



**The Community based Tourism Club of Koh Yao Noi Island,
Phang Nga Province, Thailand,**

&

The Responsible Ecological Social Tours Project (REST)

In Collaboration with The International Institute for Peace Through Tourism (IIPT)

Invites Your Participation in a Post-IIPT Summit Study Tour:

***"Community Based Tourism for Conservation, Empowerment and Capacity Building,
Koh Yao Noi Island, Phang Nga Province, Southern Thailand. October 6th – 8th, 2005"***

The Community based Tourism Club of Koh Yao Noi, Phang Nga Province, Thailand, and local Thai NGO, Responsible Ecological Social Tours Project (REST) have worked together for over 10 years to develop a model of tourism for conservation, community development, and cross-cultural sharing. 'CBT' Tourism activities have been planned and managed by local Muslim fishers, sharing local life, celebrating local culture, developing local skills and building environmental awareness among guests and hosts. In 2002, these efforts were recognized by the '2002 World Legacy Awards for Destination Stewardship' presented by Conservation International and National Geographic Traveler.

The Study Tour, organized and facilitated by REST Project, will provide participants with the opportunity to experience Community based Tourism activities first-hand, and to meet and discuss tourism issues directly with community members. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the successes, challenges and lessons learned by community members and the REST team during a decade of striving to realize tourism for sustainable development.

Thailand is a country with cutting edge models of Community Based Tourism. This study tour offers a valuable opportunity for conference participants to study, share and learn from the Thai experience...

Background Information about Community Based Tourism in Koh Yao Noi:

In Koh Yao Noi, 85% of the local people are Muslim seafarers, engaged in small-scale fishing. In the past 50 years, fishing technology has gradually developed, and the demand for fish has steadily increased. Commercial fishing has stripped coastal resources, resulting in lower catches and decreased food security for small fishers.

Concerned by this trend, many local fishers organized grass-roots conservation groups. They worked to promote sustainable fishing practices, and protect the ocean which their community had relied upon for generations. These efforts met a good measure of success. Marine species increased in number, mangrove forests recovered and sea grass was replenished. Villagers even stopped commercial trawlers from entering conservation zones.

Stimulated by the support of visitors for their conservation efforts, community members began to develop tourism activities as a bridge to share their struggles and successes with the outside world. They were assisted to develop these activities by Thai NGO, Responsible Ecological social Tours Project (REST). Gradually, CBT Club members have developed a model of small-scale tourism which balances learning, fun and cultural exchange.

Located in Phang Nga Bay, close to the mass tourism destinations of Krabi and Phuket, the villagers are well aware of the dangers and impacts of unrestricted mass tourism development and are committed to controlling tourism development in their villages. Guests are gently educated about Muslim culture to ensure sensitive behavior. Meanwhile, the CBT club operates a rotation system for tourism activities, guides and homestay accommodation to ensure equal opportunity to participate in tourism, and to spread economic benefits fairly.

Study Trip participants are invited to meet the inspiring fisher folk of Koh Yao Noi, and share their lives, environments and culture. Homestay accommodation with local families, tasty Southern Thai food, and a mixture of discussion and direct experience will provide participants with an insightful, enjoyable experience.

Provisional Itinerary¹:

Day 1 (includes Lunch and Dinner):

- **6.45 a.m.** Group meets REST Project representative at Domestic Terminal, Don Muang International Airport, Bangkok.
- Arrival in Phuket, and travel to Koh Yao Noi island.
- **Welcome Orientation** by the Koh Yao Noi CBET Club. Q & A, Lunch
- Sightseeing trip around Koh Yao Noi island lead by local Koh Yao Noi Ecotourism Guides.
- **Homestay:** Guests will stay with local fishing families in traditional homes. There will be free time with host families for discussion and cultural exchange. English / Thai speaking translators will be available to assist communication².
- Overnight at homestay.

Day 2 (includes Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner):

- **Experiencing CBT Out At Sea:** Breakfast and then accompany your homestay families fishing. You will have the chance to experience the daily life of your hosts, learn about traditional fishing techniques, and try your hand at casting a net!
- Picnic lunch on the beach, then return to the shore and free time.
- Evening dinner together with the Koh Yao Noi CBT club members.
- **Discussion Session:** How is CBT a Catalyst for Environmental Awareness, Local Confidence and Global Citizenship?
- Overnight at homestay.

Day 3 (includes Breakfast, and Lunch):

- Breakfast at the local market
- **Experiencing CBT On Shore:** Local Guides will lead participants to explore life on the island, including the small-scale rubber industry, local fishing markets, and the relationship between Koh Yao Noi's communities and mangroves.
- After lunch we will travel back to Phuket, in time for the 18.55 flight back to Bangkok.

¹ The Final Itinerary can be tailored to some extent to the backgrounds and requests of group members

² It's a good idea to take some photos of your own homes and families, to share with your host families.

Booking Details:

Minimum number of Guests: 6

Maximum Number of Guests: 15

Price:

6-7 Guests: 380

\$USD

8-10 Guests: 350

\$USD

11-13 Guests: 335

\$USD

13-15 Guests: 320

\$USD

Included: Flights Bkk-Phuket return, Meals as indicated, all activities as indicated, homestay accommodation, Thai-English speaking REST Project Study Tour Facilitator and Local Guides, Insurance

Not Included: Souvenirs, alcoholic³ or soft drinks

Payment can be made directly at the Conference

TO INSURE A PLACE AND PLANE TICKET, PLEASE CONFIRM BY: Thursday 22nd September 2005

For Further Information, Contact:

REST Project
318/116, Building D
Praya Phirom -Ratchada 2
Soi Ratchada Phisek 36
Ladysao, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900
Thailand
Tel: +662-930 5309 Fax: + 662- 930 5881
Email: rest@asiaaccess.net.th
www.rest.or.th

³ As Koh Yao Noi is a Muslim island, the Koh Yao Noi Ecotourism Club requests guests to please not drink alcohol during the trip. Thank-you