

Dutch foundations help in Mae Saring

Annelie Hendriks

Almost none of the 168 schools in the mountains of Mae Saring have access to clean safe drinking water. It is not such a big investment per school. For 18,000 baht a school is able to install a PVC tank, piping and before the water hit the taps, a water purification machine with UV filter.



Annelie Hendriks, in the name of the Samsara Foundation, presents a cheque for 2000 baht for the necessary piping material for the much needed water purification machine.

But if schools do not have enough books for the simple reason there is no budget available it is obvious that there is also no budget for clean drinking water.

The Dutch Samsara and Wild Goose Foundations, registered under the umbrella of the Foundation for Education of Rural Children (FERC) in Chiang Mai are not able to build dormitories, canteens and libraries in the rainy season. The roads are in such a condition that it is impossible to transport construction materials to the schools.

But on a dry day pick-ups with 4WD are able to reach the schools now and then, and lucky it was a very sunny day when the foundations delivered 18 PVC tanks, 18 water purification machines and 18 envelopes each with 2000 baht to buy the necessary piping materials themselves.

It was fun to see all the directors of the 18 schools and their pick-ups line up for the distribution of the donation and to see all the blue PVC tanks disappear in the back of the pick-up. The color blue dominated the premises of the Department of Education in Mae Sariang. But in moments the pick-ups all went their own way for a two to five hour difficult drive in the mountains. 18 schools, that means 1,800 children will have access this month to safe clean drinking water. Which means less diarrhea, less absence from school and a better educational future.