

Transforming lives in Thailand

Partnering with one of Thailand's most established non-governmental organisations, the Halcrow Foundation has approved a project to provide rural villagers with the skills, education and funding needed to escape lives of grinding poverty.

Founded in 1974, the Population and Community Development Association (PDA) of Thailand programmes are based on the belief that local people are best suited to shape and sustain their own development. PDA has pioneered grass-roots growth marked by extensive villager involvement, not only as beneficiaries but also as planners, managers and leaders. The foundation is supporting a medium-sized village over six years, funding a range of projects planned and implemented by the community.

Administered through a village development partnership (VDP), the bulk of the foundation's £40,000 donation will be ploughed into projects selected by community members within the first two years.

Designed to be self-sufficient and self-sustaining after six years, the programme aims to instil the importance of community empowerment, and provides villagers with the confidence – as well as the physical means – to change their situation.

Led by project sponsor Ali Adam, Halcrow's Bangkok-based employees will visit the village to offer their support and skills, and to monitor progress.

Community institutions will be established in the form of the village development committee and its components: the village development bank committee, the youth council, and the council of elders. A village development bank will be established as part of the programme – an important source of credit for income-generating activities and a system that encourages saving.

By gaining knowledge, business skills, access to micro-credit and a structured framework to alleviate the root causes of their poverty, community members can play an active role in shaping their future.

Find out more at www.pda.or.th/eng



Passing knowledge to the next generation