

May 31, 2012

Dear Friend of Thailand,

The 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps Thailand is upon us. In a few weeks, a number of us will be boarding "a jet plane" bound for Bangkok. It promises to be a wonderful experience for all who will attend. For those of you who will not be able to make the journey, we will miss you. But, as I wrote before, we will take lots of photos to share when we return.

In today's Friends of Thailand Update, you will read about the following:

- ***MORE ON PEACE CORPS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY, BANGKOK: JULY 11-18***
- ***DC RPCVs TO MEET THE NEW THAI AMBASSADOR***
- ***RPCVs WHO SERVED POST-1975 IN REFUGEE PROGRAMS***
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### ***MORE ON PEACE CORPS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY, BANGKOK: JULY 11-18***

In recent days, I have heard from a number of people who have decided to travel to Thailand to attend the 50th Anniversary celebration of Peace Corps Thailand. It is wonderful that so many are planning to join in. Additionally, we have begun to move forward with registering people to attend the Peace Corps Thailand events on July 12 and 13. Everyone who had previously indicated they were travelling to Thailand has been notified about registering. BUT if you do decide to travel and want to attend any or all of the PC Thailand events, please read on.

To learn more about everything, including

- **who is currently on the list to attend the two FoT dinners on July 11 and 18 at the Royal River Hotel**
- **the About Bangkok Activities Booklet**
- **the special bike tours Peter Montalbano (Thai XI) has organized (*Biking in Bangkok?????*)**
- **a reservation form for the Royal River Hotel**
- **a reservation and payment form for the Friends of Thailand dinners at the Royal River Hotel**
- **a reservation form for the Peace Corps Thailand events**
- **Dress Codes for Peace Corps Thailand events, and**
- **Donation information for Peace Corps Thailand events,**

please go to the main page for the 50th at  
<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/50thanniversary/thailand/main.html>

It is not too late to make arrangements to participate, so sleep on it and let me know what you decide. I hope we will see you there!

### **DC RPCVs TO MEET THE NEW THAI AMBASSADOR**

Our lovely hostess for the Royal Thai Embassy reception in Washington DC this past September, First Secretary Nilobol Pimdee (Khun Nicky), has written that she would like to invite all Returned Peace Corps Volunteers living in the Washington DC area to a special gathering to meet and welcome the new Thai Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Chaiyong Satjipanon.

To learn more about the plans for this event, please contact Khun Nicky directly at [nilobolp@thaiembdc.org](mailto:nilobolp@thaiembdc.org)

And if you would like to see a lovely photo of Ambassador Chaiyong and President Obama when the new ambassador presented his credentials to the President on May 6, please go to <http://www.thaiembdc.org/activities/default-01.aspx>

### **RPCVs WHO SERVED POST-1975 IN REFUGEE PROGRAMS**

Thank you so much to the many RPCVs who have already sent written pieces about their time working with post-1975 refugees. Mike Carroll is still accepting submissions through June 15 per the following, as originally posted in the May 6 Friends of Thailand Update:

**Call for RPCVs who worked in "Refugee Camps or the Refugee Resettlement Programs" in Thailand, post 1975.** - Carolyn (Nickels-Cox) has asked myself and Jim Ogata...to assemble a sub-set of former Peace Corps Volunteers in Thailand (other other countries as far as I am concerned) who assisted with the refuge program. We think that the best way to assemble the sub-set of post-PC assistance (and some of us at the same time), is for those RPCVs who worked in refugee programs in Thailand post-1975 to correspond with myself and submit a paragraph (500 words or as long as you like) summarizing their experience in the refugee programs (and photographs please!) about how Peace Corps prepared them to better work in this field. As Julia Child would assemble a nice Somtham or Dam Makhung, I have volunteered to assemble these statements by RPCVs with photos if they choose. (videos welcome ala Youtube). I can write an introduction, but not too long.

Jim and I, with Carolyn, will work these statements into a final form and let Carolyn handle the logistics of posting the sub-set on RPCV assistance to "Indo China" refugees and/or displaced persons in Thailand or the region.

**NOTE from Carolyn:** These written pieces will become part of Friends of Thailand's book on 50 years of Peace Corps Thailand, which is nearing completion as I write. So, be sure to contact Mike at [wmc Carrollbusiness@yahoo.com](mailto:wmc Carrollbusiness@yahoo.com) or [MikeCarroll@etal.uri.edu](mailto:MikeCarroll@etal.uri.edu) to learn more.

### **DONORS' PAGE**

We thank all of you who have contributed to Friends of Thailand's Project Fund, either as a matter of course, or in response to the "\$50 for 50" fundraising campaign. We have now listed all of these special Friends of Thailand members and others on a special page on the FoT web site. Any future donations will be listed on this page as they arrive.

The page can be found at

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/friendsofthailand/donors/donors.html>

Thank you to everyone for your support of the FoT Project Fund!

### **MINNEAPOLIS WITH THE NPCA AND ANITA ROOT**

*(Reprise of April 5, 2012)*

For those of you not planning to travel to Thailand for the 50th celebration, you might want to consider attending Peace Corps Connect: Minneapolis 2012, the National Peace Corps Association's first annual gathering. It will be held from June 29 - July 1 in that fair city. And to make it even more special, FoT member Anita Root of Thai 122 (newly returned from two years of service) has offered to organize a Thai dinner for any Thailand RPCVs who may be planning to attend the Gathering. To contact Anita and discuss joining her for a Thai meal in Minneapolis, write to her directly at

[anita@anitaroot.com](mailto:anita@anitaroot.com)

To learn more about the Minneapolis gathering, please go to the NPCA's social networking site at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/>

### **FRIENDS OF THAILAND ONLINE STORE**

Friends of Thailand has launched an online store, which features a variety of t-shirts and other items, most of which feature artwork related to the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps Thailand. This is just the beginning, and we will add more items in the future.

As a matter of fact, we would be happy to add group logos to any items you might be interested in purchasing. Thai XI sent their group logo along, and it is featured on a number of current items. Just write a reply to this message for more information. *All* proceeds from the "store" will go to the FoT Project Fund.

Special thanks to Kat Hendrix (Thai 85) for the 50th Anniversary design and to Pat Hughes (Thai 34) for the Friends of Thailand logo. Both are on the FoT Board of

Directors.

You can find the store at:

<http://www.cafepress.com/friendsofthailand>

### **CALLING ALL THAILAND RPCVS**

*(Reprise of May 6, 2012)*

Pat Hughes (Thai 34) and Sandy Keith (Thai XI), Membership Co-Chairs of the FoT Board of Directors, would like to share the following message with the entire Thailand RPCV Community. Please take a moment to read it and, hopefully, pass it on. Thanks for your assistance with this effort.

*As you know, Peace Corps Thailand will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in Bangkok in a few weeks. Friends of Thailand is trying to locate ALL the Peace Corps Volunteers/Staff who have served in the Kingdom. If you are already on our mailing list, please pass this message along to your friends who served in Thailand and ask them to contact Friends of Thailand at [carolynnickels@earthlink.net](mailto:carolynnickels@earthlink.net) to become part of the Friends of Thailand community.*

That's enough reading for one night!