

THAILAND, TAKUAPA SENANUKUL SCHOOL

VDO presentation, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHmqchhj0l4>

Location: Moo7 Bang Nai See, Takuapa, Phang Nga, THAILAND see

<https://goo.gl/maps/TgvNW63iwDu> or

<http://www.whatsmygps.com/index.php?lat=8.865592&lng=98.332829>

Established in 1900 with only 80-90 students, the school was initially financed by a temple and the donation from local civil servants as well as entrepreneurs in the mine industry. In 2016 as a public secondary school with more than 1,800 students, the school has had a very bonding relationship with local communities. The families of most students are in the business of fishery, plantation and tourism in a radius of about 40 kilometers from the school.

The school has 6 levels from grade 7 to 12 for the students of 13 to 18 years old. In 1999, the school opened the special classes, the Mini English Program (MEP) and the Sciences and Mathematics Program (SMP). The MEP classes have been conducted in English for the subjects of English, Mathematics, Sciences and Health. In 2016, the school has 4 MEP classes from grade 7 to 10 but will expand its classes in the following years. The SMP classes have intensive classes on Mathematics and Sciences so students will learn by doing with laboratories and practices. They can therefore apply the knowledge for the development of the community and then the nation.

In 2004, Phang Nga was the most damaged part of Thailand in terms of death, injury and business losses. The school is located in the center of the Takuapa district, about 10 kilometers from the Andaman coast so it was not physically hit by the tsunami. However, the school cannot neglect the sufferings of students, teachers and all others in the community. The school has always had cooperation with private and public sectors to help the students and also the community. The school is the meeting centre for NGO and government officers to help the victims. Doctors from Chulalongkorn hospital in Bangkok came to grant psychological support for the students who lost their loved ones from Tsunami. Teachers and students worked with sub-district officers to help the victims at temporary shelters. The community has to work together without just waiting for help from outsiders. During the first 3-4 days of the tsunami, the public utilities such as electricity and water as well as telecommunication were shut down. The media concentrated on touristic places such as Khaolak which is a small part of Phang Nga and forgot other coastal villages in the area.

As a leading educational institution of the district, the school has never stopped launching new projects. Classes of foreign languages such as French and Chinese have been introduced to the students. In 2010, the Robotics project was launched with hope to develop the rescue machine for the local community. As a public school, the budget is quite tight but the school mind has been broadened by the need of the community.