

# The Royal initiated Monkey's Cheek Project

## The Lake of Love

### Background

It all started when Past RI President Bhichai Rattakul had an opportunity to meet His Majesty King Rama IX prior to travel to assume the role of RI President in December 2000 and received the advice in which he has adopted until today. The advice was "even though no position is held, but if there is anything that one can be done for the benefits of our country or to help the poor ... we must do ...

His Majesty King Rama 9 paid attention to the project regarding the development of water sources for cultivation. He was aware that if there is enough water, then the living conditions of all levels of farmers will be able to be elevated.

That is not an easy job at all. To find a water source requires confidence, perseverance and hard work to overcome all obstacles - especially in the northeastern region where there are not enough rain and natural water for farmers to farm, and planting plants outside the irrigation zone receives uneven water as needed.

His Majesty had a vision for the urgent need of a reservoir to collect rainwater during rainy season and provide water to the fields for cultivation during drought. He initiated the construction of a "monkey cheek"-shaped reservoir as a water source for cultivation and consumption with his own fund. Later, the government allocates special annual budgets to build this type of reservoirs until now.



However, there are still many areas that extremely and urgently need the construction of "monkey cheek" reservoirs.



Therefore, it is the starting point for Nong Non Tai "Monkey Cheek" Reservoir Project at Ban Sao Wat, Phon Ngam Subdistrict, Akat Amnuai District, Sakon Nakhon Province. Once the project is completed, the reservoir will be able to sustainably solve problems of farmers lacking water during cultivation and flooding during the rainy season.

This Rotary's "Monkey Cheek" Reservoir, when completed, will be 1,000 meters long, 812 meters wide and 3.5 meters deep by dredging about 2,108,750 cubic meters of mud and rocks. In the dry season, it can store approximately 2.4 million cubic meters of rainwater, which will be enough for over ten thousand farmers to cultivate when the weather is not suitable. It also helps to grow crops 2-3 times a year to increase the household income of farmers and improve their living conditions.