



**Kids-to-Forests Field Excursion,
21-22 March 2015
Kanchanaburi, Thailand**

Background

The Kids-to-Forests “K2F” initiative was launched by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in 2011 in celebration of the International Year of Forests to provide broader perspectives on forests and forest management to elementary and secondary school children. The program seeks to build awareness and appreciation among children and youth of the importance of forests and how they, as young citizens, can contribute in maintaining forests and promoting their sustainable management. With support from the National Forest Programme Facility and other partners, the K2F initiative has been piloted in Cambodia, China, Fiji, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, and Thailand. K2F believes that children and youth can become powerful advocates for sustainable forest management if they are exposed to real-world forest conditions, particularly through face-to-face interaction with forest-dependent families, communities, and enterprises.



Celebrating the 2015 International Day of Forests!

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in cooperation with the Plant a Tree Today (PATT) Foundation, took 30 students and 7 teachers from five international schools (Wells International School, NIST International School, Thai-Chinese International School – TCIS, Asian Institute of Technology International School – AITIS, and Mahidol University International Demonstration School – MUIDS) in Bangkok and two local schools (Veerasil and Kanchananukrao) in Kanchanaburi for a special “Kids-to-Forests” excursion, aiming to educate them about the importance of forests, forest restoration, and sustainable forest use and management. The activity was conducted in collaboration with forest-dependent communities and governmental organizations. The field excursion was organized to celebrate the International Day of Forests 2015. Participating students were

selected through essay contests and were asked to reflect their learning experience through posters, role plays and essays.

The K2F excursion

The students and teachers became acquainted with forest-dependent communities through a two-day home-stay experience where they learned about and observed the significant contributions of forests in providing food, shelter and medicines, especially for local people. They also had a hands-on learning opportunity to implement the assisted natural regeneration (ANR) method of forest restoration, study the forest structure and species, learn the uses of various forest resources, and the construction of water-retention check dams. Students also helped the local communities to cook their own dinners.

During the field excursion, participating children and teachers planted 300 trees to help reforestation of the Ban Tha Thung Na area in Kanchanaburi. In addition, participants visited a small-scale bamboo enterprise where they learned about adding value to non-timber forest resources for income generation.

The students and teachers were highly appreciative of the hands-on learning opportunity and experience provided through the field excursion. The event was successful in imparting awareness and appreciation among the children on the environmental, economic and social contributions provided by forests and the importance of sustainable management of forest resources.



Students' and teachers' reflections of the field excursion

“The Kanchanaburi forest excursion was definitely a great time to spend for the 2015 International Day of Forests. We have learned many things, mostly how forests can be a reliable source of living for local people. The local people in Kanchanaburi relied on their forests as a food source, perhaps the forest professional could determine whether something is edible or not.” - Jiae , Wells International School.



“These educational resources provide insights into how forests play a vital role in the provision of forest and wood products and environmental services for society. We learn so many things, like how the forest delivers timber to provide renewable goods that many of us use in our life on a daily basis, provides habitats for biodiversity and recreational spaces, provides employment through active management operations that help sustain rural communities, protects water quality through stabilizing and helps combat global carbon emission and air pollution through the storage of carbon in trees and wood products.” - Patrick P.Lerazan, Thamuang Conservation Group, Kanchanaburi



“It was a once in a lifetime experience, where we all made many memories with other staff members and students who came. We are very thankful for being able to have this opportunity, because it was a life changing experience. We are all looking forward to next year’s trip (if there will be one), and can’t wait to see how big the trees have grown, from when we planted them this year! - Ms Caitlin from NIST.



“This trip does not only gave me knowledge of our world, it also taught me new ways of thinking. Before the trip, I thought the only way to save the environment is to destroy economy itself. However, this trip shows me that we should instead learn to coexist with the wild. The fall of either environment or economy is not inevitable, as long as we find the perfect balance between the two.” - Kris Tanakrit Changcharoenkij, TCIS



“The Kanchanaburi trip changed how we feel about the forests. Forests have much more advantages than we thought before. The forests help the people, protect the community, and give life to living creatures. It isn’t only about planting trees, it’s also about learning about the environment and the community. From the trip we learned both things, we learned how the people in rural areas live and how the forests affect the people.” - Prem Sakdipong Sirisuttinunt, TCIS



More details of the events are available online at:

<http://www.pattfoundation.org/fao-patt-foundation-celebrate-international-day-forests-kids-2-forests-excursion/>

The FAO and PATT Foundation Celebrate International Day of Forests with 'Kids 2 Forests' Excursion

Location: Kanchanaburi, Thailand
Date: 21st – 22nd March 2015
No. of trees planted: 300 Trees



PATT - FAO - 'Kids - to - Forests' March 2015

Kenichi Shono
FAO Forestry Officer

2:23 / 4:58

"The Kids to Forest story on Bangkok Post: <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/556011/young-minds-grow-in-the-forest>"

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=180&v=iqK4lWfoTSw>

Photo Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/126765567@N06/sets/72157651519432852/>

Matichon Newspaper (Thai):

http://www.moneylifetoday.com/index.php/component/multicontent_client/showcontent/30163

เรียงคน
มาเป็นข่าว



เยาวชนปลูกป่า - องค์การอาหารและเกษตรแห่งสหประชาชาติ (FAO) ร่วมกับมูลนิธิปลูกต้นไม้
วันนี้ (PATT Foundation) เติมนิตยกร่วมปลูกป่าไม้สักลง นำเยาวชน 8 สถานศึกษาจากกรุงเทพมหานคร
และ จ.กาญจนบุรี ร่วมทำกิจกรรมพิเศษ Kids-2-Forest เพื่อให้ความรู้เกี่ยวกับระบบนิเวศ และตระหนัก
ถึงความสำคัญของป่าไม้ พร้อมทั้งร่วมปลูกป่าในพื้นที่บ้านท่าทุ่งนา จ.กาญจนบุรี เมื่อเร็วๆ นี้

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Students from Grade 4 to 11 in Bangkok and Ranachabuak schools work together on a seed bank activity during the 40th Anniversary of Forest Hill school in Ranachabuak. PHOTOS BY APRADEE TREERUKTUAKUL

Young minds grow in the forest

A UN initiative on biodiversity is proving quite a hit with schoolchildren, writes Apiradee Treeruktakul

It's a hot, sticky Sunday afternoon in the western province of Ranachabuak and a group of about 50 children are gathered in the forest for a special activity. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.

For many of the youngsters, it's the first time they have been to the forest to learn about biodiversity. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.

The 10-year-old volunteer says the "Seed to Flower" activity is a fun and educational experience. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.

A United Nations initiative, known as "Seed to Flower", aims to educate young people about biodiversity through hands-on learning activities. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.

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These girls aren't afraid of insects.



Children aren't afraid of the forest. They are doing many things and learning about the forest. PHOTOS BY APRADEE TREERUKTUAKUL

Students of different backgrounds, he says, have to learn to work together and share their knowledge. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.

For the 40-year-old volunteer who participated in this activity, he can see that they will become part of the forest activities in the future. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.

For the 40-year-old volunteer, he would love to see a school forest in every province. Preserving forest biodiversity is crucial, he says. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.

Participants in a biodiversity conservation program are learning about the importance of forest activities. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.

The 40th anniversary of Forest Hill school is being celebrated with a special activity. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.

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Biodiversity in the forest is important for a healthy environment. PHOTOS BY APRADEE TREERUKTUAKUL

maintain biodiversity. In 2014, a new contract was signed with local villagers to jointly develop and manage the forest as a community forest. The children are participating in a biodiversity conservation program organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Thai Forestry Foundation.



Students are doing to build a seed bank in the Pu Toy-Pu-Lad community forest in Ranachabuak. PHOTOS BY APRADEE TREERUKTUAKUL



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