



Charter Granted August 7, 1961

SOUTH WIND

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BANGKOK SOUTH



DISTRICT NO. 3350

The Pan Pacific Hotel 21st Floor, 952 Rama IV Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500, Thailand.
Luncheon Meetings: Every Friday 12.15 p.m. at the Pan Pacific Hotel Tel : 0 2632-9160 Fax : 0 2632-9161.

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Today: CP Geoffrey Carter, The History of Video Games

Next Week: Steve Young

No 3384

rotarybangkoksouth.org

28 January 2011

Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn Human Rights in Thailand at a Crossroad



Last week's guest speaker was Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn whose presentation was entitled "*Human Rights in Thailand at a Crossroads*".

This was a very well attended and well received presentation with many visiting Rotary Delegations. Professor Muntarbhorn spoke about human rights in Thailand in the context of five other issues: democracy, security, poverty, equality and industry.

A viable democracy is vital for any country to have a successful human right's record and Thailand has a history of struggling for a viable open and free democratic political system throughout its history.

Professor Muntarbhorn pointed out that Thailand is now on its eighteenth constitution, with almost the same number of coup d'états. Recently there has been somewhat of a lull in the democratic process in Thailand, especially with respect to the much discussed constitutional changes.

Thailand needs to focus on reconciliation and freedom of association in order to allow followers of various political factions (represented by shades of different colors) to come together and have meaningful elections and for the country to actually abide by future election results.

National security issues also play a role in the democratic process and in further ensuring human rights in Thailand. Citizens' right to freedom of expression must be balanced with security concerns in Thailand as well. Professor Muntarbhorn indicated that in the context of human rights, issues of national security should only inhibit freedom of expression or association in a limited context such as where groups cause damage to the country such as when the yellow shirts took over the airport, or when the red shirts occupied one of the central commercial districts of Bangkok putting people's livelihoods at risk.

When it is necessary for the authorities to put hindrance on such freedom of association, the reaction must be proportionate to the threat level. National security laws are still being strictly implemented in three southern provinces and one impediment to human rights in this context is that terrorism suspects still do not have access to attorneys from the very start of their arrest.

Poverty also plays a role with respect to human rights and is an issue that Thailand still needs to address. There still remains a large equity gap between the rich and poor in Thailand. Forty percent of the national wealth of the country is in the hands of the poor, which makes up eighty percent of the population.

Conversely, sixty percent of the nation's wealth remains with the rich Thais who make up only twenty percent of the population. Small farmers, an aging society and those who fall outside the protection of Thailand's social system are most at risk of this equity gap which needs to be narrowed in order for human rights in Thailand to be successfully realized.

Continued on page 2



◀ Rotarian Henry welcoming one visiting delegation....



▶ DGN Alex Mavro and Rtn Henry welcoming Visiting Rotarians



▶ P Andrew and PP Renato having some fun with Faisal Malik from Camillian Home



▶ Rotary Club of Bangkok in full force...



▶ PDG Krit watches as his fellow RC Bangkokians contribute to Cosmos...



▶ P Andrew posing with the Sathron Rotary Club Delegation

Continued from page one...

In terms of equality, Thailand has had a successful track record recently regarding equality amongst the sexes. Professor Muntarbhorn shared one indicator of this with us, being the fact that eighty percent of his law classes are attended by female students. He also pointed out changes in the family law in Thailand which had previously heavily favored men, although he also conceded inequalities between the sexes still do exist and

that further improvement in this area is possible.

The last issue linked to human rights in Thailand is that of industry. The situation in Map Ta Put is an example where citizens and community organizations have clashed with industry in Thailand. There is a need for refining and allowing for meaningful public participation regarding accountability of companies and requirements for good corporate governance in Thailand.

Prevention of disagreements is much better than a cure, and a balancing act of checks and balances is necessary. Further, implementation of meaningful dialogue is necessary at the local levels in order for this issue to be addressed.

It was a very insightful speech and Professor Muntarbhorn was kind enough to end his presentation by stating that Rotary International is a guiding light for rights.

By Rtn Jamie Cummiskey





Great Times & Great People Doing Great Things

Matching Grant Project # 73406

Providing 20 Clean-Drinking-Water Systems to 20 Schools in Saraburi

Total Project Cost: US\$ 51,515

Bangkok South: US\$3,000

Visitors: 8-10 Rotarians from District 2670

Thursday, 27 January 2011

08:00 Leave Crowne Plaza Lumpini Park (formerly Pan Pacific) for Saraburi

10:00 Arrive Saraburi for official inauguration ceremony for all schools, speeches, entertainment by students from schools

12:00 Lunch at the school

13:30 Visit another 3 - 4 schools

15:00 Depart Saraburi for Bangkok

17:00 Arrive Bangkok

19:00 Welcome Dinner at Shangri-La Seafood Restaurant in Soi Thaniya

(members only pay approx 1,200 Baht for dinner/drinks at Shangri-La Restaurant Dress: RCBS Polo Shirt or Casual

Friday, 28 January 2011 RCBS lunch

Saturday, 29 January 2011 Golf

Lake Wood arranged by PP Narinder @ Baht 2,000 - 3,000 Tee-Off: 11:27

Matching Grant Project # 73640

Providing 11 Clean-Drinking-Water Systems to 11 Schools in Anghthong

Total Project Cost: US\$ 28,334.

Bangkok South: US\$2,750

Visitors: 8-10 Rotarians from District 2630

Wednesday, 2 February 2011

19:00 Welcome Dinner, Miramar Sea-Food Restaurant in Silom Plaza, Silom/Narathiwart near Narai Hotel (members approx Baht 1,200 each)

Thursday, 3 February 2011

08:00 Leave Narai Hotel to Anghthong Province (about 120 kilometers)

10:00 Arrive main school for inauguration ceremony, speeches, entertainment

12:00 Lunch at the school

13:30 Visit another 3 - 4 schools

15:00 Head for Ayutthaya for sight-seeing

17:30 Board dinner boat while visiting ancient structures and sound and light

21:00 Arrive Narai Hotel

(No costs to members)

DRESS: RCBS Polo Shirt or Casual

Friday, 4 February 2011 RCBS lunch



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Khun Prakai's Club Almanac

No 3384

28 January 2011

Happy Birthdays

PP Dirk Naumann (28 January)
PP Don Lavoie (2 February)

Attendance for 21 January 2011: 69%

Present 48, Make-up 8, Absent 22, Leave 3, Exempt 28; Total 109

Visiting on 21 January 2011

Bangkapi: PDG Krit Indhewat, P Sukanya Nimmanheminda, Suchitra Hiranprueck, Voravit Keerikoolparn, Rene Clausen

Bangkok: P Abdus Samad, Suraphon Kittiwet, PP Jitti Tangsubut, Chiemi Svensson, PDG Saiyud Kerdphol, Eva Maria Degli Albizi, Abdullah Alawadi, Vinai Sachdev, Katharina Lempert-Dober, Zadok Lempert, Vongthip Chumpani, Santi Chatterjee, Paolo Piazzardi, PE Chamnong Watanagase, Nath Kongsivaphisit, AG Ateeb Maskati

Dhonburi: Somchart Huachai, Dilok Rodmorn, PE Warawat Daranuwat, PP Kasem Prakalphakul, P Veera Thanomsakdi

Sathorn: Nattha Pangmanee, P Natthananya Aswanichkorn, Varee Vongsrirungruang, Nopparat Maneewongwatana, Pravet Ariyawongsanukul, Thasanaporn Tantiveerakul, PP Isara Tang, Oramat Tianpreecha, Pida Chalalai

From Abroad

Othmar Ober (Makati South, Philippines)
Hans Maunheim (Minerva Amsterdam, Netherlands)
Debbie Morgan (Whitby Sunrise, Canada)
Craig Howie (Whitby Sunrise, Canada)
Mark Chipman (Whitby Sunrise, Canada)
Leslie Burton (Whitby Sunrise, Canada)
Robert Ellis (Whitby Sunrise, Canada)
Mandred Kohler (Hofgeis Mar, Germany)
Steve Young (Saint Paul, US)

Invited guests

Nathan Christoff
Chip Bowness
Jeremy King
Tino Kaser
Patrick Bongnet
Henry Beeber
Faisal Malik

Introduced by

Dana Caron
John Casella
Mark Butters
Rudy van der Hoeven
Rudy van der Hoeven
P Andrew MacPherson
PP Renato Porzio



Club Calendar

4 February 2011 (Friday)
Steve Young

11 February 2011 (Friday)
Dr Ian Fenwick

Digital Media why news will never be the same

18th February HOLIDAY
Makah Bucha Day
No Meeting

25 February 2011 (Friday)
Rtn Richard Jones

4 March 2011 (Friday)
David Lyman

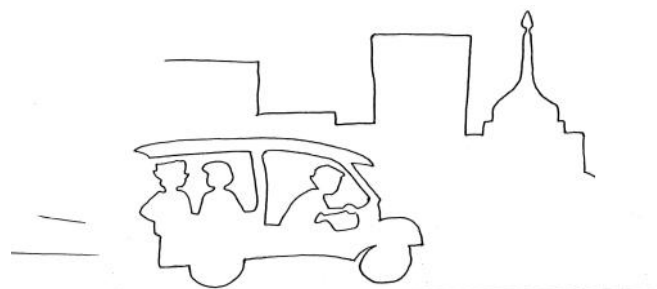
Are you crazy enough to be a Director in Thailand

Wednesday, 16 March 2011
Paul Harris Dinner

Thursday, 31 March 2011
RCBS Golf Tournament

Make-up Credit

Board of Directors, 17/1/11: P Andrew MacPherson, PE Mark Butters, Manu Mekdhanasarn, Nick Pisalyaput, Jon Plate, Leo Alexandersen, Tyrone Jenkins, Michael Ellis, Gareth Marshall, Michael Doyle
Polio Inoculation Day, 19/1/11: P Andrew MacPherson, DGN Alex Mavro, Rui Belo, Ken Hoon, PP Krit Wongsangarunsri, Yongyuth Tirachaimongkol



After Rotary... scoot over to Cosmos Academy for an educational afternoon...