



Rural Training Center-Thailand / Earth Systems Science, Inc.

# Winter 2007 Thailand Volunteers



Community-based Environmental Education for the Self-sufficiency and Sustainability of Small Rural Family Farms



L1A ☯  
Lee, Saifon

L1B ☯  
Lee, Gregory

## 2nd Rural Environmental Education Enhancement Pilot Program Volunteer Team

These are the members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer Group at Ban Na Fa Elementary school. REEEPP began in summer 2004. More than half the group served in the first Volunteer Group in summer 2005. All volunteers pay their own expenses to participate in REEEPP in exchange for an opportunity to gain international and cross-cultural experience while sharing their knowledge and skills to make the world a better place.



L2A ☯  
Rodriguez, Erika



L2B ☯  
Arboleda, Andy



L2C  
Rodriguez, Margarita



Rural Environmental  
Education Enhancement Pilot  
Program



R2A ☯  
La, Tuyen



R2B ☯  
Rodriguez, Robert



Na Fa Elementary  
School

☯ Returning volunteer

**Andrew Arboleda**

Andrew currently serves as ESSI mascot and has been volunteering with ESSI since it started in 2001. Andrew is a returning volunteer to Thailand and enjoys its people, nature, beauty and all that Thailand has to offer. He is currently in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and enjoys art, science, nature and, of course, volunteering. Andrew is also very aware and very interested in the environment and the movement to protect it.

**Tuyen La**

I'm currently a college student, studying Geography, and a former student of Mr. Greg Lee. I was in the military for 6 years. I am very adventurous and enjoy traveling and being active outdoors. Being adventurous also includes trying different types of food. Another thing I enjoy is meeting new people, especially those of other cultures than mine.

**Gregory Lee**

I co-founded the Rural Training Center-Thailand as a direct result of concerns for the plight of small rural family farmers in light of the pending crises in energy, water, and climate change. The low education levels of many rural farmers does little to help them cope with the vast array of environmental conditions that affect their farms, their lives, and their families.

**Saifon Lee**

I am now Co-director of the Rural Training Center (RTC) and the Rural Environmental Education Enhancement Pilot Program (REEEP) in northern Thailand. I served six years (1996-2002) in the Royal Thai Ministry of Interior as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Tha Ko Subdistrict Administration Organization, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand. I had primary responsibilities for economic development, education, environment, job training, infrastructure project management (roads, bridges, and electricity), community services, coordinating local emergency services, and supervising local elections.

**Erika Rodriguez**

Erika is a returning volunteer to Thailand and looks forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. She currently serves as CEO of ESSI along side her husband and continues the environmental education work that was started by Mr. Gregory Lee and Patrick McCullough. Of her many interests volunteering is her favorite and she does it with passion knowing that others should be enlightened as well.

**Margarita Rodriguez**

Margarita is a new volunteer to Thailand but experienced volunteer with ESSI and several local organizations. She currently works as an Executive Leasing Agent in the very sought after garment district in Downtown Los Angeles. She enjoys learning and experiencing new cultures and is very excited with all the opportunities before her. She looks forward to making new friends in Thailand and helping with the Volunteer efforts at the RTC-TH.

**Robert Rodriguez**

Robert is a returning volunteer to Thailand and looks forward to seeing all of the friends and families he met before. He also volunteers with ESSI on its many projects and has a fond interest in environmental education. He is currently working on getting experience in the construction field and also enjoys mechanics.