

SOUTH WIND

Charter Granted 7 August 1961

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No. 2698
25 May 2018

Today's Topic: "Clean Drinking Water Systems"
PP John Quarmby

MEETINGS : EVERY FRIDAY AT NOON

MYANMAR

As Don Lavoie reminded him the other day "a good speech is always a good story", and with that in mind, Rtn Mark told us about his friend, Serge Pun and how his story reflects what has happened and is happening in Myanmar today.

Serge Pun was born in Rangoon in 1953 to a Chinese banker from Calcutta and grew up in Rangoon during "the great years" when it had the best infrastructure, education, hospitals and social life in Asia.

However, at 12, Serge's and his family were sent back to China when all foreigners were forced to leave. Two years later, the Chinese "Cultural Revolution" broke out and he was sent for "re-education" in the rice fields of China.

Serge would spend the next two years working 18 hours a day until his older sister Pat was able to sponsor him to come and live in Hong Kong.

Selling 'air fresheners' from office to office, he met Elmer Busch, a German real estate broker in who told him after he had finished his pitch, "Son, you are too damn good to be selling air fresheners and tomorrow you are going to start working for me selling real estate.

For the next ten years Serge learned the real estate business before starting Serge Pun & Associates in Hong Kong.

It was the early 80's and Rtn Mark had started to travel from Vancouver to Hong



Kong to meet investors who owned property in Vancouver. An associate suggested Mark look up Serge Pun and that was the beginning of their relationship.

In 1988, Mark and his wife Dawn went on a holiday to Thailand. Six month later, he had sold his house, furniture, real estate business, packed up his two young kids and moved to Bangkok with 13 suitcases.

At the same time, Serge decided to move and together they set up Serge Pun & Associates Thailand in 1989 and went on to develop Abdulrahim Place and Lake Green Apartments.

In 1990, Myanmar was just beginning to open for investment and in 1991, he opened Serge Pun & Associates Myanmar. During the next five years, he negotiated three land leases with the government for

60 years to develop these properties on a 70/30 profit split.

His first project was FMI City & PunHlaing Golf Estate, started in 1994, was Myanmar's first gated community on 1,200 Rai with 2,000 homes and PunHlaing Golf Estate. Both projects came to a grinding halt in 2003 and would sit dormant for the next eight years.

The second project, Star City, covering 1,000 Rai, and a 6-hole golf course, also sat dormant for the next 8 years.

The third and prime development site was with the State Railway of Myanmar on land at the prime intersection in downtown Yangon. Serge developed an 88-room hotel and the first a/c office and shopping complex in Yangon.

This also came to a grinding halt in 2003 after the sanctions and financial crisis which saw occupancy rates plunge and room rates fall to 25.

However, Serge did a back-door listing on the Singapore Stock Exchange in 2006 and set up Yoma Strategic Holdings entitling investors to the "economic interest" of his real estate investments in Myanmar.

In November 2011, Hilary Clinton visited and in January 2012 Serge asked me to and live and work in Myanmar. In November 2012, Barack Obama visited and soon after that the "great gold rush" of Myanmar began.



SNAPSHOTS FROM RCBS LUNCH, 18 MAY 2018

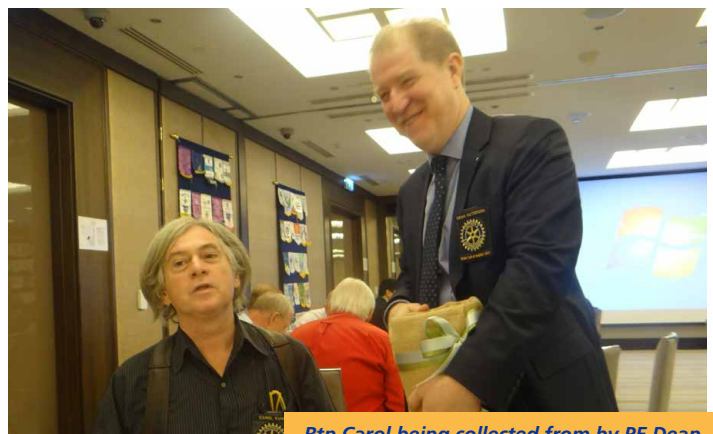
VP Adrian and P Dougie enjoying a lighter moment as the year winds down



PP Nart and Rtn Shrimp



IPP Ken has a new shirt, PP Narain is not impressed



Rtn Carol being collected from by PE Dean



PDG Al, sporting his latest look and a bemused Rtn Peter



PE Dean won the wine...

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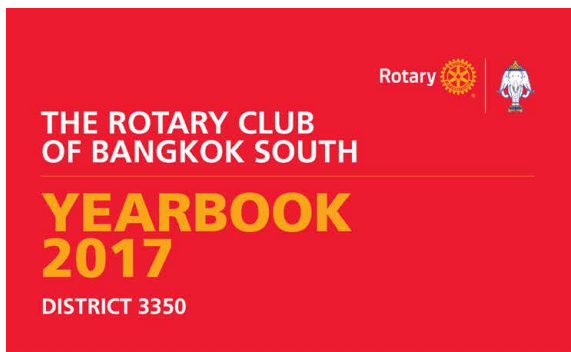
MEETINGS : EVERY FRIDAY AT NOON



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

The Crowne Plaza Bangkok Lumpini Park Hotel
952 Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10500 Thailand
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RCBS YEARBOOK 2018 BE THE FIRST ... BOOK NOW!



Publication date:

1 June 2018

Deadline for booking & artwork:

22 May 2018

I wish to confirm the following advertising space in the
RCBS Yearbook 2018

- Back Cover 30,000- Baht
- Inside Front Cover 24,000- Baht
- Inside Back Cover 20,000- Baht
- Full Page 15,000- Baht
- Half Page 8,500- Baht
- Quarter page 5,000- Baht

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Khun Khob's Club Almanac #2698

25 MAY 2018

Happy Birthdays:

PP Nart Liuchareon May 25
PP Narain Suradejvibul May 30

Wedding Anniversary Greetings:

None

Attendance for 18 May 2018: 54%

Present 24, Make-up 17, Absent 35, Exemption 29, Total 105

Visiting for 18 May 2018:

From Local

Alan Brown RC Royal Hua Hin

Invited Guests:

Donghua Jiang
Matt Ryan

Introduced by:

PE Dean Outerson
Ron Livingston

Recent Makeups:

None

Makeups:

Club Assembly, 4 May 2018: Adrian Topham, Alastair Timblich, Dana Caron, David Record, PE Dean Outerson, PP Don Lavoie, P Douglas Riach, CP Geoffrey Carter, Gerard Geraets, John Casella, PP John Quarmby, IPP Krin Charnmaytesakul, Mark Marshall, Mark Shaw, Mark Wolf, Michael Bain, Michael Graham-Hyde, PP Michael Schulz, PP Narain Suradejvibul, Ola Holmgren, PP Per Dibber, PN Tim Cornwall

Service Projects, 14 May 2018: Adrian Topham, Arie Bloed, PE Dean Outerson, P Dougie Riach, PP John Quarmby, Dr. M Chase Schneier, Mark Shaw, Michael Graham-Hyde

Admin, 16 May 2018: Alastair Timblich, Billy Popham, Dana Caron, PP Mark Butters, Mike Ellis

CLUB CALENDAR

Friday, 1 June 2018 – Rtn Gerard Geraets on "Trends in Consumer products Markets in Asia / Thailand. Why MNC's are losing out."

Friday, 8 June 2018 – Mr Roy Tomizawa on "1964 – The Greatest Year in the History of Japan: How the Tokyo Olympics Symbolized Japan's Miraculous Makeover"

Friday, 15 June 2018 – Israeli Ambassador H.E Dr. Meir Schlomo on "Changes in Middle - East, Israel - Thailand relationship."

Friday, 22 June 2018 – No Weekly Meeting – due to Installation Dinner on Saturday, 23 June 18 at InterContinental Bangkok.

Saturday, 23 June 2018 – Annual Installation Dinner at InterContinental Bangkok. Please contact **Khun Khob info@rotarybangkoksouth.org** or **02632 9160** for more information.

Friday, 29 June 2018 – Fellowship lunch at Charcoal. Details to be advised.

Friday, 6 July 2018 – President's Day

Friday, 13 July 2018 – Rtn Prasert Mangkornkarn on "Why I Love Soy Sauce"

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

The Crowne Plaza Bangkok Lumpini Park Hotel, 952 Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10500 Thailand
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