

## Thai Red Cross and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center team up to provide First Responder and CPR Training

From August 15-17 the Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program conducted a three-day skills training on first aid, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and mass-casualty situation management for the Tambon Kamphuan Community Volunteer Disaster Management Team.



*CPR Training at the Kamphuan Learning Center*

As the final training module in the Community Based Disaster Management Program, the Thai Red Cross and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center provided a team of seven experts to conduct this training at the Tambon Kamphuan Community Learning Center.

During the second day of training the team faced an actual real-life test their skills when heavy rains caused flooding in Kamphuan. The team responded to the situation by assisting with the evacuation of several people from the Kamphuan School in Village 2.

In keeping with the project goal of enhancing community resilience through disaster preparedness planning, this training program provided certification in First Aid, CPR and Mass casualty management to 28 members of the Tambon Kamphuan Community Volunteer Disaster Management Team.



*Udom Formanee practices first-aid on Project Coordinator Sumon Sangkaew*

## School Pond Project improves nutrition at Kamphuan Elementary School

Over the past four months the Program has worked to promote organic agriculture and aquaculture production by developing a small-scale catfish rearing operation at the Kamphuan Elementary School. Working closely with the students, school staff and community members, program staff has provided support to develop small



*Project Senior Advisor Khun Samruay Meenakarn demonstrates induced spawning methods to Kamphuan Elementary School students*



*Community members help to prepare the school pond for stocking of catfish fry*

scale aquaculture behind the local school. This educational effort is using an existing pond as the medium to develop skills in artificial spawning and rearing of hybrid catfish. Project staff members Dr. Theerachai Haitook and Khun Samruay Meenakarn helped the group of schoolchildren to produce catfish fingerlings. The group learned about the technical steps required to induce spawning of hybrid catfish. They then learned what and how to feed the catfish fry they produced.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the benefits of organic and pesticide free food production while improving student nutrition by providing a low-cost protein to the school lunch program.

## Environmental Screening for Village Banks

Over the past two years the Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program has created Revolving Fund village banks in 5 Villages in Suksamran Sub-District. The banks were started to provide tsunami survivors with the necessary capital to restart small-scale enterprises destroyed by the 2004 disaster. These informal lending institutions have developed to the point that they are now in the process of applying for Cooperative Credit Union status under the Thai government.

To continue the effort of developing environmentally sustainable micro-enterprises in the area, Pam Rubinoff from The University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center held a one day workshop for members of the revolving fund management committee to explain to them the benefits of environmental screening for revolving fund loans. Members of the group listened to an overview of issues relating to small business development and the environment. Following the overview the group held an in-depth discussion on potential adverse environmental impacts that local micro-enterprises could pose.

The forum concluded that the majority of micro-enterprise activities receiving revolving fund had little or no negative environmental impact. They also agreed that constant vigilance was necessary to maintain a healthy environment. In that spirit, the group agreed to include environmental screening when the revolving funds are at the final steps to become a Cooperative Credit Union.

## Farewell Message from Dr. Bart

It was not long ago we were debating the merits of selecting Tambon Kamphuan as our USAID project site. Almost 30 months have passed and we are preparing to close our field office as scheduled (30 Sept), although, we will continue to serve with limited activities for six more months (March 30, 08). During these 30 months, we have lived through some difficult times and enjoyed many successes. Implementation of a long-term rehabilitation Project as ours came at a time when there was still the need for relief creating confusion and uncertainty. We then quickly reprioritized and tried to serve both purposes. We created venues for regular dialogues through newsletters, special group meetings and 6-monthly community-level meetings. Although, we interacted through special activities, I specifically interacted with you through these 6-monthly dialogues.

As a Project Director and initiator, I have seen your communities transform into a organized, robust, and resilient during the project period. While we cannot take credit for all the progress, I feel proud to have contributed significantly to your success. We have established financial institutions where there was none before; weaker micro-finance institutions are getting stronger and strong MFI are moving on to cooperatives; those severely affected by the Tsunami are back to work and many of you with new skills and renewed mission; your communities are greener and cleaner; governance capacity has increased with emerging number of dynamic community leaders.

Of course it is not the project, but you and your leaders' hard work that has gotten us to this stage and we all deserve congratulations. I on behalf of USAID project team we are proud to have been given the opportunity to serve you and your communities in the time of difficulty.



## Tambon Kamphuan Community Learning Center to become a Foundation

To ensure the sustainability of the Tambon Kamphuan Community Learning Center, the Program helped set up a governing structure for the Center which is fiscally transparent and represents members of the community. This governing structure is two-tiered, with a Governing Board to assist in finding funding at the national level and a Local Area Committee managing the Center and its activities.



*The Tambon Kamphuan Community Learning Center*

With the support of many members of the community including; representatives from TAO, District, local school and revolving funds; a Local Area Management Committee (LAC) has been formed to provide guidance on activities to be undertaken at the Learning Center. As of the date of this publication, the LAC has held 3 meetings to develop policy for the management of the Center and lay out the goals and direction the Center shall take. The Center's Director, Khun Panuwachr Phattadol has developed a business plan which details cost schedule for activities services provided by the center and has been actively publicizing and marketing The Center.

## Village 3 Revolving Fund to become Cooperative Credit Union

Over the past 3 months the Village 3, Ban Kamphuan Revolving Fund has applied with the Credit Union League of Thailand (CULT) to develop into a cooperative Credit Union. The village 3 Revolving Fund has been a great success, showing high loan repayment and model accounting methods.

Because of its success, the Program provided an additional 500,000 baht to the fund last November to initiate new livelihoods in the area. Since that time, the Fund has expanded its membership to over 105 members which qualifies it to apply for Credit Union status.

By becoming a Cooperative Credit Union, the Fund becomes a formal lending institution, allied with over 1300 similar Credit Unions in Thailand. The Credit Union League of Thailand provides training and support to Credit Unions in 76 provinces in Thailand, serving 1.1 million people with over 10 billion (10,000,000,000) baht in total assets.





The Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented by the Asian Institute of Technology, University of Rhode Island, and University of Hawaii in cooperation with the Kamphuan TAO (Tambon Administrative Organization) in Suk Samran District, Ranong Province, Thailand. The goal of the program is to demonstrate how participatory, issue-driven and results-oriented processes can be applied to restart livelihoods and rehabilitate coastal communities affected by the December 26, 2004 tsunami in selected coastal villages along the coast of the Andaman Sea.

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### Bead Jewelry Group Initiates a New Micro-Enterprise



*Local bead jewelry products...*

Over the past two months a group from village 4, Ta Klang have begun to produce and sell bead jewelry. The group of nine women received a small grant from the Asian Institute of Technology's Faculty Housewives Association to begin this micro-enterprise. Project Coordinator, Sumon Sangkaew provided the members of the group with technical training on how to produce several different designs of beaded jewelry.

Members of the group also received training on purchasing new beads through the internet once their supplies begin to get low.

The final products are currently being sold locally and have also been marketed at AIT in Bangkok. Training in this micro-enterprise is being expanded to other groups in the area at the Tambon Kamphuan Community Learning Center.



*A women's group from Kamphuan receives training in bead jewelry production.*

### Letter from the editor ...

I would like to announce that this is the final edition to 'Kamphuan In Action' that I will be preparing. I would like to thank Crisis Corps Volunteer Pat Koester for starting the series to inform local community members and those interested in the Program with some basic information on Program activities. For the past 16 months I have produced the newsletter and the series will continue to be produced by Panuwachr Phattadol, Director of the Tambon Kamphuan Community Learning Center.

Thank you for reading 'Kamphuan In Action'

Chris Dunbar  
Field Site Manager

