

February 20, 2012

Dear Friend of Thailand,

We hope you have had a wonderful weekend and that spring is almost here wherever you are!

Now, onto the news for the evening! Here is what you will find in this message

- **FOT-FUNDED PCV PROJECT REPORT**
- **NEWLY-FUNDED PCV PROJECT**
- **DONATING TO A FUTURE PCV PROJECT**
- **PEACE CORPS' THAILAND 50TH ANNIVERSARY, JULY 11-18, 2012**
- **WELCOME TO A NEW FRIENDS OF THAILAND BOARD MEMBER**

### **FOT-FUNDED PCV PROJECT REPORT**

In January, our last PCV Project report for 2011 arrived. It came from Kale Roberts of Thai 122 and Tambon Khaokok, Amphur Prakonchai, Buriram. He and his counterpart, Pii Pu, worked diligently to implement the Tambon's **Youth Environmental Initiative** with the help of funding from Friends of Thailand, and they had a lot of fun doing so!

In addition to the many FoT members whose annual fees made funding of this excellent project possible, we would also like to thank those members who made special donations to our Project Fund, which went directly to this effort. They are Paul Paquette (Thai 47), Keiko Hiramoto Hess (Thai I), George and Chrystal Stillings-Smith (Thai XVIII) and Mark Chambers.

To view the page featuring Kale's and Pii Pu's project where you can read the final report and a special message from Kale, please go to <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/projectsponsorship/projects2011/05Kale/main.html>

### **NEWLY-FUNDED PCV PROJECT**

In January, FoT funded its first PCV project for 2012, our tenth year of PCV project support. The proposal, **Tessabaan Chaiwaree Children's English Library**, originated with Karen Harrington of Thai 123 and Tambon Kampa, Amphur Phochai, Roi Et. Karen and her counterparts at the Tessabaan will use the 49,800 baht awarded by Friends of Thailand to create the community library and train various volunteers to handle the duties of the facility.

Again, annual membership fees made this project possible, and we thank everyone for their continued support of FoT's main mission. In addition, special donations to the Project Fund from two FoT members were applied to this effort. They are John Williams (Thai XII) and Katherine Feltes (Thai 85). We thank both of them very much for their generosity.

To read about this special community library, please go to <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/projectsponsorship/projects2012/01KarenHarrington/main.html>

### **DONATING TO A FUTURE PCV PROJECT TO CELEBRATE PEACE CORPS THAILAND'S 50TH BIRTHDAY**

If you would like to contribute to FoT's Project Fund and assist a community in rural Thailand during 2012, Peace Corps 50th year of service in the Kingdom, you can learn how by clicking on the link below. Friends of Thailand hopes to increase its funding potential, and we hope you will join in the effort by clicking below

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/donate/main.html>

### **PEACE CORPS' THAILAND 50TH ANNIVERSARY, JULY 11-18, 2012**

FoT is beginning to hear from folks who are planning to attend the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps Thailand in Bangkok and Beyond this coming July 11-18. We hope everyone has had a chance to peruse the information available on the FoT web site about the events. If not, I am providing the same information below I sent out on December 29. We hope to hear from you soon that you will be there to celebrate!

The schedule of activities in Thailand for this coming summer on the FoT web site is at <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/50thanniversary/thailand/main.html>

If you click on various dates, you will access pages for individual days during the celebration.

Additionally, at the bottom there is a list of Documents and Forms you can download. The items include

1. **List of RPCVs Planning to Attend:** This list has been updated as folks have written to confirm they will attend or are thinking of attending. If you would like to have your name added to the list, please let me know and I will do so
2. **About Bangkok Activities Booklet:** This is a multi-page PDF document of various activities available in and around Bangkok. Julia Chinnock, FoT member of Thai 118, gathered most of the information and we thank her for all her hard work. Peter Montalbano of Thai XI offered to conduct bike and music club tours, as well as a discussion group about Thailand *Then and Now*. And I would like to invite anyone interested in having clothing made to join me for a day or two of zooming around Bangkok doing that.
3. **Reservation Form for Royal River Hotel Rooms (at Special Rate):** Friends of Thailand's base for the celebration will be the Royal River Hotel. If you are interested in reserving a room at the hotel, this form will explain the process. Please fill it out and return it to the hotel via the E-Mail address provided on the form. Any questions? Send them along and I will forward them to our liaison at the hotel for clarification

4. **Reservation and Payment Form for Friends of Thailand Dinners:** FoT will hold two buffet dinners at the Royal River Hotel. The first will be the opening dinner on July 11 from 7-10 PM. The second will be the closing dinner on July 18 from 7-10 PM. The cost for each dinner is \$25 for FoT members and \$35 for non-members. There are only 150 places available for each dinner, so we encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible. We would like to ask anyone planning to attend to send the form below with payment by June 1, 2012. Cancellations for refunds must be submitted on or before June 15, 2012.
5. **Donation Information for Peace Corps Thailand Events on July 13:** When you download this document, you will read that Peace Corps Thailand will host three events: The Peace Corps Open House on July 12th, the Main Event at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on July 13th and the Ambassador's Reception on July 13th. Though Peace Corps cannot charge a fee for attendance, those interested in attending any or all of the events are encouraged to consider making a donation to help defray expenses. By downloading the Information document, you can learn how to do so. If you have any questions about this, you may direct them to Charlotte Kea of Peace Corps Washington's Office of Private Sector Initiatives. Her E-Mail address is listed on the page

**At this time, we would also like to ask that anyone planning to attend the Peace Corps Open House, the Main Event with Princess Sirindhorn as the special guest and/or the Ambassador's Reception to please send a message so I may begin putting together the list of RPCV guests for Peace Corps Thailand. Thank you!**

### **WELCOME TO A NEW FRIENDS OF THAILAND BOARD MEMBER**

The Friends of Thailand Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Rachel Cooke of Thai 101 has recently joined the Board. We all look forward to begin working with her in the days and weeks to come.

And that is it for the evening. We hope to see you all in Thailand in July, and until then, we wish you all the best,

*The Friends of Thailand Board of Directors*

Rachel Cooke (Thai 101)

Katharine Hendrix (Thai 85)

Patricia Hughes (Thai 34)

Darryl Johnson (Thai III)

Alexandra Keith (Thai XI)

Bill Knowlton (Thai 98)

Carolyn Nickels-Cox (Thai 34)

Sumner Sharpe (Thai I)