



**Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**held at the Baan Rim Pa Restaurant, Kalim, Phuket**  
**On 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009 at 15:00**

In The Chair: Peter Hamilton

Present: Khun Netipong Wichitwechkarn, Khun Pensri Thuanthong, Peter Hamilton (Vice-Chair), Michael Chugg, Kathy Davies, Arnaud Verstraete

Excused: Dr. Sriyada Palimapun (Chair), Fleur Birch-Atkinson

Guests: Sue Ultmann, Norman Dawkins, Michael Weinstein, Carl Osmar, Tina Hall

**Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the minutes of the Board meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

The Board agreed that before repayment of the debt to Tom Doherty was made, the amount to be paid was to be confirmed by the Foundation's accountants. With this amendment Michael Chugg proposed the minutes from the June meeting be adopted. Kathy Davies seconded the motion. All voted unanimously to adopt the minutes.

**Agenda Item 2: Discussion and vote on new Chair of the Board**

It was agreed that the Foundation's new Chair of the Board needed to be a politically neutral Thai, fluent in English, with good standing in the community and with the time to devote to the organisation. Khun Netipong Wichitwechkarn said that he would be happy to take the position of Chair of the Board. Peter Hamilton proposed that Khun Netipong Wichitwechkarn be appointed as Chair of the Board of Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation. The proposal was seconded by Kathy Davies. All voted unanimously to appoint Khun Netipong Wichitwechkarn as Chair.

**Agenda Item 3: Tina Hall, Director of Operations reported to the Board:**

- a) Fundraising has been very successful over the last 3 months both sponsorship and events. Khun Netipong Wichitwechkarn asked if the Foundation is able to offer a tax refund on donations. Peter Hamilton responded that this was not possible until four years of accounts have been audited and would be available from March 2010.
- b) Financial Stability - the budget shows a shortfall in November of 25,000 baht and of 75,000 baht in December. Increased sponsorship is hoped to cover this, if not Peter Hamilton has pledged to cover the shortfall to end December. In January there is a budgeted shortfall of 230,000 baht which needs to be addressed in the coming months.
- c) Volunteers - the Foundation needs a well respected Thai volunteer to liaise with the schools on a weekly basis. Khun Pensri Thuanthong volunteered to fill this position. The Foundation also

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needs reliable, long term volunteers to attend Coconut Club. Khun Netipong Wichitwechkarn volunteered to attend on a regular basis. Michael Weinstein will take on the role of inviting and accompanying sponsors, potential donors and their children to the club.

- d) Direction – two more teachers would be required to enable us to teach all students in Kamala School.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Carl Osmar, Director of Education, reported to the Board:**

- a) This semester the Foundation is teaching Praton 1-6 in Kamala & Kalim. For the first time 5&6 in Kamala. A total of 112 students in Kalim and 470 at Kamala.
- b) Teaching staff numbers: Director of Education who is also a full time teacher, one full time teacher, one teaching fellow and 2 admin staff who provide 1.5 teachers between them. There are also two volunteers who regularly work with the teachers in the classroom.
- c) Coconut Club – at least 60 children attend. Older children have extra lessons/sporting teams at this time of day which may prevent them from attending. The teachers have instigated birthday parties & trips out.
- d) Relationships with Kamala School have improved; Thai teachers have attended English classes.
- e) The Foundation is also working on relationships with other schools & NGOs.
- f) Carl invited the Board to visit the school and see the teaching.

Khun Netipong Wichitwechkarn agreed that we can not work in isolation and thanked Carl Osmar for his hard work. Kathy Davies asked for a school timetable to be sent to all Board Members.

Norman Dawkins reported on the independent report Sue Grolnic had completed for the Foundation and provided copies to all present. The report looked at management and structure of the Foundation and noted that:

- a) The commitment of teaching staff and the Board was most evident, and highly commended.
- b) The role of Teaching Fellows needed to be defined, their use as classroom teacher's requiring qualifications and experience in that medium.
- c) Teacher orientation and training needs to be addressed, due to high turnover of staff.
- d) Teaching hours of the Director of Education need to be reduced, to allow time for curriculum and support planning.

Many of the issues raised had already been identified by The Board and Staff as areas of concern, their confirmation and suggested actions in Sue's report have significantly contributed to the ongoing process of resolution.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Any other business**

It was agreed that with the move of Khun Netipong Wichitwechkarn to the position of Chair, a new Thai Board Member should be appointed. Khun Netipong Wichitwechkarn suggested Khun Orajit Ekphaibool. Peter Hamilton proposed that Khun Orajit Ekphaibool be invited to join the Board of Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation. The proposal was seconded by Kathy Davies. All voted unanimously to invite Khun Orajit Ekphaibool to join the Board.

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### **Agenda Item 6: Date and time of upcoming next meeting**

The Board agreed to meet once a quarter. The date of the next meeting will be set at a later date in November.

The meeting was closed at 16:30.

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