



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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**HE Michael Mann - Ambassador of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to Thailand
Insight to the Knights of Malta**

No 3412

07 October 2011

Dr Mechai Viravaidhaya The Mechai Bamboo School

The Bamboo School has been developed as a place where pupils are happy and can fulfill their potential, adapted to its local environment and current technology. It develops the complete individual - instilling individual morality, preserving community tradition and promoting good citizenship. The Mechai Pattana School endeavors to promote the following values: environmental protection, education, poverty eradication, philanthropy, integrity and democracy & gender equality.

Thai education has generally concentrated on literacy and numerical skills, with little emphasis on new ideas and creativity skills. Therefore it falls on private philanthropists to improve the education system. The Mechai Pattana School intends to change this situation for poor, rural students.

The school strives towards getting its pupils to perform at their full potential by focusing on

developing the complete individual with lessons focused on enabling students to analyze and create.

Bamboo School serves as a life-long learning center for the entire community; where everyone is welcome to use the school to improve their agricultural, business and general vocational skills.

A hub for economic and social advancement; where micro-credit funding is available for families within the school community.

A teacher training facility; where teachers from rural areas can come to improve their teaching skills.

The Original Thinking at the Bamboo School

The school term closes during rice planting and harvesting sea-



sons to enable students to participate in rice farming. The school week is from Thursday to Monday (closed on Tuesday and Wednesday) to enable outsiders to visit and teach at the school during their weekends.

There are no student fees in monetary terms, rather, students and parents have to plant 365 trees and pay their fees with 365 hours of community service.

Commencing in 2012, Year 10 students will be sent to Pattaya for one entire year. Here they will be immersed in a different cultural, economic and social atmosphere. The campus will be located at the Birds and Bees Resort.

Continued on page 3



Rotary in Pictures



◀ Rotarian Sandwich as Rtms Dana and Tyrone flank PP Sean and Guest Michael



▶ Dr Mechai Viravaidhaya and DGE with our Certificate of Thanks...



▶ Dr Mechai always draws a good crowd and today was no different.



▶ Rtn Narinder look delighted at winning...



▶ Rtms Mike, Krit and Prasert showing or holding the Friday spirit (s)



▶ PP Sean and DGE Alex spend a few minutes with our guest, Dr Meechai...



▶ PDG Kasemchai gets in the word about the Bangkok Convention...



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Our Youngest, Second Generation Rotarian Candidates



**Matthew Mark Butters and
Anthony Mark Butters
(Matt and Tony)
27 September 2011**

Continued from the cover Outside the Classroom

Students are given the responsibility of participating in the teacher selection and evaluation process. They also select the incoming Grade 7 students, promoting leadership and operate businesses having a positive impact within their community, with some of the profits going towards primary student scholarships in government schools. Students participate in the purchasing committee, which enables them to learn budgeting, planning, transparency and negotiation skills.

In the Classroom

Students are encouraged to use internet as well as books. Students choose projects and activities they would like to explore, and the teachers facilitate the learning process, encouraging self-direction. Team-building is encouraged, so students work collaboratively on solving problems or work on projects in small groups.

Construction

The Secondary School features environmentally-friendly bamboo architecture specially treated to last up to 80 years. The school also boasts the largest bamboo geodesic dome in the world at 30 meters in diameter.

The unique buildings include a Design & Climate Change Center, the Bill Gates Sr Barefoot Philanthropy Academy, an IT Center, a media studio, as well as the world's largest bamboo geodesic dome which is 30 meters in diameter. Students are encouraged to take part in horticulture and agriculture activities right on school grounds, and new techniques are devised which will benefit the surrounding rural community.

The Importance of Education

Since youth will one day be the leaders of their community, it is important to instill a sense of responsibility in children of rural areas. This is why the Mechai Pattana School was launched with support from the business community as a private institution for rural children, at no cost, in Buriram province (four hours from Bangkok).

Through its innovative learning process, students are capable of solving complex problems with only a finite resources. These teaching methods have been recognized as highly successful and the school has won praise from the Thai Ministry of Education as well as international institutions. The school conforms to all Ministry of Education's standards. The Mechai Pattana School is constructed entirely of environmentally-friendly bamboo.

New Generation of Philanthropists

Not only are students educated at the school, they also become actively involved in the selection of the teachers, the purchasing decisions, and even the design of their own school uniforms. While the education is free of charge to these underprivileged children, they must perform one hour of community service for every school lunch. The operating costs of the school (approximately \$US 2,000 per student) are supported by a wide array of social enterprises that have been established by the founder, Mechai Viravaidya. Students understand the link between entrepreneurship and philanthropy, and they start many businesses of their own.

The children are also tasked with monitoring and proposing improvements in the quality of life for the most vulnerable people in their communities (the elderly, the disabled, and HIV-positive individuals).

Recognition - Melinda Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

For me, Mechai Viravaidya is an inspiration, showing what business savvy, creativity, and a great sense of humor can accomplish.

Article by CP Geoffrey Carter

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Khun Prakai's Club Almanac

No 3412

07 October 2011



Happy Birthdays

- P Mark Butters (2 October)
- PP Nigel Hardy (5 October)
- Rod Vergara (7 October)
- Dana Caron (7 October)
- Vince Shueh (7 October)
- PP John Quarmby (11 October)
- Rick Smith (11 October)
- PP Chumpol Phornprapha (12 October)

Attendance for 50th Anniversary 1 October 2011: 79%
Present 60, Make-up 3, Absent 15, Leave 2, Exemption 26, Total 106

Visiting on 1 October 2011

Angthong: Somporn Suwanpadung

Bangkok: PE Kallaya Leeissarapong, AD Chitti, Katharina, Zadak Lempus, Suraphon Kittiwet, PP Vinai Sechdev, Paul Scales, Deepak Mittal, Suthep Unaphumnag, P Chamnong Watanagase, Kamol Asavasatitporn, Thasanai Phiriyavityopas

Bangrak: PP Sirichai Simaskul

Buengkum: IPP Suteera Thirasan

Chalerm Prakiat: PP Kosol Juakee, P Narong Sawanjit

Jomtien Pattaya: PDG Prateep Malhotra, PP Mae Mahaphaisan, Gudmund Eiksund

Kanchanaburi: DGE Sompoph Thirasan

Maesord: Boonmee Santikalayanawat, Lek Siriakoonwanit

Nan: Kalaya Yostha, Thinnakorn Skathongkhum, Rassarin Sra-thongkhum, PP Narong Yostha, Nithi Soonsawang

Pathumwan: P Pornchai Srichaiyongphanich, PP Malee Khumrat-takul, Natti Angsuwanmak

Pranarai Lopburi: P Rungnapa Tangseraneekul, CP Kaukaew Petchbut, PP Bubpha Seehaphan, PP Nuchanart Tongkoom

Sawakaloke: PDG Preeda Jadsri

Sila-Asana: P Jinda Makaew, Prasart Sripalakit, Jirayut Hiruny-awat, Benjaluck Aukarapasuchart, Thanyapa Lorwattana, Sippa-pas Keeratithakul

Silom: DG Supong Chayutsahakij, PDG Kasemchai Nitiwanakun

Srapathum: IPP Yuphadee Keeree, PP Boonlert Tinmanee, CP Suvanna Vongsurakrai

Sukhumvit: P Suchart Subhasavasdikul

Club Calendar

Friday, 14 October
Pana Janviroj, Chief Operating Officer, Nation
The political situation, press freedom

Friday, 21 October
Club Assembly
DG Supong Chayutsahakij
Classification: Carol Kuhn by Rudy van der-Hoeven
Friday, 28 October
Rtn Michael Doyle
Thai/Cambodia Oil & Gas Dispute and Likely Outcome

Friday, 4 November
06.00 to 14.00
Coins on Silom

Friday, 11 November
Kiet Sittheeamorn

Friday, 18 November
Korn Chatikavanij

For more Bangkok South Events check the club calendar
rotarybangkoksouth.org/calendar-of-events

FROM ABROAD

Macau: Keith Pharis

Petaling Jaya: PDG Dato Dr Low Teong, Mrs Jackie Low, PP Yap Swee Fatt, Mrs Susan Yap, PP Andy Ooi, Mrs Andy Ooi, PP Dr JD John, Mrs Rohini John

Minerwa Amsterdam: Mr & Mrs Hans Mannheim

Surfers Paradise: Alan Guignon, PP Donna Gillet Shaw

Phnom Pehn: Peter Brongers

Foster City, Cal USA Ambassadorial: Ashley Pritchard

Tokohama, Japan Ambassadorial: Megumi Hata

Recent Make-up

Bangkok: P Mark Butters, Marco Casanova, IPP Andrew MacPherson

Make-up Credit

Administration Committee 15/9/11: PP Philip Baechtold, PP Don Lavoie, Mike Schulz, Junior Shaw, Dean Outerson

Anniversary Committee, 16/9/11: Vibul Pattarathammas, PP Krit Wongsangarunsri, PP Ole Madsen, PP Don Lavoie, P Mark Butters, Dean Outerson, Henry Kosim

Board of Directors, 19/9/11: P Mark Butters, Prasert Mang-kornkarn, Nick Pisalyaput, Dana Caron, Adrian Topham, Rakesh Sodhia, Douglas Riach, Jon Plate, Chris Thatcher, Dean Outerson

Anniversary Committee, 23/9/11: PP Vibul Pattarathammas, PP Krit Wongsangarunsri, PP Niti Meyer, P Mark Butters, PP Don Lavoie, Henry Kosim, Dean Outerson, Leo Alexandersen



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For more information, please contact

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