mangrove product processing techniques.

The first training of mangrove processing products for this study group was on mangrove dessert. This Thai dessert boiled *Bruguiera* in syrup or sweet mangrove is made from the old sheath of *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*.

Usually the old sheath of *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* has a little astringent taste. Our process is to remove its acerbity out from the fruit in order to yield a good taste.

The following is the process:

1. Choose pods or sheath of *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* that are mature, but not too old, and then clean them in water.
2. Bring the sheaths of *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* to a boil, and then rinse.
3. Peeled and soak in alkali water, then rinsed again.
4. Soak in lime water, then rinse.
5. Boil again and pour the water out.
6. Add the syrup and cook at a low heat.
7. Ready to eat or package.

The students learned how to cook this delicious and simple dessert. They were able to explore their creativity by measure the ingredients or even their own recipe.



Organising the mangrove English class.

The second activity, Rissa not only taught the students about the mangrove terminology in English, she also taught them why mangroves are important to us:

- Mangroves protect the coastline from erosion and floods.
- Young fish need the mangroves to grow up.
- Many kinds of animals get their food in the mangrove forest and it is important to the food chain.
- Mangroves are a rich source of fishery products for the local population.
- Mangroves are a source of many kinds of mangrove processing products from various kinds of mangrove species (without cutting the mangrove trees).
- Mangroves protect houses from storms and natural disaster.

During the RSG programme, we provided them with food, beverage, study accessory kits and free transportation.

Organizing the activities to replant the 20 mangrove species that are appropriate to the local ecosystem for biodiversity, focusing on rehabilitation and regeneration of the existing species on the degraded area.

Our environmental education is a unique way to engage students in a hands-on, investigative learning process. It provides a real-world context for learning and linking those lessons to the needs of the community. The environmental education portion of this RSG programme taught students about the mangrove ecosystems and species, and the important role they play in the health of the mangrove resources. This was, in part, to enhance their understanding of ecosystem inter-connectivity and how the actions of people in the community can affect these systems.



December 17th, 2012

Attended the Suksamran Small and Micro Community Enterprise Network (SMCE) Meeting

Ruttima Manoch served as the Mangrove SMCE representative to attend the Suksamran SMCE Network meeting at Suksamran District. This meeting was arranged by the Ranong Office of the Community Enterprise Promotion.

The issues of the consideration were: -

1. The process of the SMCE registration and extension in 2013.
2. The strategies to promote SMCE and learning about resource capital management and local ingenuity and community enterprise networks.
3. The evaluation of the SMCE.

We had provided the copies of our up-to-date database development report for their evaluation as an attached file (Thai and English languages).

Here were some comments of Mr. Somporn Kunti, the Ranong Office of the Community Enterprise Promotion:

“As is the case in all the SMCE we evaluate here in Suksamran, the Mangrove SMCE is a totally self content enterprise, started by the mangrove forest and deeply embedded in the community,” “It’s so important, then, that all efforts to help improve what they’re doing actually involve the community members themselves. They are, after all, the people who are going to have to maintain the brand identity and implement efficiencies in their

production processes. It may be a slow process for them to grow their business to the level they might want, but this way, it can be economically and environmentally sustainable.”

An important feature of the mangrove community-based enterprise was that it involved the participation of the community to process marketable products from the variety of the Mangrove species without cutting the trees to deliver the “Community Identity” and presented the social ownership of identities that emerge with love and pride in their homeland and natural resources.

December 18th, 2012

Conducted professional development with Laem Son National Park, Department of Marine Coastal Resources and Kasetsart University Coastal Marine Resource Research Station

The objectives of this meeting were:

1. To present our up to date RSG project.
2. To prepare for the Mangroves “R” Us Night.

The following generic activities were presented in this meeting:

Activity	Result	Note
1. Allocation of exclusive use rights to community group to harvest raw materials for products being promoted. Feasibility study of market potential and profitability. Training community groups in developing mangrove products and marketing them. Purchasing the processing equipments such as grinder, mixer and kneading machine.	Done Done Done Done	Registered the “Mangrove Processing Products Small Enterprise Kamphuan Community, Ranong Province” no. 5-85-05-02/1-0038 Issued March 1, 2012
2. Organising the mangrove processing training for students, youth, women, elderly and community leaders’ groups, as well as local people from target community with the emphasis on the mangrove product processing techniques.	Done	
3. Organising the activities to replant the 20 mangrove species that are appropriate to the ecosystem for focusing on rehabilitation and regeneration of the biodiversity, existing species on the degraded area.	Almost	only the last time left over January 2013
4. Organising the contest for the processing of the products from mangrove species with certificates and awards.	Not Yet	will be arranged January 2013
5. Organising PR campaign for the collaboration of people to use “palm bag” instead of plastic.	Done	

6. Organising PR campaign for the collaboration, of people to drink healthy tea “mangrove tea”, use “sea scent” for preventing themselves from mosquitoes and use “tie-dyed fabric”.	Done	
7. Conduct professional development with Laem Son National Park, Department of Marine Coastal Resources and Kasetsart University Coastal Marine Resource Research Station.	Almost	only one last time left over in January 2013
8. Reporting and database development.	Almost	only one last time left over in January 2013

We had provided the copies of our up-to-date database development report to all the attendants.

Mr. Suthin Jumpadah, the head of Kamphuan District, had given us an appreciation speech. “It is really admiring that your team could nearly complete the project as per time deadline. Your group has done remarkable work. We are very happy to be a part of this project and feel a great sense of achievement.”

We also invited them to join our Mangroves “R” Us Night on December 20th, 2012 to share and celebrate our ongoing activities.



December 20th, 2012

Organizing the Mangrove “R” Us Night Activity

As well as the environmental outcomes, sustainability projects with culturally diverse communities bring different groups of people together and foster community harmony. This special event is to celebrate and share the project’s achievements along the way.

Promote and celebrate with the participants, stakeholders, peers, and local members.

Mangrove SMCE held the special community functions for Mangrove “R” Us Night. There were nearly 150 participants attended in this party. There were almost 10 volunteer local traders provided food, beverage, fruit and dessert.

We had decorated the space with all of our project posters and displayed various kinds of mangrove processing products i.e. mangrove fabric, mangrove lamps, mangrove desserts, mangrove toys, mangrove tea, mangrove bubble tea, etc.

We also rerun the following programmes for the audiences to watch again:

- 1, Broadcasted on Modern 9 TV ... "Local Agriculture News" Program.
http://www.mcot.net/cfcustom/cache_page/370872.html
2. Broadcasted on the Thai PBS TV ... "Eat Am Are" Program.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE9e5XYBpxQ>
3. Honorable Mention Award of the year 2012 from Ministry of ICT.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgzeF-XV1BY>
4. IUCN and Sri Lanka visited
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9RyKp1faXc>

Good creative playground games for kids to be enjoyed and had fun led by Rissa. There were three shows performed by our talent kids on the stage.

Mangrove "R" Us Night is an important event which brings the entire community together, each family contributing fruits and many other delicious home-made foods.

The spirit of brotherhood, unity and gratitude had generated a lot of happiness, goodwill and cheer.

Most of the kids said "Wow! We are so proud of our own community and mangrove resource; we want to have this kind of celebration here every month."

Kindly find us on <http://www.facebook.com/mangroves.rus> and in our websites:-

1. www.mangrovesrus.com/
2. <http://www.thailandmall.net/shop/home.php?uid=41090>
3. <http://www.thaitechno.net/t1/home.php?uid=41090>
4. <http://www.thaitechno.net/dip/home.php?uid=41090>
5. <http://www.dbdmart.com/shop/home.php?uid=41090>
6. <http://www.i-mart.in.th/shop/home.php?uid=41090>

