

TDA - Newsletter September / October /2007

Phuket, 15.10.2007

Dear TDA Members and Dive Academies,

The TDA Board of Directors and Representatives Meeting 5.2007 was held at the TDA Head Office Phuket on September 28, 2007.

Following points have been discussed and agreed:

1. The accounts, presented by the Assistant Treasurer, have been verified by TDA BOD.
2. TDA CEO/Technical Committee, Rainer Gottwald gave a brief overview on the TDA activities rendered to Libya under the umbrella of CMAS, and handed over the Libyan Medal of Friendship to TDA's President Mr. Ronachai Chindapol as sign of appreciation.
3. Due to the fact that around 35% TDA instructors fail to comply with the payment terms for their annual memberships, a more simplified procedure will be applied in the future. Regardless of the date of entry, all TDA members have to pay their annual membership fee on the 1st of January of each year. Members who are joining the TDA between the months of October and December have to pay the membership fee for the following year, in addition to their partial membership fee for the month(s) of the entry year .
4. The BoD agreed to order the TDA lawyer, Mr. Pongsawan Sathatham, to check on the "Mobideep" sponsorship agreement and contract in order to eventually bring this case to court, because Mobideep/Golden Bull Co.Ltd did not perform its contractual obligations agreed to TDA.
5. TDA will sponsor the Thai Archaeological Department's activities in 2007 with the sum THB 12.000. It was discussed weather a future and a closer cooperation, which includes training of the department's students, may lead to integration into the TDA's Scientific Committee.
6. Furthermore, cooperation with the Sukhothaimathirath University Bangkok has been discussed in a recent meeting between TDA President Khun Ronachai Chindapol, Vice-President Khun Pragon Gaetgun and representatives of the Sukhothaimathirath University. The concerning parties agreed that the TDA diving system and standards should be integrated in the university's curriculum (similar to that of German universities). As soon as the final agreements are reached and the contracts are signed, TDA will inform all members.
7. The future diving regulations were another major issue of the BOD meeting. It was discussed and decided that the draft of these regulations have to be finalized before the upcoming TDA General Assembly. The TDA will then provide this draft to the relevant government authorities for further action.
8. TDA Members may benefit in the future from a concept for additional "seasonal" work permits, which has been discussed in a meeting between the TDA, TAT and the Department of Labor. Once implemented, TDA Members could enjoy a special benefit for supporting TDA, because they will be granted additional work permits for their Instructors , without the usually required upgrade of their company. As soon as the final agreements are reached and the contracts are signed, TDA will inform the diving industry immediately.
9. On the auspicious occasion of the 80th Birthday of His Majesty The King Of Thailand, TDA is honored to support and to sponsor the "Reef and Beach Clean- Up Day" on December 9, 2007 in Chantaburi. In order to promote the TDA further, 500 T-Shirts will be distributed among local volunteers.
10. CMAS start now as well to promote ALL Nations CMAS federations Dive Academies on the www.cmas.org website. Please send TDA your Intro.

11. **10 Royal Thai Marine Police Officers have successfully passed their TDA/CMAS instructor course conducted on 10th of September 2007. As a result, the Royal Marine Police Department will increase the cooperation with the TDA in terms of diving education, diving standards and environmental education.**
12. **In November 2007 the first TDA dive training for Phuket Police Officers will be organized at the TDA Academy Aqua Divers at Naithon Beach, with participants from the Tachachai Police Station.**
13. **The Sea Gypsies educational event was completed successfully with 40 Sea Gypsies certified to TDA/CMAS 1 Star Divers in July, August and September 2008. The TDA BoD has agreed to more educational events for Sea Gypsies in close cooperation with the authorities.**
14. **TDA Ko Samui is planning to organize a TDA Environmental Promotion Day on Ko Samui. Children of local Ko Samui schools will be invited to join a marine environmental introduction and snorkeling trip. This event will be the start of a regular program for children of local schools nationwide in cooperation with TDA and TAT and local authorities.**
15. **Vice President Khun Pragon Gaetgun is hereby asking all members, who are interested in supporting and developing the TDA marketing committee, to send their letter of introduction.**
16. **The TDA Representative Kao Lak gave a short summary on the TDEX 2007 in Bangkok. The exhibition was a great success for a joined promotion of the TDA and the TAT to the Thai travel and diving market.**
17. **In May 2008 the TAT and the TDA will once again share the booth at the TDEX. All TDA Academies or Supporting Members will have the chance to promote their Academy for 4 days together with the TDA and the TAT. As well it was discussed to remind all dive centers/academies in promoting themselves at the worldwide biggest water sports fair in Düsseldorf – Germany in January 2008. Everyone who is interested, please contact the TDA member support.**
18. **The TDA has appointed Mr. Bruno Mahieu who has replaced Mr. Leander Schalinski as TDA vice - representative for TDA Pattaya events.**
19. **The management of the TDA working commission gave his statements to the TDA Artificial Airplane reefs planned for the Andaman west coast from Kao Lak down to Ko Lanta, and the National Park regulations. Regarding to the TDA Website it was agreed that Khun Chamnong will remain in charge as the TDA webmaster; however more contributions are required from the TDA members in order to improve the quality of the webpage and the overall image of the TDA.**
20. **The TDA BoD agrees that TDA has to fulfill and improve the requirements as a full voting member of the world underwater federation CMAS. Fact is that TDA is the Full Voting member of CMAS for the Kingdom of Thailand, and TDA is proud of this fact. Only through this membership within the world underwater federation CMAS, TDA can pursue its goals in a partnership with more then 250 worldwide national international non profit associations, federations and organizations. Through this membership TDA is international highly recognized as an NGO in Organizations such as UNESCO, IOC, IWGA, IUC and many other important World Institutions.**
21. **Final Point was the 100% agreement to apply at the CMAS head office at the Olympic Committee / Roma / Italy to be the host for the UW Photo World Champion ships 2009 and to host as well the CMAS General Assembly such as the 50 Years anniversary of the world underwater federation CMAS in Phuket, witch will bring the BIG PRESS such as a huge promotion for the Kingdom of Thailand.**
22. **The next BoD meeting will be on 24th of October 2007 after the Technical Committee Meeting the same day at Sea Bees Dive Center, Phuket Chalong at 12:00 hrs.**

TDA General Assembly 2007

On Wednesday, the 24th of October 2007 at 8.00 PM all TDA members, member academies and supporting members are invited to the TDA General Assembly at the Phuket Metropol Hotel, Phuket Town.

Every year our organization requires a general meeting according to the law in Thailand. Since the last general meeting, many things have happened in Phuket and the surrounding areas of Thailand. We are extremely proud of the actions of many TDA members.

The TDA wishes to follow this same example, by upgrading our standards, increasing the number of members and supporters, and most importantly helping out our members as much as possible in any way we can. For these reasons we request your attendance at the important general meeting on October 24th.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Registration of members and guests - 19 h 00
2. Opening by the President Khun Ronachai Chindapol - 20 h 00
3. Introduction of our distinguished VIP guests and Sponsors
4. Treasurer – Annual report/membership fees procedure
5. General Secretary – Yearly review 2007 / as to the date
6. CEO – Technical Committee review 2007
7. Memberships/requirements/benefits
8. Reports
 - Scientific Committee (Clean Ups)
 - Medical Committee (New Badalveda Presentation&Insurance)
 - Supporting Membership
9. Question and Answers
10. Coffee break – 15 minutes
11. Marketing, environmental and sports projects for 2007/2008
 - Working Commission yes/no if yes, BoD member?
 - Development of a Thailand wide TDA TEC Commission/Team
 - Participation at TDEX Bangkok 2008
 - Participation at BOOT Germany 2008
 - Free Educational programs
 - Hosting of the 2009 Photo World Championship at Phuket.
12. President closes the general assembly of TDA
13. Small Talks and Photographs - 21 h 30

The participation of our TDA members is essential for the development of our still young association.

Reservation: Member Name/Nr.
Academy member name/Nr.
Number of guests/Names.....

Please RSVP before October 20, if you have any comments to add to the agenda please don't hesitate to contact TDA. membersupport@cmas-thailand.org



Next TDA Technical Committee meeting together with TDA Representatives

Please remember:

The meeting of the Technical Committee with all TDA Representatives, Examiners, Course Directors and 3 Star Instructors will be on Phuket on Wednesday, the 24th of October 2007 at 1.00 PM, at TDA Academy Sea Bees Chalong.

If you can NOT come, please inform Khun Rainer via email ceo@cmas-thailand.org

Invited are:

Khun Pragon Gaetgun BOD Technical Committee
Khun Rainer Gottwald CEO Technical Committee
Khun Mong Sompong Chief Examiner Ko Sameth
Representative Royal Thai Navy Seals/Comando
Representative Royal Thai Marine Police
Khun Bruno Mahieu, Asst. Repr. Pattaya
Khun Eugen Muellerschoen Chief Examiner SE
Khun Jens Hofacker Chief Examiner SW
Khun Christian Mietz Repr. Krabi Koh Lanta
Khun Holger Schwab Repr. Kao Lak
Khun Michel Lancon Repr. Koh Chang
Khun Oliver Marsel Tec Consultant Krabi Koh Lanta
Khun Dirk Lemke Repr. Koh Samui
Khun Christian Hautzinger Rep. Krabi
Khun Ralf Erler Bangkok Dive Club
Khun Pongsak Poupornpon / Thai Divecenter Club
And all technical advisers and Course Directors

TDA environmental events and clean up days

Please remember, on the 9th of December 2007 the TDA will support as every year, the Reef Clean Up day in occasion for His Majesty, the KING Birthday at Rayong.

Last, but not least:

The TDA is looking to employ a professional marketing expert, willing to support TDA with new and innovative ideas as a member of the TDA marketing team.

For all Thai Citizen, feeling able to apply for this position, do not hesitate to contact TDA or membersupport@cmas-thailand.org.

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)

