



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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**President** Mark Butters • **President Elect/Membership** Nick Pisalyaput  
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### Kiet Sittheeamorn Life under a new regime

No 3416

11 November 2011

### Geoffrey Carter Flood Situation in Bangkok – Man Made or Natural Disaster



CP Geoff first arrived in Thailand on business in 1982 for a meeting with the Thai Environmental Engineers Association, he recalled his first landing at Don

Muang Airport in 1982 which was in the middle of vast lush green rice paddies. Now this flood plain has been completely built up with housing, offices and industrial development, yet without any flood mitigation measures, as has been the Western flood plain.

At that time Bangkok was still known as the Venice of the East, as it had been built on the flood plain of the Chaophraya River. Bangkok became the Capital of Thailand in 1782 and shortly afterwards in 1785 experienced a 4.25m flood. In 1942 it was flooded to 1.5m for two months.

He recalled in 1983 arriving to find Bangkok flooded and having to divert to Pattaya to avoid the floods. In 1994 he moved to Bangkok permanently, and the following year had to wade

knee deep through the streets in Pratumnam. In his soi near Seacon square his children were swimming in the street.

Bangkok is only two meters above sea level the land had been sinking by 10mm per year due to over-pumping of industrialist's artesian wells and the sea level had been rising by 3mm per year due to climate change.

He discussed this with Krisada Arungvongse Na Ayuthaya PDG and BMA Governor at the time. Krisada was concerned that a flood wall should be constructed around Bangkok 5.2m high, however Banharn, who has a house along the Chaophraya in China Town and a number of hotel owners objected to the height and so the wall was only constructed to 2.5m. This meant that if the exceptionally high tide meets the waters from the run off from the monsoon rains, the river would over flow. The result now is that China Town and Banharn's house are now under water.

The dyke which was built all around inner Bangkok runs up the Chaophraya from Samut Prakarn and across near Don Muang Airport to Bangkok and as part of the outer ring road to encompass the new airport. A series of drainage canals allows water within inner Bangkok dyke to be pumped to the

river or sea. However, the BMA have discovered that a number of canals have been blocked by new housing estates particularly in the Bangna area.

So is it a man made disaster or avoidable? Since Bangkok has been flooding since 1785, the government has had over 200 years to take all necessary flood mitigation measures. There have been a number of Flood Mitigation Master Plans for the Chaophraya. TEAM Engineers carried out a feasibility study for the BMA under Krisada in 1995/6 and in 2001 the Chaophraya Flood Mitigation Master Plan was completed.

This plan was in 3 stages of which phase 1, the construction of the dyke around inner Bangkok has been completed. However the construction of a relief floodway or river from Ayutthaya has not been carried out. The result is the dyke holds back the water which floods the old flood plains to the west and north of Bangkok. The Government are now taking about a Master Plan, but all they have to do is implement the one they already have to alleviate the problem. Had the original Master Plan been carried out, serious flooding on this scale would not have occurred.



# Rotary in Pictures



Rtn Adrian and his son Anthony



AP Prasert...▶



Rtn Mark and friend collecting from Bernard and Rtn Rui

Rtn Vinai wins and puts it up for auction ▶



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## Rotary Club of Bangkok South Nominations for the Board of Directors 2012/2013



**President  
Nick Pisalyaput**



**President Nominee  
Michael Schulz**



**IPP  
Mark Butters**



**Vice President  
Krin Chammaytesakul**



**Vice President  
Narain Suradejvibul**



**Secretary  
Vince Shueh**



**Treasurer  
Rakesh Sodhia**



**Sergeant at Arms  
Tyrone Jenkins**



**Director  
Chip Bowness**



**Director  
Dana Caron**



**Director  
Jon Plate**



**Director  
Ian Morris**



**Director  
Junior Shaw**



### Club honored for Luang Sit Fellowship support with the Foundation of Needy Schoolchildren

As President of the Rotary Club of Bangkok South, Mark Butters recently received a certificate from Her Royal Highness Princess Queen Sirikit in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Foundation.

**Luang Sit Fellowship** to the Foundation of Needy Schoolchildren under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Foundation.



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## Khun Prakai's Club Almanac

No 3416

11 November 2011



### Happy Birthday

PP Narinder Sachdev (11 November)

### Wedding Anniversary Greetings

PP Burin Kantabutra (12 November)

Attendance for 4 November 2011: 54%  
Present 33, Make-up 10, Absent 35, Leave 2,  
Exemption 26, Total 106

### Visiting on 4 November 2011

Pattaya Beach: Michael Nour

### From Abroad

Hans Mannheim (Minerva Amsterdam)  
Dan Christensen (Nibe, Denmark)

### Invited Guests

Anthony Topham  
Bernard Collin  
Steve Cook  
Stuart Luciami  
George Williams

### Introduced by

Adrian Topham  
Tim Cornwall  
Chris Thatcher  
Douglas Riach  
Tom Banker

### Recent Make-up

Bangkok 3/11/11: Chip Bowness  
Manchester, 4/11/11: John Watson



## Club Calendar

Friday, 18 November (Lunch)  
Korn Chatikavanij

Friday, 25 November (Lunch)  
Michael Doyle

The Oil & Gas Dispute Between Thailand and  
Cambodia and the Likely Outcome

Friday, 2 December (Lunch)  
(Club Delegations visiting RCBS)  
Voranoi Vanijaka  
Local Politics

Friday, 9 December (Lunch)  
Roger Crutchley  
End of an era

Friday, 16 December (Lunch)  
VJ The Tailor  
Behind The Tailors Curtain

Friday, 23 December (Lunch)  
Fellowship Day

Friday, 27 January  
06.00 to 14.00  
Coins on Silom

**For Bangkok South Events  
check the  
club calendar**

**[rotarybangkoksouth.org/  
calendar-of-events](http://rotarybangkoksouth.org/calendar-of-events)**



[www.modenacondos.com](http://www.modenacondos.com)

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