

# Expat Newsletter

*Serving the expat community in Chiang Mai*

Volume 1, Issue 1

24TH FEBRUARY – 10TH MARCH, 2007

Free copy

Supported by:



## Local Updates

### There's something fishy going on in Chiang Mai

On 20th February, Chiang Mai Disease Control office issued a statement warning residents that Puffer Fish (Pla Pak Pao) are being sold in the markets and road side food stalls. These fish can be highly toxic and two students from Chiang Mai University have been hospitalized after eating a meal that contained meat from these fish.



Our advise to expats is, if you are unsure about the type of fish that is being offered to you, then don't eat it.

### Beware El Niño

Temperatures in Chiang Mai are set to sore above 40C in the next couple of months say the Chiang Mai Meteorological office.

In the statement issued recently Chiang Mai's weather gurus blame El Niño for warming up the Pacific Ocean by between 0.5 and 1.0 C which in turn will cause the high daily temperatures mentioned above.



## Celebrity soccer match: Zidane in Chiang Mai

Zinadine Zidane returns to the battle.



Zinadine Zidane, the former French international footballer will be in a celebrity soccer match played at the Chiang Mai municipality sports stadium on Saturday 24th February 2007.

The Adidas "Impossible Match" has been organized to raise funds for *Support the Children Foundation* which is a local NGO, established on September 2nd, 1992 to give tender loving care to abandoned children with AIDS and to promote campaigning to stop HIV/AIDS.

The players also included Somchay Kemklad the well-known Thai pop singer and actor, and Piya-

pong Pew-onn and Kiattisak Senamuang who are both Thai professional footballers.

The gates open around 2 pm and admission is free. Donations to this very worthwhile cause will be accepted all afternoon .

## Miss Big Angel

Kad Suan Kaew is organizing a beauty contest for "big size angels" and is inviting girls between the ages of 15 – 30 years old to register. The winner will receive a cheque for 20,000 Baht. This is a serious competition and obviously Kad Suan Kaew have taken on board that girls and boys come in all shapes and sizes and you don't have to be super slim to be beautiful. The entrants must wear XL size clothes and register by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Good luck

## Chiang Mai Expat Club Page



*"a credit to the Thai community, not a burden"*

### Our Mission

Chiang Mai Expats Club aims to help expats expand friendships and improve their quality of life here. We try to serve the community of foreigners by making it easier to understand the laws, language and

lifestyle needs of our members and guests. Through the actions of our members and committees, with meetings two times per month, we strive to ease you into Chiang Mai culture by liaising with immigration and law enforcement officials, medical and insurance providers, business and property services and more.

It is our hope that through the efforts of the Chiang Mai Expats club we can more successfully integrate into the Thai community in Chiang Mai and make contributions of our own for the benefit of all.

The Chiang Mai Expats Club meet every 2nd and

4th Saturday of the month at Chiang Mai Orchid Hotel, Huay Kaew Rd. The meeting start at 10.30, but members and guests are encourage to arrive from 10.00 onwards.

The meetings are great fun, with a wide variety of speakers, an open forum, free legal advice, and a free prize and a free draw which such prizes as TVs and Microwaves.

There is also an opportunity to meet up with members of the special interest groups, for more information please see below.

CEC can be contacted by email at

[info@chiangmaiexpatsclub.com](mailto:info@chiangmaiexpatsclub.com)

### CEC Membership

The cost of membership is 600 Baht (life time).

Documents required for membership application:

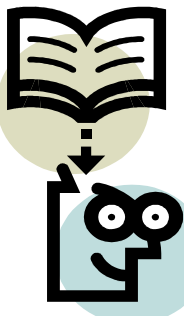
- *Two photos 1"x 1" or 2.5 by 2.5 cm. One photo each for membership card and CEC file.*
- *You must personally complete the application form. Forms are available before the start of each CEC meeting.*

The Chiang Mai Expats Club is a non profit organization all fees are used to operate the club.

## CEC Announcement

### CEC Book Exchange Program

The CEC is starting a book exchange program whereby members can exchange the books they have read for ones who have not read. We anticipate having some quantity of books physically available at the bi-monthly meetings sooner or later, but for the near term we will try a virtual library with the exchanges to be set up in advance on a title specific basis (e.g., member can select the book they want to read and the book which they would exchange for it). Peter Noyes has agreed to be the focal point for this, (E-mail: [pmnoyes@hotmail.com](mailto:pmnoyes@hotmail.com)).



Because of people tend to read the same type of books, exchanged books must be of the same genre (novel for novel; biography for biography; etc.). Attached (or however you would present it to the membership) is a list of the books currently available, all novels. If you have books you would like add to this list, novel or any other type, please provide a list electronically which the form can be downloaded from Chiang Mai Expats website ([www.chiangmaiexpatsclub.com/Book\\_List.xls](http://www.chiangmaiexpatsclub.com/Book_List.xls)) and we will add them to the library. Please add if you would be willing to donate them or if they are only available for a one-for-one exchange.

## Coming Events & Future Speakers

### February 24th, 2007

Scott Jones, a gifted entertainer and the CEO of Give and Live, will speak and entertain.

### March 10th, 2007

Carol Stratton giving a presentation on Buddha images.

### March 24th, 2007

To be announced

### April 14th, 2007

No CEC meeting due to Song Kran Festival

### The Expat Newsletter team:

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## CEC Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

<b>Charities</b>	Malcolm Logan	<b>Board &amp; Card Games</b>	Chris Hedges
<b>Computer</b>	Bill Dahm	<b>Gay/Lesbian Friends</b>	Neil Robinson
<b>Hiking</b>	To be announced	<b>Photography</b>	Tom Matty
<b>Social Events group</b>	Janet Greenleaf	<b>Thai Language</b>	Ellena Edwards
<b>Radio Controlled Models</b>	Malcolm Logan	<b>Investments</b>	Ellen Parsons

## Innocent Bystander

By Scott Jones



President Alan asked me to write a column for our newsletter and suggested the name might be "Scott Jones Diaries." It sounds a little too feminine for me and will never be the script for a major movie. In a diary, you write things that you have to get down. Perhaps it should be called "Scott Jones Diarrhea" since I'll write about things I have to get OUT. I'll try to report the lighter side of life amongst the random opinions about whether your new tourist visa will be valid for only 7 hours and 11 minutes for the next 23 and half days

requiring you to actually leave the country several times every day. You never really know what the laws today are in Thailand until tomorrow when you find out you have to pay another fine.

I want you to understand that I always research my topics extensively and when exact facts and insufficient information get in the way, I make up a lot of things since I have an Artist's License. My research for this newsletter began by studying anagrams for the name "Chiang Mai Expats Club." The letters in our name can be rearranged to spell other words to determine the real nature of the organization: "a scathing, public exam" or "I'm a clashing, exact pub." Some products we may consider developing: "Magic, punchable taxis" or "cheap,

anti-climax bugs" or a "matching bisexual cap." Perhaps a new activity committee: "asexual bitch camping."

I'm not sure what the message is concerning my writing from our last meeting. I traded my new book "Life in the Laugh Lane" for one written by our grand speaker Dr. Greg Frazier, who held my book up and selflessly promoted it when asked if he had any of his books for sale. While he was out of the room, someone stole my book from his table, perhaps to take it home for a personal book-burning. All the proceeds from my book go to the kids at Children's Garden orphanage, so someone owes me, or them, 400 baht. This column I'm writing for free, although I think it's worth four or five times that amount.



## Roof Top Charity

On the 16th February 2007 Khun Wachara Tantranont presented a cheque for One Million and Fifty Five Thousand Baht (1,055,000.00 Bht) to The School For Life, at the Huay Hong Krai Royal Development Study Centre

The money was raised at the 3rd Charity Rooftop Party on the 13 January 2007 at Hillside Plaza & Condotel 4 Chiang Mai. For the 3rd year running it was a sellout party, with over 400 guests; attended by HE The British Ambassador and The Vice Governor of Chiang Mai.

The School for Life looks after orphans including victims of the Tsunami & HIV/Aids. The money will be used to build a dormitory for 50 boys. The remaining money will be used towards the youth camp where other deprived children /orphans can go for a short holiday at The School For Life.

The Committee would like to thank all those companies and individuals who helped raise the money. The 4th Annual Rooftop party will be held at Hillside 4 Huay Kaew road on 12 January 2008, if anyone has any suggested beneficiaries please contact [steve\\_ynard2000@yahoo.com](mailto:steve_ynard2000@yahoo.com) before August 2007

## Events: What's on Chiang Mai

### A Meditation Workshop in English

*When: 24th February 2007  
(from 2 p.m.-5 p.m.)*

*Where: Chiang Mai City  
Arts and Cultural  
Center*

*Admission: Free*

Silkworm Books invites you to attend 'A Meditation Workshop in English' led by Frits Koster, author of Liberating Insight: Introduction to Buddhist Psychology and Insight Meditation and Buddhist Meditation in Stress Management. Modest and comfortable attired is recommended.

Contact the museum at 0-53 21-7793 or Silkworm at 0-532-26161 ext. 33

### The 1st classical concert for charity.

*When: 25th February 2007  
(from 5 p.m.-9 p.m.)*

*Where: Pochanakarn Room,  
Nakornping Hospital*

*Admission: Free*

All funds raised in the event will be donated to support patients at Nakornping Hospital. This event is open for public the activity in the evening consist of blood donation. Somchai Wattanaprasopchoke as the violinist and Song Kim as pianist.

### "I-PEC" Tekwando 2007 competition.

*When: 3rd - 4th March 2007*

*Where: Sky Hall, Central  
Kad Suan Kaew*

*Admission: Free*

The competition is organized

by tekwando club, Institute of Physical Education, Chiang Mai Campus.

### Charity concert for orphans

*When: 24th February 2007*

*Where: Four Seasons Resort*

*Admission: Minimum donation 750 Baht/person*



Annual Charity Concert performed by Mom Luang Assanee Pramote and other honored musicians at Intanin Room, Four Seasons Resort. All proceedings go to Viengphing Orphans Home. Suggested minimum donation is 750 baht/person with a lucky draw chance to win free hotel rooms, spa courses or cooking courses. Seats are limited, please reserve. More info contact



Dear readers,

A frequently asked question at CEC meetings is "Where can I find a reliable tradesman?"

Because of this we have decided to build up a database of reliable local tradesmen. Please email us with the name, telephone number and category of work for any tradesmen who have carried out work to a reasonable standard for you in the past. We will then correlate this information and make it available to every one. It is also good idea to indicate what level of English they speak.

Thank you,  
Editor

## LEGAL BEAGLE

By Jaroonroat Krasaesuk

**I have my last will and testament in my home country (USA) and I want to know if this covers my assets here in Thailand?**

**Peter USA.**

Dear Peter,  
Any asset you hold here in Thailand which could include a condominium, vehicle, or cash in a bank account, would not come under the juristic of a foreign will. Any foreign person who lives here in Thailand is advised to have a Thai will drawn up so that in the event of death their assets will pass to the person or persons of there are choosing.

**I have held a retirement visa here in Thailand for three years, would I be breaking**

**any law if I want to carry out voluntary work?**  
**Edith, Scotland**

Dear Edith,  
Any type of employment whether it be paid or voluntary is prohibited under the type of visa you hold. If you intend to work here in the Kingdom of Thailand you must apply for a work permit from the labour department.

**I have been living in Chiang Mai for almost two years and have owned a car for most of that time. Can you pleased tell me the procedure if I am experiencing a car accident.**  
**Kevin, USA**

Dear Kevin,  
The first step is to contact the police which you would do by dialing 191. The police will then come to investigate the accident. You would also be advised to contact your insurance company, who would also send out the representative to the scene. Under the no circumstances should you not move the cars until investigation is completed by police. In the event that someone is seriously injured or worse you would probably be taken to the police station pending for further investigation.

If you have any question please contact:  
tom@soschiangmai.com

This column is supported by **SOS** Emergency Assistance for Foreigners in Chiang Mai

### Message from the Editor

*This newsletter is a non-profit making venture and it's two main aims are firstly to promote Chiang Mai Expats Club and secondly to inform expats of events and information that we feel are important. We are not professional journalists and are certainly not attempting to compete with any newspaper or magazine, but we do welcome constructive criticism which will hopefully help us to produce a better newsletter in the future. If any reader feels they have information that will help the expat community in Chiang Mai, please feel free to tell us about it and we will include in a future issue.*

### Sponsorship of Expat Newsletter

*Being a sponsor of Expat Newsletter will get your company or organization noticed by expats in Chiang Mai. Initially we are producing 1,000 copies every two weeks, which will be distributed in the CEC meeting and around Chiang Mai. Sponsorship is available at a very modest fee. Different levels of sponsorship are available, depending on your particular circumstances.*

*If you would like to become a sponsor of this newsletter please contact the editor or publisher by e-mail.*

Thank you,

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