# Special Feature 3 Being Welcomed by Local Communities—Initiatives in Thailand—

NMB-Minebea Thai (Minebea Thai) began manufacturing activities in 1982. Today, the company's plants manufacture about 50% of the Group's total output, serving as its largest manufacturing base. The growth of the Thai business requires the understanding and cooperation of local residents. Minebea operates on the basis of "Five Principles," and as part of that philosophy, we strive to be welcomed by local communities. Here, we introduce various activities we are taking in Thailand to deepen our relationships and grow with local communities.

# Nurturing Children in the Community

Supporting schools is one of our main community activities at Minebea Thai. We are donating school materials and holding events for schools around our plants in order to raise the level of education and build relations

At the Wad Thang Klang School, a school in Ayutthaya Province we support, we are taking initiatives to increase educational opportunities, particularly for impoverished families. In the past, we have provided support for the building of the school's library and other projects, and in January 2014, we also donated audio-visual equipment and 40 headsets to enable to learn English through AV materials. These donations will help build a more effective learning environment for



Confectionery classes led by employees



Wad Thang Klang School



An English class

children by stimulating their auditory and visual senses.

"English lessons are a lot more enjoyable now," says one of the students, shining a bright smile. The students talk about their dreams of using English to communicate with people from many countries. Minebea Thai has also donated cooking equipment and materials to the school, and the company's employees provide confectionery classes for the students. Children and local residents who have learned to make cakes can sell their sweets at school events and generate funds to support the school as well as enhance their own lifestyles.

"Wad Thang Klang School teachers are very passionate about these support programs and actively engage in teamwork," comments an employee of Minebea Thai. "We want to create a model for school support and promote the model at other schools as well."

#### ■ English Education Improved for Many Children

English skills can make a child's future brighter. In Thailand, however, there is a shortage of English teachers. The

donations of equipment and materials are therefore an important opportunity for our students. We share the equipment with local residents around the school to ensure that many children can improve their English skills. All of the teachers are very appreciative of Minebea Thai's support.



Wad Thang Klang School Ms. Amphaporn Cherdchai (English teacher)

#### Appreciation for Extensive Cooperation

Minebea Thai has provided a great amount of support for our school, not only with the donation of this English learning

equipment and the confectionery classes, but also through plant tours and support after the flooding. Many of our students cannot leave their communities because of circumstances at home, and that's why these exchanges with people are such important learning opportunities. We are very grateful for the support we've received.



ed. Wad Thang Klang School Mr. Thongchai Poon-U-Dorn (principal)

## Striving to Enrich the Environment

The conservation of natural environments around our Thai plants is another critical initiative. Consideration for the environment when executing our manufacturing activities is fundamental to our business. In addition, we also take active measures to improve the natural environment around our plants.

One area in which we are particularly active is mangrove reforestation. We have carried out reforestation projects in Koh Nok Park, along the Bang

Pakong River, Chachoengsao Province to the east of Bangkok. With its name meaning "bird island" in Thai, the park is home to the stork and many other species and plays an important role in supporting the surrounding ecosystem. To conserve the park's environment, Minebea Thai employees volunteered to plant 400 mangroves in December 2013. The employees are monitoring the mangroves' growth in cooperation with the park rangers. In March 2014, Minebea Thai donated 50 pairs of boots for forestry work to the park management organization and employees release crabs into the park to help preserve biodiversity.







Environmental conservation activities in Koh Nok park

A reforested mangrove

A crab released into the park

# **Growing with Local Communities**

Minebea Thai is taking measures to raise the quality of life for local citizens and deepen its connections with them. In communities surrounding the Lop Buri Plant, the incomes of women, who manage the household budget, has been inadequate. In FY2011, we launched



Participating resident activities

a project to transfer technology to women in the community and raise the quality of life through higher incomes. Since many of the local residents were struggling to maintain hygienic environments, we collaborated with a local university to show local residents an effective way to make detergents. We provide women with the materials and they sell the finished product, generating a side-income of about 3,000 baht a month per person. Minebea Thai has also bought much of the detergent produced.

We are now considering ways to support women in selling the detergent to general consumers as a way to expand the initiative.

# I'm Happy to be Taking Part in the Project

I'm very pleased that Minebea Thai has provided us with so

much support. We have been using the detergents ourselves, and the extra income has enabled me to spend more on my children. This project has also helped to develop a strong sense of unity in the community. It's truly a great project.



A leader of residents taking part in the project Ms. Wong Chan Khunabutr