

# Kamphuan Community Learning Center (KCLC)

## Overview

*The mission of the Khampuan Community Learning Center is to support coastal communities of Southern Thailand achieve their vision of economic prosperity, community resilience, and environmental stewardship.*

The tsunami of December 2004 devastated Thailand's entire Andaman coast. A total of 392 villages and some 54,500 people were affected by the tsunami. The disaster severely impacted the local economy, in addition to homes, public buildings, and coastal infrastructure. The USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia responded with a demonstration program that helps coastal communities of Southern Thailand rehabilitate livelihoods, become more resilient to future natural disasters, and adopt livelihood practices that use natural resources more sustainably. Instead of just building back the way it was, this program strives to build it back better.

### The Learning Center

The Center, in southern Ranong Province, is a venue for community learning and training, seminars, and meetings, and provides educational materials focused on livelihood development, environmental stewardship and community-based disaster preparedness. It's innovative and comfortable environment sets the stage for experiential learning and is available to community members, entrepreneurs, local authorities, educational groups, non-profits, and visitors.

### Partnerships

The Center is a **private-public partnership**. Current partners include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Hawaii-Hilo. Local partners also include Coca-Cola and the Tambon of Kamphuan in Suk Samran Sub-district.

The Center is available to users from throughout the wider Ranong Province. It has linkages to other small business development centers and academic institutions, and serves as a model for community learning in other regions of Thailand.



Ground Breaking December, 2005

#### GOALS

- **Strengthen and diversify** livelihood opportunities
- **Support cooperative** efforts among community, local government and private sector interests in decision-making, community development, environmental protection, and disaster preparedness

#### APPROACH

- **Promote** enterprises that are commercially viable and have low ecological impact
- **Demonstrate** locally appropriate and environmentally sound technologies
- **Build skills** that enhance individual and community opportunities
- **Increase knowledge** related to technical aspects of business and environment
- **Catalyze** community action and celebrate success
- **Facilitate** discussion among sectors
- **Raise awareness** of hazard preparedness and community resilience

Financial support and programming of the Center are led by a **Steering Committee**, composed of collaborators, leaders, advisors, and donors. This committee works with the Center's Director and local beneficiaries to achieve the KCLC mission, guide program design, develop training partnerships and ensure financial sustainability.

The Center will be partially self-supporting—with revenues from modest fees charged for training programs and other services; and from the sale of brochures and training materials. Other costs are supported by Consortium members, philanthropic groups and fees for other services, such as room rental or program or program support.

## Facilities

The Center is located in a 500 square meter, two-story building adjacent to the central market of Suk Samran Sub-district, on riverfront property donated by the Tambon Administrative Office (TAO). Its indoor and outdoor areas are designed for multiple uses. The **large outdoor meeting area** can host multi-village meetings and workshops. The **conference room** and **classroom** can be used for training or meetings. The **computer room** has satellite internet connection and is used for training and school education programs and by business operators for their communications, sales and marketing. **Displays** provide interpretative educational information while the **Tsunami Memorial room** offers educational materials and survivor testimonials on the impacts of the December 2004 tsunami.

## Programmatic Themes

The KCLC catalyzes community stewardship—where business and social entrepreneurs are drivers of community progress.

- ❖ **Microfinance.** The Center helps strengthen village microfinance groups through continuing education, training materials, and public celebrations of progress and by facilitating cooperation and linkages between businesses and families in the community and financial institutions and services (loans, insurance, savings, and payments).
- ❖ **Enterprise Development.** The Center's vocational training builds technical skills and provides practical "how to" materials for the micro-entrepreneur. Training courses or *Training-of-Trainers* workshops enable business managers and local groups to enhance existing or develop new small businesses. Workshops topics include business planning, financial accounting, production, marketing, sales and entrepreneurship skills.
- ❖ **Skills Development.** The Center will offer English and computer skills—both critical to enhancing business or individual leadership opportunities. Training will be targeted at different levels and sectors. Local demand will drive decisions to also provide training in other skill sets.
- ❖ **Sustainable Building Techniques.** The Center serves as a model and training facility for sustainable buildings. Its structure and surrounding landscape demonstrate low-cost interlocking brick technology, environmentally-friendly design and landscaping appropriate to the surrounding environment. Recycling, energy conservation, appropriate sewage technology and wise water-use practices in the Center provide an opportunity for training and outreach.
- ❖ **Community Resilience.** The 2004 tsunami was a reminder that a community's daily decisions and actions affect its resilience and vulnerability to natural hazards. The Center's activities help strengthen this resilience and the community's ability to rebound more effectively, when hazards do hit.
- ❖ **Community Stewardship.** Building leadership among members of the community—young and old, women and men—is key to building and sustaining a vibrant, healthy, and resilient community for generations to come. Leadership activities and environmental stewardship programs are held in the schools, villages and businesses and target both individuals and groups.
- ❖ **Enabling environment.** The Center and its governing board are advocates for a supportive enabling business environment. Discussions at the Center will address issues such as secure land and property tenure or streamlining the business registration process. And, the Center helps the business community work through independent business associations to advocate policy reforms.



Microfinance Committee members practice their skills during training

**Inauguration: December 18, 2006**

*The Center is located at  
Kamphuan, Suk Samran Sub-district  
Ranong Province, Thailand*

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