

COERR NEWSLETTER

APRIL – June 2012

Dear Readers,

As we have entered the rainy season now, it is remarkably raining almost every morning and late afternoon when we are about to go home. It seems that the Rain Angel has started and finished her duty the same time as us. No matter how the season changes, let us keep healthy.



Please also let us draw to your attention, some tips for staying healthy in the rainy season: First of all, if you get wet in the rain, take a shower and wash your hair to drive away the chemical contaminant the raindrops usually pick up from the air on the way down from the clouds, and then keep your body warm and dry as to prevent getting sick from pneumonia or fungal diseases. Eating food with vitamin c such as orange, guava, Indian gooseberry, etc., on the regular basis, then also taking enough rest and sleep. Regular exercise will keep your immune system strong enough to prevent various diseases including common cold.

This coming rainy season also reminds us of the last year huge floods in Thailand. This year, several southern provinces have so far been suffering from floods as much as various countries in the world. For example, Beijing, the China's capital has been experiencing the hardest hit floods in 61 years, up to now, resulting 34 deaths, over 60,000 affected people being relocated from home, and approximately 10 billion yuan of economic loss as reported by the China Daily (July 24, 2012). COERR have realized the importance of prevention and organized the Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) training program for the border Thai villagers and also Burmese refugees in temporary shelters, located in the risky areas, to equip these people in the hazardous areas with tips and skills to live with alertness and be properly prepared to any disasters that may occur beyond prediction.

COERR would like to invite us all to pray God for the people who are suffering from the natural disasters to gain their fighting spirit and for those in many other areas in this world to be safe from floodsand let's meet again in the next issue.

²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)

Disaster Preparedness Training



On April 26, 2012, a training on Community-based Disaster Preparedness Training was held at Ban Huay Hoong Church for the participants from two Thai villages, namely Ban Huay Hoong and Ban Huay Fan in Khun Yuam District, Mae Hong Son Province.

At the training, participants have been assigned to draw a map of their village, identifying landmarks as the safe venues where the camp population should go and meet when emergency situation such as wildfire, floods, etc.

have occurred. In addition, these villagers have been trained to practice fire control drill. The training then has resulted in a Community-based Disaster Management Committee set-up in each of the two villages. There are 25 members in the Disaster Management Committee covering 5 Teams of 5 members each: 1) Prevention and preparedness; 2) Warning and communication; 3) Fire control; 4) Evacuation; and 5) Search, rescue & relief.

Refugee Training prior to Third Country Resettlement



COERR have trained the refugee farmers in Ban Maesurin camp, Mae Hong Son Province on April 18, 2012, in an preparation for the Small Scale Organic Farm Business in the third country and the household bookkeeping. To keep them familiar and skilful in the new living the following subjects have been given: Reviewing traditional methodoogy in soil improvement; Use of herbs for pest repellent; Eradication and disease control; Increasing production and yield; Types and uses of farm tools; Packaging for value-added to the products; Language and technical terms concerning agriculture; Setting farm business goals;

Household bookkeeping for small farmers in USA focusing on recording expenses incurred in household and income from selling farm products, from working as a labor-work in farm; subsidies from the government, etc.

Youth Volunteers' Activities



On April 18, children and youth, numbering 50, in the Healing of Memory and Reconciliation Project (HOM) in Umpiem Camp, Poppra Distirct, Tak Province, together with COERR Program staff, have contributed to repair some houses and toilets' roof, damaged by the big fire happening in the camp since February. The activity is aimed at promoting volunteering spirit of helping other vulnerable as well as the sense of belonging to the community in which these children and youth live.

Family and Elderly Day Celebration

In April, COERR Surin Field Office has cooperated with the Sub-district and Villages' Administration in organizing the Family and Elderly Day celebration comprising the water blessing for elderly; traditional elderly's games; distribution of gifts for elderly and then having lunch together. All these tradition and ceremony activities held this day is a kind of cultural preservation to be transferred to the next generation.

COERR Surin has successfully worked with their sub-district-level and village-level partners: 3 subdistrict administrative organizations in Surin namely Charat Sub-district, in Buached District, Thep Raksa and Tatum Sub-district, in Sangkha District. In addition 6 village administrative organizations in Tatum subdistrict namely Ban Khanad Mon, Ban Khanad Mon Tawan-ork, Ban Khana Village, Ban Koke Sa-nga, Ban None Swang, and Ban Phum Niyom joined the activities and have successfully rendered happiness to 4,892 elderly this year.



In the Thai-Myanmar border areas, COERR Mae Sot's Healing of Memories project (HOM) staff coordinate with the Karen Women Organization, volunteer groups, and others concern in organizing elderly day activities in Mae La, Umpiem and Nupo camps in Ta Song Yang, Poppa and Umphang District of Tak Province.

The ceremony, focusing on religious and traditional activities in which youth and elders gather together, to strengthen their family tie that enable youths to show their respect and gratitude to their elders. Such activities include offering food to monks, water blessing, gift offering and having a meal together which are simply cultural activities that reflect the beauty of spirits and move the mind of the youth and benefited the total number of 1,101 elderly participants.

“Lent Your Leg”



On the 4th of April every year is the International Day for Mine Awareness. This year, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines-ICBL have commemorated the anniversary with the term “Lent Your Leg” in order to raise awareness of the global concern in this silent danger issue. COERR as a Thai non-governmental organization with full concern in the situation of the world with abundant landmines and those affected by landmines have joined with national and international organizations under the “Lent Your Leg” campaign in which a Facebook has been set up for organizations and individuals to send photograph to draw wide concern.