

Project Update October 2012

October 2nd, 2012

Our Mangroves “R” Us SME group conducted school programmes and teacher’s session this month with the collaboration with Ban Suksamran School.

There were three activities.

Organizing the Mangrove Processing Training for students with the emphasis on the Mangrove product processing techniques.

Mr. Phiraphong Phinit served as the trainer on the technique of how to craft the Mangrove Toy “Fish Mobile”. This handicraft was processed by the leaves of *Nypa* sp.



The fish mobile above is a type traditionally hung over the cradle in Thailand. It is made from the folded, woven leaves of the palm. The fish depicted is the Thai barb, or carp, which is a symbol of prosperity. The smaller fish, the offspring of the larger one, are thought to symbolize fertility. The custom of making the woven mobiles is indigenous to Thai Muslims, particularly the spice traders who sailed in houseboats along the River. Fish mobiles are also placed in the entry of homes and shops as a harbinger of good fortune.



Organizing the Mangrove English Class

Rissa taught the Mangrove Ecology in English to the class of Ban Suksamran students. She also explained the important part of the marine ecosystem has something to do with us and the environment we live in. After the training, we provided food and beverage including with the study accessories kits and their own handmade “Fish Mobile” for their participation.



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

To replant mangroves, our RSG project makes use of an integrated approach in which the community plays an important role and is actively involved. To assist the local community in fulfilling their role, many training courses on, for example, how to plant trees, how to process the Mangrove products have been given to local staff, teachers and children. Our RSG programmes helped the students as well as the teachers to discover the value of Mangrove plants and traditional knowledge in their own communities. “Mangrove Trees are our friend. We can produce our own foods, desserts, toys, etc. by variety of Mangrove species cultivation surrounding our school and homestead areas”, students and teachers told us with enthusiasm.



October 10th, 2012

Training community groups in developing Mangrove Processing Products “Mangrove Bubble Tea” by using the Automatic Plastic Cup Sealing Machine

Our Mangroves “R” Us SME group had practiced on the automatic cup sealer (worth THB 15,500. -) that was donated by Ranong Provincial Agricultural Extension Office. We used it to seal the lid with so many kinds of attractive cartoon designs.



The new product that we used on this machine was “Mangrove Bubble Tea”, also known as pearl tea, is kind of bubble drink. Our Mangrove Tea was processed from *Acanthus* sp., then mixed with condensed milk for tastier, resulting in a slushy consistency. We used Carageenan as the chewy balls called "pearls" or "boba". Kappa-carrageenan is a family of linear sulfated polysaccharides that are extracted from red seaweeds due to its gelling nature.

October 26th, 2012

Preparing the Mangrove Tea for Donation

This vacuum sealing machine is made of stainless steel and aluminum alloy material, health and safety, fastness and durable with the relative parts such as circuit board, electric hot plate, electric eye of film and teeth-cutter. Sealing and film location are followed up by micro-computer automatically, to ensure high precision in sealing; user-friendly and safe design, safety board is set on the machine, to avoid foreign objects or hands of operator to go into machine, protect operator and machine, also have function of automatic restoration; standard cup caliber is 95mm or 10 ounces.

Mr. Phiraphong Phinit, our Mangroves SME Chairman and his members were preparing the 500 Mangrove Tea bags for donating to Wat Prabatnampu in Lopburi Province. The Great Thailand’s temple for AIDS victims whose lives have been saved by medication but who are rejected by their families or neighbors. This temple was founded by the temple’s abbot, Alongkot Dikkapanya 20 years ago.

We also prepared the traditional properties of our herbal Mangrove Tea in Thai language. We believe that the donation of our RSG Mangrove Tea to this temple can increase our overall well-being and help our feel better about ourselves in life.

October 30th, 2012

The Great Monk and the Mangrove Tea

Mr. Phanuwachr Phatthadhol, the KCLC’s director, served as the representative from the “Mangrove Processing Products Small Enterprise Kamphuan Community, Kamphuan District, Ranong Province” to donate the 500 Mangrove Tea Bags to Wat Prabatnampu in Lopburi Province.

Special thanks to the temple’s abbot, Alongkot Dikkapanya with his word of blessing: -
 “Healthy Physical, Healthy Spirit, Healthy Community and Healthy Mangrove”

He also said that “It’s such an initiative project” and he will give the Mangrove Tea for his HIV/AIDS patients to try.

