

# **Background and objectives of the Study Tour to Mae Chang Tai Aka Tribal Village, Cheng Rai , 26-27 August (Saturday-Sunday) 2023**

(Final version: updated on 12 July 2023)

## **1. Background and Objectives:**

Thailand has achieved a remarkable economic growth in recent past. However, the bottom 810% of the total population is still suffering from poverty, primarily due to a lack of sufficient income and employment opportunities. Indigenous people living in mountainous hill areas constitute one of the largest poverty groups in Thailand and Southeast Asia. For example, over 60% of the total poor population are those living in mountain areas in Laos. They do not have sufficient lands to grow crops, lack of good roads, transport, markets and telecommunication facilities, and limited opportunities for employment, income generation, education and health care. To meet these challenges, a pilot project “Community Base Sustainable Livelihood Development in Mae Chan Tai Village in Chiang Rai Province” was formulated in 2018 with an aim to assist in building a self-help capacity of indigenous communities in Thailand and identify a replicable model for community based sustainable livelihood development in mountain villages in Thailand and beyond. More specifically, the project assists an Aka tribal village (40 households) in Chiang Rai with an objective to promote community-based selfhelp initiatives through building a community enterprise for quality coffee production (including other products), processing and marketing, and enhancing their income, employment and living conditions.

Against these backgrounds, this study tour is aimed at to provide an opportunity to the participants to familiarize themselves with the living conditions of hill tribes in deep remote mountain, to connect the participants with the village community through dialogue and working together for community works such as tree planting, to enhance their knowledge on coffee production and on the issues associated with the sustainable development of mountain villages and hill tribes, and to promote a sense of solidarity, mutual understanding and friendship among participants and villagers.

### **Related web links:**

GIAPSA      <http://asiasefrelance.org>  
Coffee shop      <https://akhamaechantaicoffee.com>

Location of the village:

Mae Chan Tai Village, Moo 25, Tambon Thakor,  
Mae Suay District, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand

(altitude 1,392 meters, no electricity)

## **2. Dates and Tentative Programme:**

The study tour will commence at 9 am on 26 August at Chiang Rai Airport where all participants gather together. The study tour will end and participants will be disassembled at 6:30 pm (or around) on 27 August 2023 at Chiang Rai Airport upon the completion of all programme. The detailed schedule is provided separately.

### 3. Number of participants and eligibility

Due to the limited capacity of the Mae Chan Tai village to accommodate external visitors at one time, the total number of participants to this study tour is established at 20 people (with a little flexibility not exceeding 26 persons), who are healthy and fit to travel and interested in the project activities.

The target participants are adults and children in general public at all age groups, university /high school students.

Priorities would be given to those who would participate and travel from Japan or outside of Thailand, and those who like Mae Chan Tai Coffee and interested to know its origin and production process. The all participants will be asked to participate fully as per the tentative programme, and can arrange own travel between their home place and Chiang Rai Airport.

### 5. Financial Support and Liability of the Organizer (GIAPSA) /participants

The organizer : Japan based International NGO: GIAPSA (general Incorporated Association for the Promotion of Self-reliance in Asia or アジア自立支援機構) will finance the total cost (including local transport (mini vans) for return trips between Chieng Rai Airport and Mae Chang Tai Village, accommodation (Home Stay) and local traditional meals and other associated expenses (with a few exceptions including lunch on the first day at While Temple and entrance fees at visiting temples and a hot spring in Chiang Rai on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day) . Liability for accidents or illness during the trip will rest with respective participant. Participants are advised to join own insurance scheme if so desired.

### 6. Pre-departure Orientation

Participants will be asked to register and sign a declaration form using a form provided by the organizer. Once participants applied, registered and accepted for the participation by the organizer, a specific Line Group will be created by the organizer to facilitate a better communication and team work. There will be an orientation meeting 1-2 weeks prior to the travel date if feasible, and participants will be asked to participate, if convenient. Participants will be asked to provide ( if agreeable) a brief report or comments describing the experience and views about the study tour within 2 weeks after the completion.



