



World Wetlands Day

2nd February 2013

By

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Proposed to

The Ramsar Convention

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**World Wetlands Day, 1st February 2013 in Walai Rukhavej Botanical Research Institute,
Mahasarakham University (MSU), Thailand**

On February 1st MSU President Dr. Supachai Samappito presided over the ceremony marking World Wetlands Day and Assoc. Professor Rojchai Satrawaha gave a speech of welcoming and wetlands day. February 2nd is the day the Ramsar Convention (on Wetlands of International Importance) treaty was signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. World Wetlands Day (WWD) was first celebrated in 1997 with fewer than two thousand Ramsar (wetland) sites of importance listed. Contracting parties from over one hundred and sixty countries, including Thailand, are signatories to the Ramsar Treaty.

The Walai Rukhavej Botanical Research Institute (WRBRI) provided activities on wetlands day celebration under the 2013 slogan 'Wetlands: Take care of water'. The MSU Office of Academic Services, Division of Building, Department of Visual Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Centre for Book Research and the Department of Fisheries, Research and Inland Fisheries Centre and others collaborated with fifteen neighborhood schools and thirteen local villages in holding various events on World Wetlands Day.

Events held at Ban Kerng Wetland Research Station of WRBRI, attracted around 1,000 people attending the activities, included debating on topic 'whether Flooding or Drying is better', fishing, rice transplanting, drawing and painting contests, student knowledge competition, performance of students and debating on wetlands take care of water: flooding or drying, traditional folkdance competitions, food cooking competition, fishing boat racing, young fish releasing into the river as well as many other community activities. All participants shared in a chance to win prizes. The focus was on raising awareness among young people of preserving wetlands (and forests) along the rivers of northeast Thailand and the important role they play in the ecological balance of nature.

All attendees registered for all activities at the registration venue and all events were free of charge!!!

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