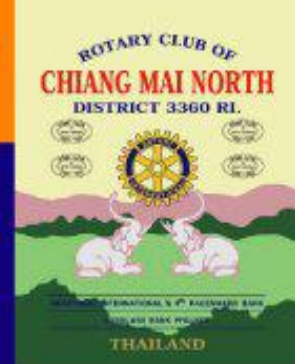




The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North

Service above Self

BUILDING COMMUNITIES - BRIDGING CONTINENTS



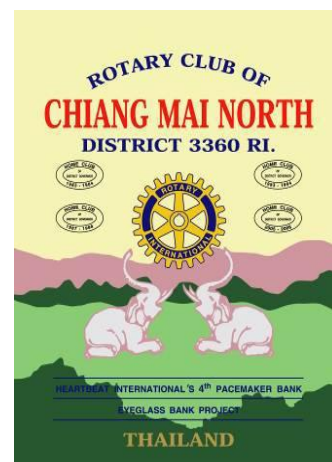
THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHIANG MAI NORTH was established in 1979. Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand is located in the Northern region of the country. The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North boasts 32 members and represents a wide cross section of the local community which embraces the Rotary Motto: *Service Above Self*.

**Volume 1
Issue 5
January
2011**

Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North

Welcomes new member

Rotarian Aree Pruksachatkunakorn



Rotarian Aree graduated from Chiang Mai Rajabhat University with a degree in Computer Science. She is now a Computer Programmer at Information

Technology Section, Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University.



WHAT A GREAT WAY TO START THE NEW YEAR!!

January Is Rotary Awareness Month

What a great way to start the New Year!!

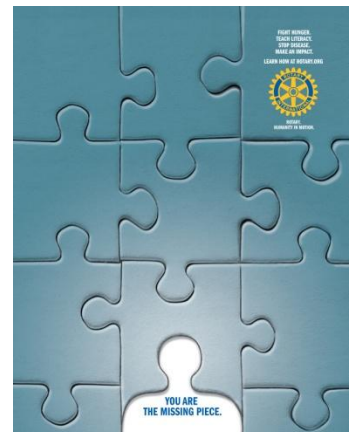


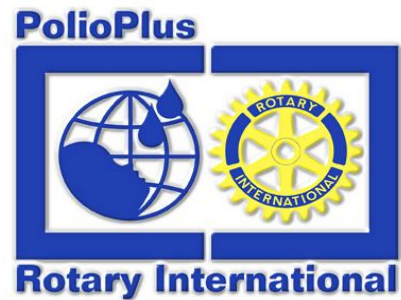
January is Rotary Awareness Month. It is a time to promote the importance of Rotary information to club members and the awareness of Rotary to the communities. It is our opportunity, as an individual Rotarian to bring forth our ideas to provide plans what the club could do to help those who are less fortunate than us. It is during this month that Rotarians worldwide are encouraged to discover their own ways

to share Rotary with their communities. It is also during this month we should share information about the relevance of community service to Rotary's mission.



Please keep in mind that every great program, in which Rotary has undertaken in the world, was the result of an individual Rotarian's idea, brought to their club for accomplishment. Together, we **can** and **will** change the course of human destiny; we only need your ideas and participation. January is a great time and an opportunity for us fellow Rotarians to bring those ideas and leave a legacy to the world for years to come.





End Polio Now

Rotary Clubs in Chiang Mai in association with Provincial Public Health Section - Ministry of Public Health, Chiang Mai Municipality, Klai Mor Hospital arranged 'A Campaign to end Polio in Chiang Mai'.

It was a big event when 14 Rotary Clubs in Chiang Mai joined hands to support the most ambitious program of Rotary, PolioPlus to eradicate the tenacious disease, Poliomyelitis.

On December 15 and January 19, 14 Rotary Clubs including The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North got together to give OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine) to children in Chiang Mai. After the official opening



ceremony
by the
Mayor of
Chiang
Mai – Mr.



Tasanai Buranubakorn and 3360
District Governor –
Dr. Virachai Jamroendararasame,
Rotarians from 14 clubs went to

their designated areas covering municipal schools, learning centers, child care center and near by communities to give OPV to hundreds of children in Chiang Mai.



Past President Prayoon Sirinaphaphan from The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North, is the District Chairman of Rotary International's PolioPlus Project for 2010 – 2011. He dedicates his time to strongly lead District 3360's efforts to eradicate Polio in our district.



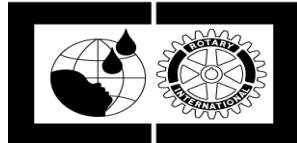




SERVICE Above Self



PolioPlus



Rotary International

In 1985, Rotary International launched PolioPlus, one of the most ambitious humanitarian programs ever undertaken by a private sector organization.

For 26 years, Rotary has led the private sector in the global effort to rid the world of this crippling disease. PolioPlus and its initiative are recognized worldwide as a model of public-private cooperation in pursuit of a humanitarian goal.



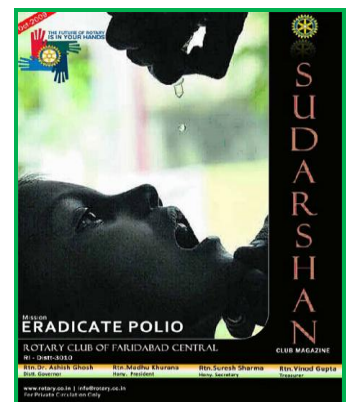
In addition to providing financial and volunteer support, Rotary works to generate help from other public and private sector partners. This includes the campaign to **End Polio Now**, inspired by the extraordinary challenge grants received from the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**.



The Polio eradication grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever given by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the largest grant received by Rotary in its almost 106 - year history. Polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority since it has been launched in 1985. Since then, Rotary has contributed more than US\$700 millions to the eradication effort. The extraordinary dedication of Rotarians has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication. Through the PolioPlus program, more than one million Rotary Club members have volunteered their time and personal resource to protect more than two billion children in 122 countries from Polio.



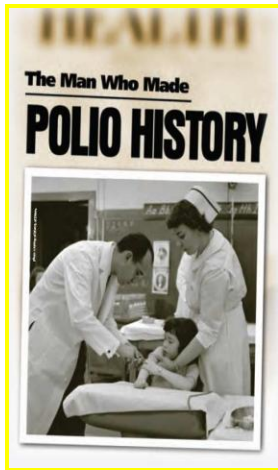
“As long as Polio threatens just one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere will still remain at risk. Please remember that your contribution can help Rotary achieve “A Polio-free world”.



DID YOU KNOW?

Poliomyelitis, commonly known as Polio, is an infectious disease caused by polio virus. The virus is passed through poor hygiene, entering through the mouth, then multiplying inside the throat and intestines. As it multiplies, it destroys the motor neurons that activate muscles, rendering them non-functional, i.e. paralyzed. The disease can strike at any age, but typically affects children under three.

There are two polio vaccines used throughout the world to combat polio. The first was developed by



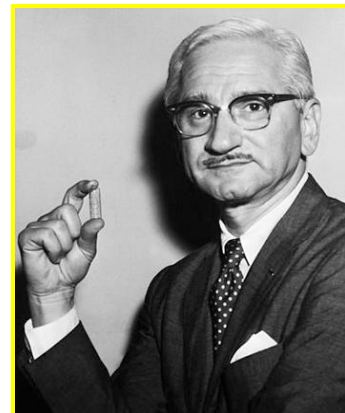
Jonas Salk and was first tested in 1952. Announced to the world by Salk in 1955, it consisted of an injected dose of inactivated (dead) poliovirus. The second is an oral vaccine developed by **Albert Sabin** using attenuated poliovirus. Human trials of Sabin's vaccine began in 1957 and it was licensed in 1962.



Jonas Salk

Because there is no long term **carrier** state for poliovirus in immunocompetent individuals, poliovirus has no non-primate reservoir in nature, and survival of the virus in the environment for an extended period of time appears to be remote.

Therefore, interruption of person to person transmission of the virus by vaccination is the critical step in global polio eradication.



Albert Sabin

Current Status



The World Health Organization (WHO) is working toward eradicating polio throughout the world. Significant strides have already been made. Since WHO's program launched in 1988, the number of cases of polio has decreased by 99%, from 355,000 cases in 125 countries in 1988 to 1,652 cases in 2007.

The new phase was announced alongside the confirmation that indigenous polio virus has not circulated in Egypt and Niger for over 12 months. This is the first time in 3 years that the numbers of polio-endemic countries has fallen, leaving **Nigeria, India, Pakistan** and **Afghanistan** as the only four countries where polio transmission has not stopped.



Four countries still have polio circulating, and the virus could expand to other countries. If the polio virus is imported into a country where not enough people have been immunized, there is a big risk that it could spread from person to person. That is what has happened in some countries in Africa and Asia. Moreover, it is a serious challenge if polio is to join smallpox as the only eradicated disease known to mankind. Near eradication **is not** good enough to the global community. Polio is **either eradicated** or **it is not**, in which case the threat of re-emergence will always look important.

News from San Diego

An illuminated message, “**Goodbye Polio, Thanks Rotary**” was displayed in the most unexpected place, the lower stay sail of the “Star of India” when Rotary International's District Governors convened in San Diego this month. The Rotary Club of Poway has organized the project, after seeing many times buildings around the world lit up with messages about eradicating this dangerous disease.

The Rotary Club of Poway's message was lit about 5.15 pm until 6 pm on January 19 from the ship's Embarcadero site along Harbor Drive.

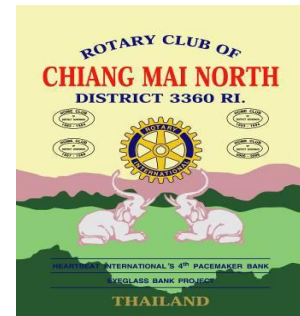
The District Governors were in San Diego from January 16 – 22, DGE Chamnan Chanruang from our club and his wife, Ann Sirikarn were there for this important event.



THE STORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHIANG MAI NORTH EYE SERVICE FOUNDATION (CMNE)

OUR STORY STARTED IN 1979

The story of the CMNE dates back to 32 years ago.



In 1979 Somkit, aged 10 years old who had an optic atrophy was brought by his parents to meet Dr. Chiao Chan Wiriyaloppa at the Ophthalmologic Section of the Faculty of Medicine at Chiang Mai University, for an eye check up. The doctor diagnosed that his eyesight could not return to normal. Somkit was blind at the age of 10. Dr. Chiao Chan brought the boy to the 'Northern School For The Blind' in Chiang Mai.



After a check up of general health of the blind students, the doctor had a thorough examination of their eyes and found out that eye surgery could help some of them to get some eye sight back. Some children would be able to see again!



A boy named Suradej was the first to have a surgical treatment. At that time there was no eye glasses available for him after the surgery, however Suradej later got his eye glasses from a kind donor in Chiang Mai.





When Past President Dr. Kanit Sethasathien, the noted economist from Chiang Mai who is also an active member of the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North, learned about

the story, he brought the matter to the club committee which approved the donation of 10,000 Baht, earned from the Mardi-Gras fund raising and “**The Resurrection for the Blind Project**” was then launched. The club appointed Dr. Kanit as the Chairman of this humanitarian project.



Further coordination with Dr. Chiao Chan led to four more surgeries after which “**The Resurrection for the Blind Project**” donated eye glasses to all of them. Besides, the project donated short-sighted eye glasses to the students at Metta Suksa School and furthermore to people in the rural areas, hill tribes and Buddhist monks and novices.

Dr. Kanit believed that “**The Resurrection for the Blind Project**” should expand its scope of services. Hence, he introduced the “**Glasses Bank Project**” at the club meeting and The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North approved to expand “**The Resurrection for the Blind Project**” to “**The Resurrection for the Blind Project (Glasses Bank) of The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North**” which has become its main project ever since.



SERVICE Above Self

From the beginning this project had two aspects:

The Fund Raising Campaign and the services and supports to people in need. Some examples of the services and supports to people in need included:

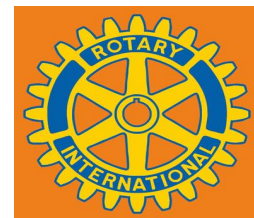
1. From the start of the Project, funds were raised for the purchase of eye glasses for short-sighted, astigmatic, and cataract operations covering all together 260 cases plus an additional donation of 300 used eye glasses, one pair of prosthesis lens covering for a total number of 561 patients.



Doctors from the Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University, have been valuable contributors to the Project.

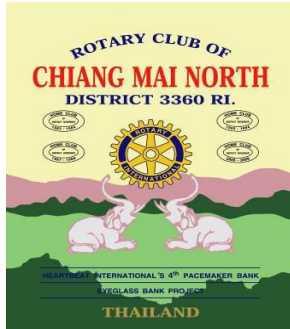
2. “[The Rural Traveling Doctors](#)” on behalf of The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North arranged several field operations such as :

- Visit of Ban Mae Oon Nua, San Kampeng District, Chiang Mai. 108 villagers were checked and given medication. More than 200 used eye glasses were distributed.
- Visit ‘The Home For Old People’ for eye check up. Numbers of used eye glasses were distributed to the elders.
- Visit of Ban Ton Phueng, Ban Pong Sub-district, Doi Saket District, Chiang Mai. Eye check up and treatment were given to 45 people and numbers of used eye glasses were distributed.
- Visit of village Group 7, Mae Wang District (Ban Hui Yuak School), Chiang Mai. General health check up and medications were given to 135 villagers. 30 Villagers had their eyes examined and 28 of them were given used eye glasses.



CMNE TODAY

THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHIANG MAI NORTH EYE SERVICE FOUNDATION (CMNE)



In September 2010, The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North announced the establishment of **The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North Eye Service Foundation (CMNE)**, with District Governor Elect Chamnan Chanruang as the chairman.



The following objectives for the year 2010-2011:

1. To assist the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai South with eye care services.
2. To seek partners to create a Rotary Matching Grant.
3. To sponsor cataract operations for seniors in need.
4. To provide specialized eye care for those with eye disabilities.
5. To provide communities services for people who have various eye problems.
6. To supply knowledge and information to enable people to maintain their own healthy eye care.
7. To effectively work together with other community organizations and/or foundations involved with community services.
8. To operate the foundation as a social service foundation without any political aim, objective or affiliation.





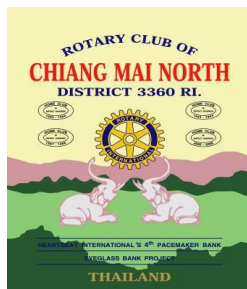
President Warunee and District Governor Elect Chamnan from The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North reviewed the foundation documents with Past President Metha Sorathiwa from The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai. Past President Metha played an important role in helping our club establish this Foundation.

2011 CMNE'S FIRST SIGNIFICANT PROJECT

AmigoVision Eye Clinic

We are really looking forward to our first significant Humanitarian Service of this year.

The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North in association with Dr. Busabong Jamroendararasame from The Rotary Club Tin Thai Ngam, Dr. Pongsak



Sribandismonkol from Suan Dok Foundation, Dr. Somsanguan Atsayakun - Head of Department of Ophthalmology & Optometry, Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University and “AmigoVision Eye Clinic” from Oregon, USA are arranging a trip for the “Traveling Doctors” to Samoeng District, west of Chiang Mai on February 28 to March 4.

Sixteen volunteers from “AmigoVision Eye Clinic” led by Dr. Kurt Wikenning, Hal and Francie Kibby will travel from Vietnam and will arrive in Chiang Mai on February 27. The team will stay with us until March 5. We are expecting 150 patients per day which makes a total target of almost 800 patients for this trip.

Check for more news and pictures in our March Newsletter.



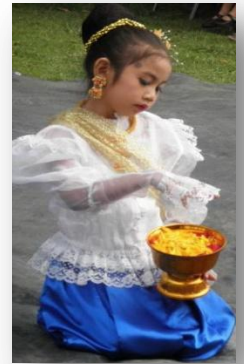
SERVICE Above Self



JOYFUL CHILDREN'S DAY 2011

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

January 8



We had a wonderful time with the children!

It is the second year, The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai West joined hands with The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North to sponsor a booth at the 2011



Children's Day on January 8th. We had a booth called "**Race to save the planet**". The children played 'the race to save the planet game' and really enjoyed many delicious cookies sponsored by 'Bakerista'.

Thank you so much Mr. Aphijat and Mrs. Nounchan Buddhawongsa.



The event was held at Creative Urban Solutions Center: Chiang Mai Learning Center. We once again focused on the "Environmental



Sustainability" to provide children as well as their parents a learning port which integrates many delightful activities that will instill environmental awareness, especially on climate change and waste management issues. Each child potted a small plant to bring home.

We also encouraged parents and children to bring at the event their own glasses and water containers.



There were on stage activities: puppet show, live country and modern music, talent shows, as well as many activities and games such as jigsaw, bowling, make your own containers from banana leaves, convey your

views on the city of Chiang Mai. There were also the exhibitions: see how artificial pond dilutes water pollution, how you can value waste and turn them into usable items and the 'global warming' tent.



taking part in activities!

There were many traditional Thai desserts, cookies, gifts and prizes for children



Many special thanks to our co-organizers including Urban

Development Institutes Foundation, Urban and Environmental Studies Section, Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering – Chiang Mai University, Faculty of

Music – Payap University, Lanna Dog Rescue, Chiang Mai College of Dramatic Arts, Holistic Environment Urban School Program (HEUSP) and Lanna Environment Protection and Sustainable Agriculture Club.

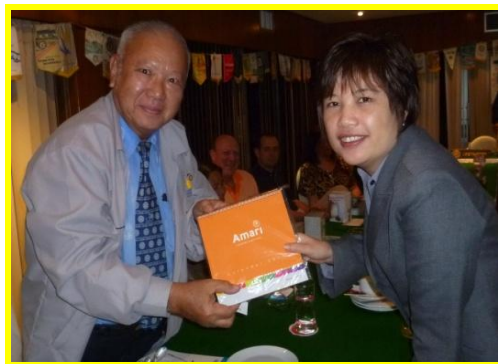


BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS



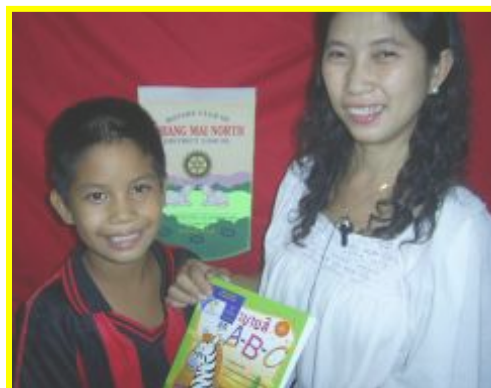
In two months, we will have the Rotary Literacy month. Our club is a strong supporter of the importance of literacy and education. We continue our fund raising every week with the members and guests taking part in a “**Lucky Draw**”, and all funds go to the “**Books for Schools Project**”.

For many months, The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North has “**Books for Schools Project**” to supply hundreds of library books to school students in both municipal and remote areas in Chiang Mai. We are targeting students between 5 –15 years of age.



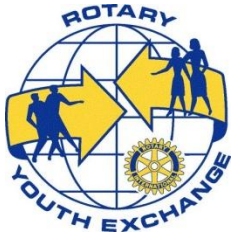
“Being literate does not just mean the ability to read a book or a newspaper. Being literate means being able to comprehend the instruction on a medicine bottle, a set of directions, or a job posting. Literacy means being part of the larger society. It means inclusion, and it means empowerment.”

(Excerpt from G.E. Estess Sr., Foundation trustee chair, March 2010 message on literacy)



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

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 Youth Exchange. This year we are sponsoring two students, Thakdanai to the U.S.A. and Ploy to Canada, and we are once again hosting a Canadian exchange student, Krystina Spracklin here in Chiang Mai.



Ploy has been in Canada for 5 months and she is very busy with many exciting activities. Ploy played piano in the jazz band and also joined the choir on the Remembrance Day. She was a moderator representing Thailand at the Thai Community of Fort McMurray cooking lessons. She



had a wonderful time at the Loy Kratong (Thai Lotus Festival) party in Calgary and enjoyed herself with other YE students from Thailand. Ploy spent the Christmas holidays in Calgary with her host family and had a chance to try

snow boarding! on the ski slopes west of Calgary. She visited two Rotary Clubs in Calgary, Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook and Rotary Club of Fish Creek.





Thakdanai also joined the church band and is still a very active player in a soccer team.



Krystina (Thai name - Jintara) from Chiang Mai. Krys went to visit Bangkok and various places in the north and always participates in many activities of our club.



Krys with her host, the Eua-Amnuay family

Ploy has her story from Canada to share with us, here it goes...

MY EXPERIENCES AS A YE

By Ploy



"If I could sell my experiences for what they cost me, I would be a millionaire".



I have been in Canada for five months and experienced tons of things I have never imagined before. I do remember what I have done in every single day, since the first day I came here until right now. Everything happened too fast as well as time. People said 'Happy time flies so fast'. Yes, I totally agree with them. Five months seem like just a week for me.

The first day – feeling sad, getting homesick, missing people

The second day – adjusting myself, thinking of reasons why I am here, looking in a mirror and telling myself? 'you can do it'

The third day – going to the new school, making new friends, learning new cultures

The fourth day – letting people know about Thailand, showing them how amazing it is

The fifth day – smiling to the world, making people happy, enjoying every minute

The sixth day – learning to 'live from mistakes', being brave and stronger

The seventh day – walking on a half way of the exchange year, promising myself to make this year be the best one ever

Those are all I have done in five months. They seem so easy. But for me, it is not easy at all. Whenever I feel bad or spiritless, I keep telling myself 'Failure is success if we learn from it'. That is why I fail without fear. I have seen another side of the world and learned how different they are. If I could sell my experiences for what they cost me, I would be a millionaire.

I am having a great time in Canada and enjoying every minute here. I also love to take risks, being an exchange student is the best risk I have ever taken. I am who I am today because of the choices I made yesterday. Thank you so much Rotary, thank you so much Rotary Youth Exchange!!



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL AGAIN!!

REVIVONS LE BON VIEUX TEMPS!!



SEE YOU IN BEAUTIFUL NEW ORLEANS !

À BIENTÔT DANS CETTE VILLE MERVEILLEUSE QU'EST LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS !

Rotary International Convention 2011

New Orleans is one of the most historic cities in the United States. The city is more than 300 years old and is located along the Mississippi River. New Orleans is famous for its sophisticated life style. The Mississippi River provides an urban environment which is unique in the world. The history is composed of Native American Indian heritage,



French, Italian, Mexican, English and Spanish. Louis Armstrong was born here, began his career in New Orleans and brought JAZZ music to the forefront. Preservation Hall is still preserved in the same condition as when Armstrong played there.



One of the largest natural lakes, Lake



Ponchartrain gives the city its charms.

The abundance of music, seafood, archeological sites, history and cultural diversity makes a visit to New Orleans an experience of a life time.





The beautiful New Orleans is ready to host the Rotary International Convention during May 21-25, 2011.

Since Hurricane Katrina, the city is back in full swing with more restaurants than



ever before. The world famous French Quarter has a Mardi-Gras atmosphere all year long. The outstanding convention center is ready for the Rotary International convention 2011.

New Orleans has made an amazing recovery since Hurricane Katrina, and the reconstruction work still goes on. As a result, Rotary has joined the Volunteerism organization to provide an opportunity for Rotarians attending the convention to help with the rebuilding effort, either before or after.

Here are important convention information and reminders:

- The dates, May 21-25, are a month earlier than before to ensure a cooler climate for convention attendees
- Book your hotel rooms now. The hotels are close by and within easy walking distance to the convention center.
- Register and book on line on the Rotary Web site. Download the registration and housing forms and the convention promotional brochure at:
<http://www.rotary.org/convention>
- Host Organization Committee (HOC) has arranged the unforgettable experiences for you.

Saturday, May 21 at 2.30 pm

SOUND OF THE SOUTH CONCERT

Immerse yourself in the great variety of musical forms for which this region is known at the Morial Convention Center.

Saturday, May 21 at 6.30 pm

An evening of FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FINS

Come join us at the Aquarium of the Americas, one of the world's premier aquarium venues.

Tuesday, May 24 at 7.00 pm

FRENCH QUARTER DINING EXPERIENCE

Several of New Orleans' most renowned restaurants will vie for your attendance at their tables.

For more information, please contact:

PDG Subhash Kulkarni

Chair Host Organization Committee

rotarianone@aol.com

NEW YEAR AND FAMILY NIGHT PARTY

We would like to share with you some pictures of the New Year and Family Night Party we had with The Rotary Club of Chiang Mai on December 23 at the Amari Rincome Hotel. Our party's theme this year was "Thai Temple Fair in the 60's".

Rtn. Somchai Kerdtachao won the auction of "Paul Harris" statuette to raise fund for our "Books for Schools Project", thank you so much!!

There were many Rotarian guests from several countries...Germany, Macau, Canada, USA.....

BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

