

Elderly Day Activity



Wrist-binding Ceremony

Seniority has been one of the most important cultural values, and senior people have been community pillars. However, nowadays, social situation and weakened economy have caused many Thai people to overlook the values, tradition and practice about seniority and senior people.

COERR Aranyaprathet Office in Sakaew Province realizes such values and always raises awareness about the lives and role of the elderly through traditional activities and ceremonies. COERR provides monthly supplies of rice and dried food to a number of elderly in Sakaew, Surin and Buriram Provinces. COERR also supports the local authority in arranging the national elderly day ceremony every year.

The national elderly day, usually held in April, is an opportunity for youth to perform the water pouring , mixed with a Thai fragrance, over the palm of the elderly; followed by the wrist-binding, as to offer their gratitude and best wish to the elderly who will give them a blessing in return. This traditional wrist-binding is the core symbol of the younger people paying respect to and wishing the elderly good health and a long life.

This year, COERR Aranyaprathet, has cooperated with three Local Sub-district Administration Organizations, namely Tap Sadet, Tapraya and Kho-khlan, in Tapraya District, Sakaew Province and two individual villages, i.e. Khao Look Chang and Ban Sa-ngae Village in organizing these ceremonies to bring joy and happiness to the elderly as usual. The contribution of Bht. 5,000 each was donated by COERR to each local Sub-district Administration and Bht. 2,000 each to each individual village for the provision of lunch, gifts and prizes to the elderly participating in the ceremony.

Elderly Day Ceremony held on April 8, 2011
at Tap Sadet Sub-district Administration Organization (SAO) Compound,
Tapraya District, Sakaew Province



[Gift sets for Elderly](#)



[Medical Check-up for Elderly](#)

On April 8, 2011, The Elderly Day Ceremony was held at the Tap Sadet Sub-district Administration Organization (SAO) compound in which COERR and the SAO arranged the ceremony including the religious rite session, the medical check-up, the gift set, usually hygiene kits, handover to 120 elderly from 11 villages who participated in the Elderly Day ceremony.

COERR also supported the National Elderly Day in Tapraya Sub-district Administration Organization in which 120 elderly from 13 villages participated and in Kho-Khlan Sub-district Administration Organization in which 120 elderly from 6 villages participated.

**Elderly Day Ceremony held on April 13, 2011 at Ban Khao Look Chang Village,
Tapraya District, Sakaew Province**



The master was praying in front of the “Pan Poom” offering / Wrist-binding was a core symbol of the ceremony

On April 13, 2011, Khao Look Chang Village and COERR held the Elderly Day Ceremony. The official ceremony started with the Traditional Thai blessing session performed by the master of local traditional ceremony. The master made a prayer in local dialect in front of the “Pan Poom”, which is an offering set, composed of flowers, leaves, holy white strings, candles, etc.; decorated in the tray with pedestal. Then the villagers took turn in performing wrist-binding. Participants were 54 elderly and 120 villagers.

Elderly Day Ceremony held on April 11, 2011
in Ban Sa-ngae Village, Tapraya District, Sakaew Province



The Elderly Day Ceremony held on April 11, 2011 in Ban Sa-ngae Village, Tapraya District, Sakaew Province, consisted of the traditional wrist-binding session and the water pouring to wish the elderly good health and happiness. Then elderly and the younger villagers joined in the entertaining session by performing traditional dance together. This was celebrated by 62 elderly and 140 villagers participated in the ceremony.

The Traditional Ceremony of Sand Pagodas building in Songkran Festival
at Ban Sa-ngae village



Also on April 11, 2011, Ban Sa-ngae Villagers gathered at the Ban Sa-ngae Temple for the traditional ceremony of sand pagoda building, as to celebrate the coming Songkran Festival and the Thai tradition New Year, which covers April 13-15, 2011. In cultural aspect, villagers going in and out of the temple usually take the sand from the temple with them, unintentionally, stick with their body and feet. So once a year, the Songkran Festival is the time to pay back or return what people had taken, such as the sand, back to the temple. It is also a remarkable opportunity for family members, friends and neighbors' gathering, at least once in a year. The sand pagoda construction was traced back to the time of the Lord Buddha. When King Pasentikason of India was inspired by the sight of the pure white sands on the river bank, and built 84,000 sand pagodas to worship the Buddha. His practice of faith was highly praised and has been followed till nowadays.