

Monitoring the health impacts of the public and management guidelines for impacts from the mining industry in Ron Phibun District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province

The Occupational Health and Safety Program at the School of Public Health, Walailak University, led by Acting Sub.LT. Areeya Madsusan, an expert in occupational health and safety, has launched a project to monitor the health impacts on the local population and manage the effects of the quarrying industry. This initiative aims to equip students with skills in public health surveillance for surrounding communities, covering topics such as occupational diseases, occupational health services, health risk assessment, and health and environmental impact assessment.

As a result, the project has established health surveillance for residents living near the quarry and provided training and education to workers and community members in the area. The focus is on improving health and well-being through hygiene, nutrition, family planning, sports, exercise, elderly care, and other health-related activities. Additionally, the project seeks to identify strategies to mitigate the impacts of the quarrying industry.

These project activities have contributed to the company receiving the "CSR-DPIM Continuous Award 2023" for its ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility, as detailed below.

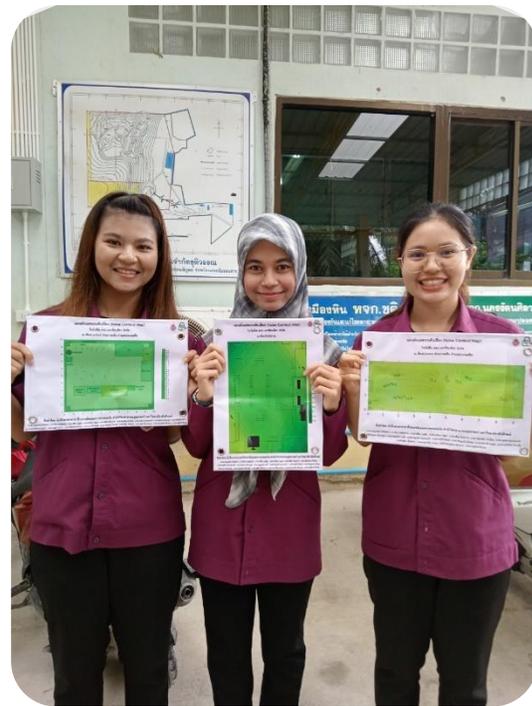


1. The Occupational Health and Safety Program conducted an environmental monitoring activity at a quarry in Ron Phibun District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. The objective of this activity was to assess risks and monitor the health impacts on workers and the surrounding local community. This was accomplished by measuring airborne dust levels, heat, light intensity, and noise generated by the quarry's operations.



2. A training workshop was held to educate quarry workers and stakeholders in the quarrying industry on disease prevention and the mitigation of health impacts associated with quarrying activities. The workshop also covered strategies for improving health and well-being, as well as appropriate approaches to reducing the adverse effects of the quarrying industry.





3. Faculty and students from the Occupational Health and Safety Program collaborated with relevant agencies and the quarrying industry to organize a health service initiative. This initiative provided free health check-ups, focusing on health surveillance for workers and residents within a 5-kilometer radius of the quarry in Ron Phibun District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. A total of 300 individuals, including local communities, disadvantaged populations, and refugee or migrant communities, received these services. Local primary care hospitals in the Ron Phibun District also participated in providing the health check-ups, which included assessments of lung function, vision, body composition, and blood pressure. A comprehensive report summarizing the overall health data and recommendations for preventing and mitigating health impacts from the quarrying industry was prepared and submitted to the participating companies and primary care hospitals in Ron Phibun District. This report will serve as valuable information for monitoring and surveilling the health effects on the local population.



4. The Occupational Health and Safety Program has expanded its initiatives to quarries in Nopphitam District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. These activities include environmental monitoring at the quarry and educational training sessions. This project, which focuses on providing free health services and workplace environmental assessments, aims to evaluate risks and monitor

health impacts. The primary goals are to prevent adverse health effects and raise awareness about mitigating the impact on surrounding communities.



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