

The War Veterans Organization Under Patronage of His Majesty the King
The VECONAC's virtual 33rd Executive Board Meeting and 20th General Assembly

15th December 2021

Introduction

The War Veterans Organization of Thailand Under Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King was established in 1948 as a governmental organization for charitable purposes and also legal entity to provide assistance for veterans, ex-servicemen and their families. At present, there are about 667,950 veterans in WVO's supervision.

WVO headquarters, located at central Bangkok, provides assistance for veterans who reside in Bangkok metropolitan and neighboring provinces, which is 10 percent of total veterans. The other 90 percent all over the country is in the responsibility of 27 WVO Regional Offices.

Despite the spread of COVID-19 pandemic during 2020 – 2021, WVO still provides assistance continually. By 2021 report, the veterans and their families have come to receive assistance from the organization totally 398,615 cases, which the number of cases decrease from 2020 about 122,096 cases.

WVO would like to take this opportunity to report activities during 2020 – 2021 as follows:

Welfare Assistance

WVO has defined criteria of assistance for veterans who have suffered from duties in different effects by categorize them into 4 classes, and the family of veterans who lost their lives in action will also be extra-classified.

In 2021, besides regular welfare assistance, WVO has granted the additional benefit for electricity fee deduction by 40 – 45 units for 3rd class veterans in total 102,000 persons to relieve the burden of their family living. The budget used in this campaign is around 172 million Baht, extended from regular deduction for 50 – 55 units for only 1st class, 2nd class veterans, as well as families of 1st class veterans.

In order to improve quality of life through education for veterans and their families, WVO has supported domestic scholarships started from kindergarten to Master degree for descendants of 1st class veterans who are disabled in total 1,099 persons. In addition, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother has also established education fund for the descendants of veterans who have distinguished study result in Bachelor degree for 50,000 Baht per scholarship, 30 scholarships per year. Moreover, there has been the consecutive scholarship competition granted to the descendants of 2nd to 4th class veterans who study in high school to Bachelor degree, 10,000 Baht each in total 1,000 scholarships per year, as well as scholarships supported by private sectors about 30 scholarships.

WVO has launched project “Build by Love, Rest by Heart” by building knock-down houses for needy disabled veterans who suffered from lack of residence or residence disrepair about 12 houses. In addition, WVO has also launched campaign “Sharing Against Cold” to veterans and their families, as well as needy and poor people by providing school lunch funding, educational equipment, general medicine and blankets for 2 schools in rural area.

WVO has initiated project of building and restoration of residential facility for disabled veterans and their families using concept of Universal Design in the form of five - storey, 230 room building. Each room has usable area of 52 square meters. The project divided into 3 phases: Phase 1 has already been built, and 200 veterans and their families have been moved into the building; Phase 2 and 3 are under construction which are parking lot, office area and multi-purposed ground.

Credit for Loan Assistance

WVO has provided loan with extra-low interest rate for 2-3 percent per year, such as occupational loan, agricultural loan, welfare loan and loan for other necessities for veterans and their families corresponding to their incomes and abilities. There are eligible recipients applied for loans 6,965 cases in 2020 and 7,974 cases applied in 2021. Due to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic that impacts the incomes and occupational status of veterans and their families, WVO has also extended the debt payment period in order to reduce their burden.

Vocational Assistance

WVO has been developing vocational assistance for veterans and their families in order to support them to get occupations that generate sufficient earnings to meet expenses. The vocational development can be succeeded by individual or cooperation using local wisdom and resources, supported by Directorate of Vocational Assistance and WVO Regional Offices.

WVO has also been supporting products created by veterans and their families through “One Nikom One Product Shop” by providing marketing plan, developing products’ quality to be competitive in the market and reducing manufacture cost as well as extending marketplace through Line Official platform in order to gain more customers as Social Network has become the dominant channel of marketing nowadays.

Medical Assistance

Veterans General Hospital, a 500 bed hospital that is capable to give medication to veterans and their families, ex-servicemen and also general public, has been improving capabilities in medication continually using the budget source supported from Ministry of Defence, WVO and also incomes from hospital operations.

In 2021 there have been donations around 141.3 million Baht from private sectors and other organizations to support the purchase of medical equipment. (Narration: His Majesty the King Rama X bestowed 80,449,000 Baht. The Government Lottery Office donated 51,166,165 Baht. The National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission donated 9,700,100 Baht and The Chaipattana Foundation donated medical equipment) The hospital has also provided Mobile Prosthetics and Orthotics Unit on customizing artificial limbs and give medication services to disabled veterans in rural area.

Regarding the COVID-19 situation, the hospital has been giving a support to relieve the spread by acting as vaccination and inspection center. Moreover, the hospital also provides COVID-19 medication schemes in both Hospital and Home Isolation services as well as sending medical personnel to support governmental State Quarantine procedures.

Honoring and Privilege Enhancement

Due to the COVID-19 situation in 2021, WVO had refrained from holding the Veterans Day ceremonies to comply with government's spread prevention measures. However, the religious ceremonies were remained with reduced attendees and strict measures both in headquarters and regional offices.

WVO has produced the series of documentary scoop honoring the veterans that broadcasts on Royal Thai Army Radio and Television Station to publish the honor and bravery, and also the successful vocational experiences of veterans and their families, as well as servicemen who undertake their duties and serve the country.
