



HRH Princess Sirindhorn launched the tree planting project with planting five kinds of seedlings, on July 19, 2008, in the Launching Ceremony, held at The Sirindhorn International Environmental Park (Cha-am, Petchaburi Province).



## Plant for the Planet! Plant for the Future! - The Billion Tree Campaign in Thailand - [The Second Phase in 2009]

### \*Background\*

Climate Change is the most serious global issue. Besides saving energy and natural resources, afforestation takes a great role for preventing the global warming. Forests absorb a huge amount of carbon dioxide. Also, they create and support life through production of oxygen and water. Forests nourish soil, and the nourishments flow into the oceans through rivers to nurture life in the sea. Forests are the center of the natural ecosystem.

In order to preserve the rich and beautiful forests to future generations, Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment (FGPE) has been promoting "Forests for the Future Project", the worldwide tree-planting campaign involving children, since 2002, jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

In 2007, UNEP launched "Plant for the Planet - The Billion Tree Campaign". Also, the year was the 120th anniversary of Thailand - Japan diplomatic relations. At these special occasions, FGPE launched "Plant for the Planet!, Plant for the Future! - the Billion Tree Campaign in Thailand" jointly with UNEP, Sirindhorn International Environmental Park Foundation under the Royal Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Thai Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

The tree planting activities were officially launched by Royal Planting on July 19, 2008, with an attendance of Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn, at The Sirindhorn International Environmental Park (Cha-am, Petchaburi Province). Continuous tree planting activities were followed with more than thousands of participants, such as school children, university/college students and Thai citizens, to plant trees for the first phase of the project in 2008.

As the second phase in 2009, "Tree Planting Forum" will take place on September 12, at The Sirindhorn International Environmental Park, as well as at various public areas in Cha-am district, Petchaburi Province, involving local communities and schools, staff members and families of the sponsoring companies as well as volunteers from Japan. We continuously promote actual tree planting programs and public awareness campaign throughout the country, to preserve the beautiful and bountiful environment to the future generations.

### \*Objectives\*

#### \*Aiming to Plant 500,000 Trees in Thailand

In Thailand, forests have been decreasing because of economic development in the last 40 years. Forests area has been reduced to about 20% of the total land area. "Forests for the Future Project in Thailand" started to plant trees at The Sirindhorn International Environmental Park, and then will be expanding the planting area throughout the country, aiming to plant 500,000 trees in total.

#### \*Reforestation of the Tropical Rainforests

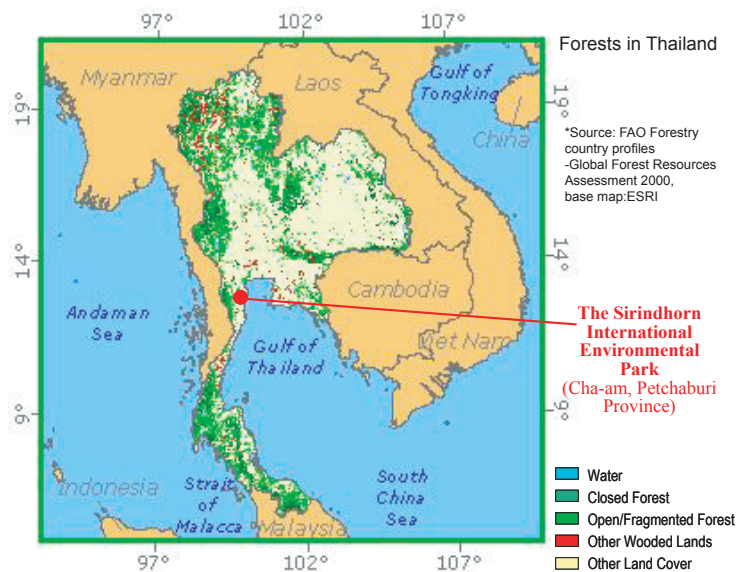
Decrease of the tropical rainforest in Thailand is becoming more and more serious. On the subject of "Biodiversity and afforestation", we will reforest with respect to the regional ecosystem in each area. We try to plant native trees fit to the natural environment in Thailand, such as teaks for high quality timber, fruit trees, etc. to support people's livelihood.

#### \*Enhancing Children and Young People to Take Actions for Preserving the Forests

One of the main purpose of "Forests for the Future Project" is to make children and young people be aware how important it is to plant trees, as well as how wonderful it is to work in harmony, together with other people, for preserving their precious environment. The Project raises children's ecological mind with cooperation of local schools and communities, and enhances them to take actions for preserving their beautiful homeland for future generations.



Under HRH Princess's great leadership, a project of improving a huge devastated land and tree planting has started. With continuous efforts for years, beautiful mangrove forests have been reviving.



□Press Conference and the Opening Reception  
on November 13, 2007, at Dusit Thani (Bangkok).



(left) MOU Signing Ceremony between Sirindhorn International Environmental Park Foundation and Foundation for Global Peace and Environment to launch the project officially. (right) Dr. Sumet, Chairman of SIEPF, and Mr. Matsumoto, Vice Chairman of FGPE, shook hands after signing.

□Launching Ceremony and Tree Planting

on July 19, 2008, at The Sirindhorn International Environmental Park (Cha-am, Petchaburi Province).

1,500 participants including VIPs (Thai and Japanese), people from the UN, local school children, university/college students, local communities and Thai citizens, staff members and families of sponsoring companies, planted 6,250 seedlings at the launching day.



After the launching, more than thousands of school children, university/college students, boy and girl scouts and Thai citizens, continuously planted trees in The Sirindhorn International Environmental Park for the first phase of the project in 2008.



Tentative nursery for preparations.

