

Mae Fah Luang University

Chiang Rai



Bureau of Policy and Planning
Ministry of University Affairs

**Mae Fah Luang University
Chiang Rai
Ministry of University Affairs**

1. Background

Chiang Rai, the second largest province in northern Thailand, is located in the strategic location and could serve as the regional hub of the proposed economic quadrangle comprising northeastern Union of Myanmar, southern People's Republic of China, northern Thailand and northwestern Lao People's Democratic Republic, all four of which share the Mekong River and are home to 200 million inhabitants. Possible inclusion of Cambodia and Republic of Vietnam for the development of Mekong basin's infrastructure and human resources is being studied by the Asian Development Bank. Chiang Rai itself is rich for its agriculture, forestry, inter-regional trade and investment, and also tourism.

Chiang Rai people are well aware of this potential and foresee how its human resources, if properly developed, could play a significant role in the national and regional development. They thus voiced their reasonable demands that a comprehensive university be established in their province as soon as feasible.

In 1996, the government decided to revive Her Royal leadership and guidance of the Princess Mother who spent her final years in Chiang Rai working on environmental rehabilitation, and reforestation, by establishment higher education institution in Chiang Rai. Following the cabinet's approval, Ministry of University Affairs submitted "Mae Fah Luang University Act," subsequently, necessary legal procedure is being promulgated

“Mae Fah Luang” is the title in northern Thai dialect given to the most beloved and revered Princess Mother. Under Her Royal leadership and guidance, the people of Chiang Rai revitalized their effort and appreciation of nature conservation and other related activities leading to improved life quality and income.

2. Development Strategies

2.1 Mission

- 1) To develop local capabilities in the fields of
 - natural resources and environmental management
 - industrial technology with the emphasis on value-added and sustainability
 - information technology and communications
 - service industries
 - quality of life development
- 2) To develop the university to serve as locomotive of the development of economic quadrangle region
 - possessing in-depth knowledge and skills as local technology resources and the linkage with international communities.
 - as the brain for upper Mekong subregion development with sustainability, balance, well-being, property, peace, and equal opportunities for all people in the region.
- 3) Capacity building in human resources development in the following fields:
 - Health science (nursing, public health,)
 - Telecommunication and computer technology

- Social and environmental technology
- Administration - management-accounting, marketing, tourism
- Language-culture, ethnology (upper Mekong River Basin)
- Arts and Science

2.2 Administration

1) Non-bureaucratic public university
2) Medium size with flexibility, clear mission and emphases on its specific fields of expertise, locality oriented in-depth knowledge but properly connectable to globalization.

3) Participation of local community. Local people should actively participate in university financial support, development and supervision so that the university should properly be geared in the direction as required and beneficial to the local population especially the less opportunity quarter.

4) Network of learning. The university should create the network accessible to all people at the local, regional and international levels. Learning process will not be confined to classrooms only.

5) The university should develop research excellence to create new bodies of knowledge necessary for steering various aspects of rural development.

2.3 Staff Development

According to the plan it is estimated that 150 Ph.D. and 230 Master's will be required. Staff development program both long-term and short-term in the next 5-6 years will be required for new staff. A separate fund will be set up for this specific purposes.

2.4 Internationalization

To accelerate this cause of development an overseas sister university will be required to serve as mentor so that Mae Fah Luang University could properly guided towards international standard in the very near future.

3. Current Status

3.1 Physical Infrastructure

- Mae Fah Luang University is composed of 2 main locations:-

- 1) Doi Ngaem Campus covers the area of 4,000 rai (625 hectarc) near the center of Chiang Rai Province.
- 2) Jom Mog Kaew Campus covers the area of 2,950 rai (460 hectarc) approximately 23 km from the center of Chaing Rai Province

- Ministry of University Affairs has made contraction for the primary survey of the Master Plan and the detail design of the followings:-

1) Buildings

- President's Office Building
- Central Lecture Room Building
- Faculty's Office Building
- Central Documentation and Media
- Academic Service and Research
- Central Laboratory (6)
- Dormitories (20)
- Faculty Houses
- Cafeteria
- Indoor Stadium

2) Infrastructure

- Main Roads
- Service Roads
- Electricity
- Water
- Reservoir
- Telecommunication/Telephone

3) Landscape

- Hard scape
- Soft Scape

3.2 Academic Infrastructure

The University has 8 faculties - Arts, Science, Nursing, Public Health, Management Science, Information Technology, Agricultural Technology, Industrial Technology, offering more than 25 disciplines with approximately 15,000 total students.

3.3 The Budget

The first 5 years estimation of the overall budget of this project is about 3,229 Million Baht composing of

- Construction/Infrastructure 2,409 Million Baht
- Operation Cost 820 Million Baht