



Maechan Rotary club celebration of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a club. Multi-national members from Thailand, USA, France, Belgium and Canada.)



An Ahka Village in Northern Thailand

The Rotary Club of Maechan is located in northern Thailand, District 3369. This is a small club of about 25-30 members and it is incredible how many projects they do for the people in this part of Thailand. They are a *very* active club in Thailand. I personally know just about everyone in this club and can vouch for them following through with any project they undertake. One of their members is currently their District Secretary and is the one with whom I have communicated on this proposal.

The north of Thailand has many Hilltribe peoples (over 6 different ethnic groups) who are primarily farmers and very low income. I have been to many of the villages where the houses have dirt floors, no indoor bathroom or single home running water. Many of the adults in these villages have no education beyond elementary school. There is a need for many services including medical, clean water, literacy etc.

This part of the world, like in many countries, has many needs that Rotary can serve. They would like to provide the local Maechan Hospital with the medical equipment and just as important, do educational outreach so people know it is available. I have been to this hospital many times (as patient and with others) and each time, I noticed MOST of the patients in the waiting room were people from the villages and very low income. They are the ones who would benefit from this project who cannot afford this equipment themselves nor might they even know it is accessible to them through the hospital.