

Pattaya Networking Conference

Antecedents

We (Robin and Susie) had been to Pattaya on three different occasions to do wholistic training over the last few years during which time we have developed some contacts. In February of this year I went with Ed (TFHI) to visit a couple of pastors and a community worker (Dianne, Pranom and Arisa) in Pattaya who asked if I could aid them bring together churches and Christian organizations that are active in wholistic ways in the city but who didn't have a functioning network. This was the genesis for the Pattaya initiative to form a regional alliance of likeminded ministries.

As I spoke with interested people in Bangkok—Samphan, Gregg Nicholson, Jeff Dieselberg, Sirigan—I could see an interest in what we were thinking of doing in Pattaya but more than that, interest also for Bangkok and on a national level. It became obvious that this idea of networking churches and organizations involved in wholistic ministry might be of interest for the TEC (Thailand Evangelical Committee). There are four tracks within TEC—Evangelism/Church planting, Prayer, Leadership development and Mercy. Sanya, the director of the Mercy Track showed great interest in what we were planning to do in Pattaya so the idea evolved to make this meeting to have two purposes: the first was to network the Pattaya Christian NGOs and the churches and the second was to invite other interested parties from around the country to observe this process and to discuss a **National Network of Regional Alliances**. This first conference was held on July 30 at the Mercy Center in Pattaya.

The Conference

The purpose of the conference was to allow the ministries to get to know each other and to discuss networking. The morning was given mostly to allow each of the ministries that wished to present what they do and provide written informative and contact information to the conferees. Groups that presented were:

- Disciple Nations Alliance/Harvest
- Thailand Food For the Hungry
- World Concern
- Compassion International
- Christian Foundation for the Blind
- Mercy Center of Pattaya
- Upland Holistic Development Project
- International Justice Mission
- World Vision
- Compassion of Christ Mission Foundation (AOG)
- Step Ahead
- Think Small



- San Jai Network—A network of about 70 organizations that are involved with women and children at risk.
- Boy's Brigade in Thailand

Organizations present that didn't present

- Bangkok Bible Seminary
- Youth With A Mission



In the afternoon we broke into two discussion groups.

Pattaya Regional Group. The group discussed at length how the local churches and Christian organizations can relate with each other. Organizationally, the participants did not want to have another separate network that would take up more of their time so they elected to make the IM (Integral Mission) network to be an extension of an existing consortium of pastors that meets monthly with one meeting being held in conjunction with and after the first. The leadership of the consortium will also be the leadership for the IM network.



Because there are many key leaders in Pattaya that were not in attendance at this regional networking conference they elected to continue discussing and forming the network at their next monthly meeting, inviting the missing

leaders so that they can be involved in the formation of the network.



National Group. The participants that came from outside of Pattaya met separately to discuss a **National Network of Regional**

Alliances. The outcome of that meeting was the decision to hold forums on networking in Bangkok and Chiangmai at the end of November. The intervening months of August through October would be given to preparation that includes distributing questionnaires in these regions to pastors and Christian NGOs to gain an understanding of what is already being done wholistically and by whom and developing a directories.

