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Press Release

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United States Launches Speaker Program in Chiang Mai on “Water Management and Mitigation Practices”

(June 22) The U.S. Embassy Bangkok and the U.S. Consulate General Chiang Mai in collaboration with the Chiang Mai Provincial Office, launched a U.S. Speaker Program on “*Water Management and Mitigation Practices in the United States*” by Mr. Thomas Donaldson at Chiang Mai Hill Hotel. The program was part of the U.S. effort to engage Thailand on important environmental issues.

The program, joined by Acting Consul General Elizabeth Susie Pratt and Deputy Governor Woragan Yokying, drew government officials and representatives from the Governor House, Chiang Mai Municipality Office, Regional Irrigation Office, Hydrology and Water Management Center, Natural Resources and Environmental Office, local government offices, Disaster Relief Unit, and leading engineering schools.

In his presentations, Mr. Thomas Donaldson highlighted flood and river flow forecasting, early warning, management and mitigation techniques, planning strategies and inter-governmental cooperation experiences in large river basins.

Mr. Donaldson is the Hydrologist in Charge of the U.S. National Weather Service West Gulf River Forecast Center, which uses the latest science and technology to provide timely and accurate river forecasts in an effort to protect life and property. His area of responsibility covers more than 815,000 square kilometers of land in the United States and over 225,000 square kilometers in Mexico. Mr. Donaldson is involved in several cooperative efforts with other National Weather Service offices and outside water management agencies.

Each year, the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and the U.S. Consulate General Chiang Mai sponsors U.S. Speaker Programs, inviting U.S. experts to present diverse issues and exchange views with Thai audiences, including government officials, students, and the media.

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