



“DMR supports geological data for exploring the LuangNangnon Cave, Maesai, Chiangrai”



On 24 June 2018, a group of twelve youth football players (age 13-20 years old) with their instructor, hasmissing in the LuangNangnon Cave, locating in ThamLuang-Khun Nam NangnonNational Park. Maesai District, Chiangrai Province. Due to the heavy rain in the area during their visit, they stuck in that cave because of flooding in some area, only their bicycles and motorcycleleft in front of the cave.

The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)'s cave expert, Dr. Chaiporn Siriponpaiboon, who visited and mapped the 1000 m. of this cave several months ago, has released the cave details e.g. location of main cave and dry cave and cave' floor elevation. He also recommends the Local Administration officers and DDPM officers to enhance their search and rescue capacity. Moreover, the officers of DMR's Branch 1 from Lampang has integrated with Police patrol to survey the cave opening.

On 26 June 2018, Dr. Tawsaporn Nuchanong, Director-general of the Department of Mineral Resources and Dr.Chaiporn Siriponpaiboon the cave expert, make a press conference at Geo-hazards Operation Centre, DMR, in order to support geological data for the search & rescue of this critically acclaimed event.

“DMR has formed the Special Operation Group of Experts by integrating all relevant specialists including GIS specialists, Sinkhole specialists, Earthquake specialists, Geophysics specialists and young geologists who visited and mapped that cave earlier, led by Dr. Chaiyapon the cave expert. The Department has assembled both the past surveyed data and the geological data analyzed by potential sources. Luckily, there is a chance to find some cracks near the other end of the cave (A), approximately 4 km. southwest of the main entrance (C) and the cliff along the peak (B), west of the main entrance.” Dr. Tawsaporn said

“Luang Nangnon Cave is normally a stream-flood cave during the rainy season. However, flood is not covered the whole area of the cave because of the altered elevation of the cave floor. It is impossible to pass the low ceiling zone with heavy flood, with the exception of the water level profoundly drop or diving. Though, rock fall in some area and artificial beach in the cave is useful for escaping.” Dr. Chaiyapon said.

“On behalf of the Department of Mineral Resources, we are wishing the safety of all 12 youths and their coach. The Department’s staffs will do our best effort to brighten our geological knowledge and experience which benefit the search & rescue of our beloved people, and wish all of you will be back to your families, soon.”

