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Urban agriculture centre opens

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Chulalongkorn University has invested about 5.6 million baht to turn the 1 rai rooftop space of the seven-storey Siam Square One shopping mall into an urban agriculture learning centre.



Siam Green Sky.

Called "Siam Green Sky", the garden is the pilot green project of the university, which aims to take advantage of space in and outside of buildings to create green zones, according to Assoc Prof Dr Permyot Kosolbhand, vice-president of the Property Management Office of Chulalongkorn University.

The rooftop garden is not only an outdoor classroom and a relaxed corner for city people, but it can also help reduce the temperature about 3-4C inside the building, he added.

The garden is expected to help reduce an electricity bill up to 2,000 baht per year, per square metre.

"We will expand the green project to cover a total of 28 rai of space in and outside buildings belonging to the university in the future," he said. Siam Green Sky is segmented into three zones. First is an innovative area consisting of a solar cell system for farming, a demonstration room showing how to produce fertiliser from organic waste and gardening plots for growing herbal, decorative plants and rice.

The second zone shows plants from many countries while the last zone is an easy-care garden for those who do not have much time, but want to plant vegetables.

There will also be an exhibition to show works of popular Thai artists. Workshops will be held on Saturdays on how to grow hydroponic vegetables, grow rice in a garden and vertical gardens for those who live in a condominium. A green market will soon be opened. Siam Green Sky will be officially opened on May 22 and only open for advance booking, which can be done today, but not for walk-in visitors. One-hour tours are available on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Choices of visiting times are at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 4.30pm. There is no entrance fee.

For booking, call Siam Green Sky at 099-001-8514, email siamgreensky@gmail.com or visit its Facebook Fanpage at www.facebook.com/siamgreensky.

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