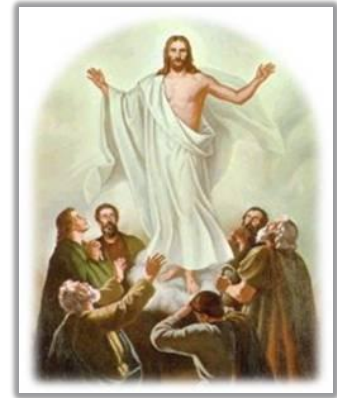


## COERR Newsletter

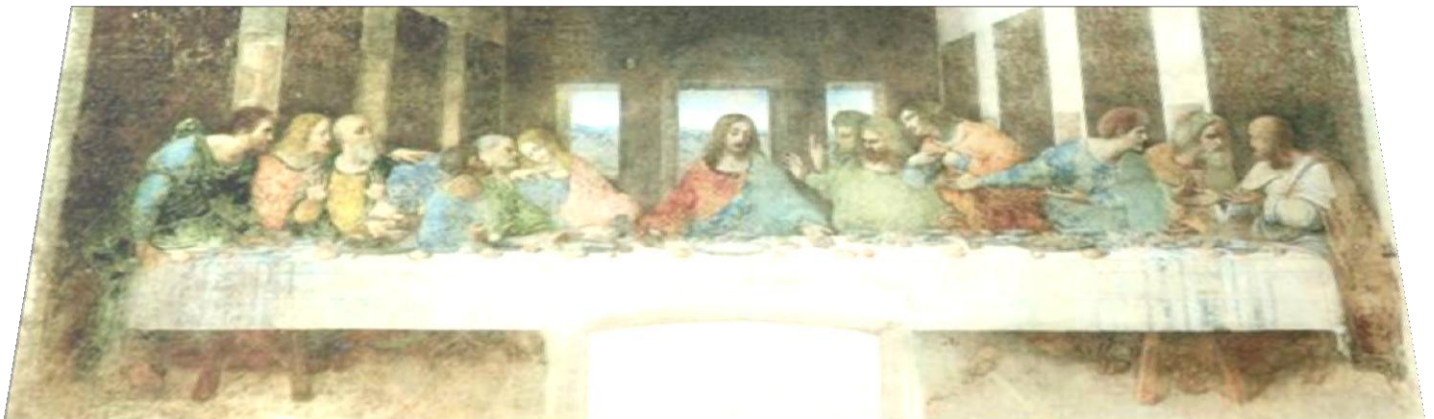
January - March 2012

Dear Readers,

This January-March 2012 issue was published and ready to be disseminated while we were to celebrate the Easter which was preceded by Lent - the festival that we Christians do fast, pray and penance either individual or together. The Church has defined this duration of 40 days of penance for us to follow it faithfully with prayers and practice of the charitable love (or Caritas) as well as a practice of sacrifice for others. After the ending of duration of penance that we all have stayed close to our Lord's suffering, the Church invites us all to walk with her into the great celebration of Easter, the time of the great joy through our Lord's Resurrection! It is the celebration of freedom from sins and death.



However, though the festival of repentance has passed, we Christians are still even in greater need to stay closer to God, not only through prayers but also through brothers and friends who are also sons of God, by showing love, fulfilling their needs, as we follow according to the gospel "Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. <sup>21</sup> But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil." (1 [Thessalonians](#) 5: 19-22)  
See you in the next Quarterly issue,



**The Unity of the Hearts of "Japan and Thailand"** The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Scheme (GGP), is providing the financial support for the COERR's Project for Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) for all 9 Refugee Camps at the Thai-Myanmar border and 10 adjacent Thai villages for the period of April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013. The funding contract has been duly signed by Mr. Ben Mendoza, COERR Programme Director at COERR Office in Maesot Town, Tak Province on March 24, 2012, and,

later, by H.E. Mr. Seiji Kojima, Ambassador of Japan at the Japan Embassy in Bangkok on March 26, 2012.

The picture taken on the Contract Signing Day at COERR Maesot with the presence of Mr. Yoshiki Ito, the Embassy of Japan's First Secretary among COERR Maesot staff on March 24, 2012.

**Mine Risk Education training** During January – February 2012, the Mine Risk Education training has been organized in two bordering districts in Surin and Burirum Provinces in which landmines had been laid, unexploded while awaiting demining.



The training about dangers of landmines as well as drawing competition and marching campaign for raising awareness of the affected communities have been highlighted. COERR is grateful for KINDERMISSIONSWERK, “PONTIFICAL MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD OF GERMANY”, for the financial support which has enabled us to provide this training in which 892 children from 6 schools namely, Ban Koke Kachai, Piang Luang, Saitoe Four Tai, and Nikhom Sang Ton Eng 8 in Ban Kruad district, Burirum province and Ban Dan and Ban Sakon schools in Kab Cherng district, Surin province, have been equipped with knowledge and skills in safety living tips in their mine-prone communities.

**Livelihood Promotion for The Elderly and The Handicapped** COERR has initiated the program with the purpose of promoting the elderly and the handicapped to live their lives with dignity and as the valued and productive members of their family and society. This pilot project has started with the number of 20 members residing in Ban Sa-ngae Village of Thap Sadet Sub-district, Ban Thap Thai and Ban Koke Raka Village in Thap Thai Sub-district, Tapraya District, Sakaew Province. The income from the pig-raising activity under this project will return to the program fund as a revolving fund and saving to benefit as many other beneficiaries as possible.



**Fire in Umpiem Camp** On February 23, 2012 at noon, a fire broke out in Umpiem refugee camp, one of the 9 border encampment along the Thai-Burma border in which COERR have been working. This disastrous fire has devastated the area of 5 sections or one-thirds of the camp space, causing 566 households or 2,830 refugees to become homeless. Another 350-400 families are temporarily shelterless, since their grass roof had been dismantled to prevent further

spread of the fire. COERR staff on duty immediately coordinated with COERR Maesod Office and NGOs concerned to ensure that emergency relief items, such as food, drinking water, clothes, blankets and face-masks have been provided as priority emergency response to alleviate the plight of the fire victims.



**Activity in Ban Mae Surin Refugee Camp of Mae Hong Son Province**

On March 22, 2012, the Environmental-Friendly Activity “Global Warming Training” was organized in Ban Mae Surin Refugee camp by COERR Mae Hong Son Staff. This is due to the fact that Mae Hong Son is one of the provinces that have been much affected by forest fire and smoke every year. This over safety standard smoke has resulted in the health of the camp population.



Organizations concerned have campaigned for reduction of „slash and burn“ method for preparation of the new cultivation. To address with the problem, training was held with the objective of reducing global warming by decomposing, instead of burning, leaves fallen and leaves from damage roof, and turned them into compost and organic fertilizers for soil improvement. 46 refugees, covering 31 female and 15 male, have been participating in this global warming training.



**“A Story to be Told”** Due to several telephone lines inquiring COERR if a woman's voice telephoning them and asking for donation has been COERR's staff as this person failed to explain about the purpose of donation. This had caused suspicion to our donors.

COERR is grateful for your well wish and your concern and would like to inform our readers that we have no policy to make a phone call and send any staff to pick up donation from you. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call us and ask in order to prevent confusion and misunderstanding.



Please allow us to bring your support to the vulnerable by transferring your money to COERR account number 083-1-1667-1 or through money order payable to “Bishop Phibul Visitnondachai”, the Thai Military Bank, Sathupradit Branch.

“Let your small amount make the vulnerable children, women and elders” dreams come true.”