

(Rev) Background and objectives of the Volunteer/Study Tour to Mae Chang Tai Aka Tribal Village, Cheng Rai ,

21-22 January (Saturday-Sunday) 2023

1. Background and Objectives:

Thailand has achieved a remarkable economic growth in recent past. However, the bottom 8-10% of the total population is still suffering from poverty, primarily due to a lack of sufficient income and employment opportunities. Indigenous people living in mountainous hill areas constitute one of the largest poverty groups in Thailand and Southeast Asia. For example, over 60% of the total poor population are those living in mountain areas in Laos. They do not have sufficient lands to grow crops, lack of good roads, transport, markets and telecommunication facilities, and limited opportunities for employment, income generation, education and health care. To meet these challenges, a pilot project “Community Base Sustainable Livelihood Development in Mae Chan Tai Village in Chiang Rai Province” was formulated in 2018 with an aim to assist villagers in building a self-help capacity and identify a replicable model for community based sustainable livelihood development in mountain villages in Thailand and beyond. More specifically, the project assists an Aka tribal village (40 households) in Mae Chan Tai Village in Chiang Rai through building a community enterprise for quality coffee production (including other products), processing and marketing, and enhancing their income, employment and living conditions.

In 2021, the organizer (GIAPSA) jointly with the Mae Chan Tai Community Enterprise had opened an outlet antenna coffee shop in Sathorn, Bangkok in order to promote marketing and branding of Mae Chan Tai Coffee.

Against these backgrounds, this volunteer/study tour is aimed at to provide an opportunity to the participants to familiarize themselves with the living conditions of hill tribes in deep remote mountain, and to connect the participants with the village community through dialogue and working together for community works such as coffee beans hand picking and tree planting. It is expected that these opportunities would enhance the knowledge of participants on coffee production and the issues associated with the sustainable development of mountain villages and hill tribes, and facilitate a

sense of solidarity, mutual understanding and friendship among participants and villagers.

Related web links:

GIAPSA <http://asiasefreliance.org>

Coffee shop <https://akhamaechantaicoffee.com>

2. Location of the Study Tour:

Mae Chan Tai Village, Moo 25, Tambon Thakor,
Mae Suay District, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand

(altitude 1,392 meters, no electricity)

3. Dates and Tentative Programme:

The tour will start at 9 am at the Chiang Rai Airport on 21 January 2022 ,and complete at around 6:30 -7 pm on 22 January when we arrive Chiang Rai Airport. Participants may wish to choose means of transport either by air or train or bus.

21 January 2023 (Saturday)

07:05	(optional) Departure from Dong Muang Airport by AirAsia(07:05) or Lion Air (07:15) or Nok Air (07:20) or by train or bus
08:30	(optional) Arrival at Chiang Rai Airport
09:00	All participants gather near the exit gate of Chiang Rai Airport
09:10	Departure for Mae Chan Tai village by a mini-van (s)
10:00	Visit to White Temple and lunch (at own cost)
11:30	Departure from White Temple
13:00	Arrival at the Royal Project Foundation Office and change to 4WD
13:30	Arrival at MCT village and rest at Home Stay family homes
14:30	Brief orientation by the organizer, and visit coffee washing process, coffee farms, processing centers and other places
18:00	Welcome dinner with villagers (to be arranged by MCT village leaders)
19:00	Cultural show /Akha traditional dance

22 January 2023 (Sunday)

08:00	Breakfast at each Home Stay family home (or at the Community Center)
09:00	Coffee beans picking works at coffee farms
14:00	Farewell Lunch with MCT villagers
15:00	Discussions and concluding meeting with villagers (to be arranged)
15:45	Departure from MCT village
16:15	Change to mini van at the Royal Project Office
18:30	Arrival at Chian Rai Airport and completion of the tour
19:55	(optional) Departure for Bangkok by Lion Air or Vietjet Air or Thai Smile
21:20	(optional) Arrival at Dong Muang Airport

4. Minimum/Maximum number of participants and eligibility

A minimum number of participants will be 15 and the maximum number is 20-25 participants, who are healthy and fit to travel and interested in the project activities.

The target participants are adults in general public at all age groups, university /high school students, and those who like Mae Chan Tai Coffee and who can participate fully as per the tentative programme, and can self-finance the travel costs between their home place and Chiang Rai Airport.

The priority is given to those who have not participated in the tour in the past, those who are interested in coffee and those who haven't yet visited similar hill tribal villages.

5. Financial Support and Liability of the Organizer (GIAPSA) /participants

The organizer : Japan based Non-Profit Making (NPO) Organization: GIAPSA (general Incorporated Association for the Promotion of Self-reliance in Asia or 一般社団法人 (非営利) アジア自立支援機構) will provide free transport (mini vans) for return trips between Chiang Rai Airport and Mae Chang Tai Village, free one night accommodation (Home Stay) and all local traditional meals at Mae Chan Tai Village (except a lunch on 21 January during free time at White temple) and other associated expenses including the organization of cultural show (participants will be asked to fiancé the cost for their travel between their home and Chiang Rai Airport). Liability for accidents or illness during the

trip will rest with respective participant. Participants are advised to join own insurance scheme if so desired.

6. Pre-departure Orientation

Once participants submit a signed registration form (application form) and the organizer accepts their participation through screening base on priority, a specific Line Group will be created by the organizer to facilitate a better communication and team work.

Participants will be asked to register and sign a declaration form using a registration form provided by the organizer.

There will be an orientation meeting 1-2 weeks prior to the travel date, if feasible and participants will be asked to participate, if convenient. Participants will be asked to provide brief comments describing the experience and views about the study tour within 2 weeks after the completion.



