



Population and Community Development Association(PDA)

Progress Report

**Ian Thompson Memorial Village Development Partnership (VDP)
in Ban Don Loi (Moo.5),
Kok Klang sub-district, Lamplaimat district,
Buriram Province**



**implemented by
The *CSR and International Affairs Bureau (CIB)*,
The Population and Community Development Association (PDA)**

**through
PDA *Lamplaimat Community Based
Integrated Rural Development (CBIRD) Center***

31 August 2008

Introduction

The Village Development Partnership (VDP) Project is an integrated development Project with the goal of alleviating poverty at the village level, and providing a better quality of life to rural villagers in 5 key development areas: economic, health, environment, education, and community empowerment. The Population and Community Development Association (PDA) believes that the traditional charitable approach to poverty alleviation does not provide a sustainable solution to the problem as it does not foster new skills, it does not empower the poor, and it creates greater dependency on handouts. The only road out of poverty is through business. By providing the poor with business skills and access to credit at normal interest rates, we are adopting a business approach, which tackles poverty at its root cause rather than its consequence. The villagers are involved in every step of the VDP to create a sense of ownership, which is the key to the sustainability of the Project.

Mr. Alistair Thompson has decided to sponsor a VDP Project in memory of the late Ian Thompson by partnering with the village of Ban Don Loi (Moo.5), Kok Klang sub-district, Lamplaimat district, Buriram province since 1 February 2008. As the project has now been now implemented for 6 months, PDA's CSR and International Affairs Bureau (CIB) and the Lamplaimat Community Based Integrated Rural Development (CBIRD) Center would like to present the following 6 month Progress Report (1 February – 31 July 2008) to Mr. Alistair Thompson.

Lamplaimat CBIRD Center

August 2551

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Project Profile

Coordinating agency:	PDA Bangkok office
Implementing agency:	PDA Lamplaimat CBIRD Center
Project area:	Ban Don Loi (Moo. 5) Kok Klang sub-district Lamplaimat district Buriram province
Partner:	Mr. Alistair Thompson
Project Budget:	THB 1,284,489
Contact Persons	PDA Bangkok Office Dr. Tanatat Puttasuwan Board of Trustee and Director of CIB Isadore Reaud CSR Officer PDA Lamplaimat CBIRD Center Prahat Tafong Center Director Somkhid Ataboor Field Officer

Project history

In 1998, PDA contacted companies from the private sector, individuals, and various organizations through the Thai Business Initiative for Rural Development (TBIRD) Project to help generate employment in rural areas of Thailand and teach professional skills to villagers. This Project was developed to reduce migration from rural communities to large cities and get the private sector involved in rural development by helping to provide a better quality of life to rural Thais.

Today, PDA has refined the TBIRD Project into the VDP Project, which enables private companies to provide a sustainable solution to poverty as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program. The Private sector can provide both the funding to provide access to credit at normal rates and the knowledge to teach business skills. In addition, a company can also help with marketing of products through its networks, donation of old materials and supplies, staff time to contribute to activities in the village, teach invaluable private sector know-hows such as knowledge in cost reduction and income generation, or contribute to development of education, environment, health, or community empowerment.

In order to ensure sustainability, it is vital to involve the villagers in every step of the Project, since the initial drafting of the Village Development Plan to the implementation of all VDP activities and the monitoring and evaluation of the Project. This is managed by the Village Development Council (VDC) which is comprised of the Village Youth Council (VYC), The Village Development Bank (VDB) committee, and the Council of Elders. This strong village institution ensures that even if both the Project partner and PDA were to remove themselves from the Project, the villagers would still be capable of managing all activities on their own.

Project rationale

The VDP Project aims to improve the quality of life in rural villages by helping the villagers become self-dependant in a sustainable manner. An organization, institution, company or individual provides financial support and acts as a Partner through PDA, while the Lamplimat CBIRD Center helps coordinate the Project with the villagers who own the Project and manage the implementation of all activities.

Project objectives

1. To help organizations, private companies, institutions or individuals who wish to better society be involved in rural development.
2. To provide the opportunity to members of rural communities to learn and use business skills to better their livelihoods and that of their villages.
3. To help improve the quality of life in rural areas in 5 key development areas: income-generation, education, environment, health, and community empowerment.
4. To strengthen the social structure of village communities so they can become self-reliant in the future.

Principles of the Project

1. Promote community involvement and sense of ownership.
2. The relationship between the village and the funding agency is a partnership, not donor/recipient or helper/helped.
3. The Project adopts a business approach, not a charitable approach.
4. Transparency, equality, impartiality.
5. Innovative ideas drive the Project, not its budget.
6. To promote democracy.
7. To be legal.
8. Not to harm the environment.

Village profile

Village name:	Ban Don Loi (Moo. 5)
Location:	Kok Klang sub-district Lamplaimat district Buriram province
Total population:	526
o Number of households:	99
o Men:	267
o Women:	259
o Children under 15 years of age:	132
o Persons over 60 years of age:	57
Main source of income:	rice farming
Secondary source of income:	labor working
Average annual income:	THB 14,500 /person/year

Access to water:

There is no water supply or underground water source in the village.

Health:

There is no health center. The nearest in Ban Kok Pladoo, which has 2 staff and serves 7 villages.

Diabetes and high blood pressure are predominant problems among the elderly .

Other common health issues are respiratory, digestive, and musculoskeletal diseases.

Education:

There are no schools in the village. The two nearest are Ban Panjakarm School and Wat Klokpradoo School.

Ongoing relation with other PDA activities:

There are 2 children from Ban Don Loi attending Lamplaimat Pattana School.

9 villagers of Ban Don Loi work in the factories at the PDA Lamplaimat CBIRD Center.

Project implementation

Phase 1 - Community preparation (prior to Project start)

- 1.1 Monthly meetings were held with all the staff involved in the Project to review the Project plan and discuss next steps. Meeting held a total of 6 times.
- 1.2 Basic information was gathered from villages of Kok Klang sub-district during the month of January 2007 to establish village profiles.
- 1.3 PDA Lamplaimat CBIRD Center staff attended 2 local district government meetings in January and February 2007 to present the Project concept. A meeting was held on the 13th of May 2007 with the local sub-district government, or Tambon Administration Office (TAO), and village headmen to explain the steps of the project and request for cooperation from all parties during Project implementation.
- 1.4 Lamplaimat CBIRD Center held a meeting in the village meeting hall to present the Project to the villagers and explain how it would benefit them. 103 villagers attended, including youth, adults and the elderly.
- 1.5 As the villagers attending the meeting were very receptive and showed readiness to begin the project, a follow-up meeting was organized the following day to elect the Village Development Committee (VDC). 24 villagers were elected into the VDC, which is composed of 3 sub-committees of 8 people (4 men and 4 women):
 - 1) The Village Youth Council (VYC); representing villagers aged between 14 and 24 years old
 - 2) The Village Development Bank (VDB) committee; aged 25 to 54 years old
 - 3) The Council of Elders; aged 55 onwards

While the VDC will be managing the Project in the village, the village Headman and TAO act as advisers.
- 1.6 Lamplaimat CBIRD Center held a meeting with the 24 Members of the VDC and their advisors on the 8th of November 2007 to establish the position of each member in the 3 sub-committees (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) and explain each one's role in coordinating the Project.
- 1.7 On the 10 November 2007, a meeting was held at the Lamplaimat CBIRD Center with the VDC to assess the quality of life in the community using the Bamboo Ladder technique.
- 1.8 A 2 day Community Needs Assessment (CNA) meeting followed on the 11-12 of November 2007 at Lamplaimat CBIRD Center to assess the needs of the village and draft the Village Development Plan.
- 1.9 On the 30th of March 2008, 8 members of the VDC were taken on a 7 day eye-opener trip to the provinces of Krabi, Phangna, Pajuapsirikhan, Bangkok and Ayuthya. The group met with other villagers who shared their experiences in activities related to VDB management, individual and group income generation, environmental conservation and Village Development Plan management.
- 1.10 On the 9th of April 2008, a follow-up meeting was held in the village. Those who had taken part in the eye-opener trip explained to the rest of the villagers what they had learnt. The VDC then finalized the Village Development Plan based on the new ideas generated during this meeting

Phase 2 - Implementation of Activities

2.1. Community activities

2.1.1 Village Development Bank

- 1) A meeting was held with the VDB Committee to draft the VDB policies.
- 2) Members of the VDB Committee who had taken part in the eye-opener trip shared their experience with the rest of the group, and explained the key role the VDB will be playing in the Village Development Plan.
- 3) On the 20th of June 2008, training was provided in the Lamplimat CBIRD Center to members of the VDB in accounting and book-keeping, interest rate management in loans and savings. After the training, the VDB Committee finalized the VDB policies.
- 4) On the 15th of April 2008, the VDB Committee members held a village meeting to present the VDB policies to the rest of the community and hold the first opening of the VDB.

On that day, 25 villagers opened a savings account in the VDB.

- 5) During the Project implementation phase, the PDA Field Officer responsible for the Project visited the community 1-2 times per week to provide advice to the VDC members.
- 6) As of 31 August 2008:

Bank Policies	
1. VDB opening date	15 th of the month from 18:00 to 20:00
2. VDB office location	Village meeting hall
3. Cost of shares	THB 10 per share
4. Loan for income generation	up to 10 times amount of total savings, not exceeding THB 10,000
5. Emergency loans	Not exceeding THB 2,000
6. Interest rate on loans	12% per year
7. Interest rate on savings	1% per year
Current VDB Status	
1. Number of Members	45
2. Financial support in exchange for tree-planting	TBC
3. Total shares value	TBC
4. Total savings	TBC
5. Total loans	TBC
6. Number of members to have taken a loan	TBC
7. Revenue (Jan.-Jul.2008)	No return on loans yet

2.1.2 Village Youth Council (VYC)

- 1) 2 members of the VYC took part on the eye-opener trip on 30 march 2008
- 2) On the 17 February 2008, the Lamplimat CBIRD Center invited an exterior lecturer to provide training to the members of the VYC in Project Proposal writing.

2.1.3 Council of Elders

The Council of Elders have been acting as advisors to the VDB Committee and VYC, participating in decision making and coordinating activities such as the tree-planting activity in which they have helped identify ideal tree species to be planted and the planting site .

2.2 Income generating activities

Members of the VDB who have been putting money into their savings account for 6 months are eligible to take out a loan for income generation. As of the 31st of August, no members of the VDB have taken out any loans for income generation as the compulsory initial 6 months of savings has not been reached yet.

2.3 Education activities

2.3.1 The youth in the village were given the responsibility of gathering basic information on all households to help the VDB create a database to be used in the Village Development Plan.

2.4 Environmental Activities

2.4.1 The tree-planting activity is an important part of the VDP Project, as it is conducted in exchange for the initial VDB funding. The villagers of Ban Don Loi have selected a tree-planting site in which they will plant 10,000 during the month of September. The villagers have decided to plant a variety of species that are can be found in forests in that area.

2.4.2 “Cash for Work” is an activity organized in the village which aims to bring all the members of the community together and take part in an activity for public good. Not only does this strengthen the bonds among the villagers , but each of the participants generates income for the VDB as incentive in exchange for their effort.

As part of the Ban Don Loi Cash for Work Project, 83 members of the community are taking part in gathering household information to establish a village profile to be used to tailor the Village Development Plan according to the needs of the community. The high number of villagers which volunteered to help show their solidarity and their involvement in helping the Project plan for a better tomorrow.

Next steps of the Village Development plan (September - December 2008)

1. Community Activities and strengthening the VDB

- 1.1 Follow-up on VDB activities and open the VDB for transactions once a month.
- 1.2 Follow-up and review the VDB and VDB members book keeping.
- 1.3 Hold a meeting with all 24 VDC members once
- 1.4 Train the VDB committee in “working as a team”

2. Develop the economic potential of the village

- 2.1 take part in the planting of 10,000 trees to generate funds for the VDB
- 2.2 Begin the loan for income generation program
- 2.3 Provide training in basic business skills with the Barefoot MBA curriculum

3. Develop the quality of the life, health en environment in the community

- 3.1 Start income generating activities for the youth and elderly
- 3.2 Establish a Garbage Bank to clean the village and generate funds for the VYC
- 3.3 Organize health promotion activities for the elderly
- 3.4 Promote activities which benefit the entire community
- 3.5 Organize training in “sustainable village development planning”
- 3.6 Organize Cash for Work activities
- 3.8 Coordinate with local nurseries to find 10,000 saplings for the tree-planting activity

Annex

Pictures of activities



Picture 1: Election of the VDC at ban Don Loi village meeting hall



Picture 2: On the 20 June 2008, members of the VDB were trained in accounting and book keeping at the Lamplaimat CBIRD Center



Picture 3: On the 17 February 2008, members of Ban Don Loi VYC joined other youth groups in a presentation skills and Project Proposal-writing training at the Lamplaimat CBIRD Center



Picture 4: During the eye-opener trip, one of the villagers from Ban Don Loi is presenting a gift to a member of the VYC in a village of Krabi province