The Bamboo School

Trying to craft a New Generation of Thai Citizens
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
A Bold New Experiment in Education has already begun...
Among lowest 4% in educational attainment
Buildings constructed of Bamboo
Bamboo Structure of Dome
World’s largest Bamboo Geodesic Dome

Diameter = 30 meters
Students applying to enter Grade 7 are selected by a committee of 8th, 9th & 10th grade students with some guidance from teachers.
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 participate in teacher selection and evaluation.
Students perform 12 hours of community service per week.
School fees paid by family with 400 hours of community service (8 hours per week) and planting 400 trees.
Community Services...
Student-Teach Project... in villages
Community IT Learning Room

Supervised by Barefoot IT Teachers
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)
Identifying Corruption & Solutions
Students’ Good Deeds Van & Bus
Cleaning of Village, School, and Temple
10th to 12th graders study by the sea in Pattaya

Year 7,8,9 students study in Buriram
The school believes that people should experience the joy of agriculture.
Business Agriculture Training for Students (Barefoot MBA)
Mushrooms using retired beach umbrella

500 mushroom bags per tent
Wheelchair agriculture

To provide opportunities for people in wheelchairs to learn agribusiness.
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
The Bamboo School is now assisting and empowering other rural institutions & communities.
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www.mechaifoundation.org
Mechai Viravaidya Foundation
Mechai Bamboo School
Population and Community Development Association