



SOUTH WIND

Charter Granted 7 August 1961

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No. 2648
31st March 2017

Today's Topic: **"INDIAN RELIGIONS"** RCBS Panel

MEETINGS : EVERY FRIDAY AT NOON

HOW IS THAI SOCIETY CHANGING? VORANAI VANIJAKA

By RTN Tim Cornwall

For many years, people who know Khun Voranai have suggested he needs to write in Thai so his message can be shared with a different and potentially larger audience. Two years as GQ Editor has given him this opportunity albeit with limitations.

First, the audience is by no means as large, second GQ readers are not buying the magazine to read about politics, but rather fashion; and finally, without the Bangkok Post behind him, he sees the need to be somewhat circumspect in what he writes.

However, no matter how circumspect he might now be and despite the fact one would think everyone would be in agreement with his ideas, it seems not all, which is not unusual in the social media era as not only does every 'twit' have an opinion, it is one that can now be shared with other like-minded 'twits'.

The first example was an editorial he wrote in which he said he did not want his students to kneel in front of him and how he felt uncomfortable when waiters would crawl on the floor to serve high-so individuals. Perfectly okay to kneel and wai one's parents as a sign of respect, but no need for these demeaning behaviors that do nothing more than demonstrate social inequality.

Later, he wrote in another article that university students should ditch their smart phones for actual books and that they should be spending their time sharpening their minds instead of keeping up on social media or reading comic books. Two groups took offence.

Smart phone users who suggested that perhaps students were downloading great literary works to read and discuss and how did he know they were not? The cartoon fans



also chimed in stating that cartoon books were every bit as intellectual as, in his own words, 1984 or Animal Farm.

Khun Voranai then went on to discuss the current problems with political discussions in that while many people are talking, no-one is listening, or at least not to those with an opposing opinion. Suggesting a few trigger words, immigration, Moslems, Black lives matter and white privilege, he commented on how these and others seem to drain all intelligent discussion.

How does this reflect on a changing Thai society? People have opinions and they are sharing them, and like most places in the world, unfortunately many are not based on anything more than ill-informed emotional 'logic'.

In closing, and wishing to leave on a positive note, he shared an anecdote about being thanked by one, quite young hi-so, who took the effort at an event to thank him for what he had written as it needed to be said and needs to be said again and again, she added. The best compliment any writer can get, he concluded.



PE Jon Plate, RTN Marcel Dubbleman are perplexed why PP David is wearing a tie



RTN Yod Tantiannanont and PP Mark Butters join P Ken in presenting GS Khun Voranai Vanijaka with a certificate of appreciation



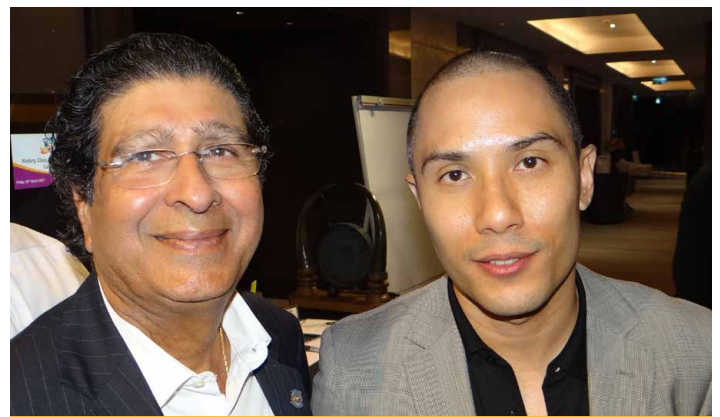
RTN's Marcel Dubbleman and Volker Betsch discuss EU's 60th



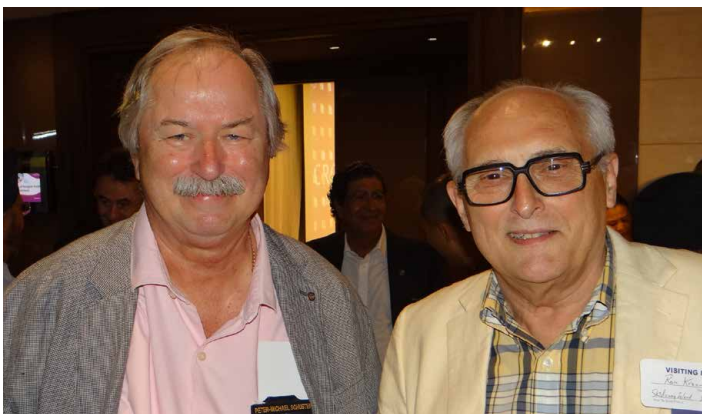
P Ken welcomes our rejoining member, RTN Chris Trogh. Welcome back!



P Ken exchanges banners with RTN Ron Kraunich from RC Skidaway Island, USA



RTN Ravi Sehgal shares a moment with our Guest Speaker Voranai Vanijaka



Global networking... Peter-Michael Schuster greets visiting RTN Ron Kraunich from RC Skidaway Island, USA



Another lucky cosmos winner RTN Yongyuth Tirachaimongkol with P Ken

CLEAN DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS REPORT

By PP John Quarmby

Apart from a tree crashing into my car on the very first day, all went well.

Rtn Ola & Grete Holmgren, Rtn Mark ,Puu and Stinky Wolf, Rtn Sievert, Rtn Alastair, PP Andrew and the Quarmbys represented RCBS along with Mark's guest Devin. The Supa-team were there all through the trip of course, arranged everything perfectly as always, and we had an ever-changing group of Rotarians from the host-clubs, not only on the two "official" days but during the 31st Jan – 2nd Feb when we went to survey old, and potential new sites, throughout Kamphangphet, Sukhothai and Lampang provinces.

We inaugurated two new systems

- Nong Naam Daeng School in Khanuwaoralaxburi district of Kamphangphet province together with RC Khanuworalaxburi, sponsored by our Rtn Sievert
- Baan Tor Nod in Sukhothai province together with RC Sukhothai, sponsored by the Chaine des Rotisseurs through PP Andrew

Plus we did semi-official, low-key inaugurations of the systems in Lithai school, Mueang Sukhothai managed by RC Sukhothai and Wat Sawankaram school in Sawankaloke district of Sukhothai province together with the RC Sawankaloke. Both systems had been sponsored by Rtn Yke and Geertje Vermeiden of RC Amsterdam-Minerva in 2014. They only recently gave up hope of making it here for the inauguration so we did it without them and will send a full report with pictures. In total we made 23 visits to 21 schools (2 "mulligans").



One system we visited was currently being relocated so was not operating, and the two potential sites could not, of course, give a TDS result. This left 18 schools to be TDS-tested.

3 from 2009, 1 from 2010, 2 from 2011, 4 from 2012, 3 from 2013, 3 from 2014, 2 from 2016.

Our commitment to sponsors is 5 years of clean operation so technically 6 systems were "out of warranty" but seeing as we were there anyway...

- 9 schools had TDS at or below our target 10 mg per litre (low numbers are good)
- 4 had results above that but still below the UN-recommended target of 50 mg per litre
- 5 had values higher than the UN standard and we are organising corrective action.

We need the Database update for an exact figure but as far as I can see, from the 113 systems installed in District 3360 from 2008 to date Marco and I have now visited about 68 during 2015, 2016 and 2017 to date. Still work to do!

Project Proposal 16/05 for San Chang Tai School in Phan district of Chiangrai province (RC Phan) sponsored by Rtn Ola was installed on the 07th of February and first test showed a Raw Water TDS of 312 coming down to a filtered value of 007 per Litre.

We hope to submit a proposal for a system at Huay Sak school in Chiangrai in the next few days. We have received the remaining info which we had requested (e-coli analysis) and I will ask Rtn Prasert for his ok in the next days before circulating the proposal to the committee.

Khun Khob's Club Almanac #2648

31 March 2017

Happy Birthdays:

Prasert Mangkornkarn April 5

Wedding Anniversary Greetings:

None

Attendance for 24th March 2017: 76%

Present 37, Make-up 19, Absent 18, Exemption 32, Total 106

Visiting for 24th March 2017:

From Local

None

From Abroad:

Pekr Thorne	RC Almaneil, Portugal
PP Per Dibber	RC Barbados, Barbados
Ron Krannich	RC Skidoway Island, USA
Uschi Kuhn	RC Almaneil, Portugal

Invited Guests:

Chris Trogh
PP David Sims
Gary White
Ghaff Khan
Thomas Schmelter

Introduced by:

Vinai Phutthinin
Marcel Dubbleman
Doug Riach
Doug Riach
PP Andrew MacPherson

Recent Makeups:

RC Barbados, 16th March 2017: PP Stanley Mac Donald

RC Zurich au Lac, Zurich, Switzerland, 17th March 2017:

PP Philip Baechtold

RC Bangkok, 21st March 2017: PP Mark Butters, PP Narinder Sachdev

Makeups:

Service Projects, 13th March 2017: Adrian Topham, Alastair Timblich, Doug Riach, PP John Quarmby, PE Jon Plate, Mark Shaw, Prasert Mangkornkarn, Stuart Lucani

RC Bangkok Fund Raising Concert, 17th March 2017:

PP Peter-Michael Schuster

Inauguration Trip to Lopburi on Global Grant Project "Saori Weaving Looms and Professional Training to 38 handicapped children and families in Lopburi,

18th March 2017: PP Andrew MacPherson, P Krin Charnmaytesakul, PP Krit Wongsangarunsri, Mark Shaw, Mototoshi Kakiuchi, Ola Holmgren

CLUB CALENDAR

Friday, 7th April 2017 – Dr. Tuntikorn Rungpatana (Dr. Oob) – LADIES DAY Soi-Dog Foundation – We've all been barked at, some even bitten, and many have felt pity for some of the more tragic incarnations of Bangkok's soi dogs. Dr. Oob will tell us why there are so many soi dogs, how he snips them and whether euthanasia is ever an option.

Friday, 14th April 2017 – No Meeting – Songkran Holiday

Thursday, 20th April 2017 – Inter-Club delegation to RC Bangrak at the Evergreen Laurel Hotel, North Sathorn Road, 12.15 pm when their guest speaker will be Ms Belkis Shah from Prem Rawat Foundation on the topic "Keys to a Peaceful Life" – this presentation will be in English.

Friday, 21st April 2017 – Chris Pornchai Prasertsintanah on Thailand's Competitiveness among SEA Economies – Chris is CFA of Credit Suisse Bangkok and Thailand Country Manager, Head of Thailand Equities and Head of Philippines Equities, thus perfectly positioned to give us an update on Thailand's competitive advantages among the Asian Tigers.

Friday, 28th April 2017 – Club Assembly at 11 am, followed by David Armstrong on Kamphaeng Phet Historical Park and its History – For all of us Bangkok long-timers a little history lesson from time to time is in order, particularly if delivered by our former member David, who has an illustrious background in journalism and who is putting Kamphaeng Phet back on the map for us.

Friday, 05th May 2017– No Meeting – Coronation Day

For more information about Bangkok South events contact: rotarybangkoksouth.org/calendar-of-events

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