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DISABILITY FRIENDLY

Mae Fah Luang uni wins again

LAMPHAI INTATHEP

The Mae Fah Luang University has won the top 2009 award for Outstanding Places with Accessibility to the Disabled for the second year running.

The university is among 47 winners of the environment award along with government agencies, private companies, tourist spots, local administration offices and buildings.

Mae Fah Luang University was awarded the first prize for the second year in a row. The awards were initiated in 2008 by the Social Development and Human Security Ministry, said deputy minister Nualphan Lamsam.

Citation Awards were also presented to the Public Health Ministry and the Fine Arts Department.

The two organisations were considered to have a friendly environment for people with physical disabilities long before 2005 when a ministerial regulation came into force and ordered that special facilities be provided to the disabled and the elderly.

Seven of the 47 organisations received merit awards. They were the Yala provincial administration organisation, cultural arts house Siam Niramit, the Tang Seng Chua confectionery shop in Chachoengsao, the Ban Chiang national museum in Udon Thani, the A-One Beach Resort in Pattaya, the Ban Khao Lak Resort in Phangnga, and Kriengsak Yasothon Petroleum in Yasothon.

The criteria for winning the award were the setting up of facilities for the handicapped which must include ramps for wheelchairs, handrails, elevators, signs, and wheelchair pathways.

The Mae Fah Luang University provides wheelchair ramp access to all areas, conveniently located handicapped restrooms, wheelchair pathways in all its buildings, elevators for the handicapped, and parking spaces exclusively reserved for the disabled.