

USAID 50th Anniversary

Facebook/Website post for RDMA, U.S. Embassy Thailand and U.S. Consulate Chiang Mai

History of USAID

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) was born out of a spirit of progress, innovation and a reflection of American's values, character and a fundamental belief in doing the right thing. President John F. Kennedy recognized the need to unite development into a single agency to maximize expertise. In 1961, USAID was created. Since that time, USAID has worked to further America's foreign policy interests in expanding democracy and free markets while improving the lives of the citizens of the developing world. Spending less than one-half of 1 percent of the federal budget, USAID works around the world to achieve these goals.

For a look back at the beginning of USAID and current development assistance programs around the world please visit <http://50.usaid.gov/>.

Photos

From USAID Washington archives.



August 1962 - President Kennedy signs the Foreign Aid Bill in the Oval Office, 1 August 1962. Onlookers include: Senator Thomas Kuchel, Senator Everett Dirksen, Congressman Robert B. Chiperfield, Congressman Wayne L. Hays, Congressman Francis E. Walter, Congressman Thomas E. Morgan, Congressman Peter Frelinghuysen, Jr., Congressman Cornelius E. Gallagher, Senator George D. Aiken, and Speaker John McCormack. Photograph by Abbie Rowe in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston.



Photo credit: Abbie Rowe. White House Photographs. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

June 1962 - Visit of Directors & Deputy Directors of various Agency for International Development (AID) Missions, 4:45PM.

History of USAID in Thailand

In Thailand, our development assistance began in 1950 with the United States Operations Mission; since then more than \$1.1 billion has been contributed to the country's development. Between 1950 and 1996, more than 11,000 Thais were trained in the U.S. and well over 100,000 Thais received in-country training to achieve advances in the areas of agricultural productivity, science and technology, health and family planning, and infrastructure development. In 1996, the USAID bilateral Mission closed and Thailand is now an aid donor.

USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA), established in 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand, expands opportunities for cooperative solutions to problems that cross national boundaries, such as human and wildlife trafficking, HIV/AIDS, natural resources management, trade, global climate change and other challenges across the Asia region. RDMA implements programs in countries where there are no USAID Missions, such as Laos, Burma and China, and also provides operational support to bilateral Missions across the Asia region such as Vietnam, Cambodia, and Timor-Leste.

A look back at more than 50 years of the U.S. and Thailand working together:



Photo Credit: USAID

1960s —Health—Health Education



1959-Rural Development—Electric Plant: The inauguration of the new Lumpini Power Plant, which gives the entire area of Bangkok and Thonburi 10,000 additional kilowatts of electric power, was performed by the Metropolitan Electric works and USOM on Tuesday, October 27, 1959.

Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson made the dedication speech in the name of the American Government and the Premier, Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, received the power plant in the name of the Thai Government.

The diesel plant will provide badly needed generating capacity until Yanhee hydro- electric project is in operation. The project was financed with ICA funds.



Photo Credit: USAID

1968—Health—Malaria Eradication: Peace Corps Volunteer John Tucker, working in the AID sponsored malaria eradication program, dispenses malaria pills in a rural village in Amphur Nam Pong, Thailand. John teaches spray techniques to team members, takes blood samples, and records data on the completion of spraying.

Malaria used to be the number-one killer in Thailand. Since 1951, when control activities were first started, the United States and the Thai Government have spent some \$34 million on the effort to reduce the ravages of this mosquito-borne disease.

Currently, malaria eradication units are treating victims and spraying to kill mosquitoes in about 38,000 villages where three quarters of Thailand's 34 million people live. Each dwelling is sprayed once or twice a year and is visited up to once a month by a malaria surveillance worker. Photo Credit: USAID/Carl Purcell.



Photo Credit: USAID/Carl Purcell.

1960s—Health—Malaria Eradication: Peace Corps Volunteer John Tucker discusses malaria eradication operations with a Thai DDT spray team.



Photo Credit: USAID.

1960s —Health—Anti-malaria campaign



1968—Health—Mobile Medical Teams: Thai children form a line to get their smallpox vaccinations. The little girl in the foreground grimaces, more in anticipation than pain. Photo Credit: USAID.

Teams of Thai doctors and nurses travel the remote areas of northeast Thailand, bringing medical services to many villages for the first time. In 1968, 56 of these medical units will treat approximately two million people in 1,500 villages, help equip three hospitals, dig 40 wells, and train an additional 500 paramedics. A.I.D. is contributing \$800,000 annually to this project which brings the Thai Government closer to the people of a region long threatened by insurgency.



Photo Credit: Thai American Audio Visual Service.

1966—Pilot Leadership Program: Two weeks following the first session of the pilot leadership project an evaluation trip was made to the villages in Raman district, Yala province, where the participants lived. Here Miss Virginia L. Ward, USOM Advisor and Miss Nawasri, USOM interpreter (right) ask two of the ex-students which part of the training they had liked best.



Photo Credit: USAID.

1964—Training—Technical: Provision of on-the-job training was an important segment of the Collis Radio Company contract responsibilities during the installation of Thailand's new long distance telephone network. Here Robert Taylor (right) of Collis Radio Company shows Thai Technicians how to use frequency generation equipment.



Photo Credit: USAID.

1960s—Rural Development: Governor Charoen Panthong of Nongkai province (second from right) shows the Honorable Eugene Black (center) the areas of the province which were badly damaged by the recent Mekong river flood. Thomas C. Niblock (left), Director of AID's Office of Far East Regional Development, and Prasong Sukum, (third from left) Director General of the Accelerated Development Program (ARD) are helping hold the map.



1960s—Agricultural--Purchasing Tractors: Thai farm clubs often use pooled funds to purchase tractors like this American one being examined by Paiboon Areechon and Tanakit Wongsarota, president and vice-president of the National Farm Club Leaders, with U.S. AID extension advisor Walter Scott (left).



Photo Credit: USAID.

1960s—Education—Rural Health: Dr. James Watt (right), Chief of the Office of International Health for the Public Health Service, meets the Public Health Nurse who directs the Khon Kaen Midwifery School in Northeast Thailand. This school is to a part of the new Comprehensive Rural Health Project planned by the Ministry of Public Health and USAID/Thailand.