

**“Thai Wisdom and BIMSTEC Community”  
24-26 September 2006, Thailand**



On 24-26 September 2006, a group of BIMSTEC Diplomatic corps, press and Young BIMSTEC Ambassador were invited join a trip to Doi Tung organized by the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the context of “Thai Wisdom and BIMSTEC Community”. The first 2 days activities included a visit to Ban Tawai Handicraft Village and Doi Tung Development Project under Royal Initiative works to eradicate opium supply, drug use, rural poverty through Sustainable Alternative Development, education, training and agriculture etc.

The Trip was to promote People-to-People contact between the BIMSTEC member countries at all level. Delegates together with academics and students at Mae Fah Luang University exchanged views on “*From Local Wisdom to Common Future: The Role of Higher Education*” where everyone agreed that education and development of local wisdom can lead to many areas of cooperation e.g. poverty alleviation, job creation and cultural tourism. For the past 2 years, many projects to promote People-to-People contact were organized e.g. Exploring BIMSTEC Cultural Ties in Thailand, Getting to Know the New BIMSTEC Members and Young BIMSTEC Ambassador.