

Remembering Chalerm Thai Theatre

March 2, 2007

Categories: Buildings

Remembering Chalerm Thai Theatre – March 2, 2007

Here are two photos of the Chalerm Thai Theatre on the corner of Ratchadamneon and Mahachai Roads. The theater was torn down in 1989.

More photos of the area are [here](#).

These photos are from a community display at the [Mahakan Fort community](#) across the street.



Towards a truly free Thai press

March 3, 2007

Categories: Censorship

[EDITORIAL Towards a truly free Thai press](#) – *The Nation*, March 3, 2007

As Thailand marks Reporters' Day tomorrow, the status of the mass media in this country has obviously reached a point of grave concern. Freedom of the Thai media has been at a near-low since the time of the Thaksin government and is still stumbling after the coup on September 19 of last year...

Two stations, same path, clashing agenda

March 3, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Two stations, same path, clashing agenda](#) – *The Nation*, March 3, 2007

ASTV cable TV was once used as a powerful tool to target former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra but now it might be the Thai Rak Thai's turn to seriously jolt the current junta-backed government...

Mixed-blood, pan-Asian beauty battle

March 3, 2007

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Mixed-blood, pan-Asian beauty battle](#) – *Asia Sentinel*, March 2007

...It's called the pan-Asian face, and it usually means olive skin, black hair—and probably a Caucasian parent. That sticks in the craw of Zainuddin Maidin, Malaysia's information minister, who in January demanded that the number of pan-Asians be reduced on local television and replaced with ethnic Malay faces. Already, two government-owned television stations are forbidden to use anything but Malay models in their advertisements...

A searing indictment of the coup

March 5, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

[A searing indictment of the coup](#) – *The Nation*, March 5, 2007

Refugee disaster unfolds on Thailand-Myanmar border

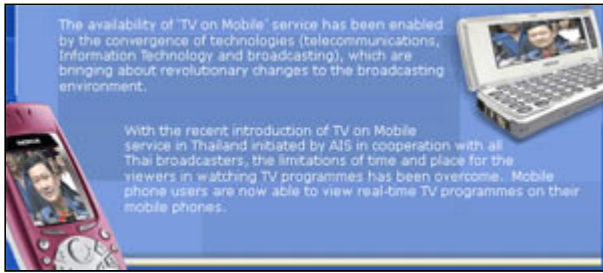
March 5, 2007

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Refugee disaster unfolds on Thailand-Myanmar border](#) – *Chicago Tribune*, March 5, 2007

Leftover Thaksin

March 6, 2007



(Source: MCOT website)

It was quite common during TRT years for government-connected organizations to promote Thaksin's image wherever possible along with praising the government's activities. Most of this has disappeared since the coup, but this page seems to have been overlooked.



(Source: MCOT website)

More leftovers from the MCOT site –

March 7, 2007

SS writes: *You are running today this story, [Leftover Thaksin](#). I go there, and decide to look elsewhere on the pages, clicking top left corner "Main page" that links to www.mcot.org as it says also in big letters there (for some reason, and not www.mcot.net).*

This page goes to the typical "stolen" address, used after expiring web page name, user get carried away to page that sells Cheap Hotel Rooms, discount deals. Instead of MCOT. Funny, and sad at the same time...

Doctor Dang Thuy Tram Diary as told by its Thai translator

March 7, 2007

Categories: Books, Vietnam

[Doctor Dang Thuy Tram Diary as told by its Thai translator](#) – *Nhan Dan*, March 7, 2007

"Doctor Dang Thuy Tram Diary", a literature phenomenon in Vietnam, has recently been translated and published in Thai language..

iTV survives for now

March 7, 2007

[iTV survives for now](#) –
March 7, 2007

Attractive xoe festival of the Thai ethnic people

March 7, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Attractive xoe festival of the Thai ethnic people](#) – Nhan Dan, March 7, 2007

The Thai ethnic minority people in Tac Bac (North-western region of northern Vietnam) are organising various festivals to celebrate the lunar New Year for the first fifteen days of the new year, including the xoe chieng festival in Binh Lu, Tam Duong, Lai Chau...

Wetland bird rediscovered in Thailand

March 7, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Wetland bird rediscovered in Thailand](#) – *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, March 7, 2007

A wetland bird that eluded scientists for nearly 130 years has been rediscovered at a wastewater treatment plant in Thailand...

Tears of the Black Tiger: Thai one on

March 7, 2007

Categories: Film and TV

[Tears of the Black Tiger: Thai one on](#) – *Pulse of the Twin Cities*, March 7, 2007

The Thai film industry doesn't have much of a following in the United States, and what a pity. After all, Thai filmmakers have been churning out wildly entertaining genre films for decades now, but outside of the occasional export (such as the terrifyingly frenetic 2003 film "Ong-Bak: Muay Thai Warrior"), they haven't gotten the level of exposure in America enjoyed by filmmakers from parts of Asia like China and Japan...

Rare Mekong dolphin making a comeback

March 7, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Rare Mekong dolphin making a comeback](#) – *Reuters*, March 7, 2007

Indian warbler re-found in Thailand and Natural History Museum

March 8, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Indian warbler re-found in Thailand and Natural History Museum](#) – *Natural History Museum*, March 2007

Thailand tells Canberra its bombing warning overstated

March 9, 2007

Categories: Security

[Thailand tells Canberra its bombing warning overstated](#) – TNA, March 9, 2007

TV station takeover adds to investment risks in Thailand: analysts

March 10, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[TV station takeover adds to investment risks in Thailand: analysts](#) – AFP, March 10, 2007

Thailand's takeover of a private TV station could be the first step in dismantling the business empire founded by ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra, highlighting the political risks of investing here, analysts said...

iTV or TITV?

March 10, 2007

iTV or TITV? –

March 10, 2007

A reader notes about how the English-language newspapers refer to iTV: *In case you wonder why you keep reading about iTV even though its name changed to TITV, the company itself is still iTV — iTV Plc. Only the channel itself has changed name, so what you see onscreen is TITV.*

How the US sees Thai human rights

March 10, 2007

Categories: Human Rights

[How the US sees Thai human rights](#) – *The Nation*, March 10, 2007

Fire engines of the past

March 10, 2007

Fire engines of the past –
March 10, 2007

This is the best resolution scan we have of this interesting Barton Fire Pumps advertisement from an unknown publication dated November 27, 1929.

November 27, 1929

Even
in
far away
Siam!



NOT alone in the United States, but throughout the world, the Barton Fire Pump is being used for fire fighting.

The photos at right were taken in Bangkok, Siam, on August 15, 1929, during a demonstration conducted by the Bangkok Fire and Local Police, in connection with the demonstration of the Barton Fire Pump in the city.

The day before the demonstration, the 100 international firemen gathered in one of the largest Bangkok squares. While the day of the demonstration was the day of the demonstration, the photographs of the Barton Fire Pump will be as clear as day once you have read the features of this great fire fighting and performance day.

Barton Fire Pumps, adaptable for the most modern fire and fighting, are now made of such, and only in practically all leading fire fighting companies. And only one of them for Bangkok is as well as for the rest of the world.

The new Barton Fire Pump is now the best of all fire fighting pumps.

AMERICAN STEAM PUMP COMPANY
CITY OF NEW YORK

BARTON
FIRE PUMPS



Please mention Fire Engineering when writing advertisers.

Three Thais feature in the ‘Forbes’ magazine billionaire ranks

March 10, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Three Thais feature in the ‘Forbes’ magazine billionaire ranks](#) – *The Nation*, March 10, 2007

Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, Chaleo Yoovidhya and Dhanin Chearvanont are the only three Thais appearing on the much-heralded Forbes magazine’s global billionaires list...

No reason to overreact to planned rebel displays, police say

March 11, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[No reason to overreact to planned rebel displays, police say](#)– TNA, March 11, 2007

[Sonthi: No report on militants creating unrest in Bangkok](#) – TNA, March 11, 2007

Thai Railway/SRT Main Page

March 12, 2007

Categories: Thai Railroads

[Old SRT buildings at Hualamphong](#)

[Timeline of Thai railways](#)

[Thai railway tunnels](#)

[New airport rail link](#)

[Change of plans for Thonburi Station](#)

[Bangkok.com visits the Thonburi locomotive shed](#)

Maps in French

[French map published in 1928](#) showing the Bangkok tramway route which was modified in 1927-1928 by Royal Decree expanding Dusit Palace area have western border at Samsen Road and a southern end at Sri Ayutthaya Road

[Indochina Railway Plan](#) published in 1930 (even though the info about the Siamese Railway is not later than 1921).

Maeklong

[Maeklong railway news](#)

[Maeklong railway revisited](#)

[Fate of the ex-Maeklong railroad stock](#)

[More Maeklong photos](#)

[Rail pier: Maeklong](#)

[History of the Maeklong Railway](#)

Songkhla

[Songkhla](#)

[to Hat Yai railroad](#) (from the edge of town to Hat Yai)

[Walking the Songkhla line](#) (from the station to the edge of town)

[Songkhla train station](#)

[Songkhla rail wharf](#)

History

[Obscure and defunct railways in Thailand](#)

[Latest Thai railway history news](#)

[Thai Railway Hall of Fame](#)

[Thai/Burma Railway](#)

[Andrew Mason interviews](#)

[the Curator of the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery](#) –

December 24, 2004



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Paknai-Bangkok" – March 12, 2007

Undated photo of "Train to Paknai-Bangkok."

Anyone know the location?



Scam report from Blue Dragon

March 12, 2007

Categories: Gem Scam



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

A reader reports: *Me and my wife visited Bangkok on Dec 25th 2006 and planned to stay there till Dec 28th. As usual, we scheduled a day to visit all the temples and Buddhas. After visiting the Wat Pho and we walked toward the next destination, Grand Palace, we met a friendly Thai guy in front of the Palace entrance. He said to us they had a special ceremony inside the Palace and only Thai nationals are allowed to get in. During our conversation, there was a tourist trying to enter and was stopped by the guard. Therefore, we believed what he said. He then suggested us to visit some other temples. He suggested to take Tuk Tuk to go to Happy Buddha first and then on the way to another temple, we should visit a Thai Jewelry Export Centre where we can buy the duty-free jewelry and it's only open to the tourist for a week (as what you can guess now, "today is the last day"). We thought about it and decided to go since we did not have any idea where to go next.*

He then stopped a Tuk Tuk and told the tuk tuk driver where we would like to go. He even negotiated the fare with the tuk tuk driver on our behalf. The deal is THB\$40 for the whole trip. We think it's a very good deal.

After a while, we arrived the temple where (so called) Happy Buddha is. The tuk tuk driver showed us into the temple. We stayed inside the temple for a few minutes and we asked the driver where we could buy some drink. He showed me the convenience store outside the temple. I bought some drink for us and one bottle of icy cold water for the driver. After I came back to the Tuk tuk, the driver excused us to go to toilet. We then waited for him on his Tuk Tuk. While we were there, there was a gentleman sitting behind the tuk tuk. He started chatting with us. He started with some social chats and claimed that he is Thai and currently living in New York City as a commercial law solicitor. He even said the monk sitting inside the Happy Buddha temple is his brother. After a few chats, he asked us where we were going next. We told him we are going to Thai Jewelry Export Centre. He was surprised to hear that we knew such a place and he said that today is the last day they open to the tourists. He highly recommended us to go there and buy some jewelry. He said he travels a lot and every time he came back to

Thailand, he would buy one or two pieces of jewelry from this centre. He even claimed that he could bring the jewelry back to US and sold it back to the retail shop, such as Fendi, etc. He said he made some money out of it and that could pay off his travel cost. We did not quite believe his story on selling jewelry back to the shop and made money out of it. We thought if we can find the jewelry we like, maybe we can buy some for ourselves (especially when they are duty free). We chatted about 20-25 mins and the tuk tuk driver only came back after we finished chatting.

Next stop, we arrived the Blue Dragon Factory Export Center. There were a few ppl wearing black uniform and some tuk tuk drivers outside the shop. We were led to the shop and starting browsing the jewelry. On the first floor of the shop, we saw some tourists and some Thai nationals as customers. We did not suspect anything wrong so far. We were taken to the 2nd floor to see some higher valued blue sapphire jewelry. After almost an hour, we decided to buy a Blue Sapphire ring and a Blue Sapphire necklace. They cost us around THB\$318,000. We know the blue sapphire jewelry is expensive and they look so pretty too. The manager asked us to sign the agreement paper stating that if we returned the jewelry within 3 months, they can only offer 80% refund, etc. I said to him what if the jewelry is fake, can we ask for full refund. He said absolutely yes.

Because the necklace has to be shortened, we can pick it up at the next day. He even said as their VIP customers, he is happy to offer us his driver to take us to anywhere around Bangkok and he could take us to the airport on the next day too. On the next day, we picked up the jewelry before we headed to airport.

After arriving home, we were thinking to bring the jewelry to one of our friend who would be able to verify the authenticity of the sapphire stones. However, before we went, I decided to search the Internet for that particular shop in Bangkok. It led me to your website and all sorts of gem scam stories (more or less the same as ours) were listed on the screen. My heart dropped and we were so worried that we've lost a large amount of money on the potential fake stones. My wife did not bother to get them verified by our friend and decided to go back to the shop and ask for the refund. We were thinking the worst scenario would be getting back 80% of our money. But as you could imagine, we had to spend flight tickets and a few days accommodation as well.

Thanks again for your site on providing so much useful information regarding the refund! We gathered all the required info including Tourist Police and Embassy before we went. We went back to Bangkok two weeks later. After we arrived the hotel, we called the Tourist Police and they were kindly enough to arrange one officer to meet with us at the hotel.

We told the officer the whole story and what we wanted to do with the shop. He suggested that he would accompany us to the shop to ensure our personal safety. He also suggested that we should remain calm when we met the shop manager and not try to confront with him. This is to prevent the whole matter to be forced into law suit proceedings which wouldn't do us any better. He said we could ask for the full refund first and the worst case would be 80% refund. He then accompany us to the shop and we were directed straight to upstairs. The shop manager appeared short while after. When he saw us, he knew right away what happened and what we wanted. He did not even speak to us and took his book out and started writing the refund agreement. We tried to negotiate with higher refund, but with no success. He even said to the police officer that the reason why we wanted the refund is because we

couldn't sell the jewelry back to the overseas jewelers. That was very funny. He's kind of admitting the whole (arranged) stories behind the scene.

We were very glad that the whole process could go such smoothly. We are very appreciated with the help from the Tourist police officer. Without him, our personal safety might in jeopardy while we were at that shop.

I am not sure how many ppl will do research on the destination country before going overseas. After this incident, I truly believe this is very very important. I hope that our government agencies will post such facts on their website to alert all of us before traveling to Thailand..

A culinary journey into the Burmese heartland

March 12, 2007

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[A culinary journey into the Burmese heartland](#) –

IHT, March 12, 2007

Burmese cuisine veers between the influences of India with its tradition of curries and Thailand and its flavors of basil, lemon grass and coriander with a few oddities left over from the British...

Deposition by Thaksin posted on TRT website

March 13, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Deposition by Thaksin posted on TRT website](#) – Bangkok Post, March 13, 2007

The Thai Rak Thai party yesterday made public the deposition to the Constitution Tribunal by deposed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who is in exile abroad, opposing the party's dissolution. In his statement, which was posted on the party's website, Mr Thaksin said Thai Rak Thai had 119 executive members and therefore it was not fair to decide whether the actions of the few of them accused on wrongdoing represented the actions of the entire party...

Abbott Laboratories halts new drugs to Thailand

March 13, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Abbott Laboratories halts new drugs to Thailand](#) – *British Industry*, March 13, 2007

Fires in Thailand

March 13, 2007

Fires in Thailand –

March 13, 2007

Thanks to several readers who pointed out the following article in answer to the Thailand fires question.

[Over 400 children at risk from northern forest fire haze](#) – TNA, March 10, 2007

...The burning of forestry land area has also created air pollution resulting in a smog of small particles of dust in the provincial seat, especially near reservoir in Mae Rim district, an area where bush fires have occurred frequently in the past.

Local residents, both adults and youngsters, often exercise near the reservoir but now must cover their mouths and noses with masks. Many are experiencing breathing difficulty...

A thread on this subject is [here](#).

Earlier: Fires in Thailand? –

March 10, 2007

On

Wednesday morning, March 7, CNN weather reporter Mari Ramos showed satellite photos showing the extensive agricultural fires in Thailand that were "a problem" right now. However, we have been unable to find any other mention of this elsewhere. have any readers heard anything about this?

“Aquileria”

March 13, 2007

"Aquileria" –

March 13, 2007

Interesting company from an email we received: [Touchwood Eurasia](#) is an AustCham member which manages forestry investments for retail investors in a number of countries including Thailand. The timber grown in Thailand is Aquileria, an indigenous Thai species, which is now very scarce owing to illegal logging and produces “Agarwood”, the world’s most expensive timber used in the perfume, incense and medical areas...

New draft of FBA easier on foreigners – NLA version aims to restore confidence

March 13, 2007

Categories: Business

[New draft of FBA easier on foreigners – NLA version aims to restore confidence](#) – Bangkok Post, March 13, 2007

A group of more than 50 members of the National Legislative Assembly have proposed a new draft Foreign Business Act potentially more friendly to foreign-owned joint ventures operating in Thailand than the government's version of the bill. A copy of the draft obtained by the Bangkok Post says that a business would not be automatically defined as foreign even if voting rights held by foreigners were more than 50% _ a controversial clause currently present in the government's own proposed FBA amendment...

Suan Lum and Siam Tribute

March 14, 2007

Categories: Buildings

[CPB pushing city land development – Lang Suan residents face eviction this year](#) – Bangkok Post, March 14, 2007

The Crown Property Bureau will turn away from small lessees and instead invite large-scale property developers to build megaprojects on its land in the heart of Bangkok for the sake of bigger returns, in a move which surprised some residents but was welcomed by estate developers. A source at the bureau said the change would start with a plot on Phloenchit road within this year.

The plot stretches from a corner next to Mater Dei school to near the Ton Son Tower building, and its width extends from Phloenchit road down Lang Suan road to Nguan Lee restaurant on the curb between Lang Suan and Sarasin roads...

[Legal moves loom over Suan Lum](#) – The Nation, November 24, 2006

...The bureau said in a statement that it had made an offer to P Con Development (Thai), the developer and operator of the shopping centre, to sign a written confirmation that P Con would vacate the site of the former Pre-Cadet School and follow all arrangements by April 1. But P Con did not sign the letter, and the offer was revoked.

...The bureau understands that P Con has continued to improperly collect rent from the site occupants, so it will take all necessary lawful measures to clear the site, the statement said. P Con signed a three-year lease to develop the former Pre-Cadet School site. It expired at the end of 2004 and was extended until March 2006.

[Seven vie to develop](#)

[Suan Lum location – Completed project may be worth B100bn](#) – Bangkok Post, March 4, 2005

The Crown Property Bureau (CPB) has given seven short-listed bidders until the middle of the year to propose development plans for a 127-rai site on Wireless Road now used by the Suan Lum Night Bazaar. The seven bidders are Sansiri; Natural Park; the TCC Group, led by liquor tycoon Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi; the Central Group; MBK; Siam Piwat, the owner of Siam Center and Siam Discovery; and the Maleenont Group, owners of BEC World...

The CPB now manages 40,105 rai of land nationwide for His Majesty the King. Of the total, 8,835 rai are in Bangkok, of which 30% is rented by government agencies and state enterprises.

"Our efforts to increase efficiency in collecting property rents have already begun to bear fruit. We now have a steady rental income as a safeguard for the bureau while dividends from core investments have been rising sharply to reflect business recovery," he said...

Lumpini Stadium to 'close' – December 8, 2004

This is interesting news. 2Bangkok.com first reported in January 2004, long before it was otherwise public, that the Lumpini Stadium, along with Suan Lum, was to be removed to build the tallest building in the world–[Siam](#)

[Tribute](#). The story in *The Nation* does not mention what will happen to the Lumpini Stadium land, but the story may not be that the venue is moving, but that the entire area will soon be redeveloped.

[Lumpini Stadium ends with a bang](#) – The Nation, December 6, 2004

...The event billed as "Super Tuesday" will mark 51 years of fighting for the historic Lumpini stadium which will close its doors as a premier boxing arena early next year to make way for a new modern venue at Lunlinchee 3, Trok Chan, in Bangkok...



(Photo: VRML Bangkok)

Proposed world's tallest building for Bangkok

– January 5, 2004

Rangsan Architects are cooking up a world's tallest building proposal for Bangkok. VRMLBangkok.com (their website is not up yet) made the above graphic. That is Chong Nong Si Skytrain Station in the foreground. We'll have more news on this project soon.

[Latest for Suam Lum](#) – December 18, 2003

A floating market with a 600-seat restaurant, along with several other attractions, is to be opened at the Suam Lum (Lumpini) Night Bazaar in central Bangkok at the end of next year... Construction is to begin in April and be completed in November.

This is the former site of the Armed Forces Academy Preparatory School, which was moved in the mid-1990s to ease traffic congestion in the area. The market on the site is supposed to be temporary to fund the relocation of the school. There have been promises and expectations that the area would be a park or used for "educational, cultural and recreational purposes," but the land is probably in too prime a location not to attract the forces of commercial development.

World's tallest building for Bangkok? – November 12, 2003

From an inside source commenting on "Siam Tribute," a new building planned for the Lumpini Boxing Stadium area:

I really like the design of Siam Tribute.. Reminds me of the old Miglin Beitler tower proposed for Chicago. And you're right it's super super tall... Siam Tribute is only a conceptual design at this stage. But it will be approximately 730m tall (about 700m to the top "skylounge" plus 30m to top of the roof). I've seen the building's cross sections + sketches.

It will be located next to the Lumpini Boxing stadium. Still not sure if and when it will be developed. First they have to get permission to lease the property from Crown Property Bureau ... I was so overwhelmed! One of the architects whispered in my ear "... it's going to be the tallest building in the world."

This general area has been controversial for development since the garish night bazaar was set up "temporarily" two years ago on the grounds of the Armed Forces Academy Preparatory School:

[Crown land agency defends night bazaar](#) – siamfuture.com, August 28, 2002

It denied media reports claiming interior ministry regulations had been amended to reclassify the site on

Rama IV road as a commercial development.

"An eyesore" and "a disgrace" – siamfuture.com, 00:02, July 26, 2002

Thailand's tallest building to redefine Pattaya skyline

March 14, 2007

Categories: Buildings

[Thailand's tallest building to redefine Pattaya skyline](#) – *Property Report*, March, 2007

Arson suspected as old cinema is destroyed

March 14, 2007

Categories: Buildings

[Arson suspected as old cinema is destroyed](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 14, 2007

Paper-saving ATM

March 15, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Paper-saving ATM – March 15, 2007

Amusing screen caps from a Thai Military Bank ATM machine... Above the user is asked if they want a receipt (and note the graphic of an ax for the "yes" option). If the user selects the "yes" option they are chided by a surprised tree with broken limbs (below).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

American Westerns get a Thai cooking

March 15, 2007

Categories: Food and Drink

[American Westerns get a Thai cooking](#) – *Arizona Daily Star*, March 15, 2007

“Tears of the Black Tiger,” is a Thai send-up of American Westerns with a tearjerker romance and a title reminiscent of a martial arts flick...

Wealthy Thais use stem cell bank for high-tech life insurance

March 15, 2007

Categories: Health

[Wealthy Thais use stem cell bank for high-tech life insurance](#) – Channel News Asia, March 15, 2007

New species of leopard with largest fangs in cat world discovered

March 15, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[New species of leopard with largest fangs in cat world discovered](#) – *Daily Mail*, March 15, 2007

Bangkok auto blog

March 16, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok auto blog](#) – March 16, 2007

Interesting English-language blog “providing news, information, discussion and services to motor enthusiasts in Thailand.”

Mekong River Reviews

March 16, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Mekong River Reviews](#) – March 16, 2007

Interesting photos in this blog...

At Thailand's tiger temple, beware the naughty ones

March 16, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[At Thailand's tiger temple, beware the naughty ones](#) – Reuters, March 16, 2007

...Athiphat said the temple had not seen any serious accidents since visitors started coming some five years ago.

"A few tourists were slightly injured, scratches from the naughty little tigers, but no serious accidents have been reported," he said, adding that close surveillance by numerous volunteer handlers keep problems to a minimum...

Police extortion?

March 17, 2007

Categories: Thai Police

Police extortion? –

March, 2007

A reader reports: *Hi, you can use the pictures and story about [police extortion from my blog](#), just quote me as michael.*

Sondhi presents new perspective – USA backs southern insurgents

March 17, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Sondhi presents new perspective – USA backs southern insurgents – Summarized from *Phujadkan*, March 17, 2007

On March 16, at 8:30 pm, Mr. Sondhi Limthongkul discussed the iTV program while hosting an ASTV's programme called '[Yam Phao Pan Din](#)'. He agreed with former prime minister Anan Panyarachun's special lecture at Government House that Thailand has not focused its efforts on getting rid of corruption.



Mr. Sondhi also analysed that southern situation. He thinks that the violence in the south might be related to western countries, especially the USA. The United States could theoretically back the movement through other countries like Australia and Singapore for the benefit of natural oil and gas assets.

He also cited historical examples of the United States being secretly responsible for economic or political changes in many countries, such as Iran.

He thought that Thai people should change their attitudes and ways of thinking in a bid to survive.

Journalists who died covering the news in Thailand

March 17, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

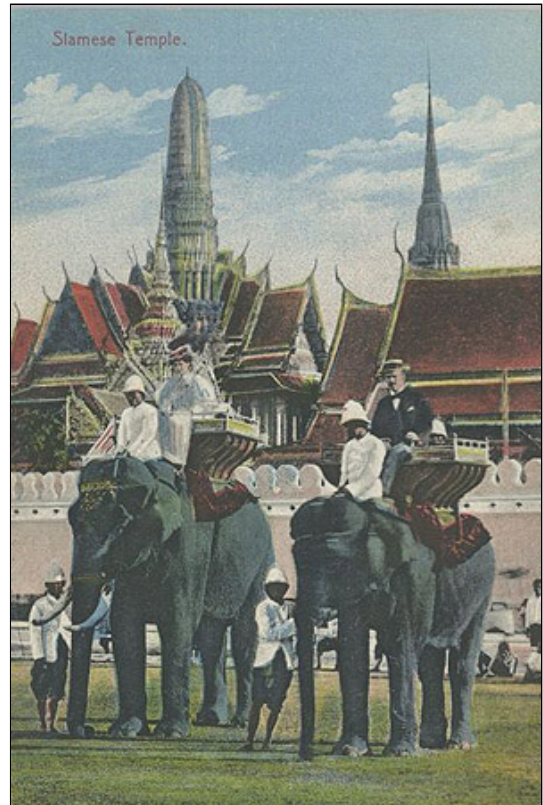
[Journalists who died covering the news in Thailand](#) – *The Freedom Forum*, March 17, 2007

“Siamese Temple”

March 17, 2007

"Siamese Temple" –
March 17, 2007

Right: Tourists in front of Wat Prae Kaew



(Source: Undated postcard)

Magazine spam

March 17, 2007



Magazine spam –
March 17, 2007

Left: Graphic from an email advertising a magazine for people trying to get rich by buying lottery tickets. It highlights the use of amulets and paying respect to certain shrines to obtain good luck and pick the right numbers.

Inconvenient gossip, new knowledge

March 18, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Inconvenient gossip, new knowledge](#) – *The Nation*, March 18, 2007

...One figure that was briefly mentioned before quickly vanishing under the radar was the “commission” paid to the travel agent for organising General Saprang Kalayanamitr’s week-long airport-security research trip to Europe. A princely Bt500,000. For 12 people? That’s Bt41,000 each. They could have all flown economy return on the agent’s fee alone...

BSU prof takes students ‘home’ to Thailand

March 18, 2007

[BSU prof takes students ‘home’ to Thailand](#) – *The Star Press*, March 18, 2007

The Nation wins design award

March 19, 2007

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



[The Nation wins design award](#) – IFRA, March, 2007

Thai email forwards: Plastic surgery

March 19, 2007

Categories: Thai Email Forwards



Thai email forwards: Plastic surgery –
March 19, 2007

This photo from [Poojadkuan](#) is widely circulating now. It pokes fun at the changing appearance of Pemmika, one of the people involved in the [tutorial-school king scandal](#). The caption of the photos reads "Can you believe this is Pemmika?"

The original succession of photos showing the progress of her plastic surgery was on the front page of the Thai-language newspapers last Wednesday.

Thai Murder Mystery Madness!

March 19, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Murder Mystery Madness!](#) – *Queerty*, March 19, 2007

Thai police have no leads in Ulbrich's death, but a number of internet-based theories abound. Some range from the believable – a lover or boyfriend murdered...

Another anti-coup site: Thaisayno.com

March 19, 2007

Another anti-coup site: Thaisayno.com –
March 19, 2007

A Meal Fit for a... Pharaoh

March 19, 2007

Categories: Food and Drink

[A Meal Fit for a... Pharaoh](#)— AP, March 19, 2007

From the creators of the \$25000 dinner, there's another pricey gourmet feast on the horizon...

Thailand risks losing investments from U.S. on patents dispute

March 20, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand risks losing investments from U.S. on patents dispute](#) – Bloomberg, March 20, 2007

Thailand risks losing investments by U.S. companies after the junta-installed government decided to break patents on some drugs, said Daniel Christman, senior vice president of the U.S. Chamber Commerce...

Thailand Social progress, but challenges remain

March 20, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand: Social progress, but challenges remain](#) – Scoop.co.nz, March 20, 2007

Thailand has made significant progress in improving the situation of children and women in recent years, including nutrition, school attendance, access to safe water and sanitation, and coverage of essential health services, but remaining disparities need to be addressed, according a United Nations-backed survey...

Post astronomy lesson

March 20, 2007

Post astronomy lesson –

March 20, 2007

Terry notes: The Post ran the attached picture of the partial eclipse with the following caption:

“Chasing shadows –

A telescope at the Ekamai planetarium in Bangkok captured this picture of yesterday morning’s partial solar eclipse, showing the Moon casting a shadow on the Sun.”

Casting a shadow on the Sun is very difficult.



(Source: *Bangkok Post*)

Shophouses: Reviving the distinctive face of Bangkok

March 20, 2007

Categories: Buildings

[Shophouses: Reviving the distinctive face of Bangkok](#) –

IHT, March 20, 2007

[Newley](#) points out this interesting article on [shophouse renovations](#).

CNS not internet savvy

March 21, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

[CNS not internet savvy](#) – Bangkok Post, March 21, 2007

Six months after the coup, the military top brass who brought tanks and troops onto Bangkok's streets, surprisingly don't know how to create a website. The Council for National Security's website, www.cns.go.th, offers the following message: "Under construction. Be prepared to meet us soon." What's happened to the CNS website clearly exposes a weakness of the generals...

COMMENTARY

CNS not internet savvy

Saritdet Marukatat

Six months after the coup, the military top brass who brought tanks and troops onto Bangkok's streets, surprisingly don't know how to create a website. The Council for National Security's website, www.cns.go.th, offers the following message: "Under construction. Be prepared to meet us soon." What's happened to the CNS website clearly exposes a weakness of the generals.

CNS leader Gen Sonthi Boonyaratkalin and his top military aides were quick to oust Thaksin Shinawatra from power. It took them only days to map out a crucial plan and strategy, taking advantage of the former telecom tycoon's absence from the country on an overseas trip as the day of the operation. The highlight of Mr Thaksin's trip was supposed to be his speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Of course, Mr Thaksin never got to stand on the UN podium. Instead, he had to scramble for a flight to London, where his exile began.

Yesterday the CNS must have been happy listening to reports of progress made by eight agencies since the coup, in a highly publicised briefing that was broadcast live on television. Each agency was given about 15 minutes to report to the military leaders.

The police assured them of attempts to take action against Mr Thaksin on lese majeste and other charges. The National Legislative Assembly told them how many bills it had passed since being picked by the CNS to function as the lawmaking body. The Assets Scrutiny Committee promised to wrap up all 13 cases on their hands within the one-year timeline, with more politicians and officials to be sued. The Constitution Drafting Committee was confident that a new charter would be completed as planned and a new election held within this year after the people exercise their right on the charter referendum.

Yesterday's show may ease some pressure on the CNS. The longer the coup-makers stay in power, the less popular they seem to be. That's not surprising, given that the public has started to question the military leaders' ability to take action on Mr Thaksin and other corruption charges committed by the previous government. Some are even concerned about the future of the country amid reports, from time to time, that the generals might want to hold on to power longer than promised.

Growing questions about the CNS must stop. The problem is that the generals, while quick to stage a coup, are slow with public relations, an operation they are not familiar with. In fact, one of the most important missions after Sept 19 was to keep the public constantly informed and updated about what the CNS was doing to correct the national problems cited as grounds to kick the elected government out of office and bring in Gen Surayud Chulanont as the new government leader. It's no secret that Gen Sonthi and his colleagues did not like Mr Thaksin. But love him or hate him, they have something to learn from the former premier. Even though he is abroad, Mr Thaksin is always finding ways to get his message across to Thai audiences. He uses lawyer Noppadon Pattama to speak for him within the country, gives foreign media interviews from time to time, travels around to keep himself in the media spotlight and has also opened his website, www.hi-thaksin.net. Mr Thaksin's website could give the CNS an idea how their own website should

be built. It has updated information on what he's doing, his speeches delivered overseas and even a place for followers and readers to write to him and air comments. Of course, it's another propaganda machine for the former Thai Rak Thai party founder and leader. Though the government has blocked the website, Mr Thaksin definitely won't stop there. He'll find other channels to air his views.

The CNS has only six months left to do the same. It does not make any sense taking so long to jot down the contents on its website. And the generals must realise that after the coup, the most important weapon isn't troops or tanks, it's information. Its www.cns.go.th should offer a channel to directly communicate with the public. The website should also have an English version, as the diplomatic corps in Bangkok are eager to know how far the CNS has fulfilled its promises to correct the problems cited as grounds for staging the coup.

Firms alarmed by Thailand's tuna proposal to US

March 21, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Firms alarmed by Thailand's tuna proposal to US](#) – *INQ7 Business*, March 21, 2007

Ongoing trade talks between the United States and Thailand have alarmed Philippine tuna industry officials...

Linking Prem to coup is irrelevant

March 21, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Linking Prem to coup is irrelevant](#) – *The Nation*, March 20, 2007

From 2019: Yet another editorial that has vanished from online. It gives further context to the place of Prem in Thaksin's ouster outside of the "opposing Thaksin is opposing democracy" trope of the international media.

BURNING ISSUE

Linking prem to coup is irrelevant

Many people see the anti-coup activists as a reincarnation of Thaksin supporters

Thailand's struggle for power is escalating to a dangerous level and may backfire on society if rival sides decide to expand their fight to involve the Privy Council, seen as the vanguard of the monarchy.

Sunday's march by hundreds of anti-coup protesters to air disparaging views on General Prem Tinsulanonda, president of the Privy Council, does not bode well for democratic rule.

The political predicament is almost beyond repair and the venting of anger at Prem will not make the problem go away. Rather, it is likely to compound the political maladies.

If anti-coup activists want an immediate return of power to the people, do they honestly believe their attacks on Prem could speed the country to a general election quicker? Or are they making snide remarks out of spite? As a public figure, Prem is fair game to face up to public judgement. But to target him for innuendoes linking the country's revered institution to the September 19 coup is totally uncalled-for.

A brief rehash of recent events may help to shed light on the fractious politics plaguing the nation.

Political discontent erupted in 2005 and street protests mushroomed early last year. At the centre of the fiery debate was the authoritarian leadership of Thaksin Shinawatra.

Buoyed by his landslide victory to serve a second term, Thaksin refused to reason with his opponents and chose to flaunt his power instead.

The take-no-prisoner battle led to a deadlock – Thaksin cited his popularity to cling to office while the country's administration ground to a halt because, as caretaker prime minister, he could not move the country forward.

The military intervention happened after it became clear that Thaksin was determined to hold on to power even though he could no longer lead.

In a nutshell, the coup was about the removal of the leader who remained popular but had lost the credibility to rule.

The seizure of power was, and still is, a cardinal sin for democracy. Coup leaders tried to justify their intervention by citing their good intentions to overcome the crisis of leadership.

The junta had no choice but to step in and repair the political system before social divisions spiralled out of control, according to a pro-coup argument.

Should anti-coup activists want to debunk the logic for seizing power, they should focus on the junta. There is no rhyme or reason to raise wild allegations to further complicate the issue.

Soldiers marched out of their barracks and tanks rolled to heave Thaksin out of office. With or without Prem on the sidelines, the military intervention was irreversible. The real issue was about Thaksin – not Prem.

Prem's linkage to the coup, be it a real or invented charge, is irrelevant. The military would not have intervened if Thaksin had embraced the art of compromise, a vital element in a sustainable democracy.

Anti-coup activists might be better off focusing on the path back to democratic rule rather than blaming everyone but themselves for failing to prevent the military intervention.

Their outspokenness against the coup was mute right before and after the power seizure.

Six months have lapsed and they now want to fault Prem for their frustration over the junta.

If Thailand is to overcome its rough patch of fractious politics, rival sides must make concerted efforts to co-exist amid differences. History has shown time and again that political annihilation is not an option.

Anti- and pro-Thaksin campaigners have kept the country hostage for far too long. After the removal of Thaksin, their fight has morphed into anti- and pro-coup bickering.

Last May, Thaksin made a veiled attack against Prem for his predicament, instead of reflecting on his own leadership. Four short months later, democratic rule collapsed.

Now, anti-coup activists, seen by many as a reincarnation of Thaksin supporters, have blamed Prem for the suspension of democracy.

Does this mean vengeful politics has not bottomed out yet?

Avudh Panananda

The Nation

Organ stealing in the Northeast?

March 22, 2007

Categories: Crime, Health

Organ stealing in the Northeast? –

March 22, 2007

A reader asks: *Lately I have seen a bit of news from Thailand about vans appearing in various areas & taking people away – day or night. Suggestions have been: slave traders / slave sex / sex movies / organs for surgery. This appears to be mostly in Isaan. I haven't seen it noted in the Bangkok Post (on-line) as yet & nor on 2bangkok. Are you aware of this tale? If so, is there really any truth behind it? If it is true, are the police doing anything about it?*

We got it initially from www.thaivisa.com: The reasoning behind these abductions no one is really sure because there have been only a few bodies found and some of those were missing body parts such as eyes, heart, kidney and or liver. Two twins were taken on their way to school with witnesses observing the abduction. Husband and wife abducted, man was drugged by substance being sprayed into his face and he later awoke to see his wife lying next to him with her two eyes removed. 10 year old boy taken and later found covered in field with eyes and heart removed. The strange part of all this is that this is not the first time abductions have happened. Crop planting or harvesting time is the preferred time of these abductions and they have happened a number of years past but never like this current organized high numbers of abductions.

It could not be true though.

Organs have to be tissue-typed and then used very quickly—stealing random organs would not be of benefit to anyone. More about [organ stealing from Snopes.com](http://Snopes.com) which includes the point that organs are useless without testing and quick use.

Anderson Cooper: “Shocking and heartbreaking” Thailand

March 22, 2007

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

Anderson Cooper "Shocking and heartbreaking"

Thailand –

March 22, 2007



Victor reports: *I know that CNN in Thailand is different from CNN in the United States, but Anderson Cooper is currently doing a news special in Bangkok Thailand, LIVE (7:23 PST). I just thought it was interesting because it seems like he is just standing at the pier by Pratunam, (and not in a news studio). Today's news special is about the black market for animals, slavery and prostitution in Thailand. A dark subject I guess we don't like to talk about, but featured on a 3 hour show in the United States broadcast live tonight!*

The following is the detail for the show on CNN.COM: "Tuesday's show – Women and children sold into sexual slavery... endangered wildlife sold illegally on the black market. Anderson is live in Bangkok, Thailand, for a shocking and heartbreaking 360° special investigation. Watch tonight, 10 ET."

I just found this [video online](#). ...it's about Anderson Cooper's visit to Bangkok – Animal Black Market (Chatuchak Market)

From the [transcript](#): GARY HAUGEN, CEO, INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION: *There really is nothing like the death in the eyes of these children inside these brothels who are just being serially raped...*

A thread about this is [here](#).



Thaksin to Return to Thailand by Year-End: Lawyer

March 22, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thaksin to Return to Thailand by Year-End: Lawyer](#) – *Asia Pulse*, March 22, 2007

Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra will return before the end of this year and is ready to stand at the court to fight corruption charges against him, his legal advisor said Thursday...

PTV protest at Sanam Luang

March 23, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"No to the constitution" group (The constitution will be presented to the public on April 20)

Almost like being there: PTV protest at Sanam Luang – 6:27pm, March 23, 2007

More: [PTV and PTV rallies](#)

Also: [High tension in Thailand](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Most of Sanam Luang is taken up with with kite flying. Note the [Rama VIII Bridge](#) in the distance on the left.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The protest is confined to the far north of Sanam Luang. Here, kite flyers and passersby look toward the protest group.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Like the Sonthi events of last year, the speeches were indignant and fiery. The crowds seemed more curious than enthusiastic.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Hundreds of police on hand for the event



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The crowd seemed to be composed mainly of middle-aged men



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

More: [PTV and PTV rallies](#)

Also: [High tension in Thailand](#)

For American Jew in Thailand, work means eating, drinking and partying

March 23, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[For American Jew in Thailand, work means eating, drinking and partying](#) –

JTA, March 23, 2007

An American-born Jew raised in Thailand has produced a best-selling map of Bangkok—and other of his favorite sites in Southeast Asia—with tips for living it up like the locals...

Batvan

March 23, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Batvan – March 23, 2007
Who can translate this?

U.S.-Thai Cobra Gold military exercises to go ahead six months after coup

March 23, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup, Thai Military

Gen. Boonsrang Niumpradit, Thailand's supreme military commander, says Washington has decided to go ahead with the "Cobra Gold" multi-national joint exercise following Thailand's suspension of martial law in 41 provinces, The Bangkok Post [reports](#) that this year's exercise, the 26th installment of the maneuvers, will be held from May 8th to the 18th. Thailand's military ousted then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on September 19th, leading Washington to cut \$24 million in military assistance as required under section 508 of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. In the process, the staging of "Cobra Gold," which involves land, sea and air operations, was also put on hold.

‘Tribune’ reporter’s fallacy: Thai anti-foreigner sentiment

March 23, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘Tribune’ reporter’s fallacy: Thai anti-foreigner sentiment](#) – *The Nation*, March 23, 2007

I am quite amazed by the thrust of this article, which claims that the Thai people have become anti-foreigner only seven months after the coup...

Earlier: [Famed Thai hospitality shows signs of strain](#) – *International Herald Tribune*, March 20, 2007

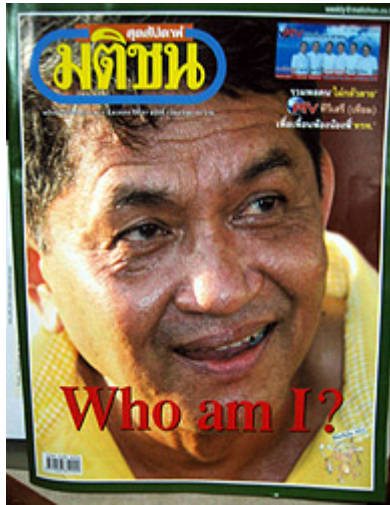
Over the past seven months, successive Thai governments have passed measures scrutinizing land purchases by non-Thais and clamping down on long-stay retirees and expatriate workers who lack proper visas. In January, the cabinet passed a sweeping bill that tightened restrictions on foreign companies, a measure that awaits final approval...

“We are getting a lot of weird retirees here,” Vongthip said. “They can’t survive in your country so they come here.”

Who am I?

March 23, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup



“Who am I?” – *Matichon Weekly*, February 23-March 1, 2007

The cover story on General Sonthi is critical of the speech he gave about wanting the Thaicom satellite back under Thai ownership.

The writer contends that General Sonthi should ask himself “Who is General Sonthi?” Since he is the chairperson of CNS he should be 1000 times more careful and circumspect than other people. Otherwise his views could be distorted and not understood by foreigners. It might seem that the head of the coup sends a signal to seize assets back from private businesses.

When Thais say “Who am I?” in this kind of situation, a better translation meaningwise in English is something like “You should remember/be aware of who you are.”

Rare dolphin could vanish from Songkhla

March 24, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Rare dolphin could vanish from Songkhla](#) – Bangkok Post, March 24, 2007

There has been a dramatic decline in the Irrawaddy dolphin population in Songkhla Lake, and the rare creatures could soon disappear from the area completely unless conservation measures are stepped up, according to the Marine and Coastal Resources Department. Seven Irrawaddy dolphins—three females, two males, and two calves—have been found dead in Songkhla Lake since October last year...

Please return to lost and found: public safety

March 24, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Please return to lost and found: public safety](#) – *The Nation*, March 24, 2007

...On an emotional note, there has not been a single word of apology from the coach company. To take a cue from previous cases, the operator will be allowed to run buses on the same routes pretty soon despite a one-week ban for now.

Even if the operator's licence is revoked, how can the authorities guarantee that a new operator will abide by the rules that are never respected nor feared in the first place?

The call for more stringent measures will fall, once again, on deaf ears. Just like the recycling of Thai lakorn (soap opera) plots, this whole vicious cycle will repeat itself when a tragic accident takes place in the future...

Mystery of missing Thai Silk King

March 25, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

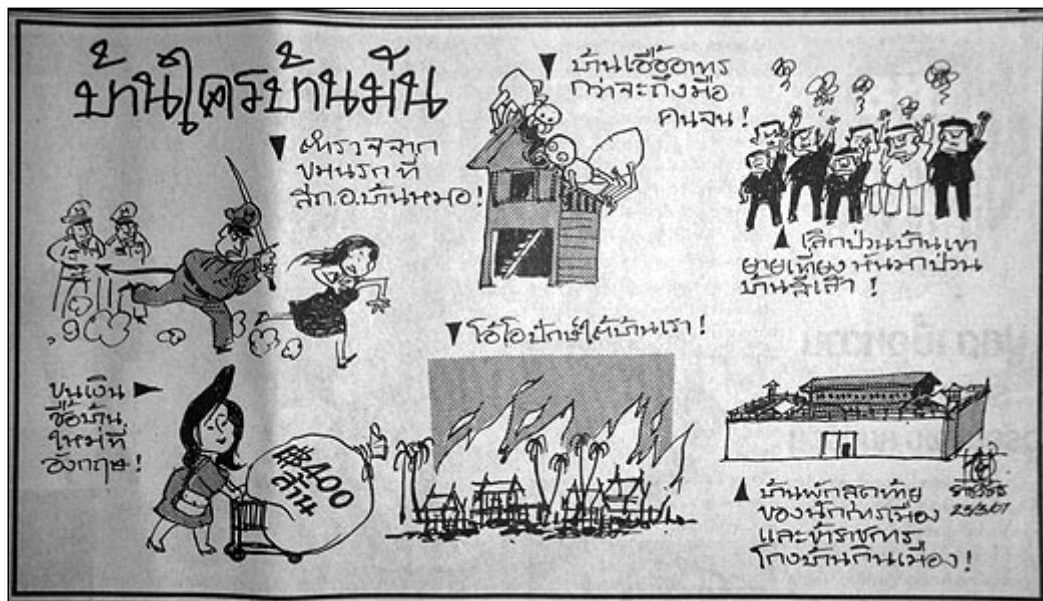
[Mystery of missing Thai Silk King](#) – BBC News, March 25, 2007

An American known as the Thai Silk King walked out of his Malaysian holiday cottage 40 years ago and never returned...

“Whose house?”

March 25, 2007

Categories: Uncategorized



"Whose house?" – *Thairath* by Chai Ratchawat, March 25, 2007

Top left to right: Police from hell from Ban Mor police station

Ban Ua arethorn, before it belonged to poor people.

Stop stirring up trouble at Ban Khao Yai Tieng , come to stir up trouble at Ban Sisao

Bottom left to right: Carry money to buy a new house in England – 400 million baht

Oh.. our home in the south.

The last house of politicians and officials who corrupt and cheat the nation.

Also: [Kao Lao cartoons](#)

It is strange

March 25, 2007

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



"It is strange" – Kaolaoruummitr, Matichon, March 25, 2007

Top from left to right:

Some TV channel—if we want to watch—we must go to Sanam Luang.

When they revolted , we gave them flowers. At present we are afraid they will continue power.

Why are some people diligently leading lighting to the constitution?

Right: amnesty]

Bottom: Housewife and driver come back to be famous again.

We have good soldiers, but we did not send them to quell the southern thieves.

He was PM for eight years, but he was not debated. Now he is debated at Sanam Luang.

Children lured into Thai sex industry

March 26, 2007

[Children lured into Thai sex industry](#) –
Zeenews, March 26, 2007

Blocked in China?

March 26, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Blocked in China? –

March 26, 2007

Don reports: [Test any website](#) and see in real-time if it's censored in China. 2Bangkok–Good news! You're not blocked in China. (Yet.)

“Unity leads to power”

March 27, 2007



"Unity leads to power" –

March 27, 2007

More interesting Thai websites appear every day: *Welcome to Police Cadet 49 Dot Com We are Royal Thai Police*

... *Unity Leads to Power* ...



Right-wing magazine from the south

March 27, 2007



Right-wing magazine from the south –
March 27, 2007

This is *Kha Paendin Siam* , a right-wing news magazine.

Among the headlines:

Religious treasure

Development-oriented governor Mekin Methawikul

Be careful!

Bad situation, a result of Thaksin

Miraculous fate + Seeking fortune

Why did they rush general election?

Right: The issue contains an article “Following the trail of Thaksin” – Among other things, the article says that after the bombings in Bangkok, he gave interviews to the Asian Wallstreet Journal and CNN to discredit the CNS and the government and not accept being dismissed from Thailand.



Buddhist Thai People in Iceland

March 28, 2007

[Buddhist Thai People in Iceland](#) – spcm, March 28, 2007

Stallone hires 30-year-old body double as he resurrects Rambo

March 28, 2007

Categories: Film and TV

[Stallone hires 30-year-old body double as he resurrects Rambo](#) – *Daily Mail*, March 28, 2007

...Unsurprisingly, Stallone was accompanied on set in Bangkok, Thailand, by a younger fitter body double, who will do some of the stunts the sexagenarian will find too challenging...

MSU Symphony Orchestra salutes Thailand in March 30 concert

March 29, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[MSU Symphony Orchestra salutes Thailand in March 30 concert](#) – *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, March 29, 2007

Australia sets up fund to curb deforestation in Southeast Asia

March 29, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Australia sets up fund to curb deforestation in Southeast Asia](#) – *The Associated Press*, March 29, 2007

Australia sought Thursday to position itself as a regional leader in fighting climate change, announcing a fund to curb deforestation in Southeast Asia, a move it said would be more effective than the Kyoto Protocol...

Old maps of Thailand

March 29, 2007

Old maps of Thailand –

March 29, 2007

Pas comments: *I'm not sure if you've seen this website. It has a collection of [old maps of Thailand](#).*

Southern boxing magazine

March 29, 2007



Southern boxing magazine –

March 29, 2007

Interesting magazine headed with photos of Prem, PM Surayud, and Gen. Sonthi. It reads:

Muay Siam

Historic day for Thai boxing circles

Thailand's friendship boxing competition

Unifying Thai hearts towards the South

We must do good deeds for the nation in which we were born.

Server load issues/attacks

March 29, 2007

Server load issues/attacks – March 29, 2007

2Bangkok.com is experiencing server load issues from both high numbers of readers and some DoS attacks on the site. If 2Bangkok.com is offline from time to time this is why. We are working to get the problem solved.

[David from Mangosause has a comment about these DoS attacks](#)

PTV protest at Sanam Luang

March 30, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

At the plaza in front of the BMA building, a large group of people turn out for the PTV protest

Almost like being there: PTV protest at Sanam Luang – 6:34pm, March 30, 2007

More: [PTV and PTV rallies](#)

Also: [High tension in Thailand](#)

How many protesters?

This protest was probably no larger than the [March 23](#) rally, but just packed into a smaller space.

Other media estimates:

Thousands – [Thousands join anti-government rally](#) – TNA, March 29, 2007

Thousands of citizens gathered peacefully Friday to listen to anti-government speeches by former key members of the then ruling Thai Rak Thai Party of deposed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra...

1,000 – [PTV rally speakers again rail at junta](#) – *The Nation*, March 31, 2007

PTV station's anti-coup rally went ahead yesterday in front of City Hall amid tight police security and attended by just over 1,000 people...

3,000 – [Crowd small and peaceful at Thai anti-government protest](#) – IHT, March 30, 2007

...Up to 3,000 people attended, according to district police chief Col. Chumporn Karnchanarat...

4,000 – [4,000 join pro-Thaksin protest](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 31, 2007

...About 4,000 people converged at City Hall's Lan Khon Muang public ground for a rally led by PTV, the

satellite-based television station launched by former members of the Thai Rak Thai party founded by deposed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

People in the crowd



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Another view of BMA plaza – As with [last week's protest](#), the crowd seemed very attentive, but sedate.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Meanwhile at Sanam Luang, a smattering of people listen to an impassioned speech



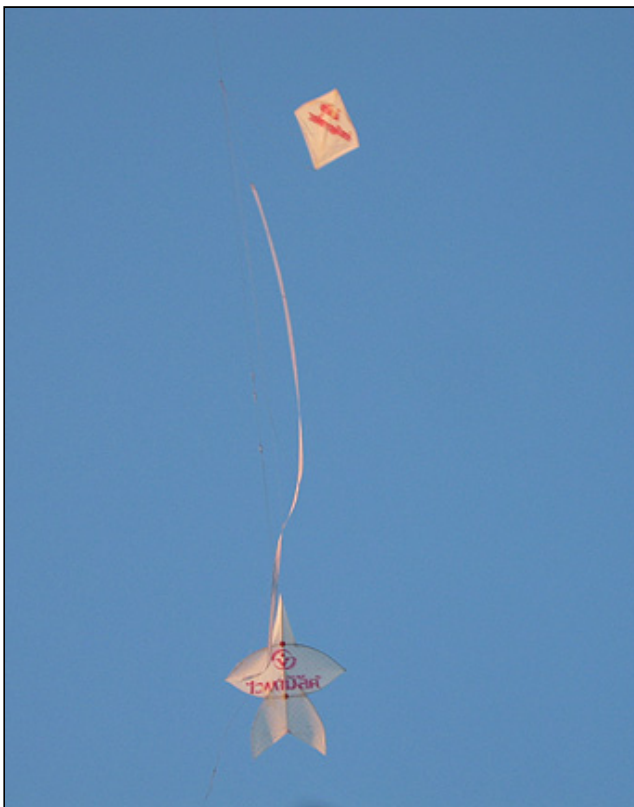
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Another view of the Sanam Luang protest



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Most of the park was filled with a kite fighting competition (above and below)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

More: [PTV and PTV rallies](#)
Also: [High tension in Thailand](#)

The Changing Face of Mae Sot, Thailand's "Little Burma"

March 30, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The Changing Face of Mae Sot, Thailand's "Little Burma"](#) – *The Irawaddy*, March 30, 2007

Whenever I go to Mae Sot I see gradual and slow changes. But on my latest visit, after an absence of almost eight months, I saw evidence of rapid growth...

CAPTION CONTEST Look, who's talking?

March 30, 2007

[CAPTION CONTEST Look, who's talking?](#) – *The Nation*, March 30, 2007

Spin at The Nation

March 31, 2007

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

Spin at *The Nation* – March 31, 2007

Hamish writes: *Sterling work being done at 2B as usual. You may already be aware of this, but if not you might find it interesting. [The Nation article about Junta powers in BKK](#) that you posted a link to on Wednesday is followed by a set of comments. Next to each avatar is the IP of the poster. As pointed out by one of the other posters on the site, there is a group of seven comments each made consecutively using a different pseudonym espousing fairly tough pro gvt and anti Thaksin rhetoric. All however come from the same IP address. Proof perhaps, if any were needed, that spin comes in all shapes and sizes.*

Troubles in the South – April 2007

April 1, 2007

Categories: The Thai Deep South



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)

Scenes from the deep south

Monkey reports: *This is a photo of Ban Bangpoo School, Amphur Yaring, Pattani when it was burning in mid-April.*



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)

Monkey reports: *The atmosphere of the Red Cross festival in Pattani that organized from May 5-14. There were many activities and contest of Mikayhoolu, OTOP products from Government and private organizations. The police and military provided strict control to protect against the unrest and get good cooperation from the people.*



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)

Pattani street –
April 20, 2007

Monkey reports: *Songkran in Pattani is more quiet than many years in the past because people are not confident that the authorities can provide security. People go out to another provinces to throw water instead. However the officers are not neglectful and still strictly control in the area, especially the seven dangerous days of Songkran in Pattani.*

Deep South media tours –
April 28, 2007

GWR writes: *...the following reports... do point out the deficiencies of the government's public relations efforts in the region.*

[*Is there hope for Thailand's south: A press tour – Thai Smile Coup to take over big screen?*](#)

The correspondent/blogger also seems somewhat naive in thinking that such a classroom would not normally be used for language teaching. It looks about ten times better than some I've taught in.

It also looks like they got no farther than a Hat Yai temple (the helicopter picture looks like a downtown temple I know with a municipal school.) They won't learn much about the issue there!

A tale of two newspapers

[PM rules out forging peace with militants](#) – Bangkok Post, April 21, 2007

The government will never make peace with the insurgents although it remains committed to a reconciliatory approach in rebuilding trust among the "good people," Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said during his tour of the South yesterday. Gen Surayud was adamant the solution to the southern insurgency was an emphasis on non-violent methods, which he said the government was adopting to regain the trust of the majority of law-abiding people in the region.

"But for the villains, the peaceful approach is out of the question," he said...

He also welcomed the suggestion of an amnesty for sympathisers of the insurgent groups put forth by Fourth Army commander Viroj Buacharoon.

Lt-Gen Viroj earlier proposed the introduction of a law similar to the now-abolished Anti-Communist Act to grant amnesty to insurgent supporters.

But the commander said the amnesty would be passed only if the supporters showed sincerity in re-integrating themselves into society and gave full cooperation to the government...

Surayud pushes amnesty in South – PM wants to draw militants back into ‘legal fold’ in hope of restoring peace – *The Nation*, April 21, 2007

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont has asked officials to explore the possibility of granting an amnesty to militants in the Malay-speaking South as part of a government strategy to restore peace in the Muslim-majority region, which has been plagued by more than three years of almost daily killings and violence. “At the policy level, I have no objection,” Surayud told reporters. “I want the issue to be clearly discussed at the local level and accepted by all parties concerned. The government is ready to enact the law in the future.”

Surayud said the goal was to draw the insurgents back into the country’s “legal fold”...

Thailand rejects U.S. help to quell insurgency – *CNN*, April 19, 2007

Thailand’s powerful army chief has rejected an American offer to help quell an Islamic insurgency in the country’s south, saying his forces can cope with the situation that has claimed more than 2,000 lives in three years...



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)

Krue Se Mosque –
April, 2007

Monkey writes: *The third anniversary of the incident at Krue Se Mosque, Amphur Muang Pattani. The military and safety officers still strictly control because they are afraid the situation will happen again. Meanwhile people still travel as usual, but in fewer numbers because they are not confident in safety.*



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)

Burned school –
May, 2007

Monkey writes: *The state of Ban Bangpoo School, Amphur Yaring, Pattani after the insurgents burned it. Both stories of the building were damaged. This makes people in the area feel depressed because the area is in community of Bangpoo municipality where there are many people live and work. People did not think something like this would happened.*



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)

Protection in the south –

April 10, 2007

Monkey reports: *Strict control: the atmosphere of military protection in Amphur Nongjik, Pattani. This year, the officers cooperated with the military and police to strictly control at the entrance of Nongjik District office because they are afraid of the unrest situation may spread there from Amphur Panarae.*

[A burned body illustrates martial law in Thailand](#) – Scoop, April 13, 2007



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Circumcision in the deep south –

April 11, 2007

Dr. Has reports: *Chansiew Medical and Public Health, Pattani branch, cooperates with TAO and municipality in Pattani to promote the cultural Sunat activity the children in the three southern provinces and nearby provinces. This is done in April before the new semester and is free of charge.*

[Thai Army Admits Government-backed Militia Shot Dead Four Muslim Youths](#) – AP, April 10, 2007

A Thai army spokesman acknowledged Tuesday that four Muslim youths riding in a pickup truck had been shot dead by government-backed village defense volunteers, rather than Islamic insurgents as authorities had originally announced.

The defense volunteers panicked and opened fire on the truck when they thought they were being attacked on Monday, said army spokesman Col Akara Thiprot...

Ambitions for top UN job soured Thai relations with neighbor

April 1, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ambitions for top UN job soured Thai relations with neighbor](#) –

ToTheCenter.com, April 1, 2007

But the newspaper was not approving what the then Thai government did during the race, and said, “However, ties took a nosedive after the two countries...

Try diligently, but it is useless

April 1, 2007

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



Try diligently, but it is useless... – *Kaoloaruammitr*, April 1, 2007

Top left to right: Try to be nude, but couldn't do merit.

The method of holding 30%. Try to hold, but the finance minister said it is only paper.

Try waiting a month to know the cause of fish death, but still do not know yet.

Bottom left to right: Try closing Sanam Luang, but could not stop the mob.

Try to make it, but the PM did not agree.

Try revolution, but nothing is better.

“Sorry, Asian only lah.”

April 2, 2007



"Sorry, Asian only lah." – April 2, 2007

Amusing ad from True Visions for their Asian movie channel...

Senator Lieberman and four others rap Thailand compulsory licenses on non-AIDS drugs

April 2, 2007

Categories: Drugs

[Senator Lieberman and four others rap Thailand compulsory licenses on non-AIDS drugs](#) – *HuffingtonPost*, April 2, 2007

Senator Joe Lieberman and four democrats (Menendez D-NJ, Lautenberg D-NJ, Carper D-Del, Feinstein D-CA) in the Senate have asked U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab to rough up Thailand over its plans to issue compulsory licenses on drug patents for diseases other than AIDS, TB or malaria...

Bangkok Vice: Buddhas, Boxers, and Bar Girls

April 2, 2007

[Bangkok Vice: Buddhas, Boxers, and Bar Girls](#) —
Slate, April 2, 2007

...Speaking of gay Buddhist dwarfs...

BMA outsmarted by jokers at taxi stands

April 2, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[BMA outsmarted by jokers at taxi stands](#) – *The Nation*, April 2, 2007

CNS members visit renowned fortune teller

April 2, 2007

Categories: Uncategorized

[CNS members visit renowned fortune teller](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 2, 2007

“Exclusive video clip of Sanam Luang clash”

April 2, 2007

"Exclusive video clip of Sanam Luang clash" – April 2, 2007

The Nation is trying to stream a grainy cellphone video of "clash" at Sanam Luang (apparently on March 23). However, their servers are so inadequate, you probably will not be able to see it. You can also get it via [this address](#) and then save the page.

Thailand investment curbs backfire, set stage for rally in baht

April 2, 2007

Categories: Economy

[Thailand investment curbs backfire, set stage for rally in baht](#) – *Bloomberg*, April 2, 2007

Outer Ring Road Bridge

April 2, 2007

Categories: Bridges

[Outer Ring Road Bridge](#) – April 2, 2007

Historian wants country called 'Siam'

April 3, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Historian wants country called 'Siam'](#) – *The Nation*, April 3, 2007

...The name "Thailand" does not fit with historical or present facts as there are more than 40 ethnic groups in the country, including Chinese, Tai, Hmong, Akha, Karen, Laotians, Khmer and Mon, said Charnvit, a senior advisor and lecturer at Thammasat University's Southeast Asian Studies Programme. Constitution drafters discussed the issue of renaming the Kingdom in 1949 and 1968...

Pongthep backed over coup question

April 3, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

[Pongthep backed over coup question](#) – *The Nation*, April 3, 2007

...The test asked: “If you are a judge and you were invited by coup makers to work for them for a salary more than you receive now, will you accept the work or not and why?”...

Plan unveiled to secure future of Thailand's tsunami-hit Andaman region

April 3, 2007

Categories: 2004 Tsunami

[Plan unveiled to secure future of Thailand's tsunami-hit Andaman region](#) – ADB, April 3, 2007

An ambitious masterplan was formally rolled today that will provide the tsunami-hit areas of Thailand's Andaman Coast with a sustainable medium development strategy to strengthen more short-term recovery efforts...

Darkie toothpaste

April 3, 2007

[Darkie toothpaste](#) – April 3, 2007

New patriotic ads showing on Thai TV

April 3, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

“Khunnatham Nam Thai” (“Morals Will Lead Thailand”) – April 3, 2007

[ADIntrend](#) has examples and comments on the new patriotic ads showing on Thai TV. Also mentioned in this [Nation](#) article.

“Bangkok Post” daily acts as voice of Zionistlobby in Thailand

April 4, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

["Bangkok Post" daily acts as voice of Zionist lobby in Thailand](#) – Islamic Republic News Agency, April 4, 2007

The Thai daily Bangkok Post affiliated to Thailand's Zionist lobby has been acting as the voice of Tel Aviv in the major developments of the Middle East and world of Islam...

The media experts of Southeast Asia believe that the Bangkok Post editorial is in line with the goals of the media centers associated with Zionists aiming to make Iran give up its inalienable international rights...

Buddhist billboard

April 5, 2007

Categories: Buddhism



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Buddhist billboard –

April 5, 2007

For about a month, these billboards, designed to influence public opinion over the constitution, have been on display around Bangkok.

This one reads:

Buddhists, let's support the new constitution to

1. name Buddhism as the state religion
2. specify that His Majesty must a Buddhist upholder of all religions

Note the mega bridge and outer ring road bridges in the distance.

[State religion 'like suicide'](#) – *The Nation*, May 5, 2007

Making Buddhism the national religion in Thailand's new constitution would be like "committing a double suicide", well-known Indonesian journalist Goenawan Mohamed said in Bangkok yesterday...

Shan tradition rules in a northern Thai town

April 5, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Shan tradition rules in a northern Thai town](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, April 5, 2007

Boxers Named Fighting Illegally in Thailand

April 5, 2007

Categories: Sports

[‘No fight in Thailand policy’ effective immediately](#) – *Asian Journal*, April 5, 2007

...Ermita said this was not the first time that Thai boxing authorities had allowed Filipinos to fight even without GAB’s permission.

Ermita said GAB had issued an “urgent appeal” to all licensed managers and promoters “not to place the lives of their boxers at severe risk by violating GAB policies, for the safety of Filipino boxers...”

[Thais blamed for tragedy](#) –

ABS CBN News, April 3, 2007

Former WBC youth flyweight champion Lito Sisnorio died of head injuries in Thailand early Saturday morning because Thai “mismatchmakers” choose to import inferior opposition for blood-thirsty local fans to enjoy a massacre by a hometown fighter...

[Boxers Named – Fighting Illegally in Thailand](#) –

BoxingScene.com, April 3, 2007

...Buhain noted that despite having suspended eleven people last year “there are still unscrupulous people going around looking for Filipino boxers who become punching bags in Thailand” and he would seek the help of the NBI in rounding up the guilty parties and making sure they are prosecuted.

Inform the Royal Thai Police

April 6, 2007

Categories: Thai Police

From a flyer handed out in Bangkok:

In trouble, in danger
Treated unfairly
Inform tips of vice and crimes
Please contact:
Complaint Center
Royal Thai Police
Patumwan, Bangkok
or jaray@police.go.th
P.O. Box 1234
Rong Muang, Bangkok, 10000
Tel: 0-2251-2891
Hot line center: 1194
Bangkok residents contact the Metropolitan Police Bureau
Provincial residents contact Provincial Police Office



Complaint Center –
Royal Thai Police

It is the duty of the Royal Thai Police to keep the society in peace, promote justice and serve the public. We do our duty with patience, honesty and efficiency. To understand people's problems relating to police work, the comprehensive complaint center is established.

Objectives

1. To offer people more opportunities to submit complaints and problems resulting from police's operation or negligence in carrying out their duty;
2. To receive information and hints about people's problems, unfair treatment, vice, crimes and other illegal activities;
3. To promote justice, offer services and solve people's problems in a fast and transparent manner;
4. To offer people a chance to express their ideas about police's operation;
5. To be used as a tool to examine police's operation; and
6. To bring back people's confidence and build a good image of the Royal Thai Police.

Establishment of Complaint Center

1. The Royal Thai Police: The Office of the Inspector-General set up a complaint center, controlled and supervised by inspectors. The center is open for people nationwide.
2. The Metropolitan Police Bureau: A complaint center was set up at the Metropolitan Police Bureau to receive complaints about problems in Bangkok.
3. Provincial offices: A complaint center was set up at each provincial office to receive complaints in the province.

Asean facing volatility similar to financial crisis: Thailand

April 6, 2007

Categories: Economy

[Asean facing volatility similar to financial crisis: Thailand](#) – *The Brunei Times*, April 6, 2007

Market volatility is similar now to the Asian financial crisis a decade ago, Thailand's Finance Minister Chalongphob Sussangkarn yesterday said...

Red faces after porn comics ordered off shelves

April 6, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Red faces after porn comics ordered off shelves](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 6, 2007

... "At first I thought they were just common cartoon books until I saw my children engrossed in reading them for the whole day," said Mrs Panee...

Coup the only tactic!

April 6, 2007

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



Coup the only tactic! – *Nation Weekend*, April 6, 2007

The headline means something like "Coup is the only answer for them" or "Coup is their only option or tactic" perhaps implying that the military do not use a variety of tactics or that another coup might be in the works—this is a particular theme of the Nation Group recently.

Throat inflamed – *Siamrat Weekly*, April 6, 2007

In March, General Sonthi used the Thai expression, “like a throat and an Adam’s apple” to show the CNS and the government were working very closely together.

The headline on this magazine, "Throat inflamed," means that the PM, the "throat" in the metaphor is ailing and thus not working well with the "adam's apple" or CNS.



“Justice for PTV = Justice for Thailand / PTV = People’s Television”

April 8, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The crowd was much larger than previous protests. Many in the crowd seemed to be cheering and showing more enthusiasm.

"Justice for PTV = Justice for Thailand / PTV = People’s Television" – 7:47pm, April 8, 2007

More: [PTV and PTV rallies](#)

Also: [High tension in Thailand](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Handling out anti-Prem booklets



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The Saturday Voice had an unused stage also. Around the perimeter of their area were blowups of insulting cartoons featuring Prem (the same ones from their website). They also had a board with printouts of articles from their website.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The main stage – Just like the *Thailand Weekly* protests of last year they have put their slogan into English. It reads "Justice for PTV = Justice for Thailand / PTV = People's Television"



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Another view of the crowd

More: [PTV and PTV rallies](#)
Also: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Decent and safe Songkran at Khao Sarn Road

April 8, 2007

Categories: Songkran

[Decent and safe Songkran at Khao Sarn Road](#) –

TNA, April 8, 2007

...Police said business operators along Khao Sarn Road had decided to celebrate the water splashing festival April 12-15 and that the organisers wanted revellers to wear Thai dress. They are also asking women refrain from wearing 'revealing' clothing as in past festivals...

[Asian tourists turn away from Thailand amid political uncertainty](#) – AFP, April 7, 2007

Asian tourists have begun turning away from Thailand, official statistics show, prompting concern that holidaymakers might be avoiding the kingdom because of its continuing political woes...

Phone Booth Bombing

April 10, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Phone booth bombing –
April 10, 2007

[Cinema bombing unlinked to southern unrest, says NSC](#) – TNA, April 10, 2007

[Bomb at Bangkok cinema didn't target lives](#) – TNA, April 10, 2007

[Security stepped up after Bangkok bombing](#) – AFP, April 10, 2007

[Bomb explosion at a Bangkok theatre](#) – *The Nation*, April 10, 2007

Earlier: [New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok at Saphan Kwai](#)

Earlier: [New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok at Victory Monument](#)

Compare and contrast: [Hat Yai blasts](#) from September 17, 2006

More on [High tension in Thailand](#)

More on [Troubles in the South](#)

2B Fact File: [Notable terrorist incidents in Thailand – 1970-present](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Google Earth in the Thai newspapers – *Daily News*, April 11, 2007

Left: Interesting how the *Daily News* uses Google Earth to show the location of the April 10 bombing.



Sketch of the bomber – *Khao Sod*, April 13, 2007

Police show sketch of the April 10 bombing suspect.



Chomsky on the Thai coup

April 11, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

Chomsky on the Thai coup – April 11, 2007

Austin writes: *I found this story about [Chomsky commenting on the coup](#)...*

Diplomat's blog backfires over sex talk

April 11, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Diplomat's blog backfires over sex talk](#) – Metro, April 11, 2007

A British diplomat abroad has become embroiled in a sex scandal after his attempts at blogging backfired. Ian Proud has been accused of being a regular in Bangkok's red-light district – and of being part of a British Embassy elite sipping gin-and-tonics while locals struggle and starve...

Right: The original title given to the piece as it appeared in *Metro*.

The Nation's triumphant announcement of the blog: [NATION WEBLOG Chief of British Embassy's political Division blogging](#) and [the blog itself](#)

Results 1 - 10 of about 17 for **British diplomat blog.** (0)

[View all web results for British diplomat blog](#) Sorted by relevance

[Our Man In Bangkok's blog sparks 'two-dollar whore' furore](#)
Metro, UK - 3 hours ago
A **British** diplomat abroad has become embroiled in a sex scandal after his attempts at blogging backfired. Ian Proud has been accused of being a regular in ...

[Chief of British Embassy's political Division blogging](#)
Nation Multimedia, Thailand - Apr 9, 2007

Setbacks for investors

April 11, 2007

Categories: Economy

[Setbacks for investors – Foreign developers on Samui suspend work](#) – *The Nation*, April 11, 2007

...Property developers from the UK and Scandinavia have announced the sale of nearly Bt6 billion worth of their projects on Koh Samui, following a new city plan and a lack of clarity in the amended Foreign Business Act.

Research by the Agency for Real Estate Affairs indicates the new city plan on Koh Samui will mandate that property projects cannot be constructed higher than 150 metres above sea level. As a result, British and Scandinavian property developers planning projects higher than that must suspend them...

Songkran Cartoons 2007

April 13, 2007

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Songkran

Songkran cartoons – 2007

[Songkran main page](#)



Above: Maticchon, April 13, 2007 –

Songkarn is the time for gratefulness. If it focuses only on throwing water it will be valueless.

If the MPs still change faces and there is still greed, rage, misguidedness then the people are poison. So throwing water for Songkarn.



Above: Kom Chad Luek, April 13, 2007 – Happy Songkarn day 2007 – Wish the reader happiness in the year of the golden pig

Thai Airways route map, October 1952

April 13, 2007

Categories: Airports and Airlines



Thai Airways route map, October 1952

Suspected drug dealers

April 13, 2007

Suspected drug dealers – *Daily News*, April 13, 2007

The police arrested suspected drug dealers at the "Living Room" building in Dindaeng. Two others (bottom) were shot dead.



Mafia in khaki prey on bus passengers

April 15, 2007

Categories: Thai Military

[Mafia in khaki prey on bus passengers](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 15, 2007

Tourists, migrants searched, held, forced to part with money to secure own release...

Free Thai Cinema Movement Petition

April 16, 2007

Categories: Film and TV

Free Thai Cinema Movement Petition – April 16, 2007

[Pat of Chicago Filmmakers](#) writes: *Apichatpong ("Joe") used to live in Chicago (he attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago) and I was one of the very first people to show his work (shorts, before he moved to features). He is a terrifically talented filmmaker and internationally known and acclaimed. And a really nice guy....*



Below is a statement about his recent film that is not approved for release in Thailand unless cuts are made...

Also: *Syndromes and a Century* (Sang Sattawat) on [IMDB](#) and [Wikipedia](#)

Free Thai Cinema Movement Petition

Statement by Apichatpong Weerasethakul

with Bioscope, the Thai Film Foundation, Thai Film Director's Association, and Alliances.

I am saddened by what has happened to my film. However, this is not the venue to try to make SYNDROMES AND A CENTURY shown in Thai theaters. It

is not my intention to use this opportunity to promote my work.

But, it is time to seriously think about what is going on with our censorship laws, so that the next generation of filmmakers will not face the same problems as us, and so that the Thai audiences can truly achieve a freedom of choice.

It is time we discuss whether all films, before being released, should be seen by the Buddhist council, doctors council, teachers council, labor council, the army, pet lovers group, taxi union, representatives from other foreign countries etc? Or, is it easier to turn our nation into a Fascist state so that we can live in harmony and don't have to waste time talking about democracy?

The system of the Thai Board of Censors needs to be evaluated. Their members' relevancy and efficiency needs to be questioned, and we should decide whether the laws should be changed.

I would like to ask you to reflect on the censorship practices in our country and to provide us with advice at <http://www.petitiononline.com/nocut/petition.html>

Later on, this Petition will be submitted to the Thai government. Your support will be a great contribution to our fight for one of our most basic rights – that of freedom.

I am grateful for your time and your participation. Thank you very much.

Warmest Regards,
Apichatpong Weerasethakul

Thai director withdraws 'Syndromes' –

Weerasethakul at odds with censors – *Variety*, April 15, 2007

...Censorship board responded by threatening to make the cuts itself and has refused to return the print to distributor Bioscope...

Earlier: Thai censors want 'Syndrome' snips –

Move raises moral crackdown questions – *Variety*, April 12, 2007

...Controversial scenes in the movie about the memories of two doctors include an image of a young monk casually strumming a guitar; a scene of four doctors drinking whisky in a hospital storeroom; and a scene of a male doctor kissing his girlfriend in the hospital's locker room.



A representative from the Thai Medical Council said that the scenes involving doctors are improper and do not portray good conduct by medical professionals. "Drinking liquor is OK, but drinking it in a hospital is not," Supawat Pothong of the Council's law department said. The scene showing the monk playing the guitar is against the Buddhist precepts, according to the censorship board...

Also interesting – **UNKNOWN FORCES: APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL:** Says Weerasethakul, *"UNKNOWN FORCES is also for the hard workers and hard drinkers of the northeast, my home region, who are the root of Thailand's booming real estate. These construction workers are hauled around by contractors from one construction site to another, roaming cities and villages. Thailand's landscape is shaped by these nomadic souls on pickup trucks. Like many actors I know, the workers have resided in a hierarchic system for so long that they are voiceless and are assigned to be part of an apolitical species... On many occasions I feel I am part of this pickup truck syndrome, fueled by a strange cocktail of politics, monarchy, and religion."*

Thaksin's pet project scrutinised

April 16, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Thaksin's pet project scrutinised](#) – Bangkok Post, April 16, 2007

...Executives of its units, such as the Thailand Knowledge Park (TK Park) and Thailand Creative and Design Centre (TCDC), were paid as much as 200,000-300,000 baht a month, he said.

...Since it was set up in 2004, budgets of more than five billion baht had been allocated to the organisation, which had spent nearly three billion baht. Half of that went into executive salaries, said the source...

Thaksin's pet project scrutinised

Audit: Output doesn't justify hefty budget

AMPA SANTIMATANEDOL

The Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) is looking into lavish spending by the Office of Knowledge Management and Development (OKMD), a brainchild of the ousted Thaksin Shinawatra administration to turn the country into a knowledge-based society.

OAG's deputy chief Pisit Leelavachirapas said an initial inquiry found the output of the public organisation under the PM's Office did not justify its hefty bills.

Executives of its units, such as the Thailand Knowledge Park (TK Park) and Thailand Creative and Design Centre (TCDC), were paid as much as 200,000-300,000 baht a month, he said.

The Thaksin government seemed to have set up the office to serve political ends rather than the national interest, Mr Pisit said.

The OAG was conducting a routine investigation into the OKMD in terms of its value for money and transparency, when it stumbled on the high expenditure.

An OAG source said auditors had been examining the OKMD's management and investment worthiness for almost three months.

Their findings would be presented after the Songkran break.

Since it was set up in 2004, budgets of more than five billion baht had been allocated to the organisation, which had spent nearly three billion baht. Half of that went into executive salaries, said the source.

The OKMD's budget for this year was cut from the requested 1.5 billion baht to one billion baht.

The OKMD has seven units according to its website www.okmd.or.th. They are TCDC, at the Emporium shopping mall, TK Park at CentralWorld in Bangkok and in Yala, and the National Discovery Museum Institute.

TCDC focuses on exhibitions to inspire people to come up with new ideas.

TK park was to serve Mr Thaksin's dream of a modern library in the country on a par with libraries in Singapore.

The Discovery project is to create museums similar to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

Other projects are the Thailand Centre of Excellence for Life Sciences, the Centre for the Promotion of National Strength on Moral Ethics and Values, the National Centre for the Gifted and Talented, and the National Institute for Brain-Based Learning.

OKMD was run by Pansak Vinyaratn, a chief adviser to then prime minister Thaksin when it was created in 2004. He resigned in January and also lost his job as TCDC chairman in the same month after six out of the nine TCDC commissioners tendered their resignations, disabling the commission.

Former OKMD deputy director Nirand Pitakwatchara cited a management conflict for his recent decision to leave the position he took up only in February.

"Its a top-down decision making process, which is similar to the public sector, and has slowed down the work," he said.

"The OKMD is business-oriented and tailored its activities to city folks."

He had accepted the job expecting the OKMD to be knowledge-based, but he found it focused on image-creating. Its activities also promoted capitalism, competition and the city lifestyle.

The board was made up of Mr Thaksin's close aides, including Shin Corp CEO and executive chairman Boonkee Plangsiri and Prommin Lertsuridej, a secretary-general to Mr Thaksin when it launched.

The source said Mr Pansak received a big pay cheque as TCDC chairman, as much as 300,000 baht a month _ much more than the prime minister's own salary.

Thai Rak Thai's farming projects 'struggling'

April 16, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Thai Rak Thai's farming projects 'struggling'](#) – Bangkok Post, April 16, 2007

...Fish farming ponds in ponoh schools lay abandoned, and herds of cows and goats had fallen to half their original number when first introduced, the source said.

The source cited a lack of understanding of people's traditional livelihoods as the main reason for the failures.

The projects were initiated by the ministry with little account for people's needs, he said.

"We gave them catfish, cows, and the like. But they showed little interest in raising them.

"When they raise goats, they just let them roam free and feed themselves instead of doing what we have instructed them to do in a systematic way," the source said...

Thai Rak Thai's farming projects 'struggling'

PIYAPORN WONGRUANG

Farming projects introduced to improve the economy in the three southernmost provinces are struggling to bear fruit because officials lack understanding of the region's traditional farming methods, a source has said.

A recent internal review by the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry showed that schemes introduced in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat by the Thai Rak Thai government were plagued by problems.

Fish farming ponds in ponoh schools lay abandoned, and herds of cows and goats had fallen to half their original number when first introduced, the source said.

The source cited a lack of understanding of people's traditional livelihoods as the main reason for the failures.

The projects were initiated by the ministry with little account for people's needs, he said.

"We gave them catfish, cows, and the like. But they showed little interest in raising them.

"When they raise goats, they just let them roam free and feed themselves instead of doing what we have instructed them to do in a systematic way," the source said.

The project started in 2004 with a budget of 936 million baht. The projects included commercial farming, career development, expanding palm oil plantations, improving irrigation, developing rubber farming and opening fruit sorting centres.

According to the ministry's internal report, the palm plantation expansion and fruit sorting projects had encountered the most problems.

Only 1,300 tonnes of longan had passed through the 20 fruit sorting centres, and only about 4,000 rai had been converted into palm oil plantations, just one tenth of the project's target.

It cited daily violence as one reason preventing new palm oil farms from expanding.

Paitoon Somkeo, a southern native and scholar at the Local Development Institute, said people in the South did not have as many economic problems as officials presumed.

He said the region was rich in natural resources and most residents were more or less self-sufficient.

He criticised the projects for being too focussed on political aims.

"They did not even know that ponoh are not just schools. They also are spiritual places," said Mr Paitoon.

The source said that following the report, the ministry has begun revising plans for projects on 293 farms this year.

Next year, it will divide development plans for the areas into two main groups, those serving people's needs, and those following agencies' functions, he said.

"Through these plans, we also hope to help forge reconciliation among the people there," the source said.

More Bridge News

April 17, 2007

Categories: Bridges



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

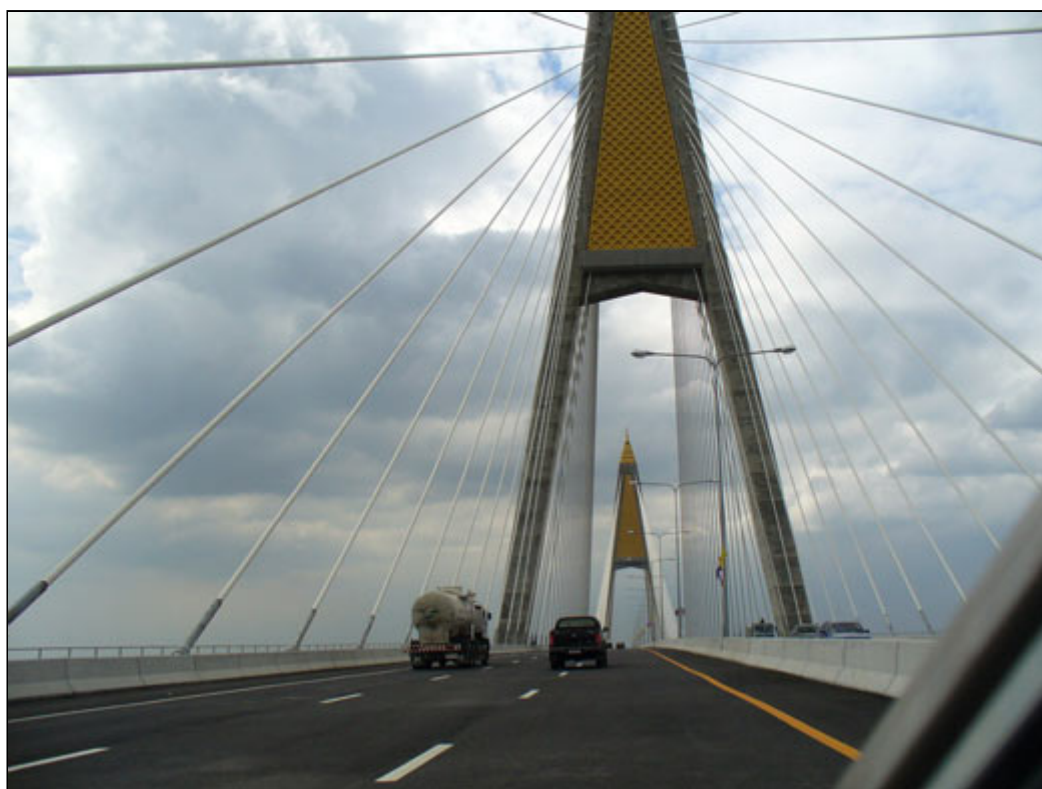
Three bridges –

December 23, 2006

Left to right: The [Mega Bridge](#) (it has a number of [unofficial names](#)), the outer ring road bridge (under construction), and the Rama IX Bridge. Link to [larger image](#). Google Earth placemarks – [Mega Bridge](#), [outer ring road bridge](#), [Rama IX Bridge](#)



(Photo: Jerry)



(Photo: Jerry)

Scenes from the new Outer Ring Road Bridge – November 20, 2007



(Photo: Jerry)

Opening ceremony for Outer Ring Road Bridge – November 15, 2007

Jerry writes: *This is a far-away shot at 10:20 this morning—1 minute after opening.*



(Photo: Jerry)

Outer Ring Road Bridge almost ready –
October 28, 2007

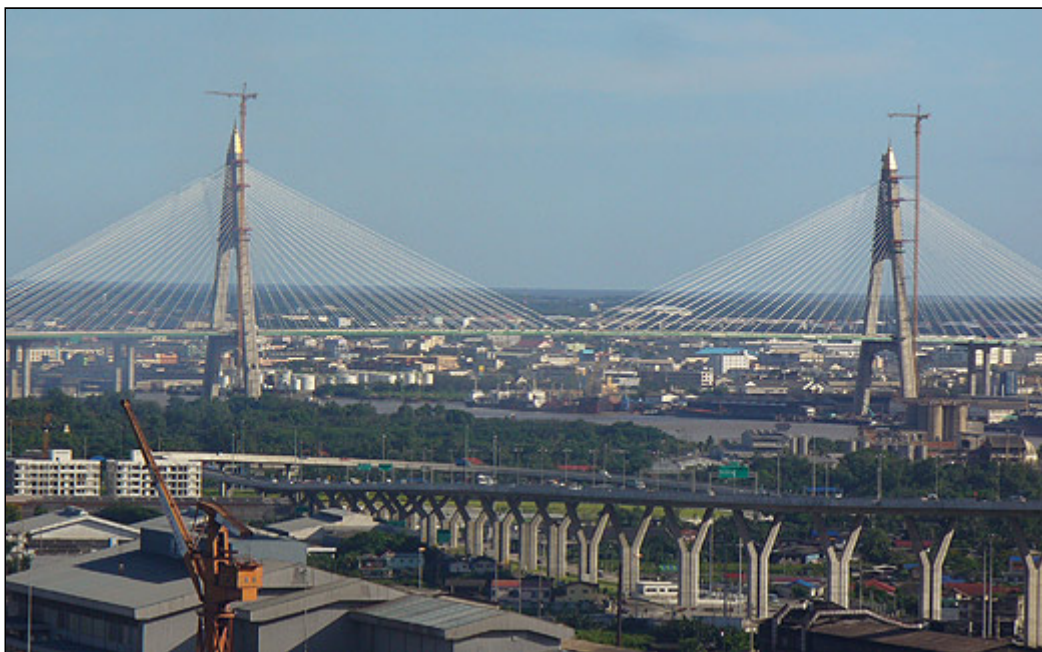
Jerry writes: *Still not open, but today some bikers were crossing the bridge. This photo looking east.*



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Painting the Rama 9 Bridge – October 6, 2007

Recently the previously non-description grey Rama 9 Bridge has been painted royal yellow to match the Mega Bridge.



(Photo: Jerry)

Outer ring road bridge – June 8, 2007

Latest photo of the outer ring road bridge with the new golden tops on the spires.

[BMA to revive 4 Chao Phraya bridge projects worth B10bn](#) – Bangkok Post, June 6, 2007

...the first bridge, estimated to cost one billion baht,

will cross the Chao Phraya river between Ratchawong and Din Daeng piers.

The second bridge, costing 2.4 billion baht, will cross between Lat Ya and Maha Phruttharam roads.

The third bridge, at 3.2 billion baht, will cross between Chan and Charoen Nakhon roads, and the fourth bridge, at 4.4 billion baht, will cross between the Kiakkai area and Bang Phlad district...

Progress

announced on two more Thai-Lao bridges – TNA,

April 17, 2007

Thailand and Laos affirm that no obstacles will be encountered in building the third and fourth Thai-Lao 'friendship' bridges respectively. Both will be completed in 2011 as planned...

Outer Ring Road Bridge – April 2, 2007

Chulalongkorn study says new Thai-Lao bridge to create problems – TNA, December 24, 2006

A number of Thai social problems will arise from the second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge which was opened officially last Wednesday, according to a study conducted by Chulalongkorn University's Asian Studies Centre...



Doubling the Rama 9 Bridge –
October 26, 2006

Vin writes: *I have found this website, www.praram9bridge.com. it is the site prepared against the new bridge to be constructed parallel to Praram 9 bridge. It is the site made by a club named 'Praram 9 Bridge Lover Club' presenting the impact of the proposal to the existing bridge and community around the area. Although most of the information is provided in Thai, you can look at pictures on the eighth topic which many of them are very nice.*

More: Mainly, they don't want this new bridge to double the existing one. But if the expressway authority still insist to do it, they prepare several suggestions to modify the new bridge to reducing the impact such as replicating the design from the old bridge or redesigning the slope or reducing the levels that overlap each other.

However, actually they don't want it. If you look at the possible routes for the bridge, this is the fourth option, and the route doesn't make sense. But it is likely that they gonna choose this route due to much less land owners to negotiate.

[New bridge to Laos opened – Mukdahan wonders why](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 20, 2006

[New bridge to Laos opens today](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 20, 2006

Asian celebrity vloggers robbed in Thailand

April 17, 2007

Categories: Crime

[Asian celebrity vloggers robbed in Thailand](#) – send2press.com, April 17, 2007

The three members of the popular online show Huge In Asia (www.hugeinasia.com) were robbed of their camera and film equipment yesterday in central Chiang Mai, the trio claims. Local officials have not yet identified any of the culprits but say that an investigation is underway...

Belgian geoses Thai lady in Pattaya restaurant

April 17, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Belgian geoses Thai lady in Pattaya restaurant](#) – *Pattaya Daily News*, April 17, 2007

Thais tepid about changing name back to Siam

April 17, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thais tepid about changing name back to Siam](#) – Bangkok Post, April 17, 2007

Historian Charnvit Kasetsiri says he has not given up in his bid to change Thailand's name back to Siam, despite a lukewarm public response to the idea. Mr Charnvit launched his campaign online at www.petitiononline.com/siam2007 two weeks ago, seeking public support to have the name Siam restored in the new constitution...

More successful seems to be the [Free Thai Cinema Movement Petition](#)

Progress announced on two more Thai-Lao bridges

April 17, 2007

Categories: Bridges

[Progress](#)

[announced on two more Thai-Lao bridges](#) – TNA,

April 17, 2007

Thailand and Laos affirm that no obstacles will be encountered in building the third and fourth Thai-Lao 'friendship' bridges respectively. Both will be completed in 2011 as planned...

GET vs Krungthep Thanakom

April 18, 2007

GET vs Krungthep Thanakom –
April 18, 2007

A reader forwards this interesting press release and adds: *The company's website is www.honuatech.com. Honua is the new name of the company in America, but contract was signed as Global Environmental.*

CONTACT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shani Yamada

Global Environmental Technologies

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Fax: 808-523-3122

Krungthep Thanakom Company Goes to Trial in USA

Managing Director Testifies that Krungthep Thanakom Company is Private

Honolulu, HI, USA –April 15, 2007– For Immediate Release

[The Krungthep Thanakom Company, Ltd.](#) will go to trial in Honolulu, HI, USA against Global Environmental Technologies, "GET." GET has filed suit in the United States Federal Court alleging breach of contract. GET alleges that it signed a USD 4.3 million purchase order agreement with Krungthep Thanakom to replace Bangkok's aging medical waste incinerators with environmentally safe autoclaves and a pyrolysis system. According to GET, the existing Bangkok incinerators were not compliant with current

environmental standards, and the Krungthep Thanakom Company and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration wanted to replace them.

Mr. Amorn Kitchawengkul, Managing Director of the Krungthep Thanakom Company is appearing in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA to represent Krungthep Thanakom. The trial is scheduled to start on April 17th and Mr. Kitchawengkul arrived in Hawaii on April 11th.

GET alleges that Krungthep Thanakom signed the purchase order agreement on October 21, 2003. GET further alleges witnesses saw the governor of Bangkok, as the representative of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's 99% ownership of the Krungthep Thanakom Company, direct Mr. Kitchawengkul to sign the purchase agreement.

GET alleges that prior to the contract signing the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and Krungthep Thanakom were represented interchangeably to GET. Mr. Kitchawengkul has testified that Krungthep Thanakom is a private

company. He also testified that Krungthep Thanakom is 99.98% owned by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. This clearly highlights the need to determine whether Krungthep Thanakom is a private or public entity. GET is interested to learn of this determination, because if the Krungthep Thanakom Company is found to be public, then the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration may become responsible for any damages awarded to GET.

In The Name Of The Devil – I'm Just One dust in Thailand

April 19, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok

["In The Name Of The Devil – I'm Just one dust in Thailand."](#) – April 19, 2007

[This blog](#) lists 2Bangkok under "Taboo Link." It's better than being under the "Poor Link" section like [Manager](#) is or "Amateur News" like [Matichon](#).

Thailand: The racist legacy of a name

April 19, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The racist legacy of a name](#) – Bangkok Post, April 19, 2007

...While the inclusive Siam is more in line with our pluralistic society, the word Thailand gives ownership to only the ethnic Thais while alienating other ethnic groups as "the outsiders".

This is why we see the hill peoples in the North and along the western borders as non-Thais, although their ancestors probably lived here long before ours. The same with the ethnic Malay Muslims in the deep South. Because we see them as outsiders, we feel they are not entitled to have the same rights. We feel it is perfectly alright to treat them as we see fit. We think it is okay to impose the secular culture on the pious Muslim communities, to evict forest dwellers from their ancestral homes, to exploit their natural resources at our whim, to subject migrant workers to back-breaking work with little pay, or to keep their children from receiving an education.

Because we have been brainwashed to believe that we ethnic Thais are sole owners of the land, we feel indifferent to other ethnic groups' sufferings. In the process, we have become tacit accomplices in the exploitation.

Thai film survives the Singapore Snip

April 20, 2007

Categories: Film and TV

[Thai film survives the Singapore Snip](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 20, 2007

Thai director Apichatpong Weerasethakul's "Syndromes and a Century," features scenes of a monk playing a guitar and another monk playing a game...

Earlier: [Free Thai Cinema Movement Petition](#)

US ready to train Thai forces if asked

April 20, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[US ready to train Thai forces if asked](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 20, 2007

Old phone card from 1998

April 20, 2007



Old phone card from 1998 – April 20, 2007
It reads: 44 years of TOT... Long distance
public phone in the rural area.

“A mean conman is in town”

April 20, 2007

Categories: Scams

"A mean conman is in town" –

April 20, 2007

Michael Rastrup Smith writes: *I am a correspondent of Danish National TV, TV2 Denmark, based in Bangkok.*

I earlier did a 45 mins. TV documentary on a very nasty Danish conman... who operated out of Thailand. He left, but now he is back again setting scams up in Bangkok, so I decided to make a [warning on my weblog](#).

“Not a miracle”

April 21, 2007

Categories: Local Beliefs



"Not a miracle" – *Thairath*, April 21, 2007

The caption reads: Not a miracle:

Photo of students of Ban Nongsanoh School, Smphur Chaingsaen, Nakornpathom. These photo are taken one after the other. Above, the background did not have so much light and the lower, the background was black and there was a circle that looks like Jatukamramathep . It is thought that this photo was put together with another one to make this image.

What happened to Movieposter.com?

April 21, 2007

What happened to Movieposter.com? –

April 21, 2007

Thailand's Movieposter.com has been offline since April 15 (at least).

Don notes: *The Movie Poster website has been down all week. Have you heard why? The times are always wrong — except strangely not for the three Siam Square theaters and The Emporium — but it was a useful list of what was on in town.*

On Friday we called the Movieposter office and an anonymous worker said they did not know the site was down. When asked if they were still in business they said yes.

Complete timetable of railways in Thailand in English

April 21, 2007

Categories: Thai Railroads

Complete timetable of railways in Thailand in English–

April 21, 2007

Dr. Volker Wangemann writes: *The great work is done. After two long months I've finished now the new EXCEL-file with the title ["COMPLETE TIMETABLE OF RAILWAYS IN THAILAND."](#) This is a very big and long file(1.45 MB and 185 pages in a printer friendly version)! For the first time ever the railway enthusiasts and the normal passenger now will have in his own hands a complete timetable which then will show every passenger train in Thailand with every station/stop,line and timings. It was a real ambitious project, as you couldn't get a complete timetable in Roman characters in Thailand from the SRT before. I do hope that the readers of your side will make a lot of use of these timetables and I do hope that the like the work...*

“Grievance Center- Royal Thai Police”

April 21, 2007

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Police



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Grievance Center – Royal Thai Police" –

April 21, 2007

Above is one of the many billboards around town that are part of a police public relations campaign.

It reads: Grievance Center – Royal Thai Police –

Threatened? – Not getting justice? –

Inform clues about drugs, vice, influential , crimes

at P.O. Box 1234 –

email: jaray@police.go.th,

rongmuang Bangkok 10000

or inform : 1194 –

General information... Royal Thai Police

Shitdisco on playing Thailand: “They asked us how long we wanted to go for... two months!”

April 23, 2007

Categories: Music

[Shitdisco on playing Thailand: “They asked us how long we wanted to go for... two months!”](#) –
drownedinsound.com, April, 2007

So what does a festival in Bangkok look like? Lots of crusty white dudes and over privileged gap year students called Cynthia monging about on pills to the dance-rock revolution?

“Actually, It was a real indigenous crowd at the festival – 10,000 people watching our stage. It’s a bit daunting – it was the biggest gig we’ve ever played, and I ran around not sure what to do with myself, and during the set I naturally managed to fall over.”

Gulf sea level ‘unlikely to rise’

April 23, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[.Gulf sea level ‘unlikely to rise’](#). – *The Nation*, April 23, 2007

Ten steps to close down an open society

April 24, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

[Ten steps to close down an open society](#) – *HuffingtonPost*, April 24, 2007

Last autumn, there was a military coup in Thailand. The leaders of the coup took a number of steps, rather systematically, as if they had a shopping list. In a sense, they did. Within a matter of days, democracy had been closed down: the coup leaders declared martial law, sent armed soldiers into residential areas, took over radio and TV stations, issued restrictions on the press, tightened some limits on travel, and took certain activists into custody.

They were not figuring these things out as they went along. If you look at history, you can see that there is essentially a blueprint for turning an open society into a dictatorship...

Fiscal policy may end Thai ‘chaos’

April 24, 2007

Categories: Economy

[Fiscal policy may end Thai ‘chaos’](#) – Gulf News, April 24, 2007

...The military-installed government’s initial decision to terminate populist schemes created by Thaksin Shinawatra, the ousted former prime minister, had created hardship for rural Thais, Chalongphob admitted. “Monies that should be going to the grassroots were not going there, and therefore they have been severely affected,” he said...

11th Haad Samila Kite Competition Billboard

April 25, 2007

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Songkhla billboard –

April 25, 2007

Above: The 11th Haad Samila Kite Competition, 2007 –

February 16-18, 2007 at Sa Bua kite field, Samila Peninsula, Songkhla –

High-flying, beautiful, creative kites giving a loud noise invited to join the competition.

What do Democrats.com have against poor people in Thailand getting affordable medicines?

April 25, 2007

Categories: Drugs

[What do Democrats.com have against poor people in Thailand getting affordable medicines?](#) –
HuffingtonPost, April 25, 2007

On Tuesday Ellen Shaffer, a public health activist, was send a message from Bob Fertik, from [Democrats.com](#), a group that supposedly supports the democratic party and liberal causes. It called upon Ellen and thousands of others who received the same message to “Stop the Outsourcing of US Jobs to Thailand,” saying ” Thailand has been taken over by a military regime hostile to good American jobs in our science industries,” and then linked to this [page](#), which sends anti-Thailand emails to Congress...

Pantip raid

April 25, 2007



Pantip raid – *Komchadluek*, April 25, 2007

Mr. Paiboon Watanasiritham, Deputy P.M. and Minister of Social Development and Human Security takes the police to investigate Pantip Paza after he was informed there were pornographic VCDs, but the owners found out and ran away—on April 23.

Constitution in the newspapers

April 25, 2007

Constitution in the newspapers – *Daily News*, April 25, 2007

Right: The new draft constitution and explanation has been printed in Thai-language newspapers in recent days.



A tale of two newspapers: Removing the Chief of Police

April 25, 2007

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers, Thai Police

[Kowit purged from position of police chief](#) – Bangkok Post, April 25, 2007

...NS chairman Gen Sonthi Boonyaratkalin said Pol Gen Kowit was bitter and dissatisfied over his second transfer and said he would no longer attend CNS meetings.

"In this case, I have to propose the appointment of Pol Gen Seripisuth as a new CNS member without the need to wait for Pol Gen Kowit's resignation," Gen Sonthi said.

[Seri confirmed as police commander](#) – The Nation, April 25, 2007

...Kowit was content with the move. He was prepared to follow any lawful orders. "I feel no stress or worry. It's fine by me," he said.

Sonthi reportedly wanted Kowit – a close friend and a classmate in their military academy years – to continue to hold the PM's Office post until his retirement in October. Sonthi and Surayud reportedly resolved their differences over this.

Bird flu warning sign

April 25, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Bird flu warning sign – April 25, 2007

This sign on Sukhumvit Road reads – Don't be careless about bird flu.

Contact district office or call 1555 to inform us of abnormal death of poultry.

Thai tuna ad

April 25, 2007

[Thai tuna ad](#) –
April 25, 2007

City woman convicted of keeping girl as house slave

April 25, 2007

Categories: Crime

[City woman convicted of keeping girl as house slave](#) – Bangkok Post, April 25, 2007

A Bangkok businesswoman was yesterday sentenced to seven years in jail for keeping a girl from Buri Ram province as a slave. It is the first time in Thai legal history that the anti-slavery law has been enforced, despite widespread slave-like labour in sweat shops and private households...

King moves to prevent hailstorms

April 25, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[King moves to prevent hailstorms](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 25, 2007

New highway planned to let herds mingle

April 26, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

New highway planned to let
herds mingle – *The*

Nation, April 26, 2007

*A 17-km elevated highway is to be built
through Khao Yai and Thap Lan national parks
to*

*allow wild elephant herds to mix and end 30
years of inbreeding.*

*The highway, to cost about 1.3 billion baht
to build, will replace the Kabin Buri-Pakthong
Chai road, which experts say poses “a biological
barrier” for wildlife, especially elephants.*

*...The Kabin Buri-Pakthong Chai road was paved
with funding from the United States government
as a supply route during the Vietnam War.*

*It cuts precisely along the Khao Yai-Thap
LAN border, separating two of the country’s
richest forest reserves both in terms of geography
and wildlife biology.*

*...The planned highway will be about five
metres above ground. Once it is open the existing
Kabin Buri-Pakthong Chai road will be closed,
enabling the animals to pass back and forth.*

*Thap LAN has the largest population, about
300 animals....*

IA sells Gaya-Bangkok tickets to Thai pilgrims, cancels flight

April 26, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[IA sells Gaya-Bangkok tickets to Thai pilgrims, cancels flight](#) – Indian Express, April 26, 2007

A scheduling glitch by Indian Airlines had over 100 Thai pilgrims stranded in Gaya for over a week last month, leading to a diplomatic embarrassment that has resulted in Indian Ambassador to Thailand Vijay Latha Reddy writing to the Civil Aviation Ministry to take measures to avoid such a situation again. The airline has now been asked to explain...

New Delhi: Public interest groups hold rally to back Thai govt

April 26, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

New Delhi: [Public interest groups hold rally to back Thai govt](#) – pharmabiz.com, April 26, 2007

Mercury hits 44C in Tak as Thailand has its hottest day in 47 years

April 26, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Mercury hits 44C in Tak as Thailand has its hottest day in 47 years](#) – *The Nation*, April 26, 2007

PTV rally #4

April 27, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The crowd was smaller than previous protests—probably because of the threat of rain. Here a lady is ready to sell umbrellas for 100 baht.

Almost like being there: PTV rally #4 – 6:50pm, April 27, 2007

More: [PTV and PTV rallies](#)

Also: [High tension in Thailand](#)

How many protesters?

The number of protesters was no more than a third of the largest protest on [April 8](#)

Other media estimates:

4000: [Some 4,000 protest Thailand's junta](#) – *AFX News Limited*, April 27, 2007

1000: [PTV to shift its rallies to Sundays](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 28, 2007

The rally drew about 1,000 people. The northern half of Sanam Luang was reserved for the gathering as the area was sealed off with steel barriers. Rally-goers were searched by security personnel before entering the area...

1000: [Demonstrators again hold anti-coup rally in Bangkok](#) –

People's Daily Online, April 28, 2007

More than 1000 demonstrators held an anti-coup and anti-government rally in Bangkok's Sanam Luang (the Royal Square) late Friday, calling for the government...

800 to 3,000:

[Threat from 'large' anti-govt rally much overrated](#) – *The Nation*, April 29, 2007

The turnout ranged between 800 and 3,000 people, according to estimates in news reports. The rally's organisers, who are ex-Thai Rak Thai members, earlier boasted that there could be up to 30,000 people attending, and that they would stay on until the Constitutional Court passes its judgement on the fate of the Thai Rak Thai Party late next month...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign on the left has an odd transliteration. It is supposed to say "CNS" in English.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Some rally participants seated on construction materials left near the stage.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[YouTube videoclip from the rally](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

While the crowd was smaller, overall the listeners were more enthusiastic, directed and cheered on by a few people at the front of the crowd. Several of the speakers were also well-received by the crowd.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

More: [PTV and PTV rallies](#)
 Also: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Me ... Myself

April 27, 2007

Categories: Film and TV



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Me ... Myself –

April 27, 2007

[Official website](#) – Also [here](#) and [here](#)

About “Hi-So (Leena)”

April 28, 2007

About "Hi-So (Leena)" –

April 28, 2007

GWR reports: *Channel 3 had a news segment about this woman tonight. I can't tell you much about her because it's all in Thai. She's a woman lawyer who likes to help poor accident victims. The segment was about her help for a woman whose son had been killed doing tanker repair. There was still fuel in the tank when he set to work! [Hi-so Leena also likes to model her own rather bizarre range of beauty products.](#) I've actually seen some of this stuff on sale in supermarkets and being advertised in ladies soap opera magazines. The packaging design is flat-out 50s and then some. Just like this extremely gaudy website...* Leena is a flamboyant lawyer who [ran for Bangkok governor and was disqualified.](#)



Bangkok city plan needs a rethink

April 28, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok city plan needs a rethink](#) – *The Nation*,

April 28, 2007

Thai Navy fires Exocet Missile at Defenceless Target

April 28, 2007

Categories: Thai Military

[Thai Navy fires Exocet Missile at Defenceless Target](#) – *Pattaya City News*, April 28, 2007

DVD burners seized in Bangkok piracy raid

April 28, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[DVD burners seized in Bangkok piracy raid](#) – *Business of Cinema*, April 28, 2007

Eleven persons were arrested and 140 DVD-R burners seized during an operation in the Bangkok suburb of Nondhaburi conducted by the Royal Thai Police...

ATM trickster takes ‘winnings’

April 28, 2007

Categories: Scams

[ATM trickster takes ‘winnings’](#) – Bangkok Post, April 28, 2007

What would you do if you had received a call on your mobile phone from the operator of the brand you use, saying you’re the lucky winner of the 60,000-baht second prize? ...

TRT's Chaturon to address BCC

April 28, 2007

TRT's Chaturon to address BCC –

April 28, 2007

May 7 – SPECIAL BCCT LUNCHEON Guest Speaker: KHUN CHATURON CHAISANG, Acting Leader of Thai Rak Thai Party Topic: “The Future Direction of Thai Economics and Politics” on Thursday 10th May 2007... Khun Chaturon received his bachelor's degree and Master's degree both in Economics, from State University of New York at Buffalo and The American University, Washington D.C, respectively. Khun Chaturon served as Deputy Minister of Finance from 1996 to 1997 and Minister to the Prime Minister's Office from 2001 to 2002. From February to October 2002 Khun Chaturon was Minister of Justice and from 2005 to 2006 he was Minister of Education. He was also Deputy Prime Minister from 2003 to 2005. Khun Chaturon was Deputy Leader of Thai Rak Thai Party from 2001 to 2006 when he became Acting Party Leader.

BCCT Information Services <http://www.bccthai.com>

Anti-alcohol ad

April 28, 2007

Anti-alcohol ad –

April 28, 2007

Anti-alcohol ad at [Phan Phiphop Lila Bridge](#).

It reads: Khlong Khu Muang Doem

Liquor

POR OR Team campaigns against alcohol to celebrate His Majesty's birthday.

We support anti-alcohol campaign.

Law needed to be issued immediately!

By Jaras Pichakorn School and Jaras Pichakorn Vocational School,
Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The USA for Innovation story: Fake lobbying firm headed by Ken Adelman attacks the junta

April 29, 2007

Categories: Thaksin Lobbying



Overview: Time to accept USA for Innovation for what it was – June 9, 2007

The [USA for Innovation](#) site went silent on May 9, 2007. The companion site [ThaiMyths.com](#) ran from May 7 to May 18 and then went silent as well.

Based on its short history, USA for Innovation is

- * an organization with no history before April 2007 (despite a huge directory of press releases, none of these were released to the net on the alleged dates they were created)
- * an organization whose web attacks have no precedent in lobbying—except for the lobbying group [Edelman](#) which is well-known for creating fake lobbying efforts and planting articles and opinion pieces in the press ([more info here](#)).
- * an organization that could afford an expensive hired gun like [Kenneth Adelman](#)
- * an organization that seems satisfied to cease all activity on May 18.

Thaksin [ended his association with lobbying firm Edelman on May 7](#).

Below is the original story: “USA for Innovation” – A made-to-order lobbying effort – 7:31am, April 29, 2007

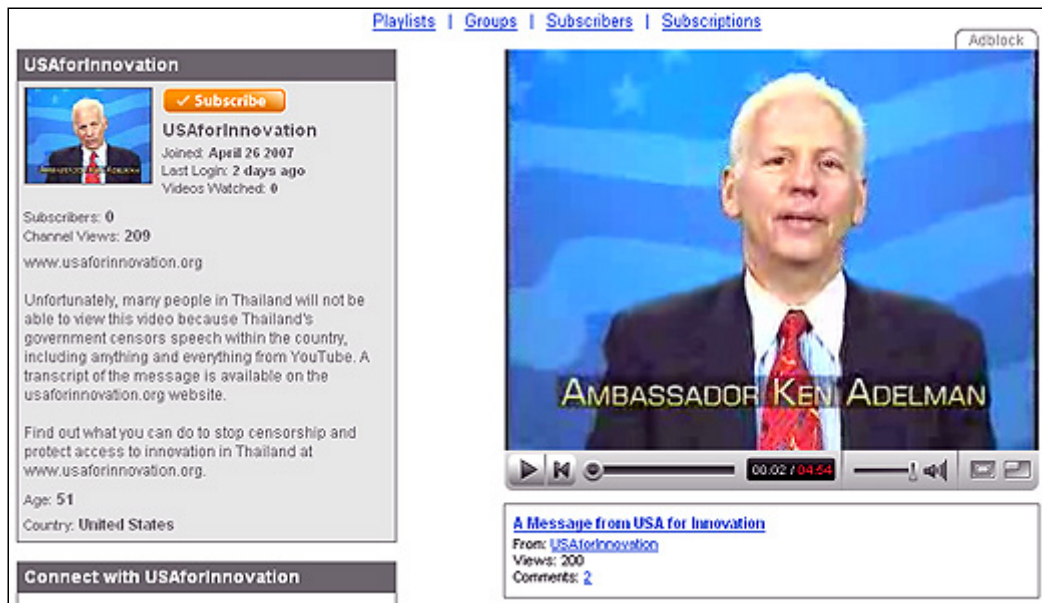
Is “USA for Innovation” a fake lobbying group set up to attack the current Thai government?

With perfect timing, this new lobbying effort has appeared and targeted the Thai military government. Practically overnight, a [Google search returns 24,300 hits](#) for “USA for Innovation” (as of the writing of this article) and they all appear to refer to the press releases this lobbying group has issued over the last few days. Pre-April 2007 press releases from USA for Innovation do not appear to have been released to PR Web or other press release websites. Pre-April 2007 press releases do not even appear on Google—perhaps indicating they were only recently placed on the website to give USA for Innovation a plausible history before this April. [Archive.org](#) shows no activity for the site either.

USA for Innovation’s sparse website has a [news page](#) with occasional press releases going back to 2005, but only the recent Thai patent issue has multiple press releases. There is also a gap, nearly a year long, between press releases from May 2006 to April 2007.

[According to SourceWatch](#), USA for Innovation’s Executive Director Ken Adelman is also a senior

counselor to Edelman. Edelman is the PR firm hired by former PM [Thaksin Shinawatra](#). This PR initiative comes at a suspiciously opportune time as pro-Thaksin groups attempt to build on issues from the draft constitution to destabilize the government before the momentous rulings on disbanding the Thai Rak Thai party at the end of May. 2Bangkok.com is attempting to contact USA for Innovation, Edelman, and Baker Botts for comment.



Above: For those of you who cannot see YouTube in Thailand, here is a screen grab of USA for Innovation's site. So far the comments on the clip are overwhelmingly [negative](#).

On the [USA for Innovation website](#) there is a strangely broad explanation of the YouTube blocking: *Thailand's government censors speech within the country, including anything and everything from YouTube, a service it considers to be dangerous and subversive.*

Some interesting press release from the site:

[Thailand's Military is Sucking Money Away from Public Health](#) – April 26, 2007

[Military Regime Continues to Censor Free Speech in Thailand](#) – April 26, 2007

USA For Innovation's Executive Director Ken Adelman will today release a message to the people of Thailand regarding the importance of innovation and concerns about the Thai Government's recent endorsement of theft of American intellectual property.

This message will be available via Google's YouTube service this afternoon beginning at 3:00pm PT at the [USA For Innovation YouTube website](#)...

[Troubles from Thailand](#) – *Washington Times*, April 27, 2007

...Most recently, the government brazenly announced it was breaking patents on drugs produced by Western corporations. And while this action is in line with the rampant theft of U.S. innovation in Thailand, it is also glaringly self-serving. An official Thai spokesman admitted busting patents "will be good for local pharmaceutical companies to improve their capacity." Perhaps unsurprising, one local pharmaceutical supplier happens to be owned by the Thai government, the Government Pharmaceutical Organization.

General Surayud Chulanont
Military Dictator, Thailand

Slouching Towards Burma

Thailand's Radical New Regime

When military dictators take over by coup, the people lose. Right now, General Surayud Chulanont is steering Thailand the way of Burma.

First, he lined military pockets with pay increases of \$9 million and new military spending of \$1.1 billion.

Then the opposition started disappearing. Human Rights Watch last month released a report detailing 22 cases of targeted "disappearances" by the Thai military in the southern provinces.

Then the Ministry of Health threatened to kidnap American tourists. The military-appointed representative at the World Health Organization, Dr. Surwit Wibulpolprasert, proposed in January holding Western tourists hostage to bargain for flu vaccines.

Thailand Coup
September 19, 2006

Above: Part of the full page ad placed in *The Wall Street Journal*

USA for Innovation's *Wall Street Journal* ad – April 29, 2007

The broad sweep of issues addressed in both the USA for Innovation website and its *Wall Street Journal* ad is peculiar for a lobbying group that is ostensibly concerned with pharmaceutical issues.

Taking the angle of "Slouching towards Burma" and "Radical new regime" could indicate a broader agenda than just focusing on protecting patents. Calling the PM a "Military Dictator," bringing up "targeted 'disappearances'" in the deep south, attacking military spending, and trying to highlight YouTube censorship seems to go far beyond what would be expected from a typical lobbying group attempting to apply political pressure a patent issue.

ThaiMyths.com
A project of USA For Innovation

Each business day for two weeks from May 7 - May 18, ThaiMyths.com will release additional information regarding one of the ten recent lies used by Thailand's Minister of Health Mongkol na Songkhla to explain his decision to steal American and European innovation.

Thailand's Health Ministry is lying to politicians, press and patients in a sickened attempt to gain support from misinformed activists and to funnel money into his government-owned drug company.

If you have information regarding one of Thailand's myths, or more myths from Thailand, please send an email to: morelies@thaimyths.com

If you believe we have misrepresented one of the myths from Thailand's Health Ministry, please send an email

Myth #1:
Thailand is a poor country and cannot afford Western medicines.
Released 5/07/2007

Myth #2:
Thailand is just doing everything it can to address its AIDS problem.
Released 5/08/2007

Myth #3:
Thailand is just trying to lower the cost of Western medicines.

Myth #4:
Thailand's Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) needs to deliver generic medicines to people who can't afford expensive medicine.

Myth #5:
Thailand is in the middle of an AIDS crisis.

Myth #6:
Thailand's recent use of compulsory licenses is legal.

Myth #7:
The drug companies started this fight.

Myth #8:
U.S. action against Thailand threatens Thailand's sovereignty.

Above: ThaiMyths.com (also ThaiLies.com)

The media talks about USA for Innovation

[Adelman spin the latest attack in the 'war from outside'](#) – *The Nation*, May 11, 2007

...Since his background has been in the field of defence, with close ties to hardcore American conservatives,

you must wonder why he dislikes the Thai military regime so much. Don't they belong to the same species – more power and higher military budgets?

But wait a minute, his bio says that he is senior counsellor at Edelman Public Relations. Do you know why now?

Thaksin Shinawatra, the ousted prime minister, hired Edelman Public Relations to represent him and to help prop up his international image. The Nation earlier reported that he signed a public-relations contract with Edelman in a deal worth US\$300,000 (Bt10.3 million).

Edelman Public Relations was responsible for most of Thaksin's media exposure with CNN, Time magazine, The Wall Street Journal and the like earlier this year when he launched a PR blitz to boost his international image.

...The outsiders set the rules – freedom of expression by YouTube, free trade by the US, high drug costs by pharmaceutical companies – we only have to follow.

Increasingly, we'll face more and more people like Ken Edelman, who has hardly ever set foot in Thailand, but who is willing to crush us to the ground with his black heart.

[Ex-president blasts Abbott on standoff with Thailand](#) – Waukegan News, May 11, 2007

...Standing next to the Thai health minister, Clinton strongly endorsed decisions by Thailand and Brazil to break patents held by American drug manufacturers to make their own versions of the drugs. The former president also said some of the prices charged by American drug companies are “exorbitant...”

[The Nation's statement on USA Innovation ad](#) – The Nation, May 12, 2007

[USA FOR INNOVATION – GPO may sue over adverts](#) – The Nation, May 12, 2007

[New 'Thailies' website spurs strong reaction](#) – Bangkok Post, May 9, 2007

The government has increased its internet monitoring operations after the American lobby group USA for Innovation announced it had launched a new anti-Thai government website, www.Thailies.com. “We will check the background of the website operator to see if it has any hidden agenda,” said government spokesman Yongyuth Mayalap...

[Official: U.S. ex-President Clinton backs Thai move to break patents on AIDS drugs](#) – IHT, May 8, 2007

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton supports Thailand's move to break patents on AIDS drugs to lower their cost for poor patients, the Thai health minister said Wednesday.

Public Health Minister Mongkol Na Songkhla, who met with Clinton on Tuesday, is visiting the U.S. to explain Thailand's decision to break patents on three drugs, including the AIDS drugs Kaletra produced by Abbott Laboratories and Efavirenz by Merck. Both are American companies...

[Thaksin ends PR contract amid flak](#) – The Nation, May 7, 2007

Deposed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has terminated his association with United States-based public relations company Edelman...

[Thai AIDS activist: US is “devil disguised”](#) – Gay.com, May 3, 2007

[Thailand joins China, India among worst copyright offenders](#) – IANS, May 1, 2007

Thailand has joined China, India and nine other countries that top the US list of worst offenders of international copyright rules, the US government said...

[Thailand scolded over not honoring patents](#) – Tribune, April 30, 2007

[Thai coup leaders hire PR company](#) – BBC, April 30, 2007

...It signals a battle over the image of the country, which has been the subject of some recent negative publicity.

Its ousted and exiled former Prime Minister, Thaksin Shinawatra, has hired lobbyists and PR agents in the US...

“Charity” or “corporate-funded campaigning group?” – May 11, 2007

It is interesting how the [USA for Innovation ad](#) in *The Nation* on May 9, 2007 (below left) uses the same points as the Philip Stevens' [article](#).

More about Philip Stevens and the International Policy Network:

From the [forum](#): *The cited article in the Chicago Sun-Times signs off with: "Philip Stevens is health program director at the International Policy Network, a London-based charity..."*

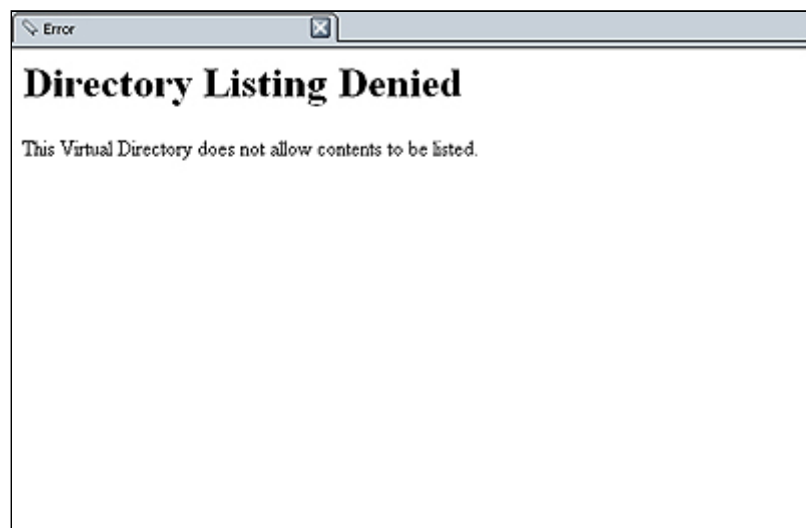
In an [opinion piece in The Nation](#), the author is described as "*Philip Stevens is director of the health programme at the International Policy Network, a London-based development think tank.*" This is the same description [Newsweek](#) uses.

Sourcewatch calls [International Policy Network](#) a "corporate-funded campaigning group" that specializes in pharmaceutical and patent issues. Regardless of media outlets' misleading descriptions, the International Policy Network appears to be another lobbying group.



Left: [USA For Innovation Announces Advertising Campaign In Thailand](#) – Bangkok Post, May 10, 2007

*[USA for Innovation](#) today announced an advertising campaign in Thailand aimed at highlighting Thailand's theft of American and European medical technology at the expense of the poor and sick. The advertisement, a full-page ad in *The Nation*, highlights the actions of Health Minister Mongkol Na Songkhla, which hurt jobs, investment and access to safe medicines for the people of Thailand...*



Above: USA for Innovation on August 23, 2007

USA for Innovation finally disappears – August 25, 2007


[USA For Innovation](#) was the fake lobbying site set up by PR company [Edelman](#) to pressure the Thai military junta. The site pretended to have a long history with many press releases and an on-going mission to target Brazilian and Thai compulsory drug licensing, but the reality is that the site (and organization) suddenly appeared in April, 2007.

Deposed PM Thaksin [reportedly ended his association with Edelman](#) on May 7. USA for Innovation's last post was on May 9. USA for Innovation's sister site, [Thaimyth.com](#), set up to highlight a series of press releases from May 7-18, is still up.

Proof of the big money behind the site was the enlistment of [Kenneth Adelman](#) to front the website and even record a [YouTube video](#) – “[The government of Thailand won’t let me talk to the people of Thailand, since they block this YouTube message...](#)”

Inside of Thailand you can [download the video here](#) (11MB) and watch it with [Miro](#).

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth L. Adelman,
Executive Director
USA For Innovation

Above: USA for Innovation’s Executive Director was Ken Adelman

ThaiMyths.com site gone –
September 29, 2007

The [ThaiMyths.com](#) site, set up by USA for Innovation, has just disappeared from the net. Previously, USA for Innovation, a short-lived website set up to pressure the Thai regime, stopped posting two days after deposed PM Thaksin ended his association with lobbying group Edelman.

Thai horror

April 29, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai horror](#) – Sunday Mail, April 29, 2007

...Gordon McCarry, 24, piled into the back of a refuse truck in Pattaya at high speed, severing the 50-year-old worker's legs. The man, who had been standing behind the truck picking up a bin, died in hospital 24 hours later...

Unfinished buildings attract little interest

April 30, 2007

Categories: Buildings

[Unfinished buildings attract little interest](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 30, 2007

Male Order Business

April 30, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Male Order Business](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, April 30, 2007

Journalist Cindy Tilney takes readers into the world of Burmese male sex workers in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where many young Shan migrant workers, usually heterosexuals, earn money as “bar boys...”

U.S. puts 29 foreign properties on the market

April 30, 2007

[U.S. puts 29 foreign properties on the market](#) –

Fox News, April 30, 2007

...If commercial space is what you need in the Thai capital, the State Department has a 78.5-acre vacant lot south of Bangkok near the new international airport amid several major roadways now under construction. Yours for only \$2 million...