

PRESS RELEASE

JAKARTA TO BANGKOK BY TUK-TUK

Team Oxford Project Southeast Asia Joins Rickshaw Race Across Southeast Asia

2 charities · 4 countries · 2500 kilometres · 14 days

OXFORD, UK – 1 OCTOBER 2011 – Swapping gowns and old books for mosquitoes and tropical downpours, Team Oxford Project Southeast Asia will take part in the first ASEAN Rickshaw Run, a tuk-tuk race from Jakarta to Bangkok. The three Oxford University graduates who form the team have made the commitment as part of an effort to create a Centre for Southeast Asian studies at the University of Oxford, and will also raise funds for the Oxfordshire-based charity The Cambodia Trust and global conservation partnership BirdLife International.

The members of Team Oxford Project Southeast Asia are: Dr. CHAN Xin Hui (Singapore), Dr. THUM Ping Tjin (Singapore) and Tom HOOGERVORST (the Netherlands). They are core members of Project Southeast Asia, a campaign whose ultimate aim is the establishment of a Centre of Southeast Asian studies at the University of Oxford – the first for the region in one of the world's top universities.

From 16 to 30 October 2011, they will join 30 teams from the UK, Europe, North America and Australia to travel over land from Jakarta to Bangkok via motorised rickshaw to raise funds for charity in the inaugural Rickshaw Run Southeast Asia, an event sponsored by ASEAN to promote greater integration among ASEAN member countries.

One of Project Southeast Asia's first goals is to secure financial support for a University Lecturership in Southeast Asian History. The University of Oxford is seeking £3 million to fund this post in perpetuity.

“Southeast Asia's importance is growing exponentially, and Oxford is eager to build on the many existing links between the University and the region,” says Robert Barnes, Professor of Anthropology, “The Rickshaw Run illustrates the dynamism and diversity of these relationships.”

Dr. Thum says, “Project Southeast Asia firmly believes that Southeast Asia must be studied as a whole. Similarly, the Cambodia Trust is a Southeast Asia-wide charity. Travelling overland from Jakarta to Bangkok underlines the unity of Southeast Asia and the close connections that underpin the region.”

Dr. Chan elaborates, “At nearly every stop on our adventure - and in particular in Jakarta and Bangkok - there are already Oxford academics conducting research and addressing Southeast Asian and global problems.”

During the adventure, the team will make stops at ASEAN headquarters in Jakarta, The Cambodia Trust's Jakarta School and the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit in Bangkok. Other stops will be announced closer to the event on the Project Southeast Asia website at www.projectsoutheastasia.com.

The official sponsor of Team Project Southeast Asia Oxford for the ASEAN Rickshaw Run is HungryGoWhere.

For interviews, photos and additional information about how to support Project Southeast Asia at Oxford, please contact:

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www.youtube.com/user/projectsea

www.flickr.com/photos/projectsea

www.justgiving.com/teams/aseanrickshawrun

Notes to editors –

About Project Southeast Asia:

The University of Oxford recognises the importance of Southeast Asia and the tremendous potential of Southeast Asian knowledge and expertise. It wishes to apply Southeast Asian knowledge to find solutions for the world's problems and use global expertise to address Southeast Asian problems. This builds on Oxford's already numerous contributions to Southeast Asia - both within and outside academia - and its unsurpassed track record of excellence in the region, particularly in the field of medicine, where it conducts world-leading research in nearly every Southeast Asian country.

About the Rickshaw Run Southeast Asia:

The inaugural Rickshaw Run Southeast Asia is organised by The Adventurists, a UK company that supports charities through activities such as an ice race across Siberia and a horse derby through Mongolia. The official charity for the Rickshaw Run is Birdlife International but teams also raise funds for a second charity of their choice.

www.theadventurists.com/the-adventures/asean-rickshaw-run

About The Cambodia Trust:

The Cambodia Trust was founded by Dr. Peter Carey and others in 1989 to equip the victims of anti-personnel mines in Cambodia with artificial limbs and orthopaedic aids. It has since expanded its activities to seven Southeast Asian countries and now helps to treat all kinds of physical handicaps. It is the largest provider of international standard prosthetic & orthotic education in the world.

www.cambodiatrust.org.uk

About HungryGoWhere:

HungryGoWhere is proud to be the official sponsor of Team Project Southeast Asia Oxford. Together with sister sites HungryDeals and TableDB, HungryGoWhere has been celebrating ASEAN restaurants, cuisine and culture with food lovers from all over the world. Visit www.TableDB.com today to make a reservation at the best ASEAN restaurants, and www.HungryDeals.sg for the best food deals in ASEAN today.

www.HungryGoWhere.com

Biographies

Dr. CHAN Xin Hui Supanee – Singapore

Xin Hui is a doctor at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital of Thai-Singaporean descent who is passionate about international health and development. She read Medicine at St. Edmund Hall and Lincoln College at the University of Oxford. An active volunteer and student leader, she has won awards for her contributions to the University and her humanitarian work on three continents including the prestigious University of Oxford Vice-Chancellor's Civic Award and the St. Edmund Hall Simon and Arpi Simonian Prize for Leadership. She was named one of the British Council's International Students of the Year in 2008. Xin Hui hopes to become an infectious disease physician and work in a conflict zone.

Mr. Tom Gunnar HOOGERVORST – the Netherlands

Tom is a graduate of the Leiden University Indonesian Studies programme, and is currently completing a DPhil at Linacre College, University of Oxford, in the maritime archaeology and interethnic trade networks of the Indian Ocean. Fluent in half a dozen Asian languages, including Malay, Javanese and Tetum, Tom is passionate about the cultural, linguistic and archaeological study of Southeast Asia. He is also a long-time enthusiast of Southeast Asian music, martial arts and cooking. Tom regularly visits family in Indonesia – his grandmother is Javanese – and has travelled extensively around Southeast Asia for academic fieldwork. He has participated in Malay speech contests and collaborated on a forthcoming documentary on isolated communities.

Dr. THUM Ping Tjin ('PJ') – Singapore

PJ is an academic who teaches history at the University of Oxford. A Harvard graduate in East Asian Studies, he has recently completed a DPhil in History at Hertford College, University of Oxford, entitled Chinese-language Political Mobilisation in Singapore, 1953-63. A Rhodes Scholar and Commonwealth Scholar, PJ swam for Singapore at every level including the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He is also the first Oxford graduate and first Singaporean to swim across the English Channel in August 2005, completing the journey despite inclement weather in 12 hours and 24 minutes.

Dr. Peter CAREY MBE – United Kingdom

Born in Burma, Peter is Fellow Emeritus of Trinity College, Oxford, where he specialised in the modern history and politics of Indonesia, Burma and East Timor. He was co-founder and first chairman (1989-96) of The Cambodia Trust. In March 2004, Peter established the local Timor-Leste NGO – ASSERT (Associação Hi'it Ema Ra'es Timor/Association for the Promotion of Equality for Timor's Disabled People) – which now runs the national clinic. In April 2005, he was awarded the Independence Medal of East Timor by the Timor-Leste Government and in January 2006 made a Grand Officer of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator (Ordem do Infante Dom Henrique), Portugal's highest civilian honour for foreigners. In November 2008, he was selected for the Beacon Prize for Charitable Leadership, dubbed by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown as the 'Nobel Prize for Charities'. In October 2008, Peter took early retirement from Trinity College, Oxford, to take up a position as Country Director of the Cambodia Trust in Indonesia. In the spring of 2011, he was awarded an MBE for services to the disabled of Southeast Asia.

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