

Dear TDA Members; Dear Thailand Diving Industry,

TDA would like to inform you through the TDA-newsletter 3-2006 about the past and near future events and activities of TDA Diving Association (Thailand).

1. CMAS General Assembly 2006

As every year the TDA Diving Association delegation was invited to the yearly general assembly of CMAS, this time held in Rome, Italy in may 2006. The general assembly was hosted by the Italy CMAS Federation, F.I.P.S. More than 500 delegates representing more than 300 associations from 118 countries worldwide attended the meeting. The TDA was heartily welcomed and honoured by the CMAS General Secretary, Dr. Pierre Dernier, for its activities and progress within the past 12 months in all committees. Many new international projects were discussed and a new EU norm concerning CMAS sports diving standards were approved. TDA is proud to be highly accepted by all other federations, especially the close cooperation with the CMAS Germany. (attached file). The next CMAS general assembly will be held in Madeira Portugal in may 2007. TDA will apply then to have the honour to host the CMAS general assembly 2009 in Phuket (50th anniversary of CMAS).

2. Shark Project cooperation with TDA

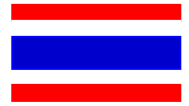
The announced cooperation between TDA and Shark Project (www.sharkproject.org) is realized. TDA got many letters and photos from tourist sports divers and dive shops concerning shark fishing in Thai national marine parks and had to react to show its contribution to save the marine life. TDA also feels its duty for environmental protection as based on several articles in international media the world biggest and most recognized shark protection foundation contacted TDA for further details. The cooperation between TDA and Shark Project, also with the support of the TDA scientific committee and TDA Chief Consultant Dr. Pornchai Chutamas, has started the first activities:

Shark Project supported TDA with its world famous “shark education movie”. TDA has organised the translation into Thai language and has ordered has already ordered 3.000 movies on CDs. From beginning of August 2006 on, TDA will distribute these movies free of charge to all government offices, national parks, royal Thai navy, universities and schools to give better knowledge and understandings about biology, behaviour and sharks marine environment.

Special thanks to the Shark Project foundation and its president, Mr. Gerhard Wegener and his team to support TDA with the sponsoring of 130.000 Thai baht to realize this important environmental and educational project.

TDA is looking foreword in cooperation with Shark Project for intensive future activities and events to help the sharks surviving in Thai waters! TDA is sure Thailand can give a good international environmental example.





3. Divers Aid Germany Foundation

TDA and the German divers aid e.V. foundation are discussing a sponsorship of euro 10.000 for the TDA artificial reef project.
Further information's we will present a.s.a.p.

4. Chulaporn Project with TDA Support

After a very successful Crossover Course with the Royal Thai Navy Seals, 18 Royal Thai Navy Seals are now TDA/CMAS Instructors in "teaching status".
These "new" TDA Instructors conducted and certified 67 TDA/CMAS 1 Star Divers on honorary basis for the "CHULAPORN PROJECT" in June 2006.

TDA supported that project and the TDA Academies "Ko Lanta Diving Center, Aqua Divers Phuket and Divesite Pattaya" with all the necessary diving equipment.
TDA says thank you to all supporters.

5. PSA not CMAS equivalent

The commercial scuba diving certifications agency PSA (Professional Scuba Association) is not equivalent recognized by TDACMAS Thailand. This was confirmed to TDA by CMAS headquarter as well as from the CMAS Germany head of technical committee, Mr. Theo Konken.

6. Quality Assurance

According to the last TDA Board of Directors meeting TDA from now on is looking much closer to the QA (quality assurance), to continue the high level of the TDA/CMAS diving educational standards.

- a. All students have to sign the student's evaluation records as well their exams.
The TDA academy must keep all records at least for 5 years to prove.
- b. All crossover courses have to be conducted in full theoretical and practical range.
- c. All TDA instructors/Academies have to send their student record list not just only after certification, but as well complete every 3 month to give TDA the possibility to prove and send to CMAS headquarters to register internationally.
The form is attached to the NEW TDA instructor manual, and also can be ordered from your local TDA representative.
- d. TDA will work closely with all the commercial diving certification agencies, such as SSI, PADI and NAUI etc. in sharing same procedures to prove QA.





7. Excluded TDA members

The TDA Academy Seaduction Pattaya and Representative Mr. Andrew Crosby are not longer official TDA members, according to the TDA board of director's council.*

8. Student registrations

The TDA students are automatically covered through the TDA/Badalveda Deco Protection Program, please don't register your student with the beginning of the course, but register within 24 hours AFTER the certification via mail to medicconsultant@cmas-thailand.org and tda-office@cmas-thailand.org .

9. TDA membership fees

With all the TDA membership fees TDA was able to realize its aims and goals, especially in the scientific and sport committees, and became an international recognized association with highest standards.

TDA would kindly like to remind all members and academies to pay their annual memberships in time.

According to the last board of directors meeting, TDA really regrets to exclude each member after 3 months not paying their membership fees.

TDA Academies and TDA instructors without active membership and teaching status will be published on the TDA website and newsletter.

10. TDEX 2006

TDA was presented as well at the TDEX 2006 at Bangkok's Sirikith Convention Center.

The TDA boot was a success and many people got lot of information about diving in Thailand, the TDA/CMAS Certification system, the TDA aims, goals, projects and as well a good communication with Mr. Hans Ulrich from PADI Asia/Pacific.

11. Diving Exhibition „BOOT 2007“ at Düsseldorf/Germany

From 20.-27.01.2007, TDA is kindly invited from the TAT Germany with a boot. All TDA Academies have the possibility to join with an own boot to present their business at a special rate of 1.500 Euro.

TDA would kindly ask each academy to take this opportunity to show strong presence together with the TAT at this worldwide biggest water sports fair.

If interest, please contact TAT Germany:

bettina@thailandtourismus.de



Following Participants signed in already:

TDA, Aqua Divers Phuket, Ko Lanta Diving Center, Scuba Quest Kamala, Paradise Scuba Divers Ko Mak/Trat/Krabi.

12. Monofin/Bifin World Championships 2006 at Turin/Italy 4.-15.07.2006

TDA is very proud to inform you, that right in this moment the Thai National TDA Mono/Bifin Team guided by TDA Sport Committee President, Mr. Jatupol Jindapol, is swimming for medals in Turin at the world championships.

The TDA National Team is representing the Kingdom of Thailand with very good results already. As well the Italian TV is broadcasting the Thai National Team with big interest.

Special thanks to Mr. Maurizio Pantarini and his Partner Fabrizio Mazzi, from Solar time Co., Ltd. Hong Kong and Immersion Watches Italy, Pierre Louis Desjoyaux from Desjoyaux Swimming Pools and Mobideep. Without their generous sponsoring it would not possible for the TDA National team to take part at this very important worldwide recognized event.

Many thanks to Mr. Claude de Crissey from Aqua Master Thailand Co., Ltd. for sponsoring the high quality equipment to the TDA National Team.

Good Fin swimmers with Thai Nationality are always welcome to join.

13. Special Services for TDA members

The Mobideep floating Diving station at Phuket Town was very successfully used especially according to the low season weather conditions to teach dive students there. TDA like to inform that all TDA members get special rates for using this unique facility.

For further information please don't hesitate to contact mobideep@cmas-thailand.org.

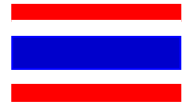
The TDA technical Committee has tested the immersion diver's watches and computer very successfully as well Immersion will provide a special TDA edition H2O divers watch in the nearby future. All Immersion products are available at Aqua Master Thailand Co., Ltd.

14. Welcome to the new TDA 5 Star Gold Supporting Members

Within the last 3 month 32 instructors successfully passed their crossover/exam/ITC to TDA. As well we hearty welcome the new TDA 5 Star Gold Supporting Members: **Immersion Watch Turin/Italy, Solartime Co.Ltd., Hong Kong, Mobi Deep Thailand, Seaman Sub Phuket, Divesite Bangkok/Pattaya, and Shark Project int. Foundation.**

TDA members enjoy special benefits from all TDA supporting members.





15. TDA and Mr. Maurizio Pantarini are invited to Rayong and Samesan

TDA Chief Consultant, President of TDA Scientific Committee and Director of Royal Environmental Projects, Dr. Pornchai Juthamas, has officially invited the TDA Board of Directors and Mr. Maurizio Pantarini (Immersion watches) to visit some of the Royal Environmental Projects which will be as well supported in the future from the TDA Scientific Committee.

Especially the unique Rayong Aquarium and the new upcoming museum of natural science and research at Sameesan will take part at the official visit on 21st and 22nd of July 2006.

Mr. Pantarini, already sponsoring the TDA National Teams, has agreed to support these royal projects.

16. TDA member forum 2006

Next TDA member forum takes place at Nai Thon Buri Hotel Phuket on the 14th of October 2006, 6.00 PM.

- For further and more detailed informations please do not hesitate to contact your next TDA representative or vicepresident@cmas-thailand.org

Best regards, always safe diving and good fun,

Yours very truly

TDA Board of Directors

