



Welcome to Thailand Newsletter



Content

Contents:

1. Country directors and Conservation managers Notes
- 2-4 Project Updates
5. Community Outreach
6. Thailand interesting facts
7. What we do
8. New beginnings



Directors Notes**Antz – Country director**

Sawas Dee Ka all Projects Abroad volunteers! And welcome to Projects Abroad Thailand ☺

After a week of non-stop rain finally we have the sunshine back. ... it's unbelievable that we are in September and in only few months later.. we are going to celebrate New Year.. Time fly like a jet plane !!!

September is the month that has so many events such as International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, International Coastal Clean-up Day and International Day of Peace; these days remind us how important our commitment to save this planet is. What is going to happen if the world has no peace?. We remember on the 11th of September how fragile the world is with the anniversary of the tragedy in New York.

We all need to work together for peace. As a whole i truly believe we can make a difference.

International Days, World Days.. are there to remind us to stop and think carefully

Vishal - Conservation project manager

Hello and welcome to another monthly newsletter. Wow, September is here already! after a very busy summer we finally have some time to recharge are batteries and take stock of another amazing year here at Projects Abroad Thailand.

We have achieved so much this year with record numbers of volunteers all helping us contribute to all the great work we have done this summer. Saying that,we cannot sit back and relax. This month will see us move to are new home Utopia !!! With its location in the middle of Nature, we have big plans to create even more Conservation Projects within our new home such as nature walkways and mangrove planting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the past, present and future volunteers for all their support. We would not be here without you all !!!!

Land Based Projects:**Forest Regeneration**

September brings the start of our new initiative to build recycling stations in local schools . The first school to have the volunteers visit was Baan Bang tiw school in Klong Tom. All the rubbish collected earns money for the school and also teaches the children about how important recycling is for the environment.

**Beach Clean and the local environment news**

Following Projects Abroad partnership with local environmental group Loving Andaman Sea and all the hard work of our volunteers conducting surveys and pressuring local government to make changes in the management of rubbish collection and sewage, the local government has agreed to a new sewage system and also mandatory recycling of rubbish from local businesses. Projects Abroad would like to say a huge thank you to Paolo from Loving Andaman Sea for all his hard work. It just shows when people work together we can make a difference.

Turtle Rehabilitation Work

Another amazing month for our Turtle Project; not only did the volunteers clean out the turtle tanks and help administer medication to the injured turtles, but they also helped clean the beach in the front of the Phuket Aquarium! The scientists and staff were really grateful for this extra effort.



Phuket Marine Biological Centre

The centre was established under the bilateral agreement between Thai and Danish governments after the 5th Thai-Danish Expedition operation along the Andaman Sea coast of Thailand in 1966.

Sprawling over an area of 8.4 hectares, Phuket Marine Biological Centre is responsible for experiment/research on science, biology, marine ecology, etc including fishery biology, of the coastal waters of Thailand to such an extent that the knowledge will be useful for the development and conservation of living resources in these waters. The objective is also to benefit the future generations and promote training and education of students and scientists.

A prime attraction of PMBC is the Phuket Aquarium, where more than a hundred species of sea life (many of them taken from the waters around Phuket) are on display. The aquarium remains open daily between 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

.

PHYSIOTHERAPY THE THAI WAY

Walking along the river in the old Suratthani town, four interns from Denmark, Irene, Louise, Gitte and Sabrine – are exploring the new culture and way of life. This is the first time that four university students have come to Thailand for an internship in a Thai hospital. Before their first day at the hospital, they were taken to see the town where they will spend the next one month. First thing they did was explore the market and see the important landmarks of Suratthani

They tried Thai food which is like a Thai-Chinese hotpot where people put everything in the boiled pot and share the food together. They had never done this before and it turned out to be an amazing experience for them.

On their first day at the hospital the four interns saw their supervisor and other staff members. Everyone in the hospital were really friendly and very excited to meet the new volunteers. After introducing themselves and being shown where things are in the hospital, they began observing patients. The interns from Denmark were excited to start their day. They paired up into two teams. The first team observes in the gym room where patients are exercising. Meanwhile the second team observed in the ward with one of the hospital staff.

In the afternoon after a few hours of observation, the four have noticed something that is different from home. In Denmark, the patients are taken care of by only the Physiotherapist or the nurse, but here in Surathhani family members play the more important role in taking care of the patients. This could both have pros and cons for the treatment because when the family gets involved in the treatment, it could make it too serious or too flexible for the patient to practice. Anyway, this is just one of the new things that the interns experienced on their first day. They will be facing more challenges daily throughout their project, but are very excited to learn and interact with the staff and patients.



Projects Abroad volunteer outreach at Baan Nong Thalay School

Every second Friday of each month, Projects Abroad team arranges an Outreach Activity when all the volunteers in destination gather together and do something for the community. This month, September 2013, 20 volunteers joined the school to make plant pots from recycled bottles and draw pictures of vegetable, fruits and cutlery with the English words underneath on the stage.

After a few hours of work, there were graceful green plants in recycled pots hanging along the bar on the side of the canteen. In the front part of the canteen, pictures of fruits and vegetable found in the local area were draw on the side of the stage. Many kids came out and joined the volunteers to draw and paint. It was a very lively atmosphere.

Before leaving school, volunteers and school staff had lunch together. There was also a birthday surprise for Louise Hansen, PT volunteer from Denmark who is working at a hospital in Surat Thani. It was her first time visiting a school in a local area in Thailand and she was really happy to part of today'

Anyone has enough time to explore the simplicity of life and be part of helping local community. Krabi is a pleasant spot to enjoy your time in Thailand!

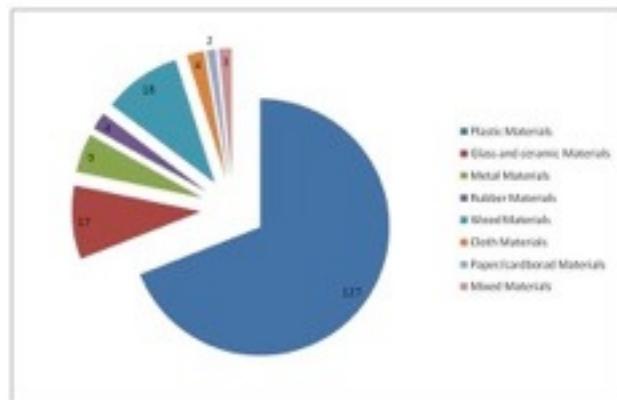
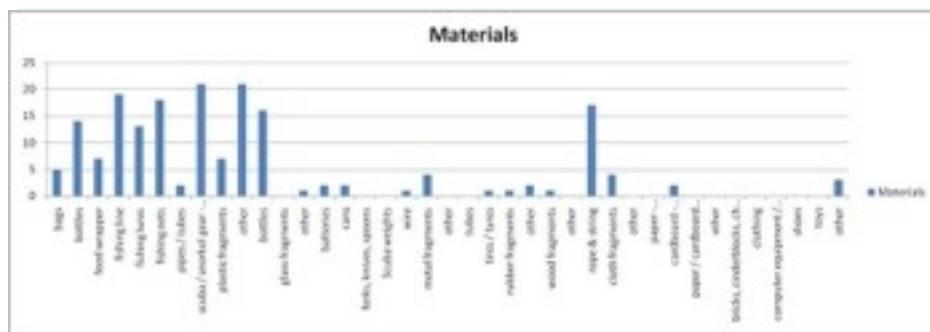
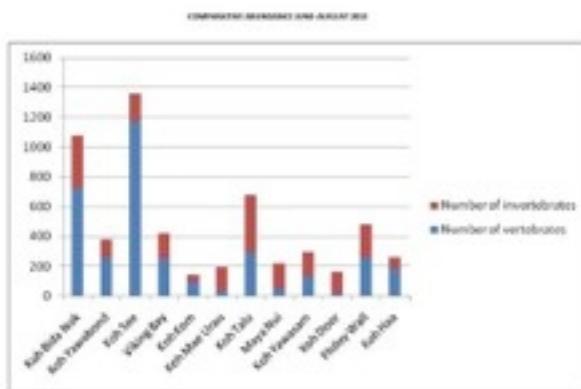
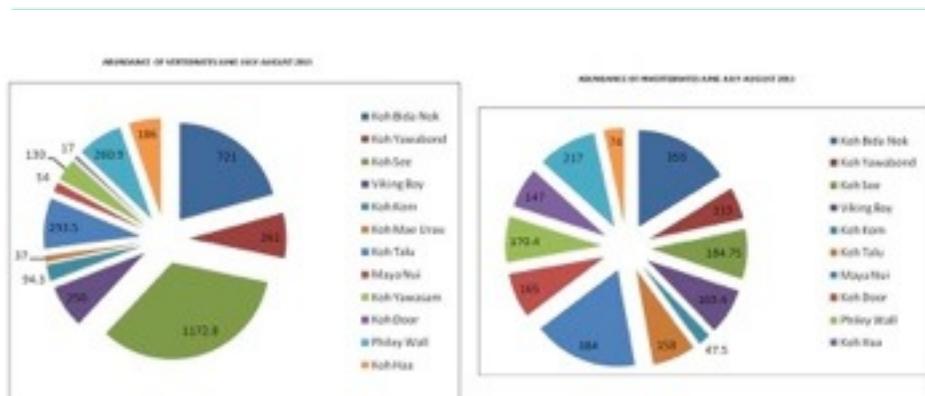


Ten Interesting Facts about Thailand

1. Thailand is nearly equal the size of Spain.
2. Until 1939, Thailand was known as Siam.
3. Approximately 35,000 temples can be seen in the whole country.
4. Despite the fame of the old Hollywood movie “The King and I,” it was not shown in theaters in Thailand because the film was considered derogatory to the King.
5. Thailand follows the lese majeste rule, which states that anyone committing disrespectful acts towards the monarchy can be imprisoned for treason.
6. Visiting temples requires modest clothing. Shorts and sleeveless tops are prohibited. Some religious sites do offer cover-ups for tourists.
7. There are 44 consonants, 18 vowels and 4 tonal notations in the Thai alphabet. It originated from the Khmer culture of Cambodia.
8. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. He is the direct grandson of renowned King Chulalongkorn or Rama V, who is credited for bringing modernism to Thailand.
9. Thailand’s national flower is the orchid, which has over 27,000 varieties.
10. The flag carrier Thai Airways always offers orchids to its passengers before they leave the plane.



REEF WATCH SURVEY – RESULTS JUNE-AUG 13



How we make a difference

marine conservation

INTRODUCTION

Reef Check Foundation is a global non-profit Marine Conservation Organisation that began its activities in 1996 after the Global Health Reefs Symposium in Miami in 1993. in order to analyse the health of the coral reefs with a standardized method: Reef Check Survey

Reef Check sites are distributed broadly throughout the world, giving insight to the real global picture of coral reef health. Thousands of Reef Check surveys are conducted annually around the world to help determine the status of our coral reefs.

All this information is used to develop multiple programmes of conservation, fisheries and tourism. Projects Abroad contribute to the Reef Check Foundation providing data from the volunteers after they received a Marine Conservation Programme

METHOD

The Conducting Survey developed in Projects Abroad is the Tally Option of the Reef Check that consists of counting all organisms of determinate indicator species about healthy environment: big predators, coral feeders, plankton feeders, balance species...

The survey is done during 40 minutes and we note all the species that we can see depending on the visibility in the way we follow during the dive. After the dive we do the average of the different data collecting for the volunteers and we submit the information on the website of Reef Check Foundation.

By giving an estimate of abundance, Reef Check scientists are able to determine relative abundances of each creature in a given area. This is useful for tracking the success of certain species and determining abundance ranges of organisms.

EXCITING NEW BEGINNINGS

We have some exciting news regarding the accommodation during your Thailand Conservation Project with Projects Abroad. From the beginning of October 2013, we will be moving to our new home, Utopia. Although it is in the same area as our current base camp we have made the decision to be able to have more room for volunteers and offices. We are also excited to be surrounded by a mangrove forest, ponds and lush gardens with many indigenous plants and animals. This land gives us the unique opportunity to conduct our own biodiversity project exactly where we live and work! We are extremely happy that this arrangement secures the long term future of our project and allows us to shape our new home to share with some amazing flora and fauna!!

