

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR DISASTER RESPONSE PREPARES COMMUNITY LEADERS IN PATHUMTANI FOR THE WORST

Interest Story

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PATHUMTANI, Thailand- The province of Pathumtani directly borders Thailand's capital city, Bangkok, to the north. In 2011 Pathumtani was among the provinces worst hit by the floods. Many communities along the Chao Phraya River in Pathumtani were forced to evacuate their homes, even the Thamassat Rangsit campus was forced temporarily shutdown its facilities and send students home.

Klong Haa Sub-District in the Klong Luang District in Pathumtani was among the affected communities. Ms. Thipsuda Rianphoomkit is a Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) officer based in the Klong Haa Sub-District. Ms. Rianphoomkit experienced first-hand the consequences of the 2011 flood.

"As a DDPM officer I play a leadership role when disaster strikes," states Ms. Rianphoomkit, "I have experienced my fair share of floods but none as serious as those in 2011. In such mass casualty events it is important to educate the people so they can help their families, their community or even other communities."



A participant practices CPR on a training dummy during a simulated search and rescue operation

Communities taking action in disaster response

ADPC's Community Action for Disaster Response training program provides an opportunity for community leaders like Ms. Rianphoomkit to learn basic first aid training along with emergency response training for mass casualty incidents. The training curriculum, originally developed with the help of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, also teaches participants to organize in a potentially volatile situation and carry out light search and rescue operations.

“ If I could go back to the time of the 2011 floods with the knowledge I have gained from the CADRE training today, I think I could have done a lot more. Some skills, such as conducting water rescues to secure drowning victims would have been essential. ”

Ms. Rianphoomkit reflects.



Hopes for the future

Ms. Rianphoomkit is wearing a tan plaid work shirt with its sleeves rolled up. She looks ready for the upcoming final exercise simulation. In this final exercise participants are put through a simulated disaster situation and asked to perform a number of tasks they have learned throughout the course. Instructors judge participants based on their performance in these tasks. Ms. Rianphoomkit's tone is serious and urgent.

"My hope is that the DDPM can set up more courses like this CADRE course to educate more people, in more communities across Thailand," states Ms. Rianphoomkit.



Ms. Rianphoomkit, Prepares a makeshift stretcher during a disaster simulation exercise



Mr. Chavarat Srimupan- Team leader, informs his fellow participants of the current situation, and instructs them as to their roles and responsibilities in the simulation exercises.