

***1. The name of the training.***

Asian Sustainability Leadership Education Training

***2. Who organized the training? Give the name, address and contact information for the organizing group/s.***

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***3. Where did the training take place?***

Pun Pun Organic Farm, Sustainable Living Learning center and Seed Center  
Mae Taeng, Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand

***4. What were the dates of the training?***

March 10 April 6, 2008

***5. How many women or girls participated in the training? How many men or boys ?***

Participants included:

- One male representative from the Philippine organization, MASIPAG (Magsasaka at Siyentipiko Para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura) which is a farmer-led network of peoples organization, non-government organizations and scientists working towards the sustainable use and management of biodiversity through farmers control of genetic and biological resources, agricultural production and associated knowledge
- Four male representatives from four Sri Lankan organizations who focus on sustainable agriculture, social mobilization, and sustainable energy called HEDO (Human and Environmental Development Organization), Sri Lanka Nature Forum, and Practical Action, and Sabaragamu Peoples Foundation.
- One male Sri Lankan who has worked with NGOs in the past and is now looking to start a sustainable demonstration farm and learning center in Sri Lanka.
- One female from Yunnan Province, China who has been working with villager groups on community tourism and conservation and interested in conservation and sustainability.
- Three young men from a Thai foundation, a childrens orphanage near the Burmese-Thai border which works to take in children and raise them to be environmental stewards.

- Two young men from Laos who were raised as farmers and now work with NGO and governmental sectors in agriculture and development
- One male Cambodian monk studying sustainable development in Chiang Mai, Thailand at the monk university
- One female Thai university student studying community development and coming to learn about natural building

## ***6. What were the main goals of the training?***

Our first goal for the training was to display a food system that provides healthy options, conserves bio-diversity, and returns empowerment to farmers. Displaying a sustainable living system shows people the potential we have to implement and develop such systems.

Our second goal was to develop the skills for participants to feel confident in using these techniques and understanding them. This includes organic farming, natural fertilizer techniques, teaching endangered indigenous seed saving and sustainable building techniques.

Our third goal was to support local initiatives around the region in turn creating a larger movement. Each representative comes from a larger network in their home country in which they return to apply their knowledge. We believe the only way to create significant lasting social change is by empowering our local communities.

## ***7. In what way were these goals accomplished?***

Participants were first and foremost exposed to various methods of sustainability through their time spent at Pun Pun organic farm, sustainable living learning center and seed center. The farm acts as a learning and experiential center for techniques from around the world. We focused much more of the training this time at the farm and made it a focused intensive training. We did brought participants on a couple shorts study-trips to expose them to other related projects on the subject including; the Womens International Partnership for Peace and Justice organization, a local organic farm/retreat center, and trip to see a local farmer who practices small-scale intensive animal husbandry.

Techniques were taught by various methods. Because our goal was to make participants feel comfortable and confident in the techniques they were taught, we used hands-on participation as our main vehicle. Participants themselves made natural fertilizers, pesticides, herbal medicines, soaps, garden beds, composts, and saved seeds. They also built a small house out of earthen materials from beginning to end. We also brought in various guest speakers who have expertise in different topics.

We worked to support local initiatives by working extensively with participants on how they could apply the knowledge they learned to their local communities. Periodically throughout the training we had check-ins and discussions with participants and at the end of the training we spent a day discussing ideas together and in small groups. As most of the participants came with

others from their area, we were able to work together with them to discuss what action they feel they could take when they returned home together.

Participants had a sense of support in their group and with the staff and facilitators at Pun Pun which enabled them to gain confidence and techniques to bring home with them. As the group was from a diverse area and backgrounds, they exchanged ideas and strategies continually throughout the program, gaining experience through each other. They all left with optimism and new materials to use in their work and this was our goal.

#### ***8. How was the training evaluated?***

The training was evaluated orally. We hosted an oral evaluation with all participants and trainers with specific questions. Facilitators also hosted an internal oral evaluation at the completion of the training.

#### ***What was the most useful thing that participants learned from the training?***

The organic gardening skills in cultivating your own micro-organisms for making your own natural liquid fertilizers, making your own charcoal and using it for filtration, cooking, and medicinally, making and using wood vinegar as a natural pesticide, and an introduction to permaculture design techniques were stated as the most beneficial things learned during the training. Participants also stated they found it useful to see that it is possible to live in a sustainable way and learned more about alternative livelihoods.

#### ***What was the least useful thing?***

We did not receive input that anything was least useful but did receive proposals for including more on livelihood options using our simple techniques and that we should develop more training materials.

#### ***What would you as an organizer do differently next time?***

This years training was very successful because of the way in which we selected participants this time. We made contact with more organizations more closely related to our goals and objectives, who could truly benefit and put the techniques into practice either themselves or through the community of farmers/villagers they work with. That stated, I would have requested a more gender balanced group for the future. It was not something we thought of before and when we asked organizations to send a representative they primarily sent men which can be expected as it can be a more largely male-dominated field but if we would have stated this preference, we could have had a more balanced gendered group, opening up the opportunity for more women and also allowing the group to learn more from each other.

We would have prepared more training materials for the training itself and for participants to return home with. As they had so much energy to continue on and use the techniques covered in the training, having more materials for them to use upon returning home could have been useful.

***Please include at least two remarks from two participants.***

*We gained skills. We did not just get the knowledge but we did it ourselves with our own hands. This was the most important.*

*We were taught to be leaders through example, through observing the way you are leaders. I absorbed your leadership. You do not command but start working and follow.*

*At the beginning I had a concrete mind. Now my energy and knowledge is high and when I work with my NGO network I can spread this knowledge.*

*I feel I want to have this kind of life. I feel Im happy with this kind of life. I want to work with community and I can see how life in the countryside is fun and colorful.*

*I feel very happy. I will go back and do everything I have learned here. I will try it myself and pass it on to others near me.*

#### ***9. What will be the follow-up to the training?***

We trainers have continued and will continue to stay in contact with participants to help them develop their own projects, ideas and methods. We have sent further materials and advice on to participants who have gone home and written for advice as they begin their projects. As some participants came together with others from their home countries/communities, it is quite possible that we would go as facilitators to advise and assist some groups as needed. We offered to them to do so and they can contact us for further assistance.

#### ***10. What are the participants going to do with what they learned at the training?***

Various projects are underway by past participants. The Philippine participant has gone back to spread the knowledge through presentations to his organization and worked with one farmer to build an earthen home and they are in the middle of building a seed-saving center at their demonstration farm of the organization which includes 600 peoples organizations (approximately 10,000 farmers), 40 NGOs, and 10 scientists. They also hope to work more to popularize the use of the toilet system, water system, charcoal making and other techniques taught in the training.

The Sri Lankan participants have created a group of themselves as Earthen House Sri Lanka who will participate in the promotion, networking, research, and training in this topic. They will start with demonstration and as of now are working to compile information, do research on traditional and new methods, future needs, and educate on the benefits of natural building in particular for relief housing for people affected by Tsunami and other disasters. They will begin building their earthen demonstration buildings at their respective organization training centers.

The Laotian participants hope to go back and focus on the micro-organism cultivation for making your own natural fertilizer and pesticides. They hope to spread this knowledge through their network of farmers as well as preserve the biodiversity of the region through seed saving activities with farmers.

The three Thai participants from the orphanage planned to return to their foundation and begin building with earthen materials to fulfill the needs of the orphanage and help other communities who wish to do so. They are working to become self-sustaining in growing their own food using their own homemade fertilizers.

The Chinese participant wishes to work to build connections between people living in the city and the country. Will return to work on organic farm in China and spread the ideas and techniques she learned through presentations and application.

## Final Budget Asian Sustainability Leadership Educational Training

Thailand, 2008

Conversion used: 59 baht = 1 GBP

Description	Details	Cost
<b>Food and Accommodation</b>		
Pun Pun Community	3.59 pds x 29 days x 10 people	1,041.10
Local Sustainable Farm/short study trips	5.18 pds x 2 days x 13 people	134.68
<i>Subtotal Food and Accommodation</i>		<b>1,175.78</b>
<b>Domestic Transport</b>		
Bangkok-Chiang Mai train/plane	6 participants varying prices for travel	233.39
Chiang Mai- Pun Pun	Truck rental return trip x two trips to pick up two groups at different times	76.00
Pun Pun Local sustainable farm and back	Truck rental return trip	38.00
<i>Subtotal Domestic Transport</i>		<b>347.39</b>
<b>International Transport</b>		
International airfare and visa fees	111.86 pds x 6 participants + 157.63 pds for one	828.79
International travel by land and visa fees	28.81 pds x 2 participants	57.62
<i>Subtotal International</i>		<b>886.41</b>

<i>Transport</i>		
<i>Facilities Maintenance</i>	Electricity and maintenance	<b>28.00</b>
<i>Communication</i>	Telephone and email	<b>165.00</b>
<b>Teaching Materials</b>		
Stationary	Notebooks and pens/pencils	7.00
Tools and supplies	Farming tools, buckets, etc	112.00
<i>Subtotal Teaching Materials</i>		<b>119.00</b>
<b>Coordination</b>		
Project Coordinator	Part-time= 71 pds/mo x 12 mo	852.00
Course Coordinator	Fulltime = 216 pds/mo x 1 mo	216.00
Assistants for course	2 people x 135 pds/mo x 1 mo	270.00
<i>Subtotal Coordination</i>		<b>1,338.00</b>
<b>Follow Up</b>		
Small Project Fund	98.31 x 10 area group projects	983.10
<i>Subtotal Follow Up</i>		<b>983.10</b>
<b>Grand Total for Conservation Course</b>		<b>5,042.68</b>

### Changes in Budget Narrative:

1. Food and accommodation at Pun Pun, we use fruit and vegetables from the garden whenever possible. We supplement these with organic rice we buy from the Asok network, and vegetables from the local village market. We buy fish and milk from village neighbors. We felt it was important to show the participants other examples of sustainability and conservation work in the area so we ended up adding short study-trips to the itinerary. This increased the cost of food and accommodation because it costs more outside than at Pun Pun community where we grow much of what we eat. These figures include ten participants.

2. Domestic Transport Our total domestic transport increased over the expected amount due to the amount of people coming through Bangkok and coming by air or bus. As they all came at different times and often times on connecting flights, this became a greater expense than expected. We also needed to pick them up in Chiang Mai and bring them to the farm twice instead of the expected one trip.

3. International Transport We expected more people to be able to come by land but since our many of our participants came from Sri Lanka and the Philippines, this was not feasible. The participants from Thailand and Laos came by land. We were able to give participants a certain amount for their transport and if that was not enough, they raised the funds themselves to be able to participate.

4., 5., and 6. Facilities Maintenance, Communication, and Teaching Materials

7. Coordination includes one time project coordinator for a 12 month period, who will be responsible for communication prior to and following the course with participants, funder correspondence and reports, planning, etc. One course coordinator full time for the 2 month period of the course, with the help of 2 assistants during the course. All of these coordinators are members of the Pun Pun community. Our coordination costs were the same as expected except the cost of guest speakers which was taken out as the speakers who did come were from the immediate area and volunteered their services, saving us the expected expense.

8. Follow up Another difference came in how the small project funds were allotted. As most all participants came from different organizations and projects, we decided to split up the amount allotted for follow-up to the several different organizations represented to allow them to have something to start their ambitious projects with. This meant every group received less but they all received something to help.