



AUG
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Lanna celebration marks the opening of the Games



The Grand Opening Ceremony at Maejo University was a lavish Lanna affair yesterday evening. Athletes from all the ASEAN member nations gathered together for the first time at ASEAN University Games in a display emphasizing unity and harmony and honoring Chiang Mai's Northern Lanna culture. Story and photos on pages 4 and 5.



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Symbolism on the medals



For the 15th ASEAN University Games, not only the local culture and traditions of the Lanna culture have been conveyed through the Logo and the Mascot, but also with the Medals.

Three distinctive parts to notice on the medals are, on the top the Galae sign symbolizing the distinctive ornaments found on the roofs of Northern houses symbolizing good fortune. The

front contains the text 'ASEAN UNIVERSITY GAMES 2010' and the official mascot 'Nong Hug' holding the burning torch, with the liana or the climbing plant indicating profound happiness and unity, while on the back it has the official logo of this year's games.

(Story by Pharunyoo Deekaew, Photo by Thirarat Phutthawong)

Mementoes of the Games

Beautiful souvenirs on sale



In any national or international gatherings, meeting or games, you will find loads of interesting and beautiful souvenirs available for you to take home as a memento, reminding you how amazing it was during your participation during that tourney or gathering.

So goes the 15th ASEAN University Games 2010 in Chiang Mai, the souvenirs on sale where the souvenirs reflect the unique

character of the host city, Chiang Mai. We have seen and learned about this Games' mascot 'Nong Hug' in our first edition of the AUG Sports Today the character of Nong Hug, the hill tribe youth who have by now, dived into the hearts of all the athletes participating this year. So why don't we take home with us the miniature hill tribe boy available at various locations such as the participating sporting venues at Chiang

Mai University, Mae Jo University, North-Chiang Mai, Prince Royal's College, Montfort College. All the souvenirs are also available at the athletes' residential hotels; Chiang Mai Hill and the Headquarters Hotel, Chiang Mai Phucome.

Goods available are, Nong Hug doll 290 baht (10 USD), Chiang Mai Style material bag; 190 baht (7 USD), rubber mobile phone hanger; 70 baht (3 USD), rubber key chain; 70 baht (3 USD), metal key chain; 100 baht (4 USD), d□cor pin; 70 baht (3USD). The beautiful Nong Hug T-Shirt is also for sale but only at the head quarter hotel at 235 baht (9 USD).

(Story by Chutimon Saowapa, Krissanaruk Saeneevong Na Ayutthaya, Sathinee Chirakal. Photos by Pharunyoo Deekaew and Jittarporn Charasrum)

Correction

In the story ASEAN delegates meet before the Games on page 2 of yesterday's AUG Sports Today, the meeting was chaired by Nangnoi Puapatanakul, Deputy Secretary-General, Office of the Higher Education Commission, and Hon. Dato Prof. Omar Osman, the President of the ASEAN University Sports Council.

Ajarn Mawin Thawieng, Bowling Coach, Thailand

At these Games our bowling team expects to win, but more than winning we need a good sporting spirit. Our team has gone through tough training and we trust in all the bowlers. Last time, in Malaysia, we collected 8 gold medals as our best result. This year, competing on our own ground, we should do better. The competitors we have to focus are the Malaysian and Singaporean teams. We, however, cannot underestimate anybody. With Chiang Mai as the host of this event we are supporting our tourism, arts, and culture. We can show all visitors the bright side of local wisdom and encourage them to come back to visit again. As for the team, we need to learn how to win some and lose some and do so graciously and with good spirit.



Dantri Longjamnond, Thai football player

"I am very happy to serve the country in this event. The Thai football team has a good chance to win at these ASEAN University Games. If we do not underestimate the other teams and are prepared for the unexpected, we will have the opportunity to be the winners. I would want all sport fans to come cheer us but to cheer all sports."



Behind the Scenes

The Grand Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Chiang Mai's diversity of races and beauty of its nature and the loyalty of the Thai people to HM the King were the driving themes behind the Grand Opening ceremony for the 15th ASEAN University Games last night at Maejo University Gymnasium.

Mrs. Anongnart Ratnisirichan, who conceived the shows and trained the performers for both the Opening and Closing ceremony said, "With this theme we wanted to communicate the fantastic things that Thailand has to offer and to let people know about the generosity of HM the King and what he has done to help the hilltribes people of the North and their loyalty to His Majesty."

She added that the cultural diversities in the North have been divided into 6 shows with the first three being presented last night at the Opening Ceremony and the final three at the Closing Ceremony on December 23, 2010.

The first theme presented the unique culture of the hilltribes; to conceptualize their lives at the mountaintops, their dance and more.



"For the first performance we want to present the young and fresh faces of the hilltribes girls and show the world that they no longer grow opium poppies because of His Majesty the King's royal projects to provide crop replacement to the hilltribes people."

The second theme of the show was the presentation of the amazing 700 year old Lanna culture and the Buddha Sihing image that is celebrated during the Thai New Year of Songkran in April. The show offers a mixture of the different ethnic groups in the North, such as the Thai Lue and featured the Fon Khandok dance troupes showing off traditional Chiang Mai beauties and culture.

The third show was a presentation of the Contemporary Lanna culture to show the freshness and livability of Chiang Mai. The traditional clothes combined with

modern dance and music showcases this theme. "So this is really a challenging project and we want to offer interesting things for the audience to view. We have planned and worked for more than half a year and we have had good cooperation from everyone involved. This show will help spread the uniqueness of Northern Thailand to the world," she said.

For the Closing Ceremony Mrs. Anongnart said they want to present the National Anthems of each country and songs popular in each member country so as to show the cooperation among all the nations of ASEAN.

"This might be overlooked by the some people, as it seems a small thing but it is really important in peoples' minds. We want to make the sportsmen and women feel proud and part of the event. This should be built up the good image and reputation of Thailand, the land of smiles."

Students from the Sansai Withayakhom School in San Sai district, Chiang Mai, Sai Nampueng School in Bangkok, the Dramatic Arts College, and Maejo University are participating as dancers in both ceremonies.

"Our team feels very proud of the Opening and Closing ceremonies as we have worked very hard on the shows," she concluded.

By Sawarot Mahawansu,
Parinda Thanapalin

Photo by Kanokwan Chantorn,
Nuttaporn Panya

Visitors from Timor Leste

Ambassador comes to Chiang Mai for the Games



Ambassador of Timor Leste, Joao Freitas De Camara, visits Chiang Mai for the 15th AUG.



Erminio Da Silva Pinto of the Thailand Timor Leste Embassy noted the long trip from Timor Leste.

Mr. Joao Freitas De Camara, the Ambassador of Timor Leste to Thailand came to Chiang Mai to cheer on Timor Leste in the 15th AUG. He noted that this was not his first AUG games, that he had attended the 14th Games in Malaysia two years ago.

"I feel excited to see new things," he said. Adding, "We have high hopes that we will be able to send more athletes to future Games by building up networks at this one, especially in beach volleyball, karatedo, taekwando and pencal silat."

Secretary of the Embassy, Mr. Erminio Da Silva Pinto, said they were very impressed with the welcoming preparations for the athletes of the AUG at Chiang Mai International Airport on the first day.

He added that more sportsmen and women are expected to take part in the next AUG in Laos in the next two years, "Thank you very much for taking care of the Timor Leste athletes for these Games."

Lastly, he remarked that it is difficult to find airline seats flying from Timor Leste to Thailand, as flights are rare in the peak tourism season. "We have to stop over at Bali, Indonesia first and then fly to Bangkok and then on to Chiang Mai."

Story by Sawarot Mahawansu
Photo by Atitaya Kanjanatharn,
Sulakkana Tianno



Timorese athletes are warmly greeted upon their arrival at Chiang Mai International Airport.

Let's Meet Table Tennis stars from Laos

It is the very first international tournament for Soulichak Phannavong and Khanthong Khamvilay, 2 Table Tennis stars from Lao PDR, who are very happy to be in Thailand and brought with them all of their confidence.



Soulichak Phannavong



Khanthong Khamvilay

"I'm very happy to be here participating in the ASEAN University Games, I have been to Thailand on a number of occasion but am very excited to be in Chiang Mai, I have received a lot of moral support from my countrymen".

"It is my first time in the ASEAN University Games. I am very happy, a little excited but I'm 100% ready for today's Game".

Story by Ms. Wanwisa Buapakam,
Photo by Mr. Puriwat Boonak

Lanna celebration marks t



Minister of Education Chinaworn Bunyakiart bangs the ceremonial gong to start the games.



Lighting the Lantern to start the Games.



The Thai National flag is raised at the start of the ceremony by students from the military school.



The rainbow route shows us all walking towards the same goal and the idea of "We Are One".



The cheering squad supports the Bor Sang umbrella dancers with their own display of umbrellas.



The hilltribes dance reflects His Majesty the King's care for all the people of Thailand.



The Foon Tou and Nok Yoong dancers perform traditional dances during the show.

Traditionally dressed men carry a palanquin with a woman dropping flowers in a blessing tradition.



The feeling of friendship and unity was apparent in the smiling faces of the gathered athletes as they waited for the opening ceremony at Maejo University on December 15. Athletes from each nation paraded led by a flag bearer.

The audience then stood for the raising of the Thai flag and the Thai national anthem and then for the first of many beautiful performances. The first one representing the Games mascot, a hilltribe boy and honor Their Majesties the King and Queen for their selfless work in aiding the hilltribes people from crop replacement help to providing an outlet for their unique handicrafts. Dancers dressed in each of the hilltribes groups in Northern Thailand performed a graceful dance that incorporated the yellow flag of HM the King. A great round of applause greeted the dancers from San Sai Witthayakhom School and from the students of Sai Nam Peung Upathom School in Bangkok, under the Royal Patronage of HM the King, who joined them in the performance.

Chiang Mai Deputy Governor Naruemol Palwat then thanked the organizers and athletes on behalf of the people of the people of Chiang Mai, welcoming all ASEAN members to the city and the province. Secretary General of the Office Higher Education Commission and President of the Organizing Committee Dr. Sumet then took the podium to welcome the visiting the athletes to the Games. Noting that the Games took place every two years, Chiang Mai and Thailand were honored to be chosen to organize the 15th ASEAN University Games and that he hoped the games would encourage Thai students to join in sports and encourage a spirit of goodwill.

President of the ASEAN University Sports Council, Hon. Dato Professor Omar Osman offered his greetings to the honored guests, organizers, officials, coaches, athletes and volunteers. "We are very glad and happy to be in this lively city of Chiang Mai. The quality of athletics is very high in these games and we wish you all success in the Games and to enjoy the spirit of goodwill, sportsmanship, and competition."

Chinaworn Bunyakiart, the Minister of Education for Thailand, took the stage to open the Games, first welcoming the athletes and thanking the members of the AUSC and the Office of Higher Education Commission for their help in bringing the Games to Thailand and in

the opening of the Games

organizing them and wished everyone luck in achieving the goals of the Games. He then struck the ceremonial gong three times, symbolizing good luck, health and prosperity.

The flags of each nation were honored by the gathered crowd before the anthem for the Games was sung, "We Are One". Then, representing the players, a Maejo University volleyball player, took the stand to encourage the players to do their best and reach their highest ability, followed by a referee representing all the referees and encouraged the athletes to play fairly and with good sportsmanship. Then four athletes carried in the torch in turns, with the first a Maejo footballer, who also plays for the Chiang Mai FC, followed by a second Maejo football player, then a Rajaphat University member of the taekwando team took the torch to pass it on finally to Chiang Mai University student Thanyaluck Chotipiboon who carried the torch to light a giant Yi Peng lantern to start the games.

The next performance presented the meaning of the mascots and representing Lanna culture, with the fantastically dressed rahm nok yoong dancers, or dance of the peacock. And one look at the beautiful fan shaped attachments on their outfits makes it clear why it is called the dance of the peacock. Additionally there was an agile Foon Tou. According to Shan hilltribe legend, the tou is a mythical creature living in the Himmapan forest. It is a hybrid of a yak, deer, mountain goat, and lion. When Buddha went to heaven to preach for his mother and then returned to the earth, all the animals in the Himmapan forest went to greet him. The tou was among the animals who gladly danced to welcome the Buddha back. Two dancers, one controlling the head and the other the tail perform the agile movements of this mythical creature.

The event culminated in a graceful umbrella dance demonstrating the power of harmony where the many colors become one. The colorful displays of the "bor sang" or saa paper parasols and the beautifully dressed dancers carried in standing on shoulder high palanquins scattered flowers in a blessing for the athletes and games. The spirit of harmony was evident as students holding small parasols performed a 'wave' around the gymnasium to celebrate the opening of the Games.

(Story by Shana Kongmun, Chiang Mai Mail; Photos by AUG Sports Today Team)



Myanmar athletes and coaches prepare for the Opening Ceremony parade at Maejo University on December 15, 2010.



Flag carriers parade into the hall during the Opening Ceremony.



The Malaysian team marches into the gymnasium during the Opening Ceremony.



Vietnam athletes cheer on the dancers during the performance.



Nong Hug and Nong Hoh join the Opening Ceremony.



Dancers honoring HM the King for his work helping the hilltribes people with crop replacement.



Beautiful girls in traditional hilltribes costumes are ready for the show.



One of the beautiful Umbrella dancers from the show.



A dancer dressed in traditional hilltribes clothes during the performance.



A member of the Thai cheering squad dresses up to rouse the crowd.



A Maejo University student is dressed as the school emblem of a Cowboy cracks a whip before the start of the show.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Date : December 16 - 22, 2010

Venue Beach Volleyball Court, Chiang Mai University



MEN'S EVENTS

Pool A	Pool
A1	Indonesia1
A2	Malaysia1
A3	Timor
A4	Thailand 2
A5	Laos2
B1	Malaysia2
B2	Thailand 1
B3	Laos1
B4	Singapore
B5	Indonesia2

WOMEN'S EVENTS

Pool X	Pool Y
X1	Malaysia1
X2	Singapore1
X3	Indonesia
X4	Thailand2
Y1	Vietnam
Y2	Malaysia2
Y3	Thailand1
Y4	Singapore2

Date	Time	No.	Events	Category	Phase
Dec. 16 (DAY 1)	09.00	1	Indonesia1 - Thailand 2	Men	Preliminary
	10.00	2	Malaysia1 - Timor	Men	
	11.00	3	Malaysia2 - Singapore	Men	
	12.00	4	Thailand1 - Laos1	Men	
	13.00	-	Rest	-	
	14.00	5	Malaysia1 - Thailand2	Women	
	15.00	6	Singapore1 - Indonesia	Women	
Dec. 17 (DAY 2)	16.00	7	Vietnam - Singapore2	Women	Preliminary
	09.00	8	Indonesia2 - Thailand1	Men	
	10.00	9	Laos1 - Malaysia2	Men	
	11.00	10	Laos2 - Malaysia1	Men	
	12.00	11	Timor - Indonesia1	Men	
	13.00	-	Rest	-	
	14.00	12	Singapore2 - Malaysia2	Women	
Dec. 18 (DAY 3)	15.00	13	Thailand1 - Vietnam	Women	Preliminary
	16.00	14	Thailand2 - Singapore1	Women	
	09.00	15	Thailand 2 - Laos2	Men	
	10.00	16	Indonesia1 - Malaysia1	Men	
Dec. 18 (DAY 3)	11.00	17	Singapore - Indonesia2	Men	Preliminary
	12.00	18	Malaysia2 - Thailand1	Men	
	13.00	-	Rest	-	
Dec. 19 (DAY 4)	14.00	19	Malaysia1 - Indonesia	Women	Preliminary
	15.00	20	Vietnam - Malaysia2	Women	
	16.00	21	Thailand1 - Singapore2	Women	
Dec. 19 (DAY 4)	REST DAY				
Dec. 20 (DAY 5)	09.00	22	Indonesia2 - Malaysia2	Men	Preliminary
	10.00	23	Singapore - Laos1	Men	
	11.00	24	Laos2 - Indonesia1	Men	
	12.00	25	Thailand 2 - Timor	Men	
	13.00	-	Rest	-	
	14.00	26	Malaysia2 - Thailand1	Women	
	15.00	27	Malaysia1 - Singapore1	Women	
	16.00	28	Indonesia - Thailand2	Women	
Dec. 21 (DAY 6)	10.00	29	Malaysia1 - Thailand 2	Men	Preliminary
	11.00	30	Timor - Laos2	Men	
	13.00	31	Thailand1 - Singapore	Men	
	14.00	32	Laos1 - Indonesia2	Men	
	15.00	33	1X - 2Y	Women	
Dec. 22 (DAY 7)	16.00	34	1Y - 2X	Women	Semi Final
	10.00	35	1A - B2	Men	
	11.00	36	1B - 2A	Men	3rd Place
	13.00	37	Loser 33 - Loser 34	Women	
	14.00	38	Winner 33 - Winner 34	Women	Final
	15.00	39	Loser 35 - Loser 36	Men	
	16.00	40	Winner 35 - Winner 36	Men	Final
17.00	Awards Ceremony after all finals				

Opening ceremony a success



Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, the President of the Organizing Committee of the 15th AUG, said after the Opening ceremony that it was really a success, beginning from the presentation of the unique Thai cultures and people to the athletes, officials, training coaches and staff from all the ASEAN country members.

"One of the most important things is the communication that can make better links, understandings and form good impressions," he added.

"Most people feel happy with the show, and I am really satisfied with what has been presented. Today's Opening has shown off the diversity of our culture. It is not the conflicts that matter, but that we have shown we can live together. I would like to ask everyone to hold onto this happiness

that has been created. It's not about winning and losing from the Games or to build up power but create better relations and friendship. Today's Games show the cooperation and coming together of the upcoming ASEAN integration in 2015," he noted.

Story By: Supawan Unokdaeng and Supakran Ruangdate

Photo By: Supakran Ruangdate

Results of yesterday's Badminton matches

Chiang Mai University Gymnasium saw the opening matches of the Badminton yesterday, starting at 10 a.m. with Team Events in which Indonesian men's team beat the Malaysians by 4-1 while Thailand's women's team beat Singapore by 5-0.

In the afternoon session, the women's team competition between Indonesia and Malaysia saw the victory of the Indonesians over Malaysia with a 4-1 result. In the Men's Team division, Thailand won

over the Singaporeans by 5-0. Team competition continues today starting from 10 a.m. where the Indonesia Men's team of 5 pairs will compete against Singapore while Thailand will play against Malaysia. In the Women's category, Thailand will play against Malaysia and Indonesia will play against Singapore at Chiang Mai University Gymnasium.

(Story by Kanyarath Chaichana, Photos By Yossuntorn Sawasdee)



What's cooking!

Let's look at the highlights of games competing today.

First round of the ever popular football will be played at 2 venues; The Prince's Royal College will host Myanmar vs Malaysia at 1 p.m., in the previous match Myanmar lost to Laos 1-2 while the Malaysian team pipped Singapore 2-1. Then at 3 p.m. Thailand, who won over Vietnam 5-1, will play against Cambodia. At Montfort College, Singapore will play Laos at 1 p.m.

Karate-Do fighters will compete for gold

medals today at the North Chiang Mai University's Gymnasium for both team and individual KATA, starting from 10 a.m. onwards.

Chiang Mai University will host Beach Volleyball from 9 a.m., Table Tennis and Badminton will start at 10 a.m.

The 700 Year Sports Complex will host Tennis starting at 10 a.m., Futsal and Basketball will start at 1 p.m..

Sepak Takraw will have its competition at the Gymnasium of Maejo University starting at 10 a.m.



Table Tennis



Karate-Do



Futsal



Sepak Takraw



Basketball

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Baan Tawai



Shops line the streets, each with tempting souvenirs to take home.



Baan Tawai is famous for its Buddhist art inspired wood carvings.

For the lover of handicrafts, handmade furniture, and assorted objet d'art then a visit to Baan Tawai is a must

Baan Tawai is an entire village of OTOP (One Tambon One Product) handicraft. OTOP handicrafts are produced by each Tambon, or subdistrict in a program established in 2001. OTOP products can be, cotton and silk garments, pottery, fashion accessories, household items and many other articles but the most important point is they are handmade and distributed in a manner that benefits the producers.

Baan Tawai is most famous for its furniture but as a visit to the

village will make clear there are plenty of other products to find. Wood carved products, tribal basketry, jewelry, paintings, silk, gifts, and small items such as lotions and soaps. The list goes on. Baan Tawai is a feast for the arts and crafts appreciator. There are plenty of interesting toys and hand-made gadgets for kids too, so you if you are looking for some unique and authentic souvenirs to take home, Baan Tawai may end up being your one stop shopping center! There are also some pretty amazing sculptures made out of metal scraps (nuts and bolts etc). I'm sure even adults' jaws will drop at the gigantic metal "Predator" and "Alien" beasts.

Wander up and down the road and you may see artisans at work carving wood, there are also many shops offering antique reproductions, so be sure and

check if its authentic or not if you plan on buying antiques!

Like everywhere in Thailand, there are also plenty of places to eat of course, Thai people are famous for their food, and love it accordingly so there is no need to go hungry!

One thing that should strike you at Baan Tawai, is quality. The village has earned a reputation for creating good quality products. So if you do decide to make a purchase, it is likely to be a rewarding one, which will stand the test of time.

It's a place that really has to be seen to be believed. I highly recommend a visit.

Located approximately 15kms south of Chiang Mai city centre, just off route 108 at Hang Dong, it is a short drive out and well worth the effort!

(Photos by Zart and Jittarporn Charasrum)



Wood carvings of creatures are very popular in Baan Tawai but wooden boxes, masks, silk, jewelry and more can be found here.

Bor Sang

Umbrella village

Bor Sang literally translates to umbrella village, was once just a small village where local families and artisans crafted parasols and umbrellas of saa paper made from the bark of the mulberry tree.

Saa paper is a time consuming product to make and so the actual process from tree to umbrella can take quite some time! Saa paper is made from bark which has been stripped from the young branches of the Mulberry tree, *Broussonetia Papyrifera*. The bark first must be sun dried to remove all traces of sap, and then once dried soaked in water until soft,

then boiled with caustic soda into a mushy paste which is then put into a machine that beats the product to remove the fibers. The paste is then spread out into mesh frames to dry.

From there the saa paper is fitted to a bamboo frame of either fan or parasol and finally hand painted.

As the fame of Bor Sang's beautiful products grew, so did the village and the manufacturing of the umbrellas. Nowadays, Bor Sang has grown to include all kinds of handicrafts, from silk to silver but it is still famous for the beauty of its hand-painted silk



Colorfully painted silk umbrellas and parasols brighten up the streets of Bor Sang.

and saa paper fans, parasols and umbrellas.

Bor Sang holds an annual festival in January to celebrate their umbrellas and a Miss Bor Sang is chosen to represent the village.



The elaborately painted fans make a great gift for others, or even yourself!

One of the most beautiful sights to see are the hundreds of umbrellas hanging from inside the houses lit by lanterns and people even decorate their vehicles with fans and umbrellas!

I have to admit to having bought a few of the big fans to hang on my wall, I love the bright colors of the flowers and birds and seeing them perched on my wall cheers my day up no end.

