WINDS OF CHANGE
in Rural Education
& Economic Empowerment

Mechai Viravaidya Foundation
Mechai Bamboo School
Our education concentrates on **ROTE MEMORIZATION** and emphasizes literacy and numerical skills.
which Produce and Followers
Thai students’ Grades Lower Than Asian Countries (Except Indonesia)

(Program for International Student Assessment) (Trends in Mathematical and Science Study)
World ranking 2012 (among 54 countries)

13  Malaysia  57.95
27  Indonesia  53.31
31  Vietnam  52.14
53  Thailand  44.36
Doubled in during last 8 years

Unit: 100,000 Million Baht

20% of National budget

12th grade O-Net

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Thai</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>10%</td>
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: TDRI, 16/2/12
We need to change the school
From this
To this
This can only be achieved with the help of the private sector.
A Bold New Experiment in Education has already begun...

Among lowest 4% in educational attainment
The Bamboo School

Trying to craft a New Generation of Thai Citizens
The school is determined to inspire students to become citizens who:

- Are **honest**, willing to share
- **Innovative** and **resourceful**
- **happy** & **caring**
- **Possess management & business skills**
- **Practice & promote gender equality** and **democracy**

and make society a better place
It is not just a school, but

A Lifelong Learning Centers

and a hub for
Social and Economic Advancement

for students, their families and the entire community
How is The Bamboo School different from other schools?
School fees paid by family with 400 hours of community service (8 hours per week) and planting 400 trees.
Students perform 12 hours of community service per week.
They are also members of the Purchasing and audit committees.
Two students are elected from the student council to become members of the school board.
Students applying to enter Grade 7 are selected by a committee of 8th, 9th & 10th grade students with some guidance from teachers.
Students participate in teacher selection and evaluation.
School Environment
School Environment
School constructed of Bamboo

Bamboo Structure of Dome
World’s largest Bamboo Geodesic Dome

Diameter = 30 meters
One year studying in Pattaya for 10th Graders

Year 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 students study in Buriram
Mobile Phones can only be used for one hour per week.

Letter writing replaces telephones.
Student excursion
Work experience:
Hotel, Hospital, Restaurant
Giving back & sharing: entertaining young students
Our students are encouraged & stimulated to think outside the box.
Shoes vegetable garden
American Standard vegetables
Our students are encouraged & stimulated to
Understand others
Understanding hunger
Know alcohol:
Don’t let it control your life
Sex Education & AIDS
Bamboo School acts as IT Hub for surrounding communities

Computers made available to children in communities surrounding school
Our students and those from 30 surrounding villages are trained to be Barefoot IT Teachers.
Community IT Learning Room

Supervised by Barefoot IT Teachers
Community Services...
Student-Teach Project... in villages
Starting a Village Toy Library to promote the joy of sharing & giving
Village Toy Library managers
(8 – 14 years old)
Community Clean-up
Before borrowing toys
Getting ready to exchange plastic containers and cans for toys
Going home with joy
School close so students can help farmers during rice planting & harvest
All students are involved in tackling inequalities

...and in proposing solutions especially for vulnerable groups
Income generating activities for vulnerable groups
(Mushroom growing for handicapped)
Students’ Good Deeds Van
Doing Good Deeds
The “Bamboo” Band in concert

Music for schools and communities by Thailand’s Biggest Ukulele Band
School Social Enterprise Farm

Using 1,600 square meters (3 Tennis courts)
We believe that people coming from rural society must exhibit skills in agriculture and remain on the land.
School Social Enterprise Farm
Business Agriculture Training for Students (Barefoot MBA)
School Social Enterprise Farm operated by students
To provide opportunities for people in wheelchairs to agribusiness.
Mushrooms using retired beach umbrella

500 mushroom bags per tent
Out of Season Lime in septic tank cement rings
Starving trees of water for 20 days
Explosion of lime flowers after removing cover
Matured Limes
(March – May)
The Bamboo School introduces a new way of cultivation for people who do not own land.

Cantaloupe

The old way
Fruits & vegetables
grown in recycled plastic bags

New Method
Young vines
Cantaloupes ready for harvest after 2 months
Bamboo school students and their parents learn how to become capable entrepreneurs and contribute funds to support the school.
Quick return on investment

Bean sprouts, crickets, frogs, ant caviar, vegetables
Products from School Farm

[Image of students holding melons and lemons with a background of mushrooms]
Our students select and award scholarships to children in government primary school.
We are now expanding our activities to assist other rural institutions & communities
Social Enterprises Farm being established in rural schools
Social Enterprises Farm being established in rural schools
Social Enterprises Farm
Operated by students
.... communities
...and temples
Three Major Roles of the Bamboo School

- Education & Skills Training
  - Students
  - Teachers
  - Villagers

- Income Generation
  - Families
  - Communities
  - Institutions

- Capacity Building
  - Schools
  - Temples
  - Hospitals
  - Small Jails

With support of the private sector
Our school in the 21st Century

Hub for Economic & Social Progress

Teacher Training Facility

Lifelong Learning Center

Occupational & Entrepreneurial Training

School

Assist Students to Find
1. Job Training Opportunities
2. Placement at Tertiary Institutions (Scholarships)
3. Employment
We will succeed in crafting a new generation if there is genuine support from the private sector.