



# ThaiCraft News

7TH FEBRUARY 2009

The Art of Self-Reliance

## THAICRAFT FAIRS EARLY SEASON 2009

**Saturday**  
**February 28<sup>th</sup>** 10am-2pm  
Ambassador Hotel Bangkok

**Saturday**  
**March 28<sup>th</sup>** 10am-2pm  
Ambassador Hotel Bangkok

**Saturday**  
**April 25<sup>th</sup>** 10am-2pm  
Ambassador Hotel Bangkok

**Saturday**  
**May 23<sup>rd</sup>** 10am-2pm  
Ambassador Hotel Bangkok

**Main ThaiCraft Fair location:**  
**Ambassador Hotel** (3<sup>rd</sup> fl Tower Wing)  
**Sukhumvit Rd. Soi 11, Bangkok**  
Skytrain: BTS: Nana Stn (exit 3)  
Subway: MRT: Sukhumvit Stn (exit 3)  
[www.thaicraft.org](http://www.thaicraft.org)  
There's a ThaiCraft Fair every month!



### 16 YEARS OF THAICRAFT FAIRS!

- ◆ We are a self-supporting, independent organisation.
- ◆ Our Fairs have been held monthly since September 1992
- ◆ We also sell wholesale locally and overseas: please contact [export@thaicraft.org](mailto:export@thaicraft.org)
- ◆ Since 1995, we have been a member of IFAT - The World Fair Trade Organisation (its new name)

## FAIR TRADE, OBAMA, LOVE

## AND THE POWER OF SHOPPING!

Can we expect a fairer and more just world in this new time of "Change"? Does this breath of new enthusiasm — now being coined as "Obamarism" — give us confidence that there will be more justice and equality and opportunity for the poor and oppressed in our globalised world? Will we maintain our new hope?

President Barack Obama has himself addressed his support for Fair Trade, though so far he has done so mostly from a US national context: His campaign website said:

**"Fight for fair trade:** Obama and Biden will fight for a trade policy that opens up foreign markets to support good American jobs. They will use trade agreements to spread good labor and environmental standards around the world."

Implied in this is that the US government will be striving for better conditions for workers everywhere while at the same time safeguarding the rights and opportunities of those in the home country. Perhaps he has been reminded of the words of one of his predecessors, Benjamin Harrison, who took office 120 years ago (1889): *"I pity the man who wants a coat so cheap that the man or woman who produces the cloth will starve in the process."* When we see shoppers vying for ever-cheaper clothing and other goods in the markets, we may wonder whether anything has changed.

We all know that President Obama cannot himself make all the changes promised. More important, though, is his often repeated message: that **his election is all about us, not him.** It's about being aware of what is happening to others and that, by our own simple actions and decisions, we can do something to improve their lives — and that, in turn, will help lift our lives, too. **Fair Trade** is caring about how the everyday things that we buy affects others, for better as well as for worse. Simply by making the right purchasing choices, even for everyday necessities, we can change the world!

The advent of new and very different leadership

in the world's most powerful country may or may not bring about the changes which we have been promised. But, already, it has brought about a profound change, worldwide, in the way we are thinking, in spite of the growingly acute financial and environmental crises. This change is our own change and a realisation that globalisation actually brings us the opportunity to work together to overcome seemingly insurmountable problems.

**The way we shop is perhaps the most powerful activity with which all of us, as individuals, can bring about real change.** If we are only concerned to get the cheapest price and do not care about where the things we buy come from, who made them, under what circumstances and how that might affect the environment of the world, then we miss a huge opportunity to play a significant role in solving the world's difficulties. In buying Fair Trade products, we can ensure that our action is working towards offering those who produce and market the items the dignity of a decent wage, good working conditions, no exploitation and the right to influence. It also demands from them the responsibility to protect their communities, their heritage and their environment.

Let us celebrate the Valentines Day message of love and caring for others as well as the promise of a new political beginning by making ourselves more conscious about the way we can use our power in shopping. The ThaiCraft Fair gives us the opportunity to adopt a Fair Trade mindset — a "Yes we can" mentality that gives the world the message of new hope and love.



*Give Valentines' Day Flowers with added meaning: it enables villagers in Songkhla, in the South to earn a decent living. And the blooms last longer, too!*



*We invite you to  
create your own  
**Valentines' Rose!***

*Made from the leaves of  
rubber trees.  
Artisans will give you a hand.*

**FREE!!**



## THAICRAFT FAIR TRADE CO. LTD. & PHU PHIANG CO. LTD.

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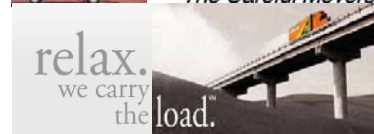
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Website: [www.thaicraft.org](http://www.thaicraft.org) and [www.phuphiang.com](http://www.phuphiang.com)

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**ALLIED  
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Safely storing & transporting our  
village crafts

Email: [info@alliedpickfordsthailand.com](mailto:info@alliedpickfordsthailand.com)

Tel: **02 361 3961** (please refer ThaiCraft)

### THAICRAFT FAIRS AIM TO:

- ◆ Present a **wide variety of high-quality, attractive hand-made craft products**, traditional & modern, direct from village artisans in all parts of Thailand
- ◆ Offer **fixed prices** that are reasonable for customers as well as providing **fair wages** to producers
- ◆ Enable small village-run groups to develop and flourish as well as to **achieve Self-Reliance** through Fair & Ethical Trade practices.



## A LITTLE LENDING HAND CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE AT THAICRAFT

ThaiCraft is a partnership - between ourselves and our community artisan groups (producers). We also create a partnership between our customers and the producers. We seek volunteers to help us to build and enhance these partnerships further. Volunteers help in Fair administration and as well as working with producers, helping them to display and sell their products. Volunteers can also help artisans with business and/or design development, etc.

INTERESTED? Please contact Khun Pichsinee (Peach) by email: [volunteers@thaicraft.org](mailto:volunteers@thaicraft.org) or

Khun Peach will be happy to chat about how you could help: Telephone 02-676-0636 Ext 231 (office hours)

## THAICRAFT TOURS...



*ThaiCraft & Phu Phiang invite you to join our much acclaimed.....*

"Meet the People Tours" - You can experience fascinating local life, observe traditional crafts being made and see how **Fair Trade** can make a real difference to village artisans.

### Let us be your guide to the Real Thailand!!

Our speciality is **tailor-made Craft and Cultural Tours** run for both special and general interests.

Holidays coming up? Visitors from overseas?

We run regular weekday and weekend one-day and two-day tour packages and longer. If you are interested in receiving our itineraries and/or joining any of our tours, please contact us directly and let us take care of your local travel needs.

To learn more about Craft & Culture tours please visit the ThaiCraft Fair information desk or contact.....

Khun Rosalind by email: [rosalind@phuphiang.com](mailto:rosalind@phuphiang.com)

or Tel: 02 676 0636 ext.130 (if no reply, dial 0) Fax: 02 286 0675

**www.phuphiang.com** (new revised website uploading soon!)

(Phu Phiang Co. Ltd. is a part of ThaiCraft and is registered with Tourism Authority of Thailand, TAT)

### QUOTE FROM RECENT TOUR PARTICIPANTS:

"The whole trip was fantastic and we thoroughly enjoyed it all..."

"It was all so worthwhile and interesting - as well as great fun - and we met such lovely people."

*Anne and Mike from Hampshire, England*

ThaiCraft & Phu Phiang Tours



PhuPhiang  
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