



## Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme

### **Her Majesty the Queen invites MWBP to join royal working committee**

Her Majesty the Queen of Thailand, has initiated the “People and Communities Living with Water Project” to help reduce poverty, conserve natural resources, and build capacity of local communities. As part of this project, the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP), has been invited to join the working committee in Tha Khong village, Nakhon Phanom province, northeast Thailand.

This royal invitation highlights the recognition of MWBP’s work in northeast Thailand, and is a great honour, as it is the first time that a non-government organisation will be fully involved with a royal project.

Tha Khong village is one of the focus areas of MWBP, and the programme will play an important role on providing information from the Tai Baan research, as well as survey and facilitate the process for conducting a community-based natural resource and environmental plan and the participatory process of multi-stakeholders, including government, local organisations and community. Surasak Montri’s military battalion, Udonthani province will also play a role coordinating among multi-stakeholders and the royal project.

The recent provincial development report found that the most of villagers in Lower Songkhram River Basin, Nakhon Province, still have low income per capita, suffer degradation of natural resource, and regularly experience flooding in agriculture areas. Most villagers in this area are still depend on natural resources from flooded forest and the Songkhram River for their household consumption and income generation, especially aquatic resources and rice production.

At present the “People and Communities Living with Water Project” is only in the concept stage, but MWBP looks forward to contributing to its development and implementation.

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