PRESS RELEASE

Record set for world’s longest condom chain

To promote condom use and HIV/AIDS prevention, Thailand sets Guinness World Record™ with the world’s longest chain of condoms.

By UNESCO Bangkok

BANGKOK, March 2007 – Guinness World Records™ have confirmed that Thailand has officially set the world record for the longest chain of condoms: 2,715 metres.

On World AIDS Day 2006, Thailand captured international attention with an attempt to create the world’s longest chain of condoms. A total of 1,436 participants tied together a total of 24,516 condoms, measured at 2,715 metres, setting a new Guinness World Record™.

The tying of the world’s longest chain of condoms was one of the events of the “Condom Chain of Life Festival”, a unique celebration of World AIDS Day, held at Lumpini Park in Bangkok, Thailand. The festival was organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Bangkok in collaboration with the Thai Red Cross, PLAN Thailand, UNAIDS and local NGOs as part of efforts to promote the acceptance of condoms, emphasize the need for safe sex, and encourage strengthening of national policies for comprehensive treatment, care and support for HIV-infected and affected people.

UNAIDS Special Representative Senator Mechai Viravaidya, a national AIDS activist, named a 2006 Time magazine hero for his groundbreaking HIV prevention efforts in Thailand, led the tying of the chain. Miss Thailand 2006, Lalana Kongtoranin, and Miss Universe 2005, Natalie Glebova, were both present at the festival and judged several of the exciting events, including one of the highlights of the day: a fashion parade. The parade was put on by Swing, a sex workers support organization, and featured a collection of clothing made out of multi-coloured condoms which was designed by the award-winning Thai fashion designer Pisith Sirihamarat.

Thai Pop star and emcee Pop Areeya set an upbeat tone at the festival, introducing performances such as by Todd “Thongdee” Lavelle, Thai classical music by Narongrit Tosa-nga (Khun-In, The Overture) and the transgender singing group Venus Fly Trap.

UNESCO Bangkok has announced that they will sell the world’s longest chain of condoms to the highest bidder. Part of the funds raised through the sale will go to HIV and AIDS prevention projects in Thailand.

Plans are now underway to celebrate World AIDS Day 2007, and UNESCO Bangkok has issued a challenge to other organizations working in the field of HIV and AIDS around the world, to see if they can break the world record set in Thailand.

The 2006 World AIDS Day organizers, UNESCO Bangkok, PLAN International Thailand, UNAIDS and the Thai Red Cross would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:


They also acknowledge support from Chic Channel, Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, Banyan Tree Bangkok, Rajawongse Clothier, Six Senses Resorts & Spas, Sheraton Grand Sukhumvit, Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square, Jones Lang LaSalle Thailand, Karat, Hua Seng Heng Goldsmith Shop, Tipco Foods (Thailand) Public Co., Ltd., Red Bull Extra, DTAC, Daimler Chrysler (Thailand) Ltd., UBC, Boonrawd Trading Co., Ltd., Heritage Snacks & Foods Co., Ltd., SEA TOURS Co., Ltd.,
Shangri-La Hotel Bangkok, Mitsubishi (Thailand) Co., Ltd., The Imperial Tara Hotel, Kang Yong
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