Mae Fah Luang Foundation
under Royal Patronage
“Royal Mother from the Sky”

The inspiration for
The Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage
With a strong belief in human potential and innate goodness, Her Royal Highness Princess Srinagarindra, the Princess Mother, was devoted to creating opportunities and providing alternatives for all people—regardless of ethnicity, religion, race, or political belief.

Starting since the 1960s, when she herself was in her 60s, the Princess Mother worked to improve the lives of rural Thais in remote regions. She travelled with teams of volunteer doctors, dentists and nurses, who provided basic medical and dental care, along with donations of food and clothing for the poor. Among those she visited were the ethnic minorities in the mountains of Northern Thailand who lived in areas easily accessible only by helicopter. This image of the Princess Mother descending from the skies gave rise to the name “Mae Fah Luang” (meaning Royal Mother from the Sky) and the affectionate title used by the hill tribes to address Her Royal Highness.

The Princess Mother established foundations in numerous fields to improve people’s quality of life: many of them in health, as well as in education and livelihood development. Her emphasis was on “helping people to help themselves,” so they could become independent without relying on handouts.

In 2000, the centenary year of her birth, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) honored the Princess Mother as a “great personality in public service in the fields of education, applied science, and human, social, and environmental development.”

“No one wants to be a bad person, but they do not have the opportunity to be good.”
Her Royal Highness Princess Srinagarindra initially founded the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage in 1969 as the Thai Hill Crafts Foundation, to aid the hill communities by marketing their traditional crafts and later to support the education of more than 400 ethnic minority youth.

As the foundation’s work shifted away from marketing of hill crafts and into much broader economic and social development for both hill communities and low-land Thais, it was renamed in 1985 as the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness the Princess Mother. A major development effort of the Foundation started in 1987 in the border area of Doi Tung in Chiang Rai, where a comprehensive program was initiated to improve the economic and social life of the people in this remote region, as well as to revive the environment and conserve local arts and traditions of the diverse ethnic mix in the area. The foundation continued work in other areas, in education and in the promotion of local arts and culture.

After the Princess Mother passed away in 1995, His Majesty the King took the Foundation under his patronage and appointed his daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, as honorary President. The Foundation’s mandate is to continue the legacy of the Princess Mother to benefit as many people as possible and to inspire new generations to be responsible citizens.
The Foundation’s development approach, known as “Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development” (SALD), is based on the Princess Mother’s guiding principles to develop human potential and to lift people out of the vicious cycle of sickness, poverty, and ignorance that so many find themselves trapped in. It is this cycle that is so often the root cause of many economic, social, and environmental ills, such as growing and trafficking narcotics, drug addiction, human trafficking, forest destruction, and other environmental degradation.

In its over four decades of operation, the MFLF has developed a people-centric approach, working with local communities to thoroughly study problems in their area in order to plan most effectively the development program to address the people’s real needs within their political, economic and geographic context.

Realizing that human development takes time and requires a systematic process, the Foundation phases its development work in three stages: Survival, Sufficiency, and Sustainability. The Foundation first assures people have enough to survive, then sufficient resources and income to improve their lives, and finally assuring the development is sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.

A key to success and sustainability is a sense of ownership and collaboration by all parties: the community, the government, and the private sector. All need to take part in the development process, learn by doing, and continue the process themselves.

In addition to its projects in Thailand and abroad, the Foundation established the “Living University” as a channel to share the Princess Mother’s guiding principles and the Foundation’s experiences. Staff from NGOs, private companies, and government agencies, Thai and international, come to Doi Tung and other MFLF projects to study the SALD approach directly from the people who have benefited; then adapt and apply the SALD approach to their particular conditions and contexts.

The Foundation has accumulated a body of knowledge based on its acclaimed work in rural development, environmental management, and social entrepreneurship.

The “Living University” at the Doi Tung Development Project in Chiang Rai and other MFLF project sites provides the platform for the work of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation to be a model for “Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development” (SALD) throughout the world.
The Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park

The Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park, popularly referred to as the Rai Mae Fah Luang, in Chiang Rai city was the Foundation’s original headquarters and the centre for the Hill Tribe Youth Leadership Project from 1979 to 1985. This project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, supported the education of highland youth from remote areas with limited access to schooling. The children lived like a large family, sharing household chores, growing their own vegetables, and cooking together, with older students caring for the younger. Aside from their regular classes at schools and colleges in the city, they were taught basic academic and life skills at the centre, including Thai language, basic math, and public hygiene, that could help the students become dedicated, hard-working, ethical leaders of their communities.

The Rai Mae Fah Luang was home over the years to about 450 students. Starting as a one-hectare plot, several additions saw it expand to over 24 hectares. As schools opened in even the most remote regions and education became accessible to all, the need for a special dormitory for highland youth diminished. As the education program wound down, the Rai Mae Fah Luang was converted to the Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park, a centre for Lanna arts and cultures of north Thailand and surrounding areas. The Park houses the largest collection of teakwood artefacts in the region, a botanical collection, and the stunning Golden Pavilion.

The Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park often serves as a venue for receptions and other events. Heads of State, royal guests, and well-known people from throughout the world have come here. A special ceremony is held each year on July 18, where the people of Chiang Rai join in a traditional ritual to remember the Princess Mother.
The Hall of Opium

The Hall of Opium is located in the Golden Triangle Park, a 40 hectare site near the Mekong River in Sop Ruak, Chiang Saen district of Chiang Rai. The Hall of Opium houses a 5,600 square-meter permanent exhibition on the history of opium and other narcotic drugs. It was created to help reduce demand for drugs through education, designed to be both fun and educational, or learning through edutainment.

The Hall of Opium grew out of HRH the Princess Mother’s desire to educate people on the background of opium in the Golden Triangle. This region, covering parts of Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand, is infamous worldwide for its poppy fields, drug smugglers, and opium warlords. From the 1960s to the early 1990s, the Golden Triangle supplied most of the world’s heroin. Some parts of the region remain a centre for illegal narcotics production and trafficking. More recently the Golden Triangle has become a leading tourist destination, welcoming millions of visitors each year.

The Golden Triangle Park also provides accommodations and dining. The Greater Mekong Lodge has 28 comfortable guestrooms and 13 two-bedroom bungalows, all equipped with TV, refrigerator, and air-conditioning, as well as a restaurant and meeting facilities for up to 300 guests.
Doi Tung Development Project (DTDP)

“I will reforest Doi Tung”

The Doi Tung Development Project is situated in the midst of the Nang Non (Sleeping Woman) mountain range along the Thai-Myanmar border. In the northernmost part of Chiang Rai province, this once remote area of 150 square kilometres is home to 11,000 people of six ethnic minorities, many of whom did not have Thai citizenship when the project started. It was a “survival world” where people lived in abject poverty, without basic infrastructure or government support. Doi Tung laid the heart of the Golden Triangle, then the world’s leading region of opium production. Armed groups occupied parts of the project area, keeping government officials from providing any assistance. Dwindling land and resources made their traditional shifting cultivation untenable. Limited opportunities forced people to grow opium, support the drug trade, sell their children, and join in other illegal activities. These led to severe economic, social and environmental problems, among them deforestation, drug addiction, and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The Princess Mother recognized that the root causes of these problems were poverty and lack of opportunity. She initiated the Doi Tung Development Project (DTDP) in 1988 to restore the lives of the people and their environment, with the ultimate goal of enabling a harmonious coexistence between people and nature. The Princess Mother demonstrated her commitment by building her home in Doi Tung, and overseeing the project to provided new opportunities and give hope to the ethnic minorities living there.
The DTDP introduced new legitimate livelihoods appropriate for people of all ages, first as forestry workers and then in a variety of occupations. Coffee and macadamia were introduced as economic forest crops, with many at Doi Tung tending their own trees and working in different stages of processing. Handicrafts were promoted, built upon a mix of local knowledge and traditions with new skills and techniques.

The Princess Mother said, “Don’t let people buy our products out of pity,” concerned that development based on sympathy would not be sustainable. This belief remains at the heart beliefs behind the DoiTung brand. Since 2002, the project has been self-sustaining from earnings from its five business units: Handicrafts, Processed Foods (coffee and macadamia products), Horticulture (flowering and decorative plants), Tourism, and Cafe DoiTung.
In 2003, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recognized the DTDP as one of the world’s best examples of Alternative Development.

DTDP has also been recognized as a leading example of social entrepreneurship. In 2009, Mom Rajawongse Disnadda Diskul, CEO of the DTDP, received the Schwab Foundation award as “Social Entrepreneur of the Year for the Region of East Asia” on behalf of the organization’s efforts to eliminate social ills, provide people with legitimate livelihoods, improve their quality of life, while restoring the environment, through businesses supporting social and environmental objectives.

Thirty years after the Project’s initiation, in 2017, the Foundation will phase out its direct daily involvement, transferring management of the social enterprises and overall administration to a new generation of local leaders. A continuing effort has thus been in education to develop this human capacity. The Foundation partnered with the Ministry of Education to design a curriculum suitable for the local youth, adopting Montessori approaches, Project-Based Learning, and vocational training in all eight schools in the project area. Art is considered an essential part of their education, to open their imagination and develop their minds. DTDP also grants a number of scholarships up to the university level. Along with academic and creative skills, the Foundation believes that the students will become responsible, conscientious, and independent citizens who can lead their community to sustainability.

### Financial Information of the Doi Tung Development Project 2016

- **Donations:** US $371,000
- **Subsidy from the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board:** US $714,000
- **Projects Administration:** US $8,700,000
- **Interest:** US $1,160,000
- **Sales from Doi Tung products and services:** US $17,000,000
- **Operating Costs:** US $6,200,000
- **Wages and Salaries:** US $8,600,000
Three decades of the DTDP: What have the people gained?

- **Environment**
  - 1989: Shifting Cultivation 54%, Forest 28%, Residential Area 1%, Others 17%
  - 2016: Shifting Cultivation 77%, Forest 8%, Cultivation Area 2%, Residential Area 13%

- **Citizenship**
  - 1992: No citizenship 6,416 people, Thai citizenship 3,920 people
  - 2016: No citizenship 2,570 people, Thai citizenship 8,580 people

- **Educational Attainment**
  - 1993: Secondary school 625 people, Vocational Diploma 76 people, Undergraduate 22 people
  - 2016: Secondary school 3,383 people, Vocational Diploma 253 people, Undergraduate 713 people

- **Per Capita Income**
  - 1988: US $125.7
  - 2016: US $2,971.5
Doi Tung
Present
Flagship Projects
1. Doi Tung Development Project (DTP)
2. Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park
3. Hall of Opium, Golden Triangle Park

Domestic Outreach Projects
4. Reforestation Project in Commemoration of His Majesty the King FIP 33, Pang Mahan Village, Mae Fah Luang District, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand
5. Tea Oil Research and Development Project in Partnership with the Chaipattana Foundation in Puna Village, Mae Fah Luang district, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand
6. Integrated Rural Livelihood Development Model in Nan province, Thailand
7. Nan Reforestation Project, Nan Province, Thailand
8. Klaeex: Sustainable Flood Rehabilitation Program, covering 13 provinces in the lower northern and central regions of Thailand
9. Profiling Project of Temporary Shelters along the Thai-Myanmar Border

International Outreach Projects
10. Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development Project (SALD), Republic of the Union of Myanmar
   a) Tachileik and Mong Htaw Districts, Shan State
   b) Yenan Chaung Township, Magwe Division
   c) Yong Kha Village, Shan State
11. The Balih Livestock and Rural Enterprise Development, Balih Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
12. Aceh Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development, Aceh Province, Republic of Indonesia
13. Greater Mekong Sub-Region Medical Training Centre
Domestic Outreach

Reforestation Project in Commemoration of His Majesty the King
FTP 33, Pang Mahan Village, Mae Fah Luang District, Chiang Rai
Province, Thailand

In 2005, the MFLF in partnership with the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of the Siam Commercial Bank Plc. began a reforestation project in Pang Mahan, a neighbouring village to Doi Tung. The project covers 2,242 hectares and is home to 18 villages of 7,639 people from six different ethnicities. The Foundation adopted a reforestation method in Bang Mahan called “Assisted Tree Regeneration,” in which only species indigenous to the area are planted. Other project components to help provide food security were an extensive irrigation system for consumption, domestic use and agriculture; a livestock bank; and para-vet training.

A key factor to the success of this project is HRH the Princess Mother’s principle “Cultivate Land, Cultivate People.” Along with the sustainable regeneration and preservation of the forest, the Project developed skills and provided livelihood opportunities that ensured stable incomes for people while fostering an understanding of the important role of nature. The communities now care for the forest themselves; having established their own mechanisms and regulations to prevent future encroachment or forest fires.

What do the people get?
- Average annual family income increased nearly six-fold from US $620 to US $3,546 within 6 years
- There have been no major forest fires since the beginning of the Project, in contrast to frequent fires in years past.
In 2006, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn requested the Mae Fah Luang Foundation cooperate with the Chaipattana Foundation in the Tea Oil Research and Development Project, in Puna Village, covering 5,011 hectares.

Tea Oil is beneficial for medical and agricultural use and it also has the potential to be high-value economic tree. The project hired local residents to tend and harvest tea oil. Aside from generating income, this gave the people practical training and knowledge of tea tree oil, to enable them to care for the plants and process the tea oil on their own, providing a source of stable long-term income.

The project applied His Majesty the King’s method of “Natural Tree Regeneration” or “Reforestation without Planting” to reforest the area. Based on the belief that nature can heal itself without human or animal interference, the forest was allowed to regenerate naturally. Compared to other methods of reforestation, the forest grew back more quickly and was even more cost-effective.

What do the people and environment get?
- Average annual family income increased over five-fold from US $790 to US $4,233 in 5 years
- Indigenous plants increased by 245 species within 1 year
Integrated Rural Livelihood Development Model for Nan Province based on Royal Initiative

The integrated rural livelihood development for Nan Province is the development project of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation in partnership with the Royal Initiative Discovery Foundation in 2009 to tackle the poverty and improve the livelihood of the people in the project area in Nan Province, covering 40,000 hectares, 21 villages in 3 districts - Ta Wang Pa, Song Kwae and Chalermprakiet.

In this project, we have cooperated with the local government authorities and the communities as to tackle the problems of forest intrusion, monocropping, chemical usage, natural disaster and migration at the root causes - poverty and lack of opportunity. The ways to tackle these problems are to improve irrigation and soil fertility and to promote terraced rice farming. The terraces, using appropriate irrigation systems, increased rice yield and household incomes, allowed farmers to reduce their cultivated area and increase the community forest. The project also created the economic activities to help reduce costs and their food expenses while generating the additional incomes through the banks - the pig bank and the seed bank for example.

What do the people get?
- The enhanced soil fertility, terraced rice farming and appropriate irrigation system helped increase the effective irrigated area from 339.36 hectares to 994.16 hectares within 3 years.
- The annual rice production increased from 868,920 kilograms to 2,821,880 kilograms within 3 years while it helped the community to have enough rice for consumption and helped generate the community incomes by $845,998.78.
- Incomes from vegetable and livestock increased by approximately $964,497 and some of household debts were paid.
- This project trained 52 local youth volunteers to help improve their knowledge, leadership, teamwork skills, allowing them to be able to help their villages for future development work.
Nan Reforestation Project was established to build upon the Integrated Rural Livelihood Development Model Project for Nan Province based on Royal Initiative in order to pursue reforestation initiative in Nan Province, covering 40,000 hectares, 21 villages in 3 districts - Ta Wang Pa, Song Kwae and Chalermprakiet.

Once the economic and social conditions of the communities improved after the partnership Project between the MFLF and the Royal Initiative Discovery Foundation to tackle poverty since 2009, the MFLF then started reforestation program, adopting HRH the Princess Mother’s Initiative of “Cultivate Land, Cultivate People” and applying it into “Doi Tung Model” which is the management approach to balance the utilization of the entire river basin, resulting in harmony coexistence between people and nature.

The framework of the project aligned the royal principles of; for example, “Three Forests, Four Benefits”, “Plant Deep-Rooted, Slow-Grown and Fast Grown Trees” and “Reforestation without planting” of HM the King, “Man and Nature Living Together” of HM the Queen, and “Cultivate Land, Cultivate People” of HRH the Princess Mother. In the implementation process, the project adopted HRH Princess Sirindhorn’s area-based development initiative to focus the development on the entire river basin.

What do the people get?
- The forest coverage will increase 17,698 hectares: conservation forest of 6,862.9 hectares, sustenance forest of 2,834.7 hectares and economic forest of 8,000 hectares.
- The community will have stable and long-term incomes from the economic forest; therefore, the community will no longer need to intrude on the forest.
- The community will benefit daily from sustenance forest in terms of household utilization and food for consumption under the rules and regulations defined by the community themselves.
- People and nature can coexist in harmony.
- Thailand will regain its watershed area.
The MFLF initiated the “Kladee: Sustainable Flood Rehabilitation Program” in cooperation with a number of partners, from the public and private sectors as well as individuals, to join hands to help the country overcome the severe damages caused by the devastating flood of 2011.

With the aim to help flood victims recover, earn a living, and stand on their own as soon as possible, the project provided dry seasonings, seedlings, and seeds to people in 13 provinces in the lower north and central regions.

Based on sufficiency economy principles, the project helped people reduce their expenses by providing commonly used food seasonings; helped them earn income quickly with plant seedlings that could be harvested within a few weeks; and provided the basis for longer-term income with the seeds for additional crops.

What do the people get?

- The flood victims could reduce their expenses immediately by US $11 per family per month and increase their income by US $103 per month within 5 months
- Communities with strong initiative to develop further were selected to join long-term activities based on the needs of each community, such as the Fruit Trees initiative in Ayudhya and the Vegetable Farming for School Lunch project in Anghthong.
The Mae Fah Laung Foundation under Royal Patronage was approached by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist in implementing “the Profiling Project of Temporary Camp along the Thai – Myanmar Border,” in to help understand the demographics and future livelihood preferences of approximately 130,000 displaced people within the 9 refugee camps. The information gathered will provide the foundation for assisting the refugees when they return to their homes in the future, by understanding their wishes and felt needs, enabling relevant agencies to design appropriate policies and preparedness programs.

Profiling Project of Temporary Shelters along the Thai–Myanmar Border

The profiling exercise emphasizes a consensual, participatory, and voluntary process and has been carried out with full consent from all the key stakeholders. The questionnaire for the profiling exercise was developed through several rounds of consultations and feedback, particularly, from the displaced people themselves. Youth volunteers identified by the communities have been trained by the MFLF to conduct the survey for their fellow residents.
In 2002, the MFLF partnered with the Thai and Myanmar governments to address the health problems and poverty of the 6,022 people in Yong Kha village, near the Thai-Myanmar border.

The Project started with mobile medical units to treat contagious diseases including scabies, malaria and tuberculosis. Working with the community, the Project developed an appropriate irrigation system for both consumption and domestic use. A 16-bed hospital and a school for 500 students were built after the community identified them as priorities.

A program of capacity building was carried out to enable local residents to carry out their own development. In parallel with the school and hospital construction, people were trained as para-dentists, and as malaria and TB technicians to monitor the community’s public health and any outbreaks of diseases. The MFLF designed components of the school curriculum to learn practical skills one hour each day; for example, to tend vegetable plots, chicken coops, and fish ponds. This programme helped provide food for the school lunch program and skills for the students to help their parents at home.

What do the people get?
• Healthcare and health infrastructure were improved. Malaria infections decreased from 20% of the population to less than 2% within 3 years; and the mortality rate from malaria was reduced to zero in less than a year
• The irrigation system built by 3,000 of the local residents using a budget of only US $7,500, is able to irrigate 320 hectares, allowing people to grow sustenance and cash crops three times a year and provide enough food to eat all year round
• The total investment in the project was US $640,000 (or US $106 per person per year). Within only 3 years, the project generated economic benefits to the community in cash and in kind equivalent to US $704,574 (or US$117 per person per year).
Yenan Chaung Township, 
Magway Division

In 2010, the MFLF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of Myanmar to alleviate poverty from 29 villages from 4 village tracts in Yenan Chaung Township within the Central Dry Zone, known for its arid conditions and considered the least developed area of the country. The project received financial support from the Royal Thai Government’s Office of the Narcotic Control Board (ONCB) and the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

One of the first actions was to establish an “Anti-venom Serum Bank” to reduce deaths from poisonous snake bites, a serious problem in the area. Another early action was to establish a training programme for midwives stationed at the village’s tract healthcare centre. Subsequent activities were set up to enhance people’s lives: providing safe water and improving their livestock, considered their most valuable asset. A goat bank was established and local youth trained as para-vets.

What do the people get?

- Within its first year, the anti-venom serum bank has saved 25 lives
- The mortality rate for cattle was reduced from 7.58% to 0.56% within 1 year. This generated a savings of USD $86,806 for the community.

Tachileik and Mong Hsat Districts, Shan State

In 2013, the MFLF, in partnership with the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department (NATALA) of Myanmar and the Thai Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), initiated the Thailand-Myanmar Cooperation on Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development Tachileik and Mong Hsat Districts, Shan State, to support the livelihoods of approximately 15,500 people in 32 villages.

These communities suffered from poor health, poverty, food insecurity, and limited public transport and infrastructure. Many had malaria, tuberculosis, chronic diarrhoea, and serious dental problems. They relied mainly on rain-fed agriculture. Their land was deforested and agricultural yields were low, with many not having enough to eat for the entire year. Most families were heavily indebted. Roads were rudimentary and largely impassable during the rainy season.

The Project is divided in two phases during its six-year duration. The first phase is to enhance the communities’ ability to “survive,” to earn enough to meet their basic economic and social needs. The second phase is to empower people to be self-reliant in order to become proponents of their own development.
The Balkh Livestock and Rural Enterprise Development, Balkh Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

In 2006, the MFLF started “The Balkh Livestock and Rural Enterprise Development,” known as the A4 Sheep Bank (A4SB), involving 500 households in 15 villages in Dehdadi and Nahr-e-shahe districts in Balkh Province, Afghanistan. The project was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) of the Afghan government, as well as the Provincial Government of Balkh Province. Further assistance came from the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), with financial support from the Government of Belgium and the Embassy of Denmark to Afghanistan.

The A4SB project was designed to strengthen Afghanistan’s capacity to revive its economy through social entrepreneurship, by creating an enabling environment for rural enterprises. The A4SB aimed to achieve economic revival by increasing the highly valued karakul sheep population decimated from years of conflict and drought.

The Project initiated a sheep bank to increase livestock ownership in rural Afghanistan, while improving livestock health and increasing sheep population through an outreach and proactive veterinary service offered by local youth trained as “para-vets” in Mobile Veterinary Units. This led to a significant reduction in livestock mortality and increase in the sheep population. The Project’s veterinary services provide more and improved raw materials to support the creation of value-added small and medium enterprises.

Sheep owners repay the Sheep Bank each year with 10% of their newborn ewes in exchange for veterinary services. The ewes are then loaned to poor and vulnerable households, providing them with sustainable livelihoods.

What do the people get?
For the 287 registered sheep owners
- Veterinary services and vaccinations reduced livestock mortality rates to below 1.05% among registered flocks, as compared mortality rates of 10 to 30% in unregistered flocks from the same villages
- Estimate savings from this decreased livestock mortality were US$ 2,333,000
- Community cohesion strengthened, with Afghan sheep owners assisting their poorer neighbours

For the 177 poor households registered for sheep loans
- The total worth of loaned livestock valued at US $ 1,866,700
- Sheep products, from wool to manure, significantly increased incomes and reduced household expenses

For the 10 para-vets
- Within one year, the para-vets could earn a living with stable income; some were able to invest in their own drugstore for livestock.

For the women’s association of 40 members
- Improved spinning wheels were provided that enabled the group to produce higher quality and more yarn, providing the local women with additional income.
The MFLF began a project in 2006 to reduce cannabis cultivation in Aceh, Indonesia through sustainable poverty alleviation. The project was carried out in cooperation with the Provincial Government of Aceh, along with the governments of Indonesia and Thailand. Funding was provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The project not only helped the communities shift away from illegal cannabis production, but also contributed to the economic recovery of these communities that suffered from 30 years of civil conflict in Aceh and the massive 2004 tsunami.

The Project consisted of three main components:

1) Malaria Preparedness Program at Lamteuba and nearby villages
The local health team and villagers were trained to carry out a comprehensive malaria preparedness program, including malaria detection through mass blood screening, microscopic diagnosis, treatment and medication, and prevention through vector control. This enabled them to protect against malaria and extend the program to nearby villages. The project was recognized by the Ministry of Health of the Government of Indonesia and the Provincial Health Office of Aceh as a model for replication throughout Aceh and elsewhere in the country.

2) Prostheses Program
After 30 years of armed conflict, landmines left many with severe leg injuries requiring amputation. The MFLF cooperated with the Prostheses Foundation of HRH the Princess Mother, to establish a Prostheses Centre at the Zainoel Abidin Hospital, to train Acehnese amputees and medical personnel to produce artificial legs for fellow amputees. This Centre is now operated by the trained Acehnese amputees.

3) Sustainable Rural Development Centre at Maheng-Lamcot village
The ‘Sustainable Rural Development Centre’ in Maheng-Lamcot Village, Aceh Besar District, is a one-stop learning and demonstration centre on irrigation, agriculture, livestock, and public hygiene. The learning centre received over 100 delegations in the few years since its establishment. Visitors included staff from national as well as provincial government departments, staff and students from schools and universities, and representatives from international organizations such as the European Commission, UN agencies and the World Bank.

What do the people get?
- The malaria infection rate was reduced from 2.17% to 0.07%, with no fatalities in the past four years
- The Prostheses Centre produced 203 artificial legs for Acehnese amputees in 5 years
- The Sustainable Rural Development Centre in Maheng-Lamcot helped generate incomes for over 130 villagers who now earn about US $400 per month.

Aceh Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development, Aceh, Indonesia

Aceh Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development, Aceh, Indonesia
The Greater Mekong Sub-region consists of six countries sharing the Mekong river—Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Yunnan and Guangxi provinces of China. Most of the people have insufficient access to medical infrastructure and public health education. Medical personnel are also scarce and inadequately trained. Infectious diseases such as malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS are therefore prevalent.

To tackle such problems and improve physical well-being of the people, the MFLF, the Japan International Friendship and Welfare Foundation (JIFF) together with the Governments of Thailand and Japan joined hands in establishing the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Medical Training Centre at the Mae Sai Hospital, Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand.

The centre helps to strengthen the health personnel’s medical service skills as well as to provide assistance in terms of medical equipment; for example hospital beds, CT scanners, and ultrasound machines, and funding in four countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region: the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The participants were trained to prevent, diagnose, and treat malaria and tuberculosis in the region, with special attention to patients with HIV/AIDS.

Up to September 2010, JIFF has sent experts to train 107 medical workers from the 4 countries in the fields of medical x-ray equipment, laboratory technology, nursing, and dentistry.
Installed with the blue heat glass, the semicircle building located on Rama IV Road and Wireless Intersection is our new “home”, in replacement of our first home at Sra Prathum Palace in order to support the growing number of people and extended job responsibilities.

Covering 9,600 square metres, four-storey building was designed and established by the idea of energy saving and adopting eco-friendly materials - for examples - attaching big awnings in front of the building to shade the sunlight and reduce heat while using double heat absorbing glass for the entire building to filter heat and let natural light pass through. The MFLF has adopted the thermal insulation with the wall and the roof, while painting the building with light color to reduce heat penetrating into the building. Concerning about Green House effect, we used the special type of cooler in the air-conditioning system as to be eco-friendly; moreover, in water treatment system, the MFLF brought the wastewater to water the garden reducing cost and water usage by 20%.
Behind the building, there is a huge garden covering 3,200 square metres, in which the old plants and new growing trees provide more shades and oxygen to the city; while the trees help reduce the heat and air pollution from the street.

To follow the MFLF’s development principles and approach of “Man and Nature coexist in harmony”, the MFLF’s building was constructed with highly concerns about energy saving and eco-friendly management. Apart from that, the MFLF has also calculated and reported about the building’s energy usage regularly as to raise the awareness among our people about the energy saving.

As a part of environmental initiative, the “Green Village” Game was introduced and continued for 3 consecutive years, started in 2012. The main focus of this activity is to follow the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink. In order to raise the concerns regarding energy usage among people, every staff had to calculate the carbon dioxide emission in their daily lives including activities at their home, while, simultaneously, we support our people to help reduce the carbon usage by opting for the alternatives of living - for examples - carpooling to reduce individual car usage, or second-hand clothes’ market to exchange clothes among our people. Apart from that, not only every department has to separate the waste to use the biodegradable waste to feed earthworms, worms and flesh flies which is beneficial to environmental friendly agriculture, but we can use money from waste selling for other social activity also.

With all attempts, the MFLF has received the outstanding award “2011 silver label” for the energy saving and environmental protection from the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency, Ministry of Energy, “Energy Saving Best Performance: the Energy Efficiency Performance Building” from Thailand Energy Award 2013, and the “Energy Efficiency Performance Organization” from the SOS Featuring Energy 2014.
The Princess Mother has left a lasting legacy in the guiding principles to the Mae Fah Luang Development Philosophy. It has proven applicable in many countries, for people of different religions, ages, and in a variety of geographical, social, economic, and political conditions. The Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage, the leading proponent of the development philosophy, is renowned not only in Thailand, but throughout the world for its development model that has given inspiration, firsthand experience, and knowledge to so many for over forty years.

The Mae Fah Luang Foundation is committed to helping the underprivileged stand on their own with dignity, to strengthening communities to carry out sustainable development, and to empowering people to continue helping others in need. All the Foundation’s projects, whether domestic or international, provide new opportunities to learn and help make the development process more effective and accelerated. The ultimate goal is to reduce the gaps in incomes and opportunities, to assure a fairer and more equitable society that benefits all.