

Post Profile ★ May 2009

Celebrating Forty-seven years of Peace Corps service in the Kingdom of Thailand 1962–2009



The Peace Corps office in Bangkok

Peace Corps in Thailand

Peace Corps has been collaborating with the Royal Thai Government and Thai community partners since 1962. Current Volunteers serve in two project sectors, which are described on the opposite side of this post profile. Since 1962 just approximately 5000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Thailand in a wide range of project sectors including education, rural development, health, environment and other sectors.

Just the facts

Peace Corps Thailand celebrates its 47th Anniversary this year!

- Current no. of Volunteers: 97
 - G.119 TCCO: 1 & CBOD: 1 = 2
 - G.120 TCCO: 24 & CBOD: 21 = 45
 - G.121 TCCO: 28 & CBOD: 22 = 50
- Sectors: Teacher Collaboration and Community Outreach and Community Based Organizational Development
- Current no. of fulltime staff: 26



Peace Corps Thailand Volunteer Group 1

VOLUNTEERS/ACTIVITIES

Following 10 weeks of intensive pre-service training, 50 new Volunteers of Group 121 are expected to take their oath of service On April 9th, 2009. Of the 50 new Volunteers, 28 are in the TCCO Project and 22 in the CBOD Project. The demographics of group 121 include 2 married couples, 7 volunteers over 50 years of age (the oldest is 74). After swearing in, this group will spend 3 months at their sites after which they will attend two more weeks of training in which they focus on specialized language, technical training, plus Project Design and Management training with each Volunteer attending with a counterpart from their local community. Below is a photo taken upon the group's arrival in Thailand on 28 January 2009.



STAFF

The American senior staff includes: Country Director, Dr. John L. Williams; PTO Ms. Marilee, Medical Officer, Rit London, Safety & Security Officer, Maria Cadet. Welcome new Administrative Officer, Jacob (Jake) Sgambati who arrived on March 17. He is a great new addition to our post. Each unit is comprised of experienced, dedicated and supportive Thai staff working in administration, programming, training, medical, and executive units. Three staff members have been working with Peace Corps for more than 25 years!

Did you know...

CD Dr. John L. Williams is an RPCV/Thailand Group 12 assigned in Nong Khai province.

AO Jacob Sgambati was Admin Liaison, Management Analyst and Budget Analyst for the EMA Region prior to coming to Thailand. He is an Agri-Business RPCV from Moldova;

PCMO Rit London served twice as a Volunteer in Lesotho and Belize.

PTO Marilee McClintock is RPCV/Morocco and later was a PST Technical Coordinator. She served as PC Country Director in Micronesia, Benin and Sri Lanka and was Acting CD in Moldova and the Philippines.

TEACHER COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Teacher Collaboration and Community Outreach (TCCO) Project was revised and restructured in 2006 and is currently supporting its seventh group of Volunteers, Group 121. PCVs are placed with educational offices and work primarily with teachers, students, parents, and community members in two schools each. They collaborate with Thai teachers in the classroom, team-teaching and introducing various participatory learning approaches and activities.

The project supports national education reform efforts and aims to help Thai primary school and high school teachers to improve and apply participatory learning approaches in the English classroom as well as other subjects, and to design creative lessons and materials to support an integrated curriculum.

Schools and communities in which PCVs are placed also collaborate to promote lifelong learning and enhance the quality of life of students and their families through sustainable, community-initiated development projects. They are actively involved in lots of creative, small-scale community projects in the areas of education, health, environment, and more. Volunteers partner with their communities to identify priorities and design and implement projects that meet community needs.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The primary purpose of the original CBOD Project was to assist Sub-District Administrative Offices (SAOs) to promote and encourage sustained rural development in Thai communities. The original project targeted the SAO and its staff as the main focus. Through Volunteer project reports, and summarized in the Mid-Term Assessment of the CBOD project in 2006, this original idea needed to be expanded to a large audience. Volunteers found numerous opportunities and viable community partners with groups and agencies outside of the SAO.

The Framework was revised and reviewed, and currently supporting its sixth group of Volunteers, Group 121, by shifting the SAO's role to be the Volunteer's point of entry and 'home base' This 'Shift' does not exclude SAOs, it simply expands the opportunities for Volunteers to partner with other local government agencies as well as community groups and motivated individuals. The SAO remains as an important partner for the project and the most credible site for Volunteers to be placed in rural communities.

In order to better provide local government agencies, community member and local groups with improved services in these areas, SAO staff and members have requested the technical assistance of Peace Corps Volunteers. SAOs host and support Volunteers, who will work with motivated community members and local government staff to improve access to resources and opportunities in business, service and education, and gain the confidence needed to improve their lives and their community by developing collaborative relations and acquiring, improving, practicing as well as sharing business, organizational, technological and communication skills.

Royal Thai Government Partners

Collaborating Partner: Since 1962, Peace Corps has worked closely with the **Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)**, now one of the agencies under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. TICA is responsible for the administration of technical cooperation between the Government of Thailand and foreign governments and international organizations.

Implementing Partners: Peace Corps cooperates with the **Office of Basic Education Commission (OBEC)** under the Ministry of Education (MOE), and the **Department of Local Administration (DLA)** under the Ministry of the Interior (MOI), on the TCCO Project. The Department of Local Administration (DLA) is also our implementing partner for the CBOD Project, as are individual **Sub-District Administrative Offices (SAO)** at the district level.

PCVs and Counterparts Collaborate on...

- ☺ English language teaching and learning
 - ☺ Curriculum Development
 - ☺ Silk-weaving projects
 - ☺ Agricultural projects
 - ☺ Life Skills Camps
 - ☺ Community forest projects
 - ☺ HIV/AIDS education
 - ☺ Teacher training workshops
 - ☺ Theater clubs
 - ☺ Environmental activities
 - ☺ Support of women's groups
 - ☺ Income-generating projects for local groups
 - ☺ Recording and teaching local history and art
- ...and lots more!



TCCO Volunteer at work



CBOD Volunteer works with local group



American & Thai Staff working together