



Board of Directors
President: Mr. Ronachai Chindapol
Vice President Mr. Pragon Gaetgung
Honorary President Mr. Rewat Chindapol
81/3, Moo 5,
Thombol Thepkrasattri,
Ampher Thalang,
Phuket, Thailand

Phuket, March 2005

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

After eight years of planning, the Diving Association (Thailand - "TDA") was formally launched in December 2004. TDA is a NON PROFIT Association and has recently been accepted as a voting member of the World Underwater Federation (C.M.A.S.). First of all we would like to introduce to you our world organisation, as well as our Thai Association.

C.M.A.S. was created in 1959 and its first President was the well known Cdt. Cousteau.

Actually, there are 112 affiliated federations coming from all over the world, from the five continents. C.M.A.S. is a non profit organisation and its Headquarters, initially located in Paris (France), is now located in Rome (Italy) in one of the buildings of the Italian National Olympic Committee.

The board of directors of TDA is composed of both THAI and Foreigners who share their love of Thailand and want to insure that the Kingdom of Thailand reaps more benefit from its diving industry.

With the acceptance of TDA into the worldwide association CMAS, TDA can now aggressively pursue its goals.

These goals include the protection of the marine environment (especially the flora and fauna of the seas), the training of Thai teachers in all levels of educational institutions to teach watersports (swimming, snorkeling and diving) and the aquatic environment.

Not to be forgotten is the role of CMAS in the International Olympic Committee.

TDA plans to conduct trials for the National Monofin Swimming Team with the goal of participating in future Olympic Games.

An important goal of TDA President, Mr. Ronachai Chindapol is the development and training of Thailand's National Park Rangers, Rescue Swimmers/Divers and Marine Police Divers.



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TDA President Khun Ronachai Chindapol stated that his goal and vision is that within no more than three years TDA can become an association with a large and active membership, especially among foreign guests and instructors working in his country who will be proud to support standards for tourism, training and environmental protection through their TDA membership.

Former member of Parliament, and TDA's first Honorary President, Rewood Chindapol (died on the 25.12.2004) always believed that TDA serves not only to promote tourism and environment, but also the higher purpose of raising Thailand's international recognition. His Successor, TDA's new Honorary President, Mr. Rewat Chindapol, is willing to help to complete successful Mr. Rewood's wish.

Vicepresident, Mr. Pragon Gaetgun, was elected because of his understanding in foreghin dive activities and associations and incause of his experience in scuba diving. Mr. Gaetgun is as well responsible for the technical committee to asure the high international standarts of TDA.

In order to facilitate relationships with international officials and associations, the Board of Directors appointed Mr. Rainer Gottwald, who is the CMAS respresentative for Thailand as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Mr. Gottwald will be a member of the TDA Board of Directors and will be responsible together with the president and general secretary for the development of TDA both within Thailand and around the world.

The TDA is asking for assistance and full support from the government to help us achieve these goals. Specifically, we are asking that the Thai government consider the following three proposals:

- 1. All dive centers doing business in Thailand must be members of TDA. This should be a requirement for any diving business to obtain a license from the Tourism Authority of Thailand. (it should NOT be possible for foreignn diveorganisations NOT allow their in Thailand acting and working members to promote Thailand's Diving Association.***



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2. ***All dive instructors working in Thailand, whether Thai nationals or foreigners, must be members of TDA. For foreigners, this should be a requirement for obtaining a work permit.***

3. ***All diving courses taught in Thailand must be conducted in accordance with TDA standards and a TDA certification must be issued. Certifications from other agencies may also be issued but this must be in addition to the TDA certification, not as a substitute for TDA.***

If these proposals are written into law, Thailand will be able to capture a portion of the more than 200 million baht that is now being taken out of the country every year by the foreign diving associations.

This money will then be available to help protect Thailand's marine environment, to promote dive tourism in Thailand, and to provide educational and sports opportunities for the people of Thailand.

The TDA is then able to:

- a) ***Support schools around Thailand with sponsorship's and aducation.***

- b) ***Create the artificial reef projects to develop and promote Thailand's Diving Tourism and relief existing divesites like the unique similan islands.***

- c) ***create programms to teach Thailand's national Park Rangers and certify them international recognized, as well the Thai Navy and all other official organisations can take advantage of developed Thai underwater Association.***

- d) ***create thousands of working places for Thai citizen Thailandwide***

- e) ***produce all educational material in Thailanguage to donate for schools and universities***

- f) ***invite foreign students to "study"diving in Thailand's TDA Academies***



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Thank you for supporting TDA



Mr. Ronachai Chindapol
President



Mr. Pragon Gaetgun
Vice President



Mr. Vohakom Kamjumba
Committee member



Mr. Jens Hofacker
Chief Examiner Southwest



Mr. Claude de Cirssey
Vicepresident Marketing



Mr. Rainer Gottwald
Chief Executive Officer