The World Soil Day Ceremony was held on December 5th 2017. The theme focused “Caring for the Planet Starts From the Ground” was organized by Land Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Thai Government and the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The campaign was conducted at Khao Cha-Ngum Royal Study Centre for Land Degradation Development in Ratchaburi Province. The World Soil Day Ceremony was attended by more than 2000 officers from Bangkok and local departments, teachers, researchers, farmers, students from neighboring provinces and representatives from UN agencies, international institutions and private sector.

The Governor of Ratchaburi Province opened the campaign and delivered his welcome speech. Mr. Soradesh Trewtrakool, Director General of Land Development Department of Royal Thai Government presented a report to the Chairman of the Ceremony of World Soil Day. The FAO representative delivered a message on behalf of the organization. His Excellency, Mr. Kritsada Boonrat, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives also delivered a welcome speech on behalf of the Royal Thai Government.

At the ceremony, the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives presented the prizes for the winners of the Drawing Contest and the Youth Speech Contest and offered souvenirs to the outstanding farmers.

After the opening ceremony the guests visited the exhibition “Following in the Footsteps of the Father of the Land” and the exhibition “in Praise of His Late Majesty the King by United Nations” displays photographs showing about His Late Majesty the King was honoured as the first recipient of Humanitarian Soil Scientists Award for his dedication to soil resource management, the exhibition of “Land Rehabilitation by the Father of the Land” which displays posters and models showing about the notions of His Late Majesty the King on Land Rehabilitation and the exhibition on “Fulfilling Our Father Legacy which displays the numerous royal projects that have been carrying out from the reign of King Rama 9 to Rama 10 and exhibition on “the Late King’s Guide to Sustainability” which displays the successful activities of seven organizations and four outstanding farmers that followed the Late King’s concepts about soil resource management.

The minister and guests visited the Khao Cha-Ngum Royal Study Centre for Land Degradation Development on a trailer and explored the experimental plots, soil pits and natural forest.

Mr. Yang Youlin, Coordinator of the UNCCD Asia Regional Coordination Unit was interviewed by the National Broadcast and TV on soil carbon and land degradation.
Opening Ceremony of the World Soil Day 2017 in Ratchaburi, Thailand
His Excellency, Mr. Kristsada Boonrat, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Royal Thailand during the opening speech
Mr. Yang Youlin, Coordinator of the UNCCD Asia Regional Coordination Unit participating at the World Soil Day Ceremony, 5th December 2017 in Ratchaburi Province, Thailand