



สมาคมวิทยุสมัครเล่นแห่งประเทศไทย
ในพระบรมราชูปถัมภ์

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The HSoAC horror story at AIT: the post-flood rescue mission



After over five weeks of inundation by flood water at the Asian Institute of Technology campus at Kilometre 42 on Phaholyothin Road, a team of RAST members led by station manager Finn, OZ1HET and President Chaiyong, HS1QVD visited the club station there on Saturday, December 10.



Others accompanying them included Swen, HSoZfZ, Thida, HS1ASC, her daughter Shompoo, E2oQMD, Karl, HSoZJL and his XYL, Sonn, HSONDK and Gerd, DK5FJ and they found that flooding had been almost to the ceiling (as can be seen from the water line in these pictures) while grass, plants and shrubs outside the station had died.



All the equipment and furniture in the "shack" had been ravaged by the floodwater as these photographs sadly depict.



The team carefully removed everything in the HSoAC station, including cabling that had been submerged by the flood water and furniture, as well as the remains of desks that had collapsed under the weight of equipment and action of the corrosive water, seen here at right stacked up outside.



Station Manager Finn summarises the situation as follows: "The club station was completely destroyed, everything in there spoiled so we could only "scrap" all out as garbage. All furniture had fallen apart and everything was full of mud and smelling very bad."



"I must say, it was far worse than expected," Finn noted in an email, adding: "This was a very, very bad experience, I can tell you."



Above, the entrance to the bathroom and, at right, where the second operating position used to be.



RAST belongings are lined up outside the shack (left) while RAST President Chaiyong looks at the base of one of the antenna towers at right.



The team spent eight hours cleaning and clearing everything out and the equipment was retrieved for later inspection and possible salvage operations.



Station manager Finn said he guessed that RAST had lost equipment and furniture worth between \$150,000 and \$200,000 (4.7 to 6.2 million baht). Desks, such as the one at left, collapsed under the weight of equipment. At right is the club station's Kenwood TS440S



Most of the furniture at HSoAC is a write-off and some of the equipment (at right) may be beyond repair.



That's the club station's Yaesu FT1000MP at left and its Kenwood TS950S at right.



That's a Drake T-4XC under the murk and mud, while trophies and plaques were not spared flood damage.



Moving the equipment up to be stored on the upper shelves in this cabinet at the club station in advance of the flooding was not enough to save it.



By the end of the day, the HSoAC shack was cleared of furniture and equipment: transceivers, cables, microphones, antenna tuners and other hardware was taken away to be examined and possibly restored.

Above right: Sonn and Swen move out a steel cabinet, one of the last remaining items of furniture, late in the afternoon.





These pictures that tell this sad story here were mostly taken by Swen, HSOZfZ, as well as by Karl, HSOZJL and Thida, HS1ASC at AIT with the exception of the photo above (left) taken the following day by Tony, HSOZDX which shows some of the equipment from HSOAC ready for Sam, HSOZDY to begin working on to see what he can restore for the club. At right: these QSL cards used to adorn this cabinet inside the HSOAC club station but, like almost everything else in the station, they are history now.

-- Web site update by HSOZDX, December 12, 2011

The photo at left shows the team outside the HSOAC shack on Saturday, December 10 from left: Gerd, Karl's XYL, Karl, Sonn, Chaiyong, Finn and Swen. Thida was behind the camera.

Click here to join the [discussion on the RAST forum](#) about this disaster.