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THAILAND – *The Land of Smiles*

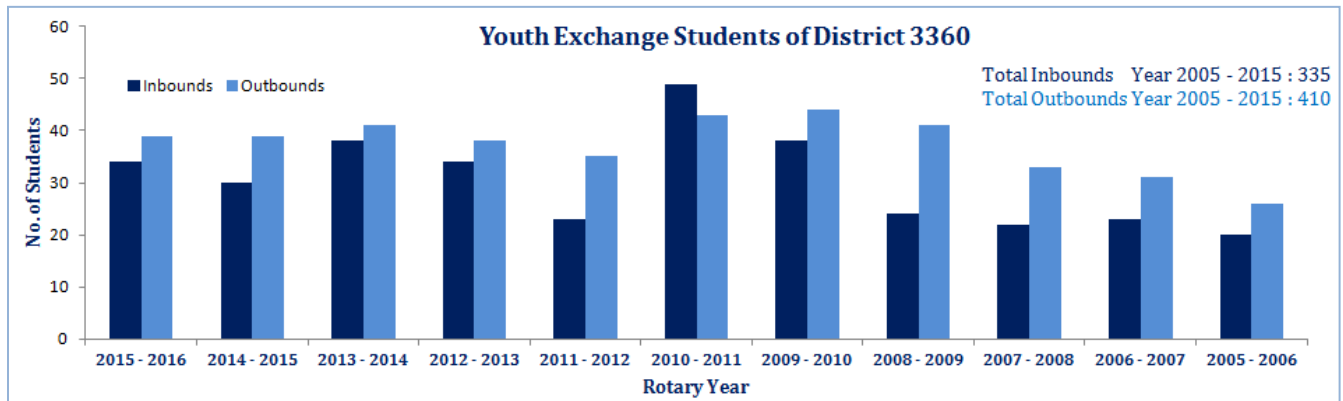
Thailand is a country most people have heard of but know little about. It is situated in Southeast Asia and bordered by Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. Thailand is a democratic nation having the king as the constitutional leader. The government is an elected body with representatives from each of the 76 provinces. Thailand is a country steeped in unique traditions, beautiful customs and colorful ceremonies, which have existed for thousands of years, as well as many archeological ruins and famous temples. It is well known for delicious foods, tropical fruits, intricately hand woven silk and cotton materials, Thai boxing and sword dancing. Most important of all is the famous Thai smile.



Our District 3360

District 3360 is one of four Rotary districts in Thailand. It locates in the northern part of the country, consists of 64 Rotary clubs in 14 provinces including the second largest city, Chiang Mai. Not only this region was the center of Thailand's ancient civilization but also renowned as an area with natural beauty, mountainous region, rich cultures and friendly people who are easy going and enjoy meeting new acquaintances.

From the following figure we may notice that our Rotary Youth Exchange Program of District 3360 has been running highly successfully since more than a decade.



Overview of the Northern Thailand

The northern part of Thailand features the most hilly and mountainous region of the Kingdom. It consists of 17 provinces and occupies approximately 170,000 square kilometers, bordering the territory of Laos in the east and Myanmar in the west.

Blessed with abundant natural wonders, the northern mountainous region is also home of several ethnic hill tribe peoples, whose distinct cultures and traditions have, for decades a good magnet to attract tourists to the region.

The north has the most beautiful winter season in Thailand. From November to January cool-climate flowers will be blooming, coloring the misty mountain ranges all over the area, especially in the provinces of Chiang Rai, and Mae Hong Son. In winter time the area becomes a spectacularly exotic and romantic place to go.

Natural attractions are no doubt the main draw in the north. The regions are full of several renowned national parks, particularly the most famous and highest mountain ranges in Thailand Doi Inthanon in Chiang Mai along with mountains including Doi Angkhang, Doi Mae Salong and others.

The northern region is also home to Thailand's earliest civilization, of which evidence still abounds today, especially in provinces of Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Lamphun and Sukhothai, the first true Thai Kingdom which existed some 700 years ago.



Northern people, especially women, are noted for their beauty, charm, hospital ability and courteousness. The northern people are kind-hearted, the north is easily accessible due to efficient road networks both in the region itself and along interregional routes. Air travel is particularly convenient as national carrier Thai Airways International operates daily flights to the north.

Tourism in the northern region is mostly nature-based. Activities such as trekking in national parks, bird watching, rafting and mountain biking are quite popular amongst the tourist. Tourists can also visit many other historical attractions and learn about the culture of hill tribe people.

Thai Cultures, Festivals and Places of Interest



Khone – Thai drama enacting scenes from the Ramayana performed by dancers wearing masks who never speak



Sukothai World Heritage Historical Park, Sukhothai



Praputtachinnarach, Phitsanulok
(The most beautiful Buddha image)



Golden Triangle, Chiang Rai
(Sharing borders of Thailand, Laos & Myanmar)



Long-neck Hill Tribe, Mae Hong Son



Thai Classical Dance

Thai Cultures, Festivals and Places of Interest



Doi Suthep Temple, Chiang Mai



Boat Rafting, Khek River, Phitsanulok



Horse drawn carriage, Lampang



Thai Elephant Conservation Center, Lampang



"Theelorsue" Waterfall, Tak



Long Boat Racing, Phichit

Thai Cultures, Festivals and Places of Interest



Takbaht, offering food to the Monk



Thai Fruits



Thai Foods



Songkran Festival – To splash water to another



Loykrathong, Thai annual ceremony of Brahmin Origin, Sukhothai

Building World Peace and Friendships - One student at a time

From the first day the students arrive in Thailand, they participate in a series of cultural programs in addition to the school activities as follows –

- August Welcome YE Inbound Students – Inbound Orientation
- September Orientation Camp for the YE Inbound Students
- October School Break
- November Loy Krathong Festival
- December Winter (Central) Trip & Christmas and New Year Celebration
- January -
- February Chinese New Year
- March Culture Exchange Camp with Outbound Students and District Conference
- April Songkran Festival (Thai New Year) Southern Trip
- May District Assembly
- June } Departure
- July }



Exploring different cultures & learning new experience...!!

Welcoming Inbound Students

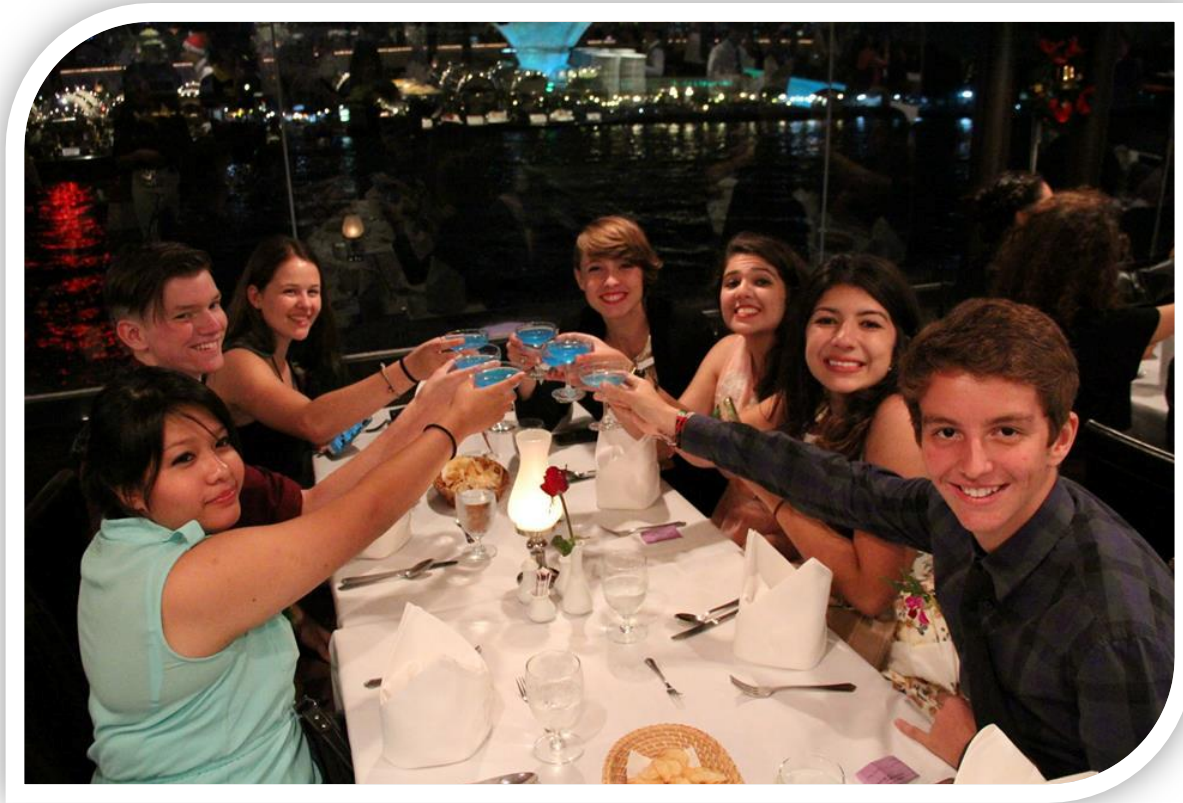


Inbound Orientation





Central (Winter) Trip



Southern (Summer) Trip



Other Activities



Join Us - Be Our Exchange Student..We are eagerly waiting to welcome you.. !!

