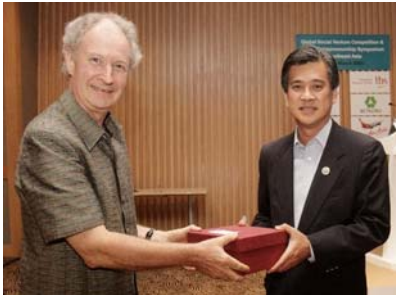




ThaiCraft News

EVENTS

25TH APRIL 2009 *The Art Of Self-Reliance*



GLOBAL SOCIAL VENTURE COMPETITION - SE ASIA 2008/9

ThaiCraft Director, Stephen Salmon, presents a ThaiCraft product to Khun Apirak Kosayodhin, former Governor of Bangkok, in thanks for his closing keynote address at a one-day symposium on **Social Entrepreneurship**. Mr. Salmon gave the opening keynote address on experiences gained from the work of **ThaiCraft Fair Trade**, a self-reliant social venture serving Thai craft producers for over 16 years.



ARTISAN GET-TOGETHER WITH THAICRAFT

As soon as the ThaiCraft Fair on 28 March ended, representatives of over 40 participating producer groups travelled to a residential centre in Bang Sai, Ayutthaya, for a 2-day meeting to share experiences together and to discuss ways in which ThaiCraft could assist them more. The many new ideas raised will help us to create new capacity-building projects.

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

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Khon Lek Lek Remarkable People Behind the Crafts

- A series of mini photo exhibitions of "Selected Village Artisan's Daily Life"
- Crafts for Fun: Workshop Corner for Kids

Today, we begin a new exhibition series that will continue until the end of 2009. Entitled "**Khon Lek Lek**" - Remarkable people behind the crafts, we take pride in featuring some of the **talented yet normally unseen faces who inspire and bring about many of the finest handmade crafts at the ThaiCraft Fairs**. Covering all of Thailand, each exhibition features an interesting person from a different group.

EPISODE I: WEAVING MENTOR

Our first show "**Weaving Mentor**", features a modest yet confident lady, **Khun Plubpleung Suandee**, who leads the **Silk Net** weaving group in Khon Kaen Province, Northeastern Thailand (which is generally known as **Isan**). Determined to preserve her village's traditions in silk production, Khun Plubpleung's leadership inspires others in her community to adapt to new design styles which do not compromise their fine skills. As a result, successful marketing is bringing new income into



Plubpleung Suandee shows new patterns woven with traditional fabric techniques

the hands of women to improve the life of their families.

WHAT DOES "KHON LEK LEK" MEAN?

While literally it means '**a very small person**', Thai speakers often use this expression to describe a person whose high qualities or skills are unknown yet deserve recognition. Many village craft producers work extremely hard to preserve their craft traditions and ThaiCraft wishes to celebrate their commitment and importance by bringing them into the limelight, at least for a short while.

Of course, 'small people' also describes **children** and so that's why we are linking some **fun activities for Kids** to each exhibition especially for them. Without both sorts of *Khon Lek Lek*, there'd be little future for Thailand's unique craft legacy!

THAICRAFT FAIRS MID-YEAR SEASON 2009

Saturday, 23rd May 10am-2pm **Ambassador Hotel** (3rd fl Tower Wing)

Saturday, 13th June 10am-2pm **Ambassador Hotel** (3rd fl Tower Wing)

Ambassador Hotel Bangkok, Sukhumvit Soi 11

Skytrain - BTS: Nana Stn (exit 3) Subway: MRT: Sukhumvit Stn (exit 3)

Special Event!! Saturday, 16th May 10am - 1pm ISB School, Nichada Thani, Nonthaburi

There's a ThaiCraft Fair every month! For places & dates, always check our website:

www.thaicraft.org



Two of the students at Doi Tao Karen weaving group de-seed home grown cotton on a gin before spinning

DID YOU KNOW.... ?

THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DESIGNATED 2009 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF NATURAL FIBRES

Several of ThaiCraft's partners are involved in growing and using natural fibres for their products and this focus enables us to recognise their important contribution to preserving ancient traditions which also benefit our environment. By purchasing and using natural fibres, which are home-grown, hand-spun, natural-dyed and hand-woven, you not only support the heritage of fascinating cultures but also encourage an alternative to the energy-thirsty processes of mass-production which contribute to Global Warming.

Many of ThaiCraft's groups are dedicated to using natural cotton and silk: Prae Pan, Panmai, Na Pho, Hod Weaving, Fai Gam Mai, Silk Net, Nongtakai, Ban Na Panard, Green Net, Doi Tao, Karen Weaving, New Life Centre, Song Pi Nong, Nan Hattakam, Toong Soon, and Thai Tribal Crafts.

In addition, there are those making basket-like products made from natural fibres: Rayong Baskets, Cha-Uard, Nan Hattakam, Narathiwat, Chainat Baskets, Sarapee lamps, Thai Tribal Crafts and Ban Nong Salap.

Come to think of it, that is a majority of ThaiCraft's village craft partners!

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES,

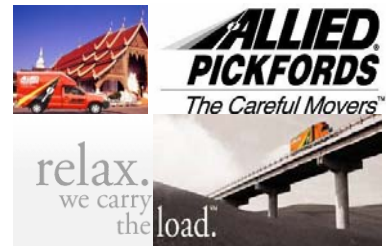
from many countries and backgrounds, who assist the artisans at ThaiCraft Fairs. Thanks also to the volunteer students from International School Bangkok (ISB)



ThaiCraft welcomes new volunteers: **Why not join our team?** Find out how you can lend a hand to make a difference for Thailand's artisans..... and have fun!

Contact: Khun Peach at 02-676-0636#233 or volunteers@thaicraft.org

Special thanks to our sponsors!



Safely storing & transporting our village crafts

Email: info@alliedpickfordsthailand.com
Tel: 02 361 3961 (please refer ThaiCraft)



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**

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

Khun Rosalind by email:

rosalind@phuphiang.com

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

Fax: 02 286 0675

www.phuphiang.com (new look website!)

(Phu Phiang Co. Ltd. is a part of ThaiCraft

and is registered with Tourism Authority of Thailand, TAT)

"This has been a wonderful experience for me. I have seen Thailand - the country, the villages, and their people - in a unique way. I feel privileged to have met the Thai people and been welcomed in this way."

M.A., Ontario, Canada



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