

Seminar on forest fire, wood smoke & air pollution

In last March, Chiang Mai registered air quality was among the world’s worst. Forest fires caused air quality to a level harmful to people’s health. The very fine atmospheric particulate matter, which is about 2.5 micrometers, can lodge in the lungs and enter blood vessels, leading to respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

In the world, forest fires are the second largest source of fine particulate matter from wood smoke. These fires can have a significant impact on local air quality, visibility, and human health. Emission from forest fires can travel large distance and produce harmful effects far away from the fire location.

Wildfire emits carbon dioxide and other gases that will continue to warm the planet in the future. They damage forests.

After campaign of eradicating forest fires and open burning with stricter preventive measures, the air quality of Chiang Mai has much improved.

Forest fires were not the only reason for Chiang Mai's air pollution and an irregular heating of the atmosphere. Another source for pollution was big farms, producing corn and selling it to factories. Instead to improve composting or recycling, these farms burned the residues. A third source is the burning of plastic and other poisoning materials by households. Common actions between some of the ASEAN countries are being taken to reduce air pollution and to fight climate change. In addition, a growing number of students from Thai schools and universities participate in Greta Thunberg's campaign "Fridays for Future". They are not

alone: "Fridays for Future Indonesia" just mobilised thousands of young people to fight for a clean air in Jakarta.

On last July 6 and 7, the children of School for Life attended a seminar on "Forest fire, wood smoke and air pollution" at Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Centre, together with the children from two other schools in Pamieng Sub-District, Doi Saket District, Chiang Mai Province.

The topics of the 2days/2nights seminar were:

- How to prevent forest fire and wood smoke
- About the forest
- The importance of forests for human beings
- Conservation of forest
- Signs of forest fire
- Impact of forest fire on air pollution
- Impact of forest fire on health of human beings
- Growing plants & self-support
- Self-sufficiency
- Making wet to prevent forest fire
- Cooperative plans to prevent forest fire
- Trimming trees & how to use the braches of tree
- Growing plants & required distance from plant to plant
- Techniques to extinguish forest fire
- Equipment and tools for extinguishing forest fire
- How humans benefit from forests
- Preventive measures to prevent forest fire

After the seminar, the children had a time to go to look at the vegetable fields and livestock farm in the Centre.

We would like to thank 'Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Centre' for the seminar for the children. It was very informative and provided the children great information.













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