



กรมควบคุมมลพิษ
POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT

ข่าวสิ่งแวดล้อม ประจำ วันอังคารที่ 3 เมษายน พ.ศ. 2561

หนังสือพิมพ์ Bangkok Post ปีที่ - ฉบับที่ - หน้า 4

Col.Inch : 22.57 Ad Value : 33,855 PRValua (x3) : 101,565

HAZE

Chiang Mai installs 5 more air monitors

POST REPORTERS

To help combat haze in Chiang Mai, the provincial chamber of commerce and Chiang Mai University launched a campaign named "Dustboy" yesterday that will see the installation of five more air-monitoring stations across the province.

Known as a famous tourist spot, Chiang Mai has been plagued by dust problems caused by open burning, congested traffic conditions and construction work.

The business group has sponsored the installation of the new air monitoring devices.

This would take the total in Chiang Mai to 11, including six that belong to the Pollution Control Department.

Chiang Mai is one of several northern provinces hit by pollution during the dry season from January to April.

The stations will gather more information about the air quality and publicise it among the people in Chiang Mai, according to Wiphawan Woraphutthiphong, chairperson of the Chiang Mai Chamber of Commerce.

"[We are] not only interested in the economic index but are also paying attention to the healthy and happy living index," she said.

The current facilities are deemed to be insufficient to keep the public well informed about the matter.

Even though the department's stations can measure both particulate matter 10 (PM10) and PM2.5 levels, the latter is not factored into the national measuring standard despite the fact that the miniscule particles can burrow deep into the lungs and pose a health risk.

Phaisan Thanyawinitchakun, an official at the Ministry of Public Health's Health Zone 1, claimed northerners have the lowest life span in the country.

Statistics for lung cancer patients in Chiang Mai are a cause for concern. According to the Public Health Ministry, the province has 40 patients per 100,000 people, which is double the national average.

Nonetheless, Thaloengsak Phetsuwan, the deputy chief of the department, maintained that the haze problem has improved in recent years.

He said the situation in Chiang Mai is similar to that in Bangkok, with dust particles coming from vehicle emissions and construction projects.

In contrast, Nan, Chiang Rai and Phayao province in the North get most of their haze from open burning in forest areas and farmland.