



Daily Xpress

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Staff at the Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre demonstrate how to use a wheelchair.

ENABLING THE DISABLED

OASES OF HOPE

Two centres are working tirelessly to give patients a new life

Wannapa Phetdee
DAILY XPRESS

If a relative or loved one is disabled, encouraging them to enter rehabilitation as learning new skills will allow them to live as active and normal lives as possible.

With assistance from the Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre, it is easier than one might think. The centre encourages family members and neighbours of people with disabilities to work together.

Nitiporn Saetang, 27, is now walking after eight months of rehabilitation at the centre. He suffered serious injuries after being struck by a train in April last year.

"I'm delighted I can go to work again. My

family always taught me not to be a burden on society. I'm proud I can work, even though I have lost both my legs," Nitiporn says.

His brother Rong says the centre treats Nitiporn well. "They follow his development closely, even now after he is walking again."

The centre provides inpatient and outpatient care and treatment. The average length of stay for each admission is about three weeks. Treatment ranges from physical, occupational and speech therapy to independent-living training.

The independent-living section helps the disabled learn to help themselves. They are trained to cook, draw, drive a car and grow vegetables, too.

Meanwhile, the International Convention on Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology, will be held from today to Thursday at Imperial Queen's Park Hotel.