



TDA - Newsletter I /2007

Dear all TDA members and Dive Academies,

This TDA newsletter 1/07 will give you a review of the TDA activities and events 2006, the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on 10th of February 2007 and an outlook of the planned upcoming activities for the year 2007.

BOOT Exhibition, Germany

From the 21. - 29. January 2006, the "BOOT" exhibition (world biggest water sport fair) was held in Düsseldorf, Germany. For the first time in history, the TAT Germany (Tourist Authority of Thailand) invited the TDA to this major event to represent diving and recreation holidays in Thailand. TDA was represented by Rainer Gottwald to communicate between the two countries CMAS federations and promote Thailand as THE ASIAN Holiday Destination for sports divers together with the TAT.

Present were as well at this fair with integrated own booths the following TDA Academies:

Aqua Divers, Ko Lanta Diving Center, Paradise Divers Ko Mak/Ko Kut, Divers Land Kao Lak and Paradise Divers Krabi

The TDA got huge support from German and many European Federations, under the lead of the German VDST president, Prof. Dr. Franz Bruemmer.

CMAS General Assembly in Rome, Italy

With thanks to the Mobideep Sponsoring the TDA Delegation was able to travel to Rome, Italy, and attend the yearly CMAS General Assembly.

More than 500 delegations from 118 countries welcomed TDA Vice President Mr. Pragon Gaetgun, TDA Sport President, Mr. Chatupol Chindapol, and CEO Mr. Rainer Gottwald. Finally TDA was honored as a very active new CMAS member federation with many good and innovative projects and ideas by CMAS President Mr. Achille Ferrero and CMAS General Secretary Dr. Pierre Denier.

Contracts of bilateral recognition between TDA and all other federations, especially VDST (Verband Deutscher Sporttaucher, Germany) were made and accepted successfully.

Representative Meeting Pattaya

On the 12th Of April 2006 a Representative Meeting was held in Pattaya. The main point was to establish and evaluate the TDA standards to keep the same diving level with all TDA diving courses nationwide all over Thailand.

In addition

First official TDA crossover Course with the Royal Thai Navy Seals

TDA realizes a crossover course for 18 Royal Thai Navy Seals, who passed successfully their instructor exams. A mile stone was created for a future cooperation between the Royal Thai Navy and TDA.

TDEX Exhibition 2006 in Bangkok

From the 22. - 25. Of May 2006 the TDEX (Travel and Dive Exhibition) was held in Bangkok. The TDA was present with an own booth for second time and many Thai citizens showed big interest in TDA activities.

Mobideep was as well presented at the TDA booth.

TDA will try to improve the booth outfit and presentation together with TAT for the next upcoming TDEX 2007 with better and innovative marketing management.

Mono- and Bifin World Championships in Turin, Italy

With thanks to the sponsoring of Mobideed, Immersion (Diving watches), Fipsas and CMAS, the TDA Monofin National Team Thailand could attend in June 2006 the Mono- and Bifin World Championships in Turin, Italy.

Lead by the TDA Sport President, Mr. Chatupol Chindapol, the national team could swim very good results in the middle field.

Diving Regulations postponed by court, but...

Four month during the summer season TDA was busy with the new diving regulations, signed by Phuket s Governor, Mr. Udomsak, So far and with the huge engagement of TDA lawyer, Mr. Pongsawan Sathatham, the TDA activities were able to postpone this diving regulations at the court in Nakhorn Sri Thammarat.

This dive regulations case will be probably new discussed at Thailand's highest court in Bangkok in 2007.

The TDA need the support of all in Thailand active diving centers and academies to oppose this maybe upcoming case.



Royal Chitlada Palace Projects

On 20th Of September 2006 a TDA Delegation, CEO Mr. Rainer Gottwald, TDA Representative and Chief Examiner Mr. Jens Hofacker, TDA Representative and Course Director Mr. Christian Mietz, Immersion Watches Owners and TDA sponsors Mr. Fabrizio Mazzi and Mr. Maurizio Patarini, Italy, was invited by TDA Chief Consultant and Director of The Royal Chitlada Projects, Dr. Pornchai Juthamas to visit the Royal Chitlada Palace, Bangkok and its projects. This visit included together with the guidance of the project secretary, Dr. Piyarat Chareonsap, the presentation of the Zoo Projects, the Fish Research Institute, the Rayong Sea Aquarium and the new established Royal Natural Museum at Samesaan View Point.

TDA activities will look to support and sponsor these projects.

TDA Member forum 2006

On 12th of October 2006 the annual TDA Member forum was held in Naithon Buri Hotel, Phuket. Standards and future project were discussed and agreed.

TDA medic consultant, Mr. Row Sanderson informed about new TDA medical standards.

TDA Environmental Events and Cleanups 2006

TDA arranged following clean up days successfully in Thailand:

- 15. September 2006, Phuket Clean up
- 17. November 2006, Reef Clean up Ko Waeo Island.
- 30.11.-02.12.2006, Beach and Reef clean up Kao Lak / Thai Muang Reef.
- 05 December 2006, Patong Clean Up
- 08. December 2006, Reef Clean up Koh Lanta / Koh Ha
- 09. December 2006, Cleaning Day in Juntaburi

TDA / CMAS Diving Courses for Thai Citizen

Besides all certifications for Thai Citizen at TDA Academies nationwide, TDA supported and sponsored a Chulaporn University Diving project in Bangkok, where more than 100 Thai Citizen passed their diving course successfully and got a TDA + CMAS diving certificate.

TDA Badalveda Presentation on Ko Lanta

On 11th of December 2006 TDA President of the Medical Committee, Amiral Dr. Surriya Na Nakorn and TDA Medical Consultant, Mr. Rowan Sanderson, held a Badalveda Decompression Chamber Network presentation at Casuarina Resort, Ko Lanta, for all Dive shops on Ko Lanta. It was out pointed that the Badalveda Decompression Chamber Network plans to establish a chamber on Ko Lanta by 2007. Dr. Salarin Pongsmak was appointed as TDA Medical Consultant for Ko Lanta.

TDA General Assembly 2006 Phuket

The yearly TDA General Assembly was held in Phuket Royal City Hotel on 12th of December 2006. 20:30 hrs TDA President, Mr. Ronnachai Chindapol opened the General Assembly. All points of the agenda were reported and discussed, especially the review of TDA activities in 2006. Thanks also to all members for their support to the TDA s international acceptance and recognition. A complete report and all minutes of the courts decision in Nakhorn Sri Thammarat according to the Phuket new dive regulations was passed to every member.

Also the treasurer s report showed a positive outlook on TDA accounts for future activities.

Mr. Oliver Marsel was appointed as TDA/CMAS Tec Consultant Ko Lanta.

TDA Instructor Training Course, Phuket

TDA held a honoree free ITC for Royal Thai Navy Seals and other Thai Governmental Employees on Phuket, Naithon Beach 7th to 11th of January 2007 with TDA Chief examiner Academy Aqua Divers Nai Thon. 18 Thai Citizen passed successfully the TDA + CMAS instructor exam, as well Mr. Rene Fux, Switzerland, 2 Star Instructor. All new Thai TDA instructors are proud to follow up TDA/CMAS standards.

Thanks to Mr. Oliver Mielke, Director of Barracuda/CMAS Germany, TDA Kao Lak Representative Mr. Holger Schwab, Sea Bees, Mr. Christian Mietz, TDA Course Director, Mr. Jens Hofacker, TDA Chief Examiner SW for there honorary engagement.

Tragically Motorbike Accident from TDA CD Mr. Thomas Schulz

Shadows on this event were brought up by the tragic motorbike accident of TDA Course Director Mr. Thomas Schulz. He came especially to help and to support the education for Thai Instructors, but the day before the Course the accident happened. Thomas won the fight for his life, but he has to learn now to life with the power of his arms and his spirit only. TDA want to support Thomas as much as possible. If anyone wants to send to Thomas a donation, please don't hesitate to do so:

Hermann Daniels, Edeka Bank, New-York-Ring 6, 22297 Hamburg, Tel 040 6377-0, Fax 040 6377-2151, BLZ 200 907 00, BIC EDEKDEHH, IBAN DE73 2009 0700 4001 1330 01 Nr. 4001133001

TDA - Daimler Chrysler Dive Club Bangkok

TDA welcomes the Daimler Chrysler Thailand General Manager Mr. Ralf - Christian Erler. Mr. Erler, a very experienced CMAS professional from Germany has successfully done his TDA Course Director Exams. His attention is to establish a non-profit TDA – Daimler Chrysler Dive Club Bangkok within the year 2007 and to support the TDA events and projects.

BOOT Exhibition, Germany 2007

From the 20. - 28. January 2007, the “BOOT” exhibition (world biggest water sport fair) was held in Düsseldorf, Germany. For the second time in history, the TAT Germany (Tourist Authority of Thailand) invited the TDA to this major event to represent diving and recreation holidays in Thailand. TDA was represented by Rainer Gottwald to communicate between the two countries CMAS federations and promote Thailand as THE ASIAN Holiday Destination for sports divers.

The TAT/TDA cooperation was a great success. Special thanks the director of TAT Germany, Mr. Anuparth for his support and understanding.

Mr. Anuparth assures his support in the development and closer work together between the TAT and the TDA.

Present were as well at this fair with integrated own booths the following TDA Academies:

Aqua Divers, Ko Lanta Diving Center, Paradise Divers Ko Mak/Ko Kut, Divers Land Kao Lak and Paradise Divers Krabi The TDA got huge support from German and many European Federations, under the lead of the German VDST president, Prof. Dr. Franz Bruemmer.

TDA was visited at the Booth from the CMAS secretary general Dr. Pierre Dernier, the CMAS Serbia President Dr. Bozana and last but not least from the secretary general of the Libyan Diving Association, Mr. Khalid M. Basher.

TDA Board of Directors and Representatives Meeting 1.2007

The TDA Board of Directors and Representatives Meeting 1.2007 was held at TDA Head office Phuket on 10th of February 2007.

Attended by

TDA Vice President Mr. Pragon Gaetgun
TDA CEO, Mr. Rainer Gottwald
TDA Vice President Marketing, Mr. Claude de Crissey
TDA Treasurer and Lawyer, Khun Pongsawan Sathatham
TDA Tec Director, Mr. Andrew Fortune
TDA Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Maik Rudolf
TDA Chief Examiner Mr. Jens Hofacker
TDA Representatives
Ko Tao, Mr. Eugen Muellerschoen
Ko Samui, Mr. Dirk Lemke
Khao Lak, Mr. Holger Schwaab
Ko Chang, Mr. Michael Lancon
Ko Lanta, Mr. Christian Mietz

TDA treasurer, Mr. Pongsawan Sathatham and asst. treasurer, Mr. Maik Rudolf, gave their reports. The TDA is growing fast and more and more TDA academies using the benefit in issuing the TDA and CMAS certifications.

To transfer annual fees, all members should take care, that their names are accurate on the transfer slips. TDA instructors teaching outside Thailand should give a note to cancel their membership with TDA in Thailand temporarily.

The Board of Directors and Representatives Meeting should take place monthly. Members of these meetings have to give note if they can not come. They can communicate either by phone or email.

TDA-TAT at the Tdex 2007

TDA will be present at TDEX, Bangkok 24th to 27th of May and arrange a booth at Queen Sirikit Convention Centre, Plenary Hall 1-3, together with TAT Thailand. TDA is supposed to have a 9 x 9 m booth. Mr. Pragon Gaetgun and Mr. Rainer Gottwald will take care for booth outfit and presentation. TDA office will inform all Dive Academies about the possibility to take part and present themselves at this exhibition.

For a TDA presentation at ADEX, Bangkok, from 27th to 29th of April 2007, Mr. Pragon Gaetgun is still in the discussion and decision with TAT Thailand in Bangkok.

Mr. Christian Mietz and Mr. Rainer Gottwald were appointed with all votes of the meeting members as Chief Editors for a new “TDA – Magazine”, which should be published first at TDEX end of May 2007. This project, especially the printing costs will be covered by advertising of TDA Dive Academies, Supporting members and other companies nationwide throughout Thailand.

Mr. Pierre Louis Desjoyaux stopped the Mobideep sponsorship for TDA Sport Committee. There will be a meeting between TDA and Mobideep to clear the reasons as soon as possible.

German Divers Aid offers Donation

German CMAS Diving Federation VDST has offered a donation of around Euro 7.000 (THB. 300.000) for TDA scientific projects. This donation should be given to the TDA Scientific Committee to the Royal Museum Projects under the responsibility of TDA Chief Consultant Dr. Pornchai Jutamas, Director of the Royal Chitlada Palace Projects and as well to teach Thai Citizen for environmental projects. The German federation and the responsible divers aid foundation is waiting now for a letter of the TDA scientific committee to prove the NON PROFIT status for the donator.

TDA and Shark project

TDA produced with the help of shark project foundation 3.000 Dvd/Movies "The Language of the Sharks", including the translation to Thai language. These DVDs s were distributed to the TAT, Universities, Government Offices and schools all over Thailand to help understanding the necessarily of protecting the sharks in Thai Seas.

TDA beneficial Soccer tournament Ko Krooi

On 24th of February the TDA soccer team played as every year the beneficial opening game against the Police department Ko Krooi. The game ended in a 2:2 draw. The CUP was donated from TDA Examiner Mr. Gerd Brosky as well to honor Mr. Rewood Chindapol, TDAs first honorary President. All the incomes of this event will be donated to social projects.

(Remember: in February 2006 the TDA team was able finish the soccer game with a 1:1 draw)

TDA treasurer and lawyer suggests more public relation work of TDA to make the work of TDA better understandable for the public and also more effective in cooperation with Thai governmental ngo offices. TDA Vice President, Mr. Pragon Gaetgun, thanks everybody for supporting the TDA ITC 7th to 11th of January 2007.

As well he pointed out that from now on the Archaeological Department of Thailand will cooperate with TDA much closer.

New Tec and Archeological Diving programs are planed in 2007.

Every BoD Member and all Representatives gave a statement about the TDA Marketing and suggestions to improve it. TDA Vice President, Mr. Claude de Crissey states that he will work out a new and effective marketing strategy to improve the TDA marketing for 2007 in between the next three weeks and present it on the next meeting.

If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact TDA.

It is the duty of TDA to support ALL the diving industry across the Kingdom of Thailand according to international rules and regulations, helping out our members as much as possible in any way TDA can.

TDA want to thank all the diving industry for supporting TDA.

Best regards yours truly

TDA Diving Association (Thailand)