



Rotary



**NOTES OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ROYAL HUA HIN (RCRHH): Monday 30th March 2021  
Healthcare in Thailand Covid-19 update**

Time: 12:00 to 14:00 hrs.

Location: Amari Hotel and Spa

Attendance: 32

Members: 16

Guests: 16

P Brian opened the meeting by calling for attendees to stand for the Thai National Anthem.

P Brian then called SAA Rick Rees to introduce the guests as listed below.

- Irene Sangkhanond
  - Miriam Trocker
  - N Trocker
  - Sopa Whitefield
  - Monika
  - David Watson
  - Dr Thomas Hirsch
  - Erika Harste
  - Nicolas Leloup
  - Richard Mehr
  - Sepkאו Carrera
  - Fred White
  - Manida White
  - Wassana Kanjana
  - Jirapa Tapsuwan
  - Noppanat Kongchumcheun
  - Thiporn Sitthikrom Pierre
- Guest Speaker

P Brian recapped on recent events:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup> Club Assembly and visit by our new Sister club Rotary Club of Hat Yai Nakarin
- 30<sup>th</sup> March Healthcare in Thailand Covid 19 update.

P Brian then went to talk about forthcoming Events:

6<sup>th</sup> April Fellowship evening Greenway resort and spa owned by Patrick Franssen Food will be provided at a cost of 300 Thai Baht a head, the Band Blue Velvet will be there, it's our 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this month so let's party.

13<sup>th</sup> April Songkhram No meeting  
20<sup>th</sup> April Board Meeting  
27<sup>th</sup> April Water Safety in Thailand

P Brian then asked IPP Napa and Rtn Benjamas to talk to the meeting regarding the project to raise the profile of the dog sanctuary in Pranburi.



Hua Hin Sarn

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ใจบุญ-เลี้ยงสุนัขและแมวกว่า-300-ตัว-โอดขอให้ช่วย



IPP Napa and Rotarian Benjamas informed the meeting that Khun Nid a Nun who runs the Pranburi dog sanctuary that takes care of over 300 stray cats and dogs was struggling financially to feed not only her animals but herself.

Many of her normal donations had dried up due to covid-19, that its costs 3000 Thai Baht a day to feed the animals.

At a board meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March this was discussed and it was agreed a longer-term strategy was required, rather than just donating money.

The Board decided that using Rotarian Benjamas contacts in the media, an appeal from local news outlets would be sought. These media outlets agreed to visit the sanctuary on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, whereby the video appeared on local news channels. Following this some 165,000 Thai Baht was donated, however a further long-term plan needs to be drawn up. Attending on the day were Treasurer Peter Wydler, IPP Napa, Rotarian Benjamas and PE Phil Lawrence. However it must be reiterated this money came from external donations following the media broadcasting and not from the RCRHH.



In Previous years the Rotary Club of Royal Hua Hin has supported Khun Nid, in 2019 a generator was purchased so she could draw water from the local river, in December 2019 Treasurer Peter personally donated 20,000 Thai Baht in dog food.

Khun Nid has over the years donated all her time and energy to caring for these stray animals, that keeps them off the street of Prachuap Khiri Khan, and she has spent all her money-making improvements to the sanctuary.

IPP Napa and Rotarian Benjamas finished their presentation asking whether any further help can be given by members and guests.

P Brian thanked IPP Napa and Rtn Benjamas.

P Brain then called upon Nicholas Leloup from Samitivej Hospital to give his presentation

Nicholas informed the meeting he was not a Doctor but was the Resident Director of International Marketing and would talk about the following:

- Samitivej Hospital
- Impact of Covid-19 on hospitals
  - Covid-19 vaccines



However, Nicolas informed the meeting that he was a Rotarian with Rotary Club Bangkok South and informed the meeting that on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 the RCBS 64<sup>th</sup> President Vitool Tantaranunant (Yod) tragically passed away.

He went onto say many Rotary Fellowships would be established in his name.

Nicholas started with a quick history of Samitivej hospital which in Thai means “Assembly of Doctors” and went onto say this was to provide quality health care, service to our patients with empathy and compassion.

The vision of the hospital’s MD Khun Bajalsan Jumbala is to Cure.....Perhaps, to improve.... Sometimes, to Comfort ...Always.



Nicholas went onto say that the concept of the Samitivej Hospital is to digitilise the healthcare system whereby in Europe online consultation is becoming very popular where by people can go online, register with the hospital, be given an ID or passport, triaged by a nurse then final given an online consultation by a Doctor.

However, the culture here in Thailand is that patients prefer to physically visit a Doctor. However, this service is popular with Expats here in Thailand.

Nicholas went onto say that Thailand has become a medical tourist center for a number of years and after the 2001 attacks on the twin towers Thailand became very popular with Middle Est Medical tourists.

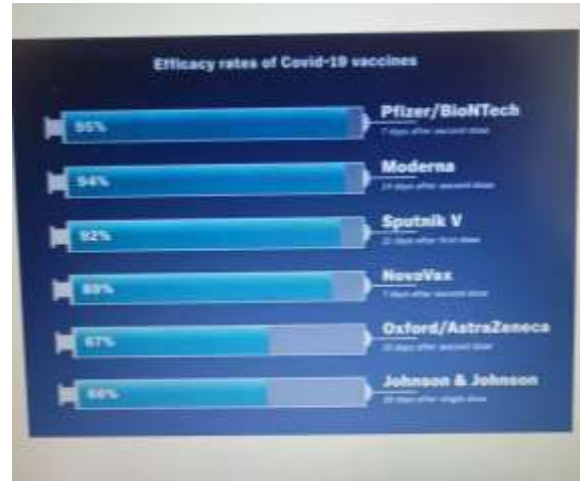


However; since Covid-19 this source of income has dried up significantly due to severe travel restrictions.

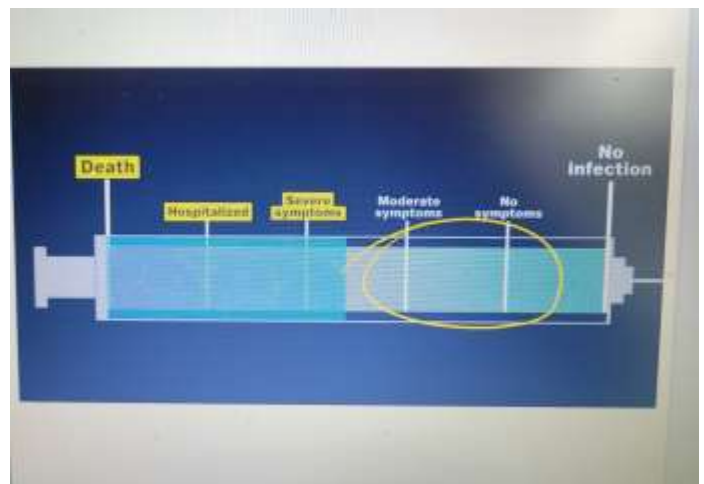


Nicholas went onto speak about the Covid-19 response here in Thailand, and that the number of cases here were very low compared to many other countries in the world. Thailand was very quick to apply restrictions following the 1<sup>st</sup> case and lockdown of the country including banning flights.

Nicholas spoke about the various trials and efficiency rates of the vaccines currently on the market, however he stated that the best choice for any vaccine was the one that was available in their Country.



If you have a 95% Efficiency of a vaccine this means that in all probability 95% of the people vaccinated will not get sick. This is illustrated in the slide on the right whereby death, hospitalisation and severe symptoms are reduced to as low as reasonably possible



and that no infection is the ultimate goal.

The slide on the left shows the various vaccines and their efficiency rates against death and hospitalisation.

Nicholas went onto say that the proposed rollout for the vaccinations is still uncertain. Johnson and Johnson, Sinovac and Astra Zeneca have been approved here in Thailand, proposed rollout for health workers, patients with acute and chronic respiratory diseases and the elderly should start in June 2021. Vaccines available in private hospitals could be July, however this is uncertain and may not be until later in the year.

Nicholas finished with giving the number of the Samitivej ExPat Center 085-108-5544 and he contact address [svnhexpat@samitivej.co.th](mailto:svnhexpat@samitivej.co.th)

Nicholas thanked the audience and asked whether there were any questions:

It was asked whether the vaccine would be free here in Thailand, the response was vaccines can cost around 2 to 18 dollars, however here in Thailand that information is not available at the moment. Obviously private hospitals have operating costs to cover.

Access and availability of vaccines to expats is still unclear.

Discussions took place over vaccine passports and people who wanted to return to their home countries, but those who wanted to return to Thailand.

P Brian thanked Nicholas.

SAA Rick mentioned to members that they should be wearing the name badges and that sticky on badges were available for



visiting guests.

There being no other business lunch was called.

Minutes by Scoop Lawrence.

