



## Yala Project Yala, Thailand

### DESCRIPTION

Yala is recognized as one of the most beautiful and clean cities in Thailand. However the municipal administration has to invest a significant amount of the labor and financial resources for city cleansing services. Further, a sanitary landfill, a composting plant and incinerator do not exist.

During the past decades, the rubber business that contributed to the growth of city economy, has declined. The city needs to develop new sources of income for the residents, which can be turned into taxes collected by the administration. One of them is tourism.

CUC UEM Project and UEM Field Of Study have been asked to share their expertise in solid waste and wastewater management, transportation and tourism development. With various stakeholders in the community the parties are working together to develop approaches and techniques for dealing with the above mentioned problems.



The nature of this collaboration is unique, since the local administration will bear the costs for all implementation costs. There will be no blueprint projects, but rather process-oriented project development, which would suit local conditions as much as possible.

The local community and school will be involved in running the waste source separation projects. While the community-based organization (CBO) launches its "recyclables for eggs" project, the school will assist students to establish a recyclable center and a savings group. Residents bring recyclables to the CBO and receive fresh eggs in return.

Students sell recyclables to the school shop operated by students themselves. Each student will have his/her own saving account and will withdraw money when they are in need of cash. Recyclables collected at the community and school will be sold to junk shops in order that income generated can be used as a revolving fund for both institutions.



The municipal government and the CUC UEM Project will run a small experiment on organic waste fermenting process. The results will be utilized in a larger waste disposal project. The tentative capacity of the prototype plant is to decompose  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton of organic waste daily.

Meanwhile, a UEM faculty member has designed one prototype household waste bin. It is anticipated that this bin can store organic waste for a week without odors. If it proves a success after a testing period, the introduction of this type of bin will follow. This activity is part of the waste separation process as well as collection cost reduction.

Studies on tourism and related issues will be conducted by UEM students, staff, and by local and external experts. This will be followed by a strategic workshop to identify specific directions and policies on tourism development in Yala. A feasibility study on the introduction of electric tram as a supplementary to tourism promotion will also be made.

This initial effort will be completed in early 2001. The lessons learnt will be disseminated through publications and video.



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### ACTIVITIES

The Project will have the following activities.

- Assistance with the development of approaches and plans for managing a solid waste management system
- Study tour organized for selected municipal staff to evaluate best practices in waste management
- Training courses organized for community leaders, teachers and municipal staff on group and recycling business management, bookkeeping and accounting, integrated solid waste management vs. environmental development and community development
- Environmental education in schools and communities
- Experiment on various composting and fermenting organic waste formula
- Design a prototype composting & fermenting plant
- Design of a new household waste bin
- Implementing the Garbage for Eggs project in one pilot community
- Implementing a recycling business and savings group in one pilot school
- Recyclables business promotion and linkage
- Situational study on tourism development opportunity

### PROJECTED RESULTS

- Increased capacities of municipal officials, local teachers and local leaders in managing solid waste problems
- A plan that will guide tourism development of the city and of the province
- Tested best practice in organic waste composting and fermenting, suited for Yala conditions
- Demonstration of the prototype composting and fermenting plant as well as the prototype of Materials Recovery Facility
- Tested appropriate integrated solid waste management approach

### PARTNERS

- Yala City Municipality
- Association of Businessmen in Yala
- Local schools
- Yala Rajchapat Educational Institute
- Thinking Skills Development Institute

### FACTS

- Located in the south of Thailand, bordering Malaysia
- A agricultural based provincial economy
- The city provincial economy: commercial and services sector
- Status: city municipality, center of the Yala Province
- Population: approximately 75,000
- Size: 19 sq. km

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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