



Charter Granted 7 August 1961

SOUTH WIND

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BANGKOK SOUTH



Meetings: Friday 12.15 pm.

The Crowne Plaza Bangkok Lumpini Park Hotel, 952 Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10500 Thailand

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Today: Steven Van Yoder Get Slightly Famous

No 3410

16 September 2011

Dr Norbert Spitz Culture in Conflict Zone



I believe that I, like most fellow Rotarians, had no idea what Dr Norbert Spitz, Director of the Goethe Institute in Bangkok would have to say about 'Culture in Conflict Zone.'

While I agree the title was correct, after having heard Dr Norbert's amazing talk, I believe the phrase – 'Go to it', needs to be added. From start to finish in his talk, one theme was apparent, Dr

Norbert would undertake some preliminary research to do with culture, see an idea that would help to develop local culture and then make it happen!

On arriving in Kabul, Dr Norbert found that despite the years of war and hardships under Taliban rule, the art of storytelling had not only survived, but was thriving in towns and villages throughout the country.

His answer was to invite all the groups they could, with some 42 taking part in the first Theatre Festival in 2004. In the second year, the French, British and US joined in to support. While the initial productions were not all professional, they included comedy along with themes related to corruption and gender issues.

Once this annual festival was underway, he examined the supply chain that would develop an enhanced quality of cultural activities and found solutions to help. Realizing story telling and

theatre were good ways to keep local culture alive, he initiated workshops for the groups coming to the annual festival.

However, realizing the festival had a limited audience and reach, the time came to revitalize the film industry. With workshops, seminars and support from leading film professionals, the film industry was helped to restart.

Then, looking back even further in the supply chain, he realized that if story telling was to remain a vibrant part of Afghan culture, it required people who could read; to read books were needed; to have books to read; libraries were needed. What did he do?

He found an Afghan-German librarian in Germany, who went to Kabul to start a library and trained others in library science. In the meantime, he had books translated and distributed to schools.

Continued on page 3



Rotary in Pictures



▶ P Mark and Rtn Dana enjoying a quality read.

▶ Meeting and Greeting never gets any better than this...



▶ Visiting Rotarian Ruby Chang and her guest Varaporn Phojananart.

▶ P Don and Khun Pooh watch as Rtn Leo donates his Cosmos entry fee...



▶ Rtns Ron and Mike enjoying a bit of fellowship in the lunch chit line-up.

▶ Rtn Alastair presenting Dr Norbert with our certificate of appreciation.



▶ Waiting patiently for things to get underway.

▶ Rtn Ken with Cosmos winnings and his donation to the club's 50th anniversary dinner.



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50th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Join our Gala Dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Bangkok South.

All members, former members, members of other clubs and friends are invited to join us to mark this milestone in our club's history.

Saturday, 1 October 2011
18.30 to 22.00

Intercontinental Hotel
Baht 1,800 per person



Continued from the cover

To encourage children to read, they started book reading events and included workshops for readers and others on how to do puppet plays.

It was an amazing story... while some might argue it would have been better to have started at the bottom and worked up, that is, help children to learn the joy of reading and then move up the levels from there, his idea to work from the top seems to be a brilliantly successful one.

I can only imagine the pent-up energy that must have been released through the support of the Goethe Institute and can only hope that this success story continues not only in Afghanistan, but also in any country where illiteracy is a problem.

In closing, while I had no idea what to expect at the start of his speech, I will be the first to go to any event where Dr Norbert is talking about his experiences in Afghanistan, or in fact anywhere else as I know it will be informative...

CDWS Trip 28-30 October

Come join one of Rtn Wolfgang's (Water Kaiser) trips up country to inaugurate two water projects in Lampang and Sukhothai Province.

Included are visits to the Elephant Conservation Center and Sukhothai Historical Park.

To book a seat in the van, leaving Friday, 28 October after lunch, contact Wolfgang no later than 20 September.

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Khun Prakai's Club Almanac

No 3410

16 September 2011



Happy Birthdays

Chamnarn Viravan (20 September)
Thanakorn Telan (21 September)

Wedding Anniversary Greetings

Paul Russell (20 September)

Attendance for 9 September 2011: 64%

Present 46, Make-up 5, Absent 28, Leave 1, Exemption 26, Total 106

Visiting on 9 September 2011

Bangkok: Dr Norbert Spitz, Ido Berger

From Abroad

Ruby Chang (Beijing, China)
Hans Mannheim (Amsterdam Minerva, Holland)

Invited guests

Randal Glaholt
Bill Ross
Sunil Mahajan
Deki Dorji
V Phojananart
Dikki Bhuten
Daman Bhuten
James Nolan

Introduced by

Mark Marshall
Dana Caron
Tyrone Jenkins
Tyrone Jenkins
Ruby Chang
Rudy van der Hoeven
Rudy van der Hoeven
Geoff Carter

Recent Make-up

Srapathum 7/9: PP John Quarmby
Sukhumvit, 7/9 DGN Alex Mavro

Make-up Credit

Coins on Silom Committee, 1/9/11: Douglas Riach, Chip Bowness, Geoff Carter, Ian Morris, Tyrone Jenkins, Jim Fowler, Junior Shaw, Alastair Timblick

Meeting with Water Supplier Company 8/9/11: Volker Betsch, Marco Casanova, PP John Quarmby, Gary White

Club Calendar

Friday, 23 September (Luncheon)
Dr Mechai Viravaidhaya
The Mechai Bamboo School

Saturday, 1 October
50th Anniversary Gala Dinner
18.30 to 22.00

Intercontinental Hotel

Friday, 7 October (Luncheon)
HE Michael Mann
Ambassador of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to the Kingdom of Thailand
Insight to the Knights of Malta

Friday, 4 November
06.00 to 14.00
Coins on Silom

For more Bangkok South Events check the club calendar at

rotarybangkoksouth.org/calendar-of-events

The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up.
Paul Valery

In youth the days are short and the years are long. In old age the years are short and days long.
Pope Paul VI

A man is only a failure when he believes so.
OLUWAFEMI

When choosing between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before.
Mae West



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