



Technical Assistance for Garbage for Eggs Project Klong Toey, Bangkok, Thailand

DESCRIPTION

Solid waste management is an important environmental and economic issue in Bangkok and Thailand. About ten thousand tons of solid waste is generated daily in Bangkok alone. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) collects and disposes of about 8,500 tons per day, spending more than 3.3 Billion Baht annually. To reduce the amount of waste, various strategies have been introduced including reuse, recycling, composting, landfills and community source separation projects. The results, as yet, are far from satisfactory.

The Garbage for Eggs Project was initiated by a group of 25 residents of the "70 Rai Developing Community", which is part of the Klong Toey Slum area of Bangkok. The project started in 1997 prompted by a serious flooding in the rainy season. The flooding occurred because sewers and canals were blocked by garbage. Leaders and residents mobilized on Sundays for eight months to remove the 2,000 tons of garbage.

Aware of the fact that slum residents are used to littering, community leaders introduced the Garbage [recyclables] for Eggs project, which is now in its third year. The idea is very simple: residents exchange sorted recyclables for fresh eggs at a meeting point every Sunday from 7.00-9.00 a.m. The exchanged recyclables are sold to private junk shops. That revenue is then used to purchase a new stock of eggs. Organic and other wastes are put in the community waste bins, and are later collected by BMA service crews.

All officers are volunteers and receive no payment. The few costs incurred are for egg purchasing, food for officers, transportation, and other coordination expenses. On average, 10-15 volunteers work every Sunday and serve about 100 households in each of 23 communities.

Since the group primarily focuses on social, educational, nutritional and environmental objectives rather than economic objectives, it runs the business at a loss of about \$15 per transaction. Disadvantaged and/or neglected residents, such as the elderly, the poor, women, and children are entitled to receive more eggs than others. In addition, those who sort recyclables properly are given more eggs than those who do not.

Funds are subsidized by local NGOs and individuals that appreciate the group's efforts. The group has a broad vision for its operation. At present the group has expanded its services and network into 23 communities, both in and outside Klong Toey district. Since 1999 the group has received a grant from the "Social Investment Fund", a poverty and unemployment mitigation project. The grant will cover three years of the project's operation.



The grant not only brings an opportunity to purchase more eggs for new and existing project communities but also a challenge as since the group is forced to prepare proper book-keeping and accounting systems, which are new tasks for them. Further, the grant does not cover technical advice, training opportunities or other tools and devices which could lessen the work load of the volunteers, such as a materials recovery facility, a compressing machine, and transportation.

In addition, the group has encountered difficulties with time management, coordination with new communities and marketing of an increasing amount of recyclables collected from more and more communities. Most importantly, the group faces the issue of how to equip themselves with greater technical and managerial capacities. Programs such as leadership training have thus far been inaccessible.

The group has requested technical support from CUC UEM to tackle these problems.



Technical Assistance for Garbage for Eggs Project Klong Toey, Bangkok, Thailand

ACTIVITIES

- Providing assistance in the development of a strategy to expand the Garbage for Eggs Project;
- Organization of a study tour for leaders from Klong Toey Environmental Group and other communities;
- Organization of training courses for community leaders on group management, recycling business management, book-keeping and accounting, community development, leadership training and other related environmental courses;
- Design of an appropriate book-keeping system for poorly-literate officers
 - Regular advice;
 - Regular monitoring and feedback to KTEPG to aid future development efforts;
 - Facilitation of coordination and linkage between the KTEPG and other concerned agencies; and
 - Production of a brochure and video on the project.

PROJECTED RESULTS

- Increased capacities of local leaders to manage their own group and business
 - Development and testing of appropriate training courses for local leaders
 - Change in BMA policy and financial regulations to support community level waste management based on a problem-solving approach.

PARTNERS

- Duang Prateep Foundation, Klong Toey
- Human Development Center, Klong Toey
- Social Investment Fund
- BMA
- Urban Community Development Office, National Housing Authority

FACTS

- The project focuses on 2,000 households on 11 ha. land in Klong Toey slum area in Bangkok
 - Klong Toey slum area is comprised of 20 communities scattered over 100 ha.
 - Total population of Klong Toey slum is 89,105 in 16,808 households
 - The community has been evicted three times within 30 years and has recently received housing security by paying rent to the National Housing Authority
 - Most residents are wage laborers working in the Klong Toey Port

PUBLICATIONS

'How to Separate Waste at the Community Level: Lessons from the Garbage for Eggs Project' paper presented at the international workshop "Creating Sustainable Cities through Urban Environmental Management" AIT, Bangkok, 6-8 March 2000.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Leader
Prof. Walter Jameison
Director, CUC UEM at AIT
wjtourism@hotmail.com

Project Coordinator
Jitti Mongkolnchaiarunya
CUC UEM at AIT
jitti_m@yahoo.com