



SOUTH WIND

Charter Granted 7 August 1961

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No. 2657
9th June 2017

Today's Topic: **"WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY & CONSERVATION"**
RTN Frank Crocker

MEETINGS : EVERY FRIDAY AT NOON

THE RICE BUSINESS IN THAILAND VUTTIPHOL WANGLEE

RTN Tim Cornwall

On Friday, we were taken on an informed, whirlwind tour of Thailand's rice growing industry, its concerns and solutions by Khun Vuttiphol Wanglee.

Beginning with an economic synopsis of supply and demand leading to current price levels and the lower income Thai farmers need to deal with, he quickly brought us into a world he understands and cares about.

World rice supply has outstripped demand for the past ten years leading rice stocks to reach its highest levels. This has, in turn, continued to push prices downward leading to reduced purchasing power for farmers and a current need to find means to improve Thai farmer livelihood.

Thailand revenue per Rai when compared to Vietnam is 23.8% lower as Vietnam has higher production yield per rai achieved with a rice strategy based on three increases versus three decreases: increase quality, yield and profit and decrease insecticide, fertilizer and seed.

To help turn things around for Thailand, four problem areas need to be addressed: lack of emphasis, motivation, strategy and budget.

More irrigation is needed as Thailand now has an irrigation system that covers 30 million rai with a five-year plan to increase to 40 million rai or about 30 per cent of total farm area. Solution: provide more irrigated land.



Currently, seed quality in Thailand is low meaning farmers can lose 10 to even 100 per cent as seeds fall-off before they can be harvested or if the rice is harvested, it is a lower quality that brings in less income. In addition, low quality seed is not resistant to diseases, insects or drought further increasing the chances to reduce crop outcomes. Solution: provide better seed.

One point he was quite adamant about was the need for farmers to change their traditional views about burning rice stubble, as in fact, this method burns off most soil nutrients are gone leading to the need to use more fertilizer to increase

rice production. The best method is to plough up and over the rice stubble as it holds nutrients useful for the soil. Solution: provide more and better farmer education.

Another concern is so-called mobile-phone farmers, or Rice Field Managers who use their mobile phone to call labor to come plough their fields or harvest their rice. They just sit and watch, which in turn, increases costs and reduces quality as those doing the work have nothing to gain from better quality. Solution: offer encouragement for personal involvement.

He offset these concerns with three Thai rice-farmer success stories that illustrated rice farmers can earn a livable (20K Baht/month), in fact a very livable income (200K Baht/month) if they know what they are doing and do it right.

To help rice farmers, Khun Vuttiphol suggested Thailand needs to: be competitive and become a low cost high-quality producer; have clear goals, strategy and execution plan for the rice sector; allocate more budget for R&D and farmer education; increase irrigation areas faster; provide sufficient good quality seeds and finally, convert more rice farm into organic farms as income yields are higher.

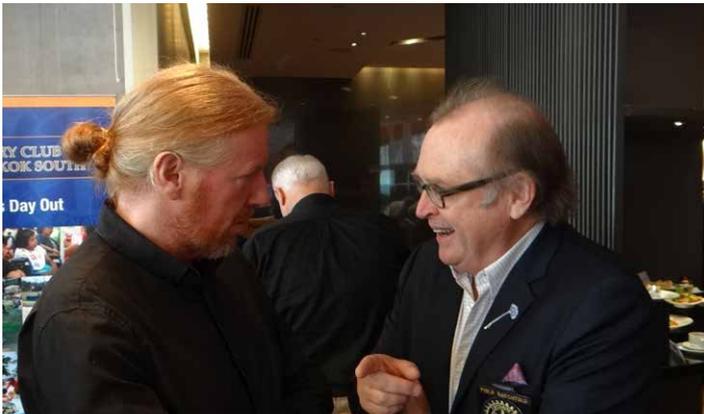
In short, he concluded, "We need a rice-growing industrial revolution."



RTNS Dougie Riach, Billy Popham and Arie Bloed



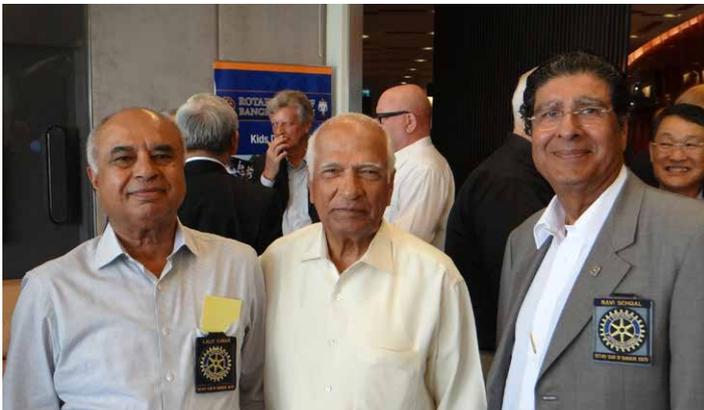
RTNS Carol Kuhn, Arie Bloed with his guest, Ann Vireak from Cambodia



PP Andrew MacPherson and PP Philip Baechtold



RTN Arie Bloed and his guest, Ann Vireak from Cambodia



RTN Lalit Kumar, PP Narinder Sachdev, Rtn Ravi Sehgal



RTN Moto Kakiuchi presented a banner from RC Tokyo Minato to P Krin Charnmaytesakul



RTNS Rakesh, Prasert and P Krin presents the COA to our speaker, Khun Vuttiphol Wanglee



RTN Tim Cornwall won the Cosmos for Charity

COSMOS FOR CHARITY TO END

In two weeks, Cosmos for Charity will become part of Rotary Club of Bangkok South's history as Rotarian Vinai has reluctantly decided to end his amazing 483-week run (441 consecutive weeks) as sponsor for this extremely important fund-raising activity.

Cosmos has sponsored our Friday lucky draw for two-thirds of its 18-year history, raising 2,815,324 Baht **(82,674 USD)** or 61.7 per cent of the total 4,559,393 Baht raised **(133,671 USD)**.

If we take into consideration the bottle, the young Cosmos student brought along to enjoy lunch and the lucky coin, Rotarian Vinai must have personally contributed at least 500K Baht to the club over the 11 years he has sponsored Cosmos for Charity.

Half-a-million Baht! Imagine if everyone in the club were as generous? If we were and with over a hundred members, we would have had 5,000,000.00 Baht every year or 55M Baht **(1.6M USD)** over the past 11 years.

How can we honor this?

With 50 members in the club attending on average, if we could each increase our donation for the next two weeks to 500 Baht each week, we could raise 50,000 Baht and end his amazing contribution with the respect it deserves.

However, if we could each find it in ourselves to contribute, for even two weeks at the same level as Rotarian Vinai has, week in and week out for 11 years, (1,000 Baht each week) we could raise 100,000 Baht, bringing the Cosmos total to 2,913,916 Baht and bring the 2016/17 Rotary year to 352,771 Baht, or the highest annual total ever.

And that, would be the fitting and proper way to thank Rtn Vinai for his amazing generosity.



Khun Khob's Club Almanac #2657

9 June 2017

Happy Birthdays:

P Krin Charnmaytesakul June 11
 PP Niti Meyer June 14
 Joop van Delden June 15

Wedding Anniversary Greetings:

Roy Howard June 12

Attendance for 2nd June 2017: 55%

Present 31, Make-up 11, Absent 34, Exemption 31, Total 107

Visiting for 2nd June 2017

From Local

None

From Abroad:

None

Invited Guests:

Ann Vireak
 Bernard Fig
 Dan McKay
 John Stevens
 Tevin Baechtold

Introduced by:

Arie Bloed
 Rakesh Sodhia
 John Casella
 John Casella
 PP Don Lavoie

Recent Makeups:

RC eClub One, 29th May 2017: Stuart Lucani

Makeups:

RC Royal Hua Hin Installation Dinner, 27th May 2017:

PP Mark Butters, PP Nigel Hardy, PP Peter-Michael Schusters

CLUB CALENDAR

Friday, 16th June 2017 – Robert MacAdam on First Aid –

There are simple and uncomplicated steps that anyone can take in an emergency, any of which might save a life. Rob, a former Emergency Department Nurse, healthcare trainer and manager will take us through simple, easily remembered First Aid steps that could make a life saving difference.

Friday, 23rd June 2017 – Fellowship – P. Ken's Farewell Party

– Countdown to the day of relief when P. Ken will have survived, and so will have our Club. Hard to believe that it soon is time to say farewell to President Ken, at a fellowship luncheon at Charcoal Restaurant in Soi 11 Sukhumvit.

Friday, 30th June 2017 – No Meeting – due to Installation Dinner Sat., 1st July 2017.

Saturday, 1st July 2017 – Installation Dinner at Anantara Hotel at 6 pm. Drink @ THB 2,600, Non Drink @ THB 2,100. Theme: Red & White. Please book with Khun Khob.

Friday, 7th July 2017 – President's Day – Newly installed President Jon presents his board, the club's projects and targets for the new Rotary Year 2017/18.

Friday, 14th July 2017– Dr. Manoon Leechawengwongs on Drug Resistance in Thailand and TB

Friday, 21st July 2017 – Douglas Riach on Rallying – Dougie reveals how to get dirty, smelly, wet and cold, but still get there quickly. The life of a crazy rally driver Part 1.

Friday, 28th July 2017 – No Meeting - due to public holiday: H.M. The King's Birthday

Friday, 4th August 2017 – Club Birthday – venue tbc, cutting of the birthday cake and some light entertainment by a panel of Rotarians led by Rtn. Rick Smith.

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

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