



RADIO THAILAND'S ENGLISH NEWS SERVICE

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(Interview with Alain Brulfert, on 17 April 2006)

1. Please explain the objectives of Bangkok Soccer 7s tournament and how it appeals to soccer lovers in the country?

The Bangkok International Soccer 7s is an invitation tournament that provides a socially competitive environment for players who approach the game with the right attitude and in the right spirit. With no prize money at stake, teams take part for one reason only, their love of soccer. This second Bangkok International Soccer 7s tournament will be held in the kingdom's capital on the twenty-second and twenty-third April 2006. This tournament will be for the Open and Masters teams categories and will be conducted at Harrow International School. The tournament shall be played in accordance to FIFA laws of the game except where there shall be no offside, 7 minute halves, 7-a-side pitch, full size goals and rolling substitution, so spectators can expect to see goals galore. The competition is structured to ensure that all teams have the opportunity to win something through Cup, Plate and Bowl divisions on each category: Open and Masters. I would like to add that Teams loves to play in our soccer 7s tournaments because we have the reputation to be professional on the pitch, but also because we are organizing great nightlife parties during each tournament weekend.

2. Would you please share with us the background of this tournament?

Phuket Island was the first place where we have organized our first International Soccer 7s tournament in Thailand, in 2003, with 10 teams only. The second year, full success with 24 teams that was invited in the 2004 Phuket International Soccer 7s tournament, then last year due to a huge interest from teams, we have had to create 3 separate tournaments (2 Open & 1 Masters) over 2 weekends, in order to satisfied all of the 40 teams that have competed the 2005 HotelTravel Phuket Soccer 7s. The Bangkok International Soccer 7s has been created to extend the Phuket tournament, as the capital is more convenient to be reach by overseas teams for one weekend, than Phuket where you need one more flight to reach the island. Sport events are also more difficult to organize in Phuket, as there are not so many playing venues in good conditions in the island. One of our first target was also to boost Phuket Island as a sport event destination, but as since 3 years we haven't got a strong support from Phuket officials, we have decided to extend our tournaments to another cities in Thailand, with Bangkok since last year, and also Pattaya with the inaugural Pattaya International Soccer 7s tournament that will be held on 8 & 9 July 2006, during the World Cup finals weekend.

3. How many countries will be participating in the upcoming tournament?

This competition will attract about 20 teams from Asian countries, with China, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, and for the first time a team from UK: the London Panthers. I would like also to mention Team Bondi, with ex-players from Australia National team that won the 2005 HotelTravel Phuket Soccer 7s in the Masters category, and also a strong team from Thailand, the Bangkok Cosmos, winners of the 2005 Bangkok Soccer 7s and winners of the 2005 HotelTravel Phuket Soccer 7s in the Open category.

4. Please tell our interested listeners and soccer fans how they might attend the Bangkok Soccer 7s tournament?

The Bangkok International Soccer 7s will be held at Harrow International School, over 2 days, on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 April, from 10 am until about 4 pm. The playing venue is located near the Bangkok Donmuang airport and Viphavathi road (you can see the map in the official tournament website at : www.thai7s.com). The admission on the playing venue is free of charge for spectators. Conference Press and Captain briefing will be held at the Manhattan Hotel, in Sukhumvit Soi 15, followed by the Opening Party at The Office Bar & Grill in Sukhumvit Soi 33. On Sunday evening, the Awards Party will be hosted at The Angels Disco, located in the Nana Hotel, in Sukhumvit Soi 4, where officials and sponsors will award the 2006 Bangkok International Soccer 7s winners. Of course, All listeners and soccer fans are welcome to the Opening and Awards Tournament parties. If you are interested in participating in this Bangkok International Soccer 7s or in one of the next tournaments in Pattaya on July or in Phuket on the next November, you can contact the organizers, Alain and Tim, at Reperages Thailand by phone at 02 990 68 81 or you can visit the official tournament website at www.thai7s.com where you can find all details, including more than 2,000 pictures from all past tournaments in Thailand.