

Bua Yai Hospital Global Grant Proposal.

This proposed project involves the cooperation of Rotary Clubs in Thailand and Korea, along with District and Rotary Foundation matching funding, to support a disadvantaged community in rural Thailand with much improved equipment for performing routine operations.

The recipient hospital is Bua Yai Public hospital in the rural city of Bua Yai, a largely agricultural and small manufacturing community, approximately half way between the major cities of Khon Kaen and Nakhon Ratchasima in NE Thailand. This large region is known as Isan, a traditionally rice growing area with strong skills in hand-made silk production. It is poor compared to the Bangkok industrial conurbation. The city hospital in Bua Yai serves a community of approximately 150,000 people in the city limits and for about 60km around. It has good staffing, both nurses and doctors, and they are well established and professional. These individuals have been personally known to Rotary for many years for their medical professionalism and ability to provide good medical services despite being very stretched for resources. The hospital is therefore in an excellent position to leverage support from Rotary. For example, a couple of years ago Rotary sponsored a training program through this hospital for the local community to improve diet through teaching improved nutrition. Approximately 30,000 members of the public were educated via the local VHVF (Village Health Volunteers Foundation), consisting of 300 volunteers who were trained to reach out to the public to improve kidney health and reduce the need for dialysis. This was a very cost effective exercise that Rotary believes will have a significant impact on local public health.

Specifically, Bua Yai hospital, while staffed with productive and well trained, if very busy staff, has suffered from a lack suitable modern buildings and medical equipment. Recently a new 4 story operating room, and treatment and recovery building was completed with support of the national government in Bangkok. Unfortunately, no funds were made available for medical equipment, apart from basic air handling and other infrastructure capabilities. For want of suitable equipment this building is effectively non-working. As a matter of urgency, the local community and Rotary Club (RC) has engaged with the Bangkok Siammin RC to provide the first round of badly needed essential equipment. Top of the list of required equipment is an anesthetic machine and associated monitor. The attached information details the equipment and its cost. This equipment, along with the transfer of existing equipment into the new building will enable the new operating room building to start functioning. The advantages of this start up will be better ergonomics, hygiene, training facilities, and improved pre and post operative care. All these improvements are urgently needed.

Infrastructure and sustainability is always a concern in projects of this nature. In this regard the hospital is well served with adequate budgets for consumables, maintenance and repair of equipment. There are adequate technicians. Hospital staff will be trained by the equipment vendor, and the vendor has local support personnel available. In any case, the equipment is similar in principal to the older equipment currently in place, so hospital staff are well positioned to bring it fully up to complete operation quickly and reliably.

Further, it should be noted, the new equipment and facilities will enable more effective use of nursing support, and ensure that patient conditions are monitored, and anticipated. This will improve patient outcomes and improve success of operations.

It is not planned to change the present procedures for sending advanced cases, such as heart and brain operations, to Maharaj Teaching hospital in Nakhon Ratchasima. The advanced techniques required are deemed not appropriate for a rural hospital such as Bua Yai. To attempt such operations would be a waste of resources.

This project is the Initial step in bringing up 5 more operating rooms over the coming years. In that process, the current old operating rooms will be decommissioned and useful equipment transferred to the new building.

Thai Rotary (Siammin RC) has made a substantial contribution to this project, showing very strong local commitment.

We feel that this project will show a big impact on the local community immediately. The support of both the Korean and Foundation Rotary communities can be assured of success of this project. Rotarians from Siammin RC will be monitoring success of the project over the coming years to ensure effective use of equipment.