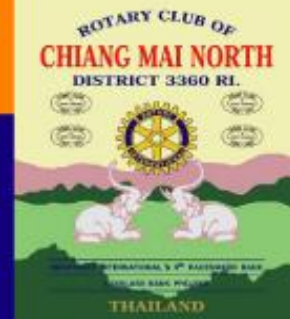




The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North

Service above Self

BUILDING COMMUNITIES - BRIDGING CONTINENTS



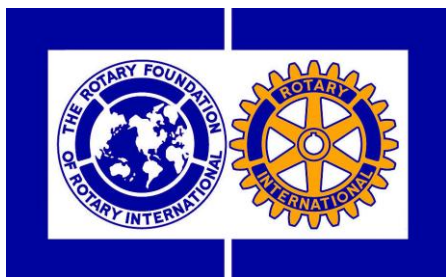
THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHIANG MAI NORTH was established in 1980. Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand is located in the Northern region of the country. The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North boasts 31 active members and represents a wide cross section of the local community which embraces the Rotary Motto : *Service Above Self*.

Volume 1
Issue 4
December
2010

NOVEMBER



IS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH



November is the Rotary Foundation Month. The Rotary Foundation is one of the largest and prestigious foundations in the world. The mission of the Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, good will, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation

of poverty. The foundation sponsors an extensive range of Educational and Humanitarian programs which helps not only saving lives but also making a real impact to many peoples' existence all around the world. To think about how much more can be done with your contribution to Polio Plus, the Annual Programs Fund or the Permanent Fund is a testimony that each dollar contributed by Rotarians helps make "A better world"

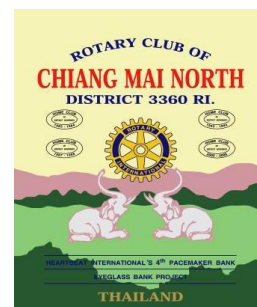


OFFICIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY

BAN PIENG LUANG, WIENG HENG DISTRICT, CHIANG MAI

SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT

After our October trip, The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North has arranged a second trip in November to hold the official dedication ceremony of our Rotary International Matching Grant Project.



On November 23, Mr. Thomas Thorfinnson - The Vice President of Rotary International, Dr. Virachai Jamroendararasame - The District Governor of Rotary International District 3360, Mr. Werapong Towseangchai – the 3360 District Secretary along with members of The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North travelled to Wieng Heng District in Chiang

Mai to officially hand over 3 wells and the safe drinking water system to Ban Pieng Luang School.

Ban Pieng Luang Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Project is part of the Rotary International Matching Grant Project # 69256. The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North worked in co-operation with Engineers Without Borders supported by a Matching Grant from Rotary International.



The Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North have helped to guide the project from its inception throughout its successful completion.

Ban Pieng Luang School was founded in 1957, now has over 1,200 hill tribe students from Shan, Lisu and a minority group of Yunan Chinese.

We would like to express our special thanks to the following contributors for their significant support to the Matching Grant project of Ban Pieng Luang.

The Rotary Club of Twinsburg, Ohio, USA

The Rotary Club of Nordonia Hills
(Northfield), Ohio, USA

The Rotary Club of Strongsville, Ohio, USA

Rotary International District 6460 - USA

Rotary International District 6630 – USA

Rotary International District 3360 – Thailand

Engineers Without Borders – Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA





A note from Thomas Thorfinnson , Rotary International Vice President written at Ban Pieng Luang School on Nov 23

“Tom Thorfinnson, Rotary International Vice President (from Eden Prairie MN USA)

We come here today to view the completed Rotary Matching Grant Water Project. The students did a great job of entertaining all of us with native dance and music performances. Everyone was superb and I could not be more impressed with the school, the students, the administration, the teachers and the Rotarians.



I am proud to be a Rotarian with all of the Rotarians of district 3360 and happy that we were able to help these students.

Thomas Thorfinnson”



GET TO KNOW THE HILL TRIBES

IN OUR MATCHING GRANT PROJECT

Our Matching Grant project covers four areas of the Northern Region. Prao and Wieng Heng in Chiang Mai, Mae Chan in Chiang Rai and Pang Ma Pha in Mae Hong Sorn. These areas are home to ethnic groups known as Hill Tribes. The Hill Tribes migrated into the region during the past 100 years from the inner Asian area and still have largely preserved their traditional ways. The seven main Hill Tribe groupings in Northern Thailand are Karen, Lahu, Hmong, Lisu, Akha, Mien and Shan. Each Hill Tribe has its own customs, dialects, costumes and spiritual beliefs.

There are five tribes living in the areas of our Matching Grant Project : Karen, Lahu, Akha, Lisu and Shan. There is also a minority group called Yunan Chinese.



Let's get to know a few tribes living in our Matching Grant Project # 69256.

KAREN

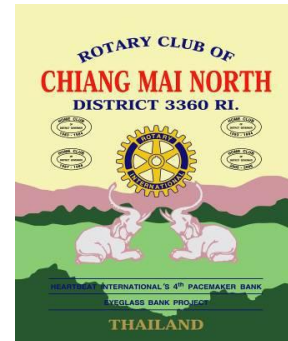
Karen, the largest of the Hill Tribes who live in Thailand, are known as 'Yang' in Thai, there are around 300,000 Karen living in the Northern Region of Thailand and are mainly located in the mountains of Mae Hong Sorn and the western area of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Payao along the Burmese Border. Karen like to settle in foothills. They are skilled farmers and are famous for being the best mahouts in Thailand or even in Southeast Asia. There are four groups of Karen in Thailand with the 'Sgaw Karen' and the 'Black Karen' being the most important groups. Originally practicing animism and ancestor worship, over 30% of Karen have been converted to Christianity by western missionaries. The Karen village chief has great power over his community, and is regarded as the spiritual as well as administrative leader.



Karen are known as having a polite and soft personality, non confrontational with a love for peace.



Karen are also skilled weavers, women costume is very attractive and distinctive. Unmarried girls wear white loose V- necked blouses or tunics, decorated with tear-shaped beans at the seams. The married ones wear various natural colors and turban. Men wear blue baggy trousers with red or blue shirts, a simplified version of women's blouses. Black Karen men always wear black shirts with read head scarf.



LAHU

Also known as Musor. The Lahu tribe originated in South West of China and have migrated into Thailand from Northern Burma.



Their population is estimated at around 100,000 in Thailand. Most of their settlements are concentrated close to the Burmese border, in Chiang Rai, northern Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Sorn Provinces. The Lahu language has become a “lingua franca”, spoken throughout the other tribes, since, amongst the Lahu, hiring out labour to the other tribes has become common. There are four tribes within Lahu : Red, Yellow, Black and Sheleh. The Black Lahu is the largest group, making up close to 80 per cent of the Lahu population, and their dialect is considered to be

standard Lahu dialect. Even though primarily subsistence farmers, cultivating rice and corn for their own consumption, the Lahu are also proud of their hunting – warrior heritage. They remain a strict, serious community governed by strong principles of right and wrong, every individual in the village answering to the common will of the elder, the Lahu are still strongly committed to principles of unity and working together for survival.

Lahu women wear very distinctive black cloak with diagonal cream stripes, the top of sleeves is decorated in bold colors of red and yellow with skirts and men wear baggy green or blue trousers with a plain black shirt.



AKHA

A hill tribe of subsistence farmers known for their artistry. The Akha are closely related to the Hani of China's Yunan Province who came to Thailand only in early 20th Century, with some 80,000 now living in Thailand's northern provinces of Chiang Rai, and Chiang Mai. They are also known in Thai as Gaw or E-Gaw, the Akha are one of the dominant cultural influence in the area. They speak the language in the Lolo/Yi branch of the Tibeto-Burman language group, but have no traditional written language.

Akha are the most impoverished of the hill tribes, resisting assimilation into mainstream Thai culture; they are the most fascinating and colorful. The Akha have a very unique and rich oral literature tradition, in which they can

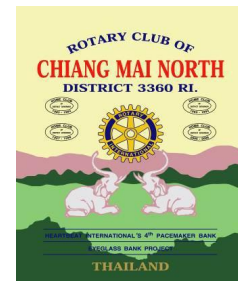


recite their ancestors back numerous generations. Although, today many Akha, especially younger generation have converted to Christianity, Akha Zang (The Akha Way) still runs deep in their consciousness. In their way of life, there is no dichotomy between themselves and nature. The Akha Zang strong family ties is emphasized in everyday life.

Akha women wear very plain indigo dyed shirts, which are in turn adorned with all kinds

of eye-catching paraphernalia: coins, beads, shell etc. Women are also very visible by their ornate headdress adorned with silver. Men dress in black baggy trousers with plain shirt but sometimes add some silver and a knitted hat as decoration.





Rotarian Parichat dressed in Akha costume with President Warunee.





2010 BANGKOK ROTARY INSTITUTE
Zones 6B, 7A & 10B
19-21 November 2010

2010 BANGKOK ROTARY INSTITUTE



Rotary International President, Ray Klinginsmith and Rotary International Vice President, Thomas Thorfinnson were in Bangkok for the 2010 Bangkok Rotary Institute for zone 6B, 7A and 10B on November 19 to 21. More than a thousand Rotarians from 10 countries attended the 3 days event at Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok. An active member of Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North and the 3360 District Governor Elect, Chamnan Chanruang was a guest speaker on the topic of "Practical

Strategic Plan for 4 Avenues of Service: Bigger, Better & Bolder, Clubs and Districts.



Sawasdee Rotary



2010 BANGKOK ROTARY INSTITUTE
Zones 6B, 7A & 10B
19-21 November 2010

Every year Institutes provide Rotarians an edifying opportunity, particularly for all past, current, and incoming Rotary International officers in RI Zones, along with senior Rotary leaders, and their spouses, to gather and discuss Rotary fellowship and its associative affairs. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest Rotary developments. Participants are brought up-to-date on the current workings and trends of Rotary International and are motivated to take valuable lessons and advice back with them to incorporate in their services.





COMMUNITY SERVICE

AN INTENSIVE TUTORING



An Intensive Tutoring to get ready for Entrance Exams for Thai universities and colleges :

Under the support of the Ministry of Education and Mae Jo University in association with 4 Rotary Clubs:

Rotary Club of Chiang Mai West

Rotary Club of Chang Phuek

Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Phuping

Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North



This intensive tutoring program was proposed to high school students of Chiang Mai and its surrounding area, free of charge. Hundreds of students participated in this 2 days tutoring held at Mae Jo University on November 15 and 16.



Our appreciative sponsors for this event include the Educational Technology Center, Elephant Drinking water, Ovaltine and Electronic Plaza Siam TV.

Many erudite teachers covering a vast selection of fields were invited from Bangkok and Chiang Mai for this intensive tutoring. The key objective of this event is to help out high school students of Chiang Mai and proximity in preparing their academic knowledge for the coming National Entrance Examination for Universities and Colleges. It was also an occasion to introduce the Rotary Clubs, Rotaract Clubs and Interact Clubs to the youth which would be a resourceful approach to welcome more members to join these clubs in the future.



BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North has “Books for Schools Project” to supply hundreds of library books to school students in Chiang Mai. This is being done in an effort to upgrade and expand the quality and variety of Thai language books available in the local schools. The club is targeting students from 5 – 15 years of age,

Each week our members and guests take part in a “**LUCKY DRAW**”, **all funds** support our club’s “Books for Schools Project”



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

YE UPDATE



The Rotary Youth Exchange began in Europe and has expanded world-wide. Since 1929 Rotary International has sent young people around the globe to experience new cultures. Currently, about 9,000 students are hosted by Rotary Clubs every year. The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North is a very active supporter of the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program. This year we are sponsoring two students, one to the US and the other to Canada, and we are once again hosting a Canadian exchange student, Kystina Spracklin here in Chiang Mai



Ploy, representing the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North is quite busy in Alberta, Canada. She made a presentation on Thailand at The Rotary Club of Fort McMurray and taught the traditional Thai greeting gesture the “Wai” to the Canadian Rotarians. Ploy also enjoyed her first ‘Halloween’ party in Canada dressing as a witch.



Ploy at Halloween Party..



Thakdanai , from Little Rock, Akansas, is also representing the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North. Thakdanai is in the Little Rock High School Soccer team; check out the picture of he with his team mates.



Krystina , a Rotary Youth Exchange student from Canada, hosted by the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North. Krys made a very interesting presentation on her country at our club this month and promised us her next presentation in Thai!



CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

EVENTS TO REMEMBER



the Host Organization Committee (HOC) has lined up events that will let you experience New Orleans in an unforgettable way.

“Few North American cities are as deeply immersed in romantic legend as New Orleans,” this magazine reported in 1976, the year of the last RI Convention there. “Even if you peel several layers of nonsense from the celebrated New Orleans mystique, there is still a core of magic that makes it a one-of-a-kind city”

While you are in town for the 2011 RI Convention, 21-25 May,



by local Rotarians. For the French Quarter Dining

[The Sounds of the South Concert](#) at the Morial Convention Center auditorium, Saturday, 21 May, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., will feature Cajun musicians, a gospel choir, blues singers, and jazz music. Later that day, [An Evening of Fun, Food, Fellowship, and Fins](#) at the [Aquarium of the Americas](#) will unfold, 6:30 – 9 p.m. You will enjoy regional specialties, New Orleans music, and the chance to explore the aquarium at your own pace. On Monday, 23 May, 4 – 9 p.m., attend [A Host Hospitality Event](#) – a streetcar ride down St. Charles Avenue, a cruise down the Mississippi on an old – time riverboat, a swamp tour complete with alligators, or a Cajun dinner with music and dancing – hosted



Experience on Tuesday, 24 May, make a reservation at your choice of restaurants including [Arnaud's](#), [Antoine's](#), [Broussard's](#), [the Court of Two Sisters](#), and [Tujague's](#). You'll savor special menus and meet Rotarians from around the globe.

Find out more about HOC events or reserve your spot at www.rotarycon2011.com.

Register for the convention at www.rotary.org by 15 December and get a special rate.

