



NEWS RELEASE

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POPULATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION TEAMS UP WITH TEMASEK FOUNDATION TO RAISE STANDARDS OF TEACHER TRAINING IN THAILAND

Some 400 education specialists, school management staff and teachers in Thailand will undergo training to enhance their school management, leadership and educational management skills through a one-year training programme supported by the Population and Community Development Association (PDA) and Temasek Foundation (TF), a Singapore-based corporate foundation.

The School Management and Education Leadership Training Program, which commenced in December 2008, aims to make comprehensive positive changes in Thailand's public education system by enhancing skills in education and school management among educators at both policy-making and education-delivery levels.

The participants, who will come from 160 schools across various provinces of Thailand, will receive training in:

(1) School Management and Leadership

School leaders will be introduced to education management concepts to enhance their leadership and management skills to enable them to improve the educational system and delivery of services to students and the community.

(2) Foresight Education Management

This training component will encompass transference of teaching-learning methodologies and curriculum design which will help teachers and education specialists to improve curriculum delivery to enhance the students' learning abilities.

The training will be facilitated by Lamplimat Pattana School (established under the auspices of the PDA network), whose teaching standards are highly rated both in Thailand and

internationally. The training program will include an additional component on Mathematics Education which will be conducted by the National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore's national teacher training institute.

A launch ceremony will be held at the Lamplimat Pattana School in Buriram Province, Thailand, on 21 January 2009, witnessed by Mr. Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Foundation, Mr Mechai Viravaidya, Chairman of PDA, Mr Kongkiat Akraprasertkul, Governor of Buriram Province, Mr Winai Rodjai, Deputy Secretary-General, Office of the Basic Education Commission (Thailand) and other local district officials.

Mr. Cheong, CEO, TF, said, "Temasek Foundation is pleased to support a meaningful programme to enhance the capacities and capabilities of teacher trainers to benefit students from various provinces across Thailand". Temasek Foundation is supporting its first programme in Thailand with a THB6.35 million grant (about S\$270,000).

The training program will also complement the government's effort to improve Thailand's public education system by increasing the number of local education trainers with the capacity to extend model school systems, processes and curriculum to other schools across Thailand. The participants, who are being trained as master trainers, are expected to share their new skills and knowledge to 320 more schools in Thailand.

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About Population and Community Development Association

Population and Community Development Association (PDA) was founded in 1974 as a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization with the initial aim to complement the efforts of the government in promoting family planning in Thailand. Between 1974 and 2006, PDA worked to help address the country's immediate family planning needs, helping to reduce the population growth rate from 3.3% to 0.5%. PDA has since expanded its activities to include primary health care, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, water resources development and sanitation, income-generation, environmental conservation, promotion of small-scale rural enterprise programs, gender equality, youth development and democracy promotion. PDA has pioneered sustainable grassroots endeavours, marked by extensive village involvement not only as beneficiaries, but also as partners, managers and leaders. All programmes are based on the belief that local people are best suited to be an equal partner in shaping and sustaining their own development.

About Temasek Foundation

Temasek Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic organisation anchored in Singapore that seeks to contribute to sustainable growth and a bright future of hope and opportunities for people in Asia. The foundation works with partners to support programmes that develop people through health care, education and research, programmes that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through good governance and ethics, and programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters.