**HNW E-PROTECTION SCHEME**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THAILAND

Thailand is one of the largest economy powerhouses in Southeast Asia but at the same time the rapid industrial development has also led to some serious environmental problems threatening the survival of people in Thailand. For the past few decades, environment in Thailand has become more and more troublesome, as Thailand has been transforming from a traditional agricultural country to an industrial development country. There are six specific environmental problems in Thailand including climate change, intensive farming, water pollution, air pollution, resource depletion, and waste generation.[[1]](#footnote-1)

As we can see, widespread environmental problems influence the lives of Thai people every year. Environmental degradation has been an enormous challenge for Thai government. In order to raise public awareness of environmental protection in Thailand, Thai Government should spend more money on educating Thai people and providing classes in environmental literacy because public education is always the most effective tool to arm people with knowledge about the ways of how to protect environment. In order to tackle the challenges of environmental degradation and achieve greener and cleaner environmental goal, Thai people should rethink of the emergency of environmental protection and make green lifestyle choices start from rethinking, reducing, reusing, recycling to being responsible. [[2]](#footnote-2)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

On August 28, 2015, the Office of Basic Education Commission (OBEC) announced a scheme to shorten the academic school day offering four programs to choose from: (1) extracurricular project work to reinforce academic studies; (2) clubs such as music clubs, art clubs and sports clubs; (3) occupational training and career preparation activities; (4) additional classes for student students with poor academic results. After meeting with teachers, parents and community leaders the school decided to come up with the programme adopting the third strategy provided by the OBEC which is set to be occupational training activities related to local communities or life-skills tasks. Due to the much needed care of environment the school came up with the extra co-curricular activities for the said Reduced Learning Time schedules of each level enjoining the Agriculture Subject, Zero Waste Project, Raising of Animals, Environmental Care Campaign Program focused on planting trees, prevention of forest fires, forest expedition, making decorative paintings around the school using non-toxic paints, composing songs about environment, planting vegetables using natural fertilizers; care of animals, like chickens, fish and frogs, feeding them with natural foods; recycling and reusing plastics and the like. First, the school heads organized a workshop for the participating teachers to come up with their concrete planning on how they can help care for the environment using some local techniques long ago, taking into consideration all the problems that can hinder the program, then presenting each plan they have to the school heads who scrutinized each plan carefully taking into account the budget and the advantages as well as the disadvantages. After the planning and presentation, the preparation of the area and the things to use was taken. The area must at least be conducive to the activities, it must at least be wide enough for carrying out the planned activities, it must not be annoying to other people, it must be within reach so it should be within the school's territory, and it must not require a lot of money for the preparation. The school heads then decided to prepare and assign each area for the said programme. They had the area prepared for two weeks, then some community organizers donated decomposing sugarcane stalks, the grasses cut from the football playing ground was saved for preparing the seedling beds and some for the compost pit, the chicken dung from the poultry are placed also in the compost pit for the organic growing of plants, the area for growing the seedlings as well as the area for planting was prepared, the lakes around the area where also cleaned as it became the source of water for watering the plants and cleaning the animals pens, they contacted the District Government for the trees they can plant around the school, they continued collecting the plastic bottles for selling to the company who can process it again for reusing, they came up with some ideas on recycling the plastic bottles that are damaged and can't be sold and other non-biodegradable waste by making attractive decorations and some colorful hanging pots for growing flowers. The teachers explains the students first on how they can do it before they let the students do it by themselves, it is believed that by doing this during their reduced learning time period will help them cope with the real life rather than being indifferent, will let them be aware of the ways on how to take care of their environment as well as the importance of doing it, will let them learn survival in situations where they need to manage only by themselves aside from taking care of the environment for them and their coming children in the future. The Science Department organized a Forest Expedition by letting the students climb up the mountains near the school instructing them to discover the nature and knowing the importance of each thing or part of the nature encouraging love for the environment aside from being thankful they have it. They also joined the Greenovation Program where they are able to produce a brick/block that can be used for construction of floors, walls and fences out of decomposed sugarcane stalks in replace of cement that is commercially produced. The Student Affairs Office also met with the parents and agreed on minimizing the use of cellular phones in the school, the students must not bring their phones to school, it will lessen the radiation around the area. The Arts and Culture Department came up with the painting of the unattractive water tanks around the school for the purpose of reminding the students about the significance of environmental care and coming up with singing composition about environment as support and part of the E-Protect Scheme. The program is entitled "HNW E-PROTECTION SCHEME," which is well shown in the activities being undertaken since the programme started. It is believed that by taking care of the environment now we are protecting the air for pollution so that until future comes the air will be fresh to breath. The planted trees are expected to grow and live for long time giving the environment fresh air and while it lives, the practice of planting and using natural fertilizers is assumed to be giving awareness to the students that they can share their parents or their community including the healthy effect of the vegetables grown not using toxic fertilizers that can be dangerous to one's health. The recycling of plastics or other non-biodegradable things can generate income for the students as well as the community in addition to reducing the problem of plastic waste that is hazardous to our environment. Coming up with all the plans and undertakings the main purpose of helping out produce a clean air for today and tomorrow is anticipated.

GOAL/OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

The main goal of the programme is to prepare air for the coming generation by going green and using natural fertilizers and feeds, reducing, reusing and recycling. The objectives are: (1) to instill with the young generations the awareness of environmental degradation; (2) to go back with the long time ago agricultural practice that is not harmful to the environment; (3) to help in the ZERO waste management; (4) to encourage survival of the fittest ways to the technologically-oriented generation of today. With these goal and objectives the school has projected an environment-friendly and or eco-school. They will need proper planning as to encourage support unit for the provision of local knowledge and the things needed aside from the full implementation of the project. It aims to awaken the youth of today that local wisdom are still in for the better future not only the fast technological advances that could be unfavorable to the nature.

RESOURCES NEEDED:

 FUNDS - School Funds, Local District Funds, Donations

 Fishes, Chicken, Toads/Frogs, Decomposing Grasses, Seeds, Trees seedlings

 Technical/Local Wisdom Knowledge

 Work Force

1. Environmental Problems and Green Lifestyles in Thailand by Dr. Xu Ping, Assumption University, Thailand. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Environmental Problems and Green Lifestyles in Thailand by Dr. Xu Ping, Assumption University, Thailand. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)