

# SCHOOL MANAGEMENT OF THAMMSAKOL HAT YAI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND IN PROMOTING MULTICULTURALISM

## Religious Activities

Thammasakol Hat Yai School for the Blind is a school for the blind with students and personnel who respect Islam, Buddhism and other religions. Islam and Buddhism are two dominant religions in the school and the daily lifestyle regarding beliefs and rituals of both religions are being carried out on a regular basis. Therefore, supporting the religious practices is an important mission of the school's administration. For this reason, the school established prayer rooms for Muslims and Buddhists so they have equal opportunity to practice their daily religious rituals.

There are evening sessions with the students facilitated by the school. Muslim students learn about Islam and Quran and Buddhist students learn about religious prayers, worship and meditation to achieve calmness of the mind. These are very important activities that the school administrators cannot afford to overlook because they are essential in establishing a good foundation, sense of awareness and acceptance of other cultures among students as early as their childhood years. This will cultivate unity, support, and generosity in the heart of the students and encourage them to spread these values to other people. This way, the students are being prepared to live happily with other members of the society regardless of differences.

## Buddhist Activities in the Evening



## Muslim Activities in the Evening



## Dietary Practices

Thammasakol Hat Yai School for the Blind is a boarding school which provides the students' needs for free including their food. As a school that promotes multiculturalism, it designs a dietary plan that adheres to the religious regulations of Islam by serving halal food to Muslim students and personnel. Therefore, the school employed 1 Muslim cook and 1 Buddhist cook to ensure equality.

The school has also created a management plan that prevents disruption of academic activities due to religious rituals. The standard number of hours set by the Ministry of Education is still met in spite of celebrating religious holidays by adjusting the dates of the closing and opening of the semester.

The school honors both Muslim and Buddhists religious holidays. To illustrate, Aidilfitri Day is celebrated at the school after 1 month of fasting. The school also permits the personnel and students who intend to do the Aidiladha Day as an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

The school also observes Buddhist festivals such as Makha Bucha Day, Visakha Bucha Day, Asanha Bucha Day, and Buddhist Lent. There is also an agreement at the school not to use or consume things that are against both religions such as pork, liquor, cigarettes and engage in activities such as gambling that are prohibited by religious principles. This is to honor and respect the religious codes in order to live in harmony in spite of differences within the portals of the school. The school does not impose these restrictions outside its portals.



## Participation in Activities

There are many types of activities in the school. Some activities are religious and some are non-religious. Before conducting the religious activities, all personnel convene and discuss on how to conduct the activities without contradicting any religious codes. This way, the staff of different religions learns to arrive at harmonious conclusion of working together.

## Mother's Day Celebration



## Dress Code

Thammasakol Hat Yai School for the Blind respects the religious dress code of students and personnel. Muslim personnel dress up as prescribed by Islam: women should wear long sleeves clothes and head covering to show modesty and men should wear long pants. This regulation on clothes at the school is permitted by the Office of the Private Education Commission.

