



Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's birthday



Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's birthday on August 12 is a public holiday, celebrated nationwide as Mother's Day. Individual people and organizations raise flags and portraits of Her Majesty in Bangkok and all over the kingdom.

Welcome to Thailand newsletter

We have nearly made it through another amazing summer here at Projects Abroad Thailand !!

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Directors Notes**Antz****Country Director**

Welcome to our August Newsletter!!

August is an important and exciting month for all Thais. As a nation we are very proud to celebrate our queens birthday which also doubles as mother's day. Most of our activities this month were organized to celebrate our Mother's Day. I do believe that everyone know that the love from our mother is an endless love. Our mother can do everything to protect us from all harmful...

This month also makes us look at our mother earth. how many people can really think that our human mother is our second mother? It's a shame that we don't really care for our earth... neglect... destroy and forgot that what we have done badly to our earth... we destroy our home... we destroy ourselves... this could make our first mother; Every day we receive information of strange phenomenon such as the strange weather, flooding, hurricane... these seem more and more. This could be the payback from our mother... who has a broken heart because from her children. We all need to stand up and take responsibility for both our mothers.

Vishal Pawa**Marine Conservation Project Manager**

August has been a very busy month for us here at the conservation project, not only have we had 2 lots of two week specials but record numbers of regular volunteers that have been here experiencing the marine conservation project. We have had some battles with the bad weather but nothing can stop us and we have had some amazing diving.

In August we also had an opportunity to visit a school at Khao Phanom district. At the school the volunteers and staff led the schools children through some song and dance and also introduced the young students some basic English interviewing questions. After the interview process two of the lovely conservation volunteers put on a presentation about marine debris. We then went with the students to the other end of their school where the volunteers along with the students planted trees together. It was a great outreach and the students were extremely happy to spend time with the volunteers

Conservation Update**Based Projects:****Reef Check Survey**

We carried out 9 Reef Check surveys this month.

There is mixed news on what our survey showed us....the good news is that we counted lots of long spine black urchins and schooling reef fish which are vital for maintaining a healthy reef and eco-system. We also got lucky and spotted along nose marble ray which has never been seen in the area before! Whilst some lucky divers got to see an octopus, which are really tough to spot as they are inherently shy and masters of camouflage!

The volunteers rescued a hawks bill turtle from a ghost net.

The bad news is the amount of fishing boats in the areas we were surveying, together with all the nets, lines and fishing gear that they left on the reef, causing irreparable damage to the corals and fish life that relies on the corals for survival. In fact, there was so much trash spotted during our research dives, that we made a note of the areas to go back to clean them.

Project AWARE – Dive Against Debris Survey

Given all the fishing gear, traps and nets we were spotting during our Reef Check dives, we cleared the trash from 10 different dive sites both underwater and on the surface.



Conservation Update**Land Based Projects:****Forest Regeneration**

During the month of August our volunteers have been helping FORRU mainly with the maintenance of the tree nursery. This included work such as replacing the weathered sun protecting sheets at the nursery and also the framework structure supporting the nursery. The volunteers also had opportunities to collect seeds that are later germinated and added to the tree nurseries stock of the frame work species.



Our volunteers also had the opportunity to go for a walk through the nature trail and fertilized some of the trees that were planted by our volunteers from before.

We have also had a chance to visit the elephant hospital in Krabi. Some volunteers really wanted to see some elephants and they understood that supporting an elephant tourist camps are not the right way to appreciate these animals. Unfortunately we do not have any elephants sanctuaries close to our area. We are how ever about 40 minutes drive away from the elephant hospital. We stopped in after a days work out at FORRU and the volunteers picked up some fruits for the elephants and had a lovely time. We could see this from the look on their faces.



Beach Clean Ups

So far in August we have completed two beach cleanup sessions. Both times we cleaned up Noppharathara beach as we received a phone call from an individual who lives in area saying that the beach is full of plastic debris. We suspect this was due to the storm washing in debris from the sea and also from land out to the beach and shore lines. As normal to our other beach clean ups, the items collected the most on both these clean ups were plastic wrappers for foods followed by a close second was the ever popular cigarette ends. A total of over 200 Kg of rubbish has been cleaned so far this month.



Turtle Rehabilitation Work

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



New in house dive operations

Projects Abroad Thailand are very pleased to announce the start of our in house dive operations.



Projects Abroads are continuing to show its commitment to marine conservation by investing in all new dive equipment . This



will offer every volunteer not only access to some of the best

diving in world but also the use of the best dive equipment.



Welcome to are new staff

Gus are new conservation desk officer



" My name is Kasama Laosen (Gus). I grew up in Krabi, Thailand.

In 2007, I got a full scholarship to be an exchanged student for a year in USA. I really appreciated my life in the states.

I graduated with a degree in Aviation Management from Civil Aviation Training Center in April 2013.

I have been working with Projects Abroad Thailand since May,2013. I am very glad to be a part of Projects Abroad.

I enjoy learning about different cultures and practicing my English with the volunteers. I love to introduce Thai food and Thai culture to volunteers from all over the world."

My Name is Mayuree Rodsuwan “May”

I'm a new volunteer coordinator of Projects Abroad Thailand and I have worked here for one month already. I graduate from faculty of humanities and have a strong interest in working with community so I found my job really interesting and challenging. I am really excited about new environment and everything in Krabi. My favorite part is to see volunteers coming from around the world and dedicate themselves to help the community. Overall, I have found that working is pretty much like learning outside classroom. It is something that widen your perspective and learn more from people you meet. I enjoy the beaches and meeting new people at work so much.



Community Outreach

The Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit



August 12th is a very special day for the people of Thailand, as it is the birthday of their beloved queen, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit. In commemoration of Her Majesty, this day is also recognized as National Mother's Day. Her Majesty, together with His Royal Highness King Bhumibol Adulyadej, command the love, reverence and loyalty among all Thai people.



The volunteers celebrated the Queen's birthday by visiting Ratprachanukroh 37 school. We went there with volunteers from both community and conservation teams. We donated 130 pairs



In August the volunteers took a great chance to go to the Splash Jungle water park with the children, 60 children from both from Baan Lung Pitak and Holland House. The children felt very happy to play water but it was quite a handful for the volunteers because all the children don't know how to swim. The volunteers performed their duties to take care of the children when they played in the pool. The volunteers also gave the children swimming lessons, which is very important in Thailand due to a large number and deaths due to drowning

