

The Tham Luang Cave Rescue : A Global Mission



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At Tham Luang Cave in Tham Luang - Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park

June 23rd - July 10th, 2018





Introduction

As the plight of the 13 members of the Moo Pa (Wild Boars) Football Academy trapped in the cave complex of Tham Luang Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park, Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai, between June 23rd – July 10th 2018, captivated the world’s attention, the Royal Thai Government was able to harness cooperation and assistance from all sectors, in Thailand and from overseas, for a successful rescue mission that witnessed great determination, selflessness, and courage by all involved.

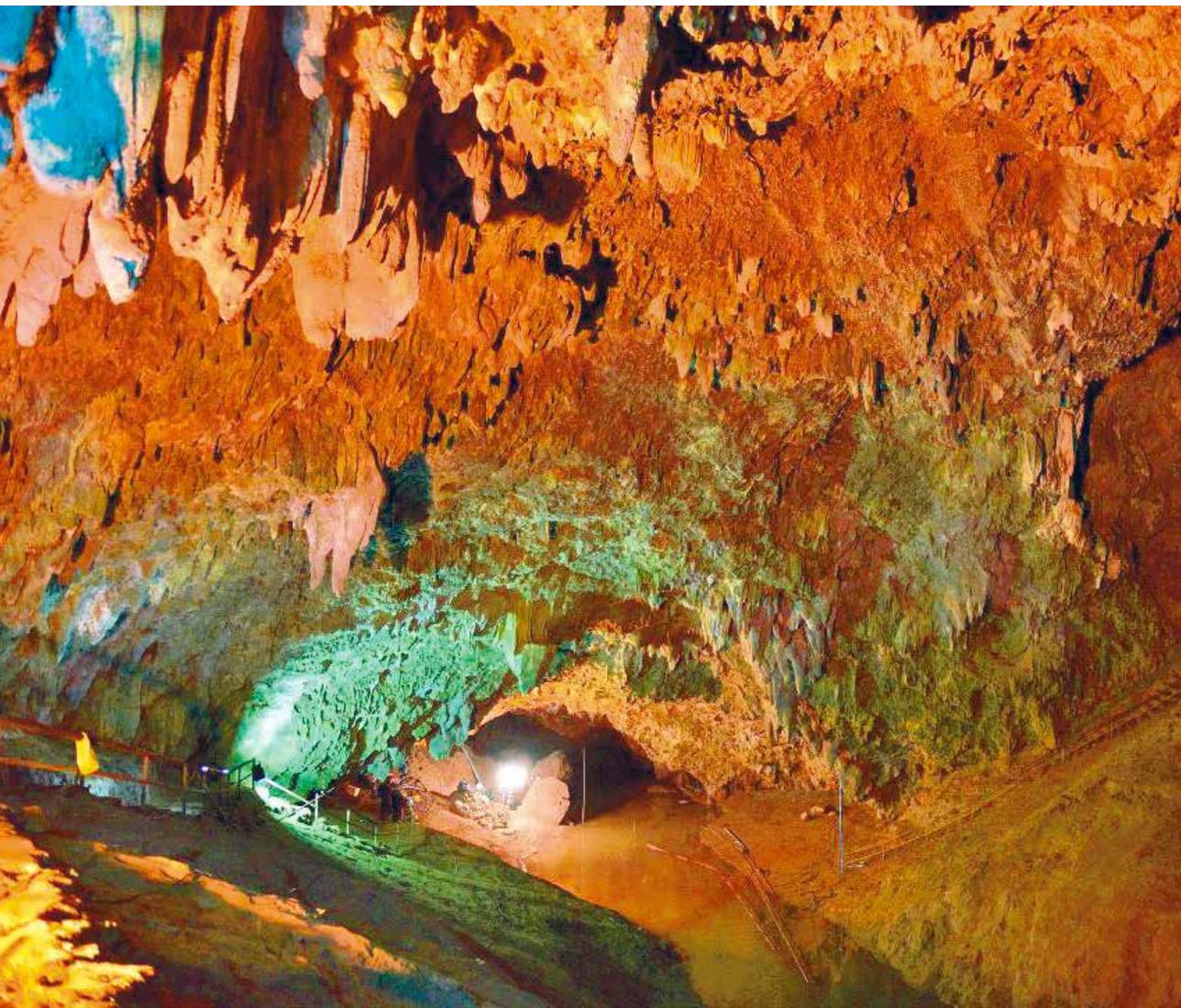
Moreover, the Thai people are most grateful for the benevolence of His Majesty the King and the Royal Family for bestowing constant care, close monitoring of the situation, direct assistance, and encouragement throughout the rescue operation.

This successful rescue operation represents an important event in history, particularly due to the daunting challenges and perilous nature of the mission, as well as the expertise and extensive interdisciplinary knowledge required to make it successful. Importantly, the mission exemplified international cooperation at its best in planning and implementing a rescue operation that depended on timely actions, not to mention the enduring determination and unity of all parties involved.

This picture book entitled “The Tham Luang Cave Rescue: A Global Mission” published by the Ministry of Culture, is, therefore, an actual account of this remarkable event that inspired the world, which will be useful for future generations to appreciate and learn from.

General  Ret.
(Prayut Chan-o-cha)

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand



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Deepest Gratitude for the Royal Benevolence

The rescue mission of the 12 young football players and the coach assistant at Tham Luang Cave was very difficult. When aware of the incident, King Maha Vajiralongkorn was concerned and monitored the mission closely. On this occasion, the King advised that the search mission be conducted with care. He also extended words of encouragement to the victims' families and the rescue units. The royal support also included water-proof jackets, rain-coats, mosquito repellents, flashlights, helmets, coveralls and boots, socks, and LED lights. In addition, the King also ordered that the Royal Kitchen be installed near the operation base where volunteers came to lend hands in cooking for the authorities and the media. To encourage the people during the operation, the King admired and thanked them when the mission was complete. The families of the victims, the rescue units, and the media members were thankful for the royal grace.

In addition, other royal family members also voiced their concerns, bolstered morale, and lent supports, including Princess Chulabhorn, Princess Ubolratana, Princess Soamsawali, and Prince Dipangkorn Rasmijoti.



I am pleased and greatly relieved to learn that, on 2nd July, 2018, the rescuers have reach all 12 youth footballers of Moo Pa (Wild Boar) Academy Football Club and their coach who were trapped inside Tham Luang caves in the Tham Luang - Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park on 23rd June, 2018. This is good news not only for all Thai people but also for those of other nations who have been following the event.

Such operation could not been achieved unless there is the unity of effort exerted by all in a disciplined manner, supported by great knowledge, dedication and sacrifice. These people, including officials of Chiang Rai Province, police officers, military officials, medical officers, nurses, special operation teams, volunteers from all over the country, experts from abroad who travelled great distance and the mass media both from Thailand and beyond who provided fully operational support as well as the public encouragement and concern, have given the helping hands readily extended in complete disregard of self-interest.

This circumstance has clearly shown the power of unity in action, power of love and goodwill towards fellow men regardless of race and religious beliefs. In this connection, I am pleased to extend the sincerest thanks and appreciation to all concerned and wishing them every success in the coming phases of this endeavour. May they proceed in great care, assuredness and wisdom, guided by an unwavering faith so that this rescue effort may fully achieve the ultimate success as all of you have wished.

Vajiradongkorn

4 July, 2018



นำชิ้นชมยินดีปรีดัก ที่ปฏิบัติการช่วยเหลือผู้ประสบภัยธรรมชาติและผู้ด้อยโอกาสที่มี
ออกจากถ้ำหลวง วนอุทยานถ้ำหลวง - ขุนน้ำนางนอน จังหวัดเชียงราย ประสบความสำเร็จอย่างงดงาม
เมื่อวันที่ ๑๐ กรกฎาคม ๒๕๖๑

เหตุการณ์ที่เกิดขึ้นครั้งนี้เป็นเรื่องสุดวิสัย และไม่มีผู้ใดคาดคิด ปฏิบัติการค้นหาและช่วยเหลือ
จึงต้องกระทำอย่างปัจจุบันและเร่งด่วน แต่ทุกคนทุกฝ่ายที่เกี่ยวข้องก็สามารถบริหารจัดการสถานการณ์ได้
อย่างดีเยี่ยม และทุกภาคส่วนก็ระดมสรรพกำลังกันมาช่วยเหลือ ไม่ว่าจะเป็นภาครัฐ ภาคเอกชน
ภาคประชาชน ทั้งจากในประเทศและต่างประเทศ ต่างยอมเสียสละกำลังกาย กำลังปัญญา กำลังทรัพย์
และยอมสละแม้ชีวิตของตน ส่วนผู้ประสบภัยเองนั้น ต่างก็ทุ่มความช่วยเหลือซึ่งกันและกันเป็นอย่างดี
ตลอดระยะเวลาที่เกิดเหตุ ประกอบกับการที่ประชาชนทั่วโลกก็กำลังให้ความสนใจผู้ประสบภัยและผู้ปฏิบัติการ
ช่วยเหลืออย่างท่วมท้น จึงกล่าวได้ว่า ปฏิบัติการครั้งนี้แม้จะมีความยากลำบาก แต่ก็มิใช่สิ่งที่ดีและมีคุณค่า
บังเกิดขึ้นอย่างไม่อาจประมาณได้

ข้าพเจ้าขอขอบใจทุกคนทุกฝ่ายเป็นอย่างยิ่ง และหวังว่าเหตุการณ์ครั้งนี้จะเป็นเครื่องเตือนใจ
ที่จะทำให้ทุกคนได้เรียนรู้จากประสบการณ์ว่า การบริหารจัดการที่ดี การใช้ความรู้ ความสามารถ
ความเชี่ยวชาญ ให้พอเหมาะพอดีกับสถานการณ์ การปฏิบัติตนและปฏิบัติกรอย่างรอบคอบ มีวินัย
มีสติ ตลอดจนการรู้หน้าที่ของตน และปฏิบัติหน้าที่ให้ประสานส่งเสริมกับทุกคนทุกฝ่ายโดยเต็มกำลัง
เป็นเครื่องมืออย่างสำคัญ ที่สามารถนำไปใช้แก้ไขอุปสรรคปัญหา รวมทั้งพัฒนาบ้านเมืองของเราได้
และการช่วยเหลือซึ่งกันและกัน ด้วยความรักความปรารถนาดีต่อกันนั้น เป็นพลังอันยิ่งใหญ่ ที่จะทำ
ให้มวลมนุษยชาติอยู่ร่วมกันได้อย่างผาสุกและเป็นตลอดไป

๑๒ กรกฎาคม ๒๕๖๑



On June 27th, 2018, Princess Chulabhorn donated 500,000 baht to sponsor the rescue operation for the 13 lives trapped inside Tham Luang Cave, Chiang Rai, lifted morale for the rescue team, and wished them safety and success.





nichax

nichax ขอให้สิ่งศักดิ์สิทธิ์และเจ้าป่าเจ้าเขา ณ ถ้ำหลวงนางนอนเปิดทางให้ผู้ค้นหาทั้งหน่วยซีล เจ้าหน้าที่อุทยาน และผู้ค้นหาทุกคนรวมทั้งหุ่นยนต์ดำน้ำด้วยให้หาทีมหมูป่าและโค้ชทั้ง 13 คนให้ได้ อย่างปลอดภัยทั้งผู้ช่วยเหลือและผู้ถูกช่วยเหลือด้วย สาธุ🙏🙏🙏 และ #วันนี้เป็นวันต่อต้านยาเสพติดโลก #อย่าลืมภารกิจของเรา!

On June 26th, 2018, Princess Ubolratana posted in Instagram the message of encouragement and concern, saying *“I beg the power of holy entities and the gods and goddess of the forest at Tham Luang Nang Non Forest Park to let the SEALs, the authorities, and the search team to find the victims, and wish the 13 of Moo Pa Academy safety, the saviors and the saved.”*





On July 1st, 2018, Princess Ubolratana posted in her Instagram again. This time, it was her painting of a large wild boar, together with 12 young football players and the coach assistant who were trapped inside Tham Luang – Khun Nam Nang Non, Chiang Rai. The caption said *“Today #Team-Moo Pa Academy and coach will all meet us. I wish the Wild Boars Team and everyone involved safety.”*





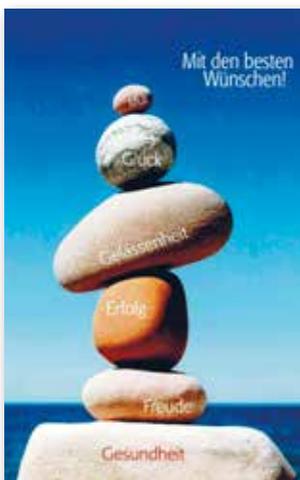
On July 1st, 2018, during the oath taking and marching ceremony of the boy scouts on the National Scout Day at the National Stadium, Princess Soamsawali voiced her concern over the missing children and the coach, saying *“I wonder if the missing kids in Chiang Rai have been found or not. I monitored the news and feel deeply concerned. I would like to extend words of encouragement to all the authorities working on site. I am aware that the mission is difficult because the water level is high and the cave is pitch dark. I wish the kids are found very soon because I am so worried.”*



On July 6th, 2018, Prince Dipangkorn Rasmijoti made a postcard. In the postcard, there were rocks of different colors and sizes, and each of them had different words painted in German language communicating the prince's words of encouragement for the missing football team. The words are as below.

Mut	“courage”
Glück	“luck”
Gelassenheit	“serenity”
Erfolg	“success”
Freude	“joy”
Gesundheit	“healthiness”





LIEBE KINDER,

3.7.2018

IHR HATTET SICHER GROSSE ANGST, ABER ICH HABE
IMMER AN EUCH GEDACHT.
ICH BIN ÜBERGLÜCKLICH DASS IHR SICHER UND
GESUND SEID.

MEIN GROSSER DANK GILT AUCH ALLEN
HELPERN, DIE DIESE RETTUNG MÖGLICH
GEMACHT HABEN!

ALLES GUTE, DIPANGKORN RASMIJOTI

The other side bears the 13-year-old prince's message written in German dated July 3rd, 2018, expressing the concern for the lost football players and their coach. The message is translated into English as below:

“Dear children, You must be very afraid right now, but I always have you in my thoughts. I am very happy to know you are all safe and in good health. I'd like to thank everyone helping out, and I wish this mission success!”

All the best

Dipangkorn Rasmijoti



วนอุทยานลำหลวง-ขุนน้ำนางนอน

THAM LUANG - KHUN NAM NANG NON FOREST PARK

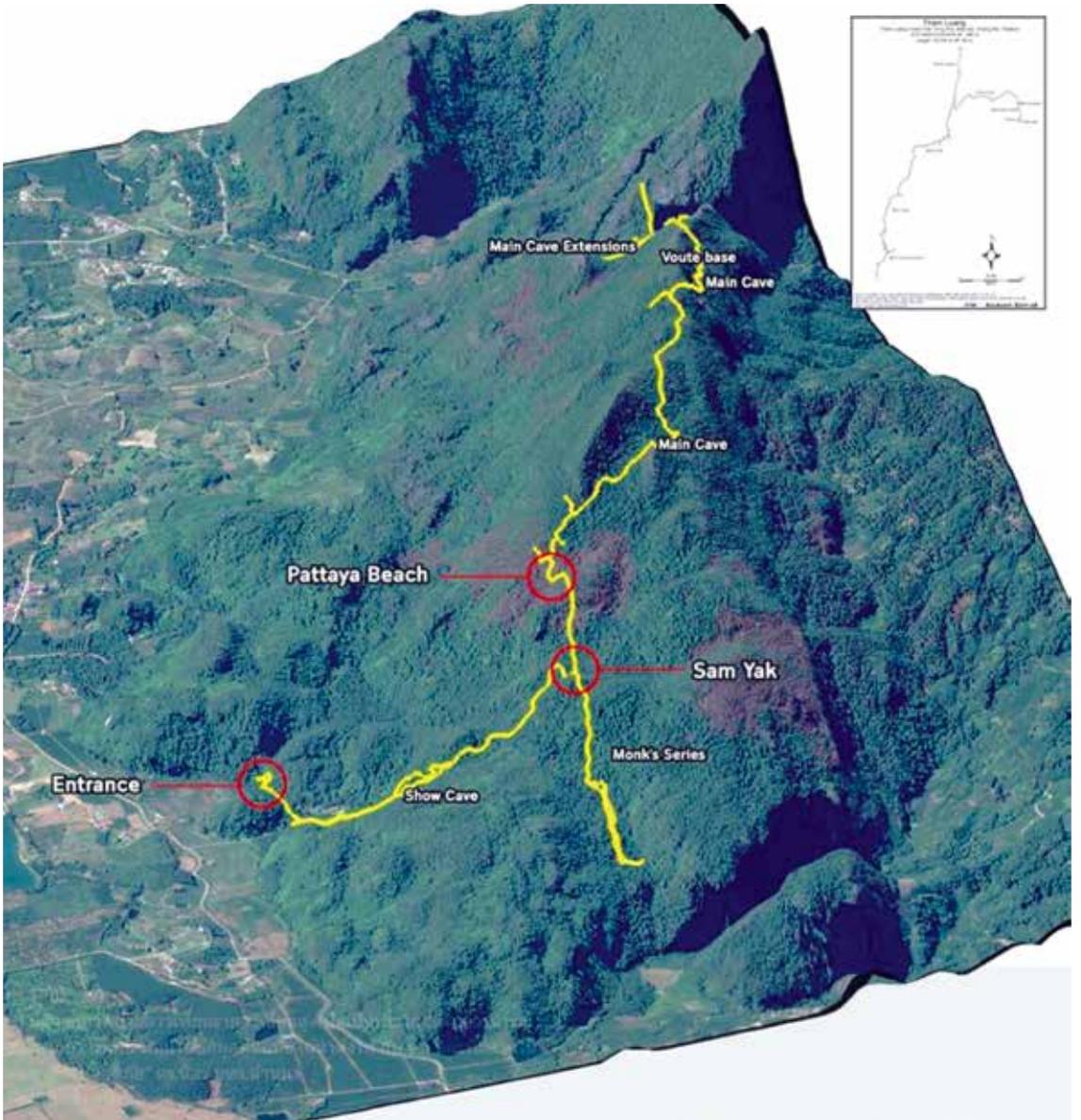
Tham Luang - Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park

Tham Luang - Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park is inside Pa Doi Nang Non National Park located in Pong Pha Sub-district, Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai Province. The park is 5,000 rai in size. It was declared as a forest park on October 1st, 1986 by Royal Forest Department. The forest park is characterized by mountain range with an average of 779 meters, extending toward the east side of Tham Luang Cave.

Tham Luang is a semi-dry karst cave, covering an area of 12 rai and the length of 10,316 meters. It is the 4th longest cave in Thailand. The mouth of the cave features a spacious hall. The interior of the cave is magnificent as it is filled with stalagmites and stalactites glittering as they reflect the light. Some of the cave area have streams flowing inside, grottos, and branches of smaller caves. Along the cave hall, there are from time to time curve passage. The cave is easily accessible in some area and difficult to pass in other areas as they have low ceiling and narrow passage. There is no lighting system inside due to its damp walls. Tourists may inform the park officials if they wish to enter the cave and they are required to be accompanied by local staff or a tour guide.

From the outside of Tham Luang - Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park is an unusual feature. When it is viewed from certain angles, it looks like a woman with long hair lying down along the road in Chiang Rai's Mae Chan District and Mae Fah Luang District. The mountaintop is where Phra That Doi Tung located. From afar, viewers will see the shape of her head, breast, and body. Local people usually call the mountain as "Doi Nang Non" (translated as mountain of sleeping lady). The peak of the mountain is at "Pha Chang Moop" rising 830 meters above the mean sea level.

Normally, Tham Luang cave is open for tourists only during the dry season (December – June). In the rainy season (July – November), tourists are not allowed deep inside the cave because the inside of the cave is usually flooded with rainwater. When it rains, the water level in the cave will rise rapidly because the Nang Non range comprises many high mountains. The lower area of the cave is where most of the water goes. Some of the cave area has the water depth of 8-10 meters, blocking the pathway. The current is most of the time strong and dangerous. Therefore, the entrance to Tham Luang Cave is prohibited, along with Tham Sai Thong Cave, until the water in the cave is completely dry in December.





The Loss and the Search

Late morning of June 23rd, 2018, coach assistant and youth football players from “Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai”, a total of 13, gathered up for practice in the football field of Ban Chong, Pong Pha Sub-district, Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai Province. After the drill in the morning, the coach assistant and the players decided to take a bicycle ride in the afternoon to explore Tham Luang Cave in Tham Luang - Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park. They parked their bicycles in front of the cave.

In the evening, staff members of Protected Areas Regional Office 18, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, noticed the 11 bicycles parked in front of the cave. Also, the authorities had received a report from parents that some children went missing. They assumed that the children might have entered the cave. The officials of the Forest Park called a rescue team and relevant authorities, and reported the incident to Chiang Rai Governor to start the search mission. The attempt on the first day found no success. On June 24th, 2018, the authorities called up more rescue teams to survey inside the cave in search of the missing children. They patrolled for a distance of 3 kilometers and found some shoes and bags. However, the rescue team could not go any further because the cave was dark and the flood level was high. They had to terminate the mission of the day.

On June 25th, 2018, the authorities asked for help from the Royal Thai Navy SEALs Unit because they found the mission more challenging and complicated than they could handle. Also, there had not been any similar incident in their experience. Therefore, they thought it might be better to seek help from experts and experienced specialists. Since then, the rescue units from within Thailand and overseas were called up to join the search mission.



The Search Operation was launched.





Belongings and slippers of the 13 members of Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai were found on the cave floor.



Moo Pa (Wild Boars) Academy Mae Sai Football Team



1. Ekkapol Chanthawong
Age 25
Coach Assistant



2. Adul Sam-on
Age 14, Grade 8
Ban Wiang Phan School



3. Prachak Sutham
Age 14, Grade 8
Mae Sai Prasitsart School



4. Natthawut Thakhamsai
Age 14, Grade 8
Mae Sai Prasitsart School



5. Phiphat Phothi
Age 15, Grade 9
Ban San Sai School



6. Phanumat Saengdi
Age 13, Grade 7
Mae Sai Prasitsart School



7. Duangphet Phromthep
Age 13, Grade 7
Mae Sai Prasitsart School





8. Chanin Wibunrungrueang
Age 11, Grade 5
Anuban Mae Sai School



9. Ekkarat Wongsukchan
Age 14, Grade 8
Darunrat Witthaya School



10. Phiraphat Somphiangchai
Age 16, Grade 10
Mae Sai Prasitsart School



11. Phonchai Khamluang
Age 16, Grade 10
Ban Pa Yang School



12. Somphong Chaiwong
Age 13, Grade 7
Mae Sai Prasitsart School



13. Mongkhon Bunpiam
Age 13, Grade 7
Ban Pa Mueat School





Chiang Rai Governor Narongsak Osotthanakorn (position then)
had a meeting with the rescue team and local agencies



A Global Mission Moment of Life and Death

The mission to rescue the 13 lives of Wild Boars Football Team is a world's agenda operation and a moment of life and death. Apart from the obstacles that barred the rescue team from entering the cave, time is a paramount rival. Ideas and opinions from experts from all over the world were brainstormed. Experienced teams were assembled, both from within Thailand and overseas, including the Royal Thai Navy SEALs Unit, the British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC), United States Indo-Pacific Command (USPACOM), and Vientiane Rescue Unit, water experts from the Japanese Government assigning to drain the water from the cave, diving experts from Belgium, France, Ukraine, and Finland, Tham Luang Cave mapper and divers from Denmark, and the international rescue units. Other support operations were also deployed, including water pumps, groundwater drilling machine, communication gadgets, gas tanks, ambulances, and helicopters. All these rescue and support operations to extract the 13 lives of Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai started from June 24th, 2018. The cave victims were found at Noen Nom Sao ledge on July 2nd 2018 and all of them were fully extracted from the cave from July 8th – 10th, 2018 before they were hospitalized at Chiang Rai Prachanukhro Hospital. The young football team members were finally discharged from the hospital and met their families on July 18th, 2018. This could be said a success for all people around the world.



General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister, visited Tham Luang – Khun Nam Nang Non in Chiang Rai to give advice and encouragement to the rescue operators as well as the victims' families on June 29th, 2018.

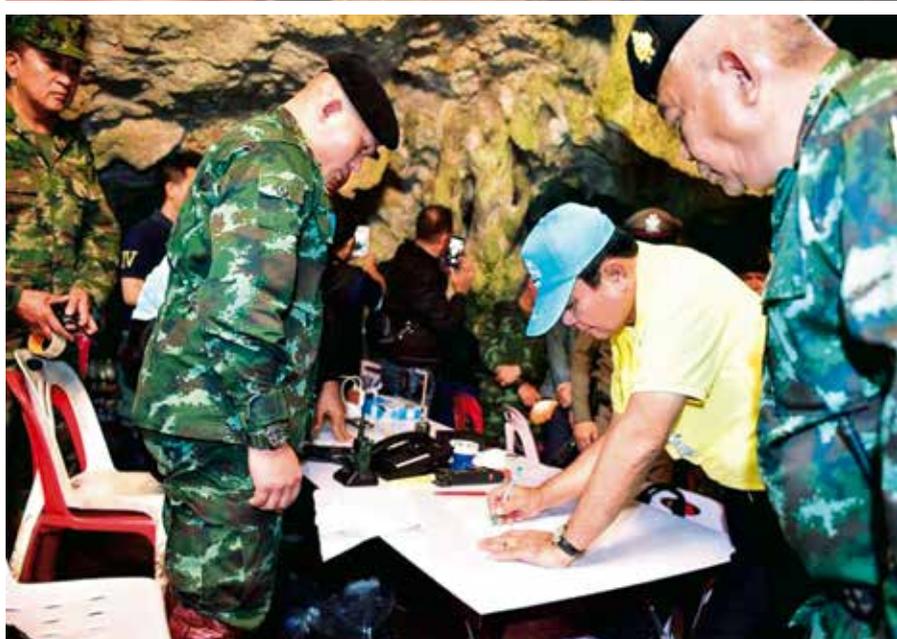


General Anupong Paochinda, Interior Minister, and Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat, Minister of Tourism and Sports, monitored the rescue mission and coordinated with the diving experts from other countries.









The Prime Minister visited and advised the rescue units in the cave.



Meir Shlomo, Ambassador of Israel to Thailand together with his delegations discussed with Narongsak Osottanakorn, Chief of Rescue Operations of the joint rescue operation to search for the missing victims in Tham Luang Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park.



Major General Pancha Duriyapan, Commander of the 37th Military Circle Commander and Major Charles Hodges, Commander of the 353rd Special Operations unit for the Air Force





Kruba Boonchum Yannasangwalo, a famous monk from Wat Phra That Don Ruang in Pong town, Myanmar's Shan state, came to Tham Luang Cave to encourage and bless the families of the victims as well as the rescue teams.



The rescue team transferred a large water pump into the cave.



Transportation of HDPE water pipe to drain water from the cave





above Vern Unsworth and Robert Charlie Harper, British experts surveying on foot in the cave complex following the GPS map

bottom left Libong birds' nest collectors abseiling from the ceiling of the cave trying to find the way in from the top

bottom right Robert Charlie Harper surveying the cave complex



above Pol. Gen. Chakthip Chaijinda, Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police, surveying the cave complex and drafting the connecting paths inside the cave
below K-9 Search and Rescue Dogs helping in the search and rescue mission of the missing Wild Boars



Rescuers were delivering baseline ropes and oxygen tanks into the cave.



Pol. Gen. Wirachai Songmetta, Deputy Chief of Royal Thai Police consulting with foreign cave experts in the preparation to find a cave entrance near Doi Pha Mee



Authorities and Ban Pha Mee villagers building a weir to change the course of the water from flowing into Tham Luang Cave



Authorities installing additional pipes to decrease the water flowing into Tham Luang Cave



Operation of high-pressure water pumps draining the water from Tham Luang Cave



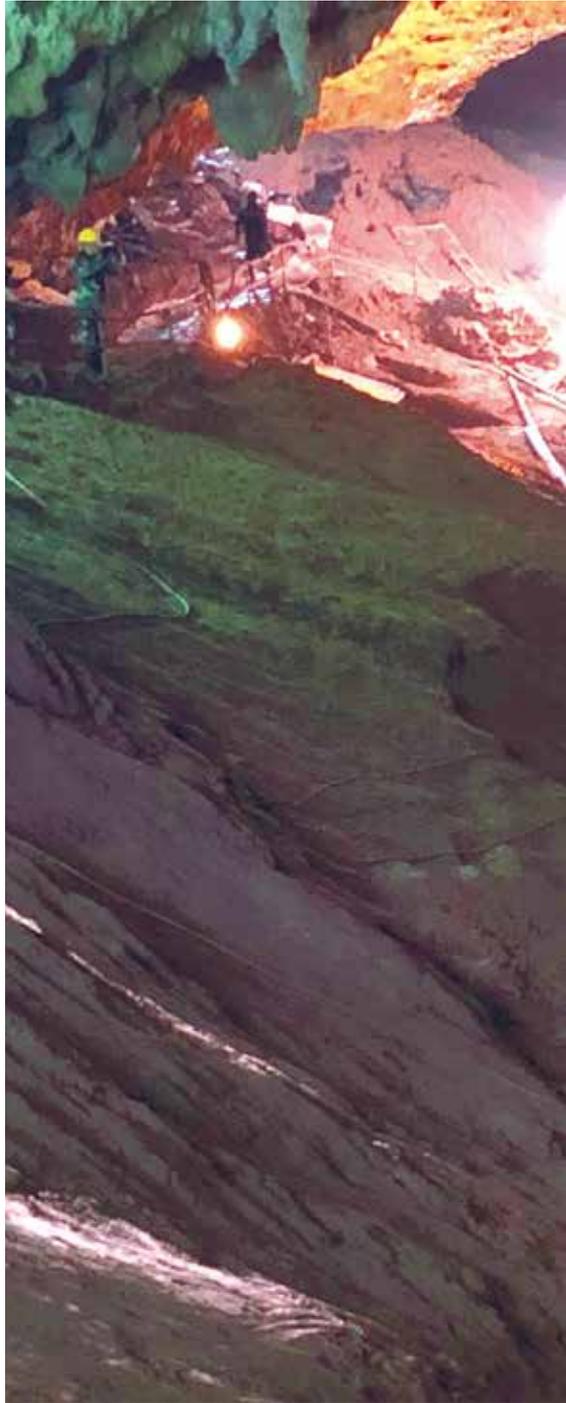
Excavation of groundwater in order to locate the wellspring and drain the groundwater from Tham Luang Cave



The operation team was drilling the cave wall as a preparation for installing the equipment at the cave mouth.



Excavation of the cave wall near the cave mouth in order to accelerate the water drainage





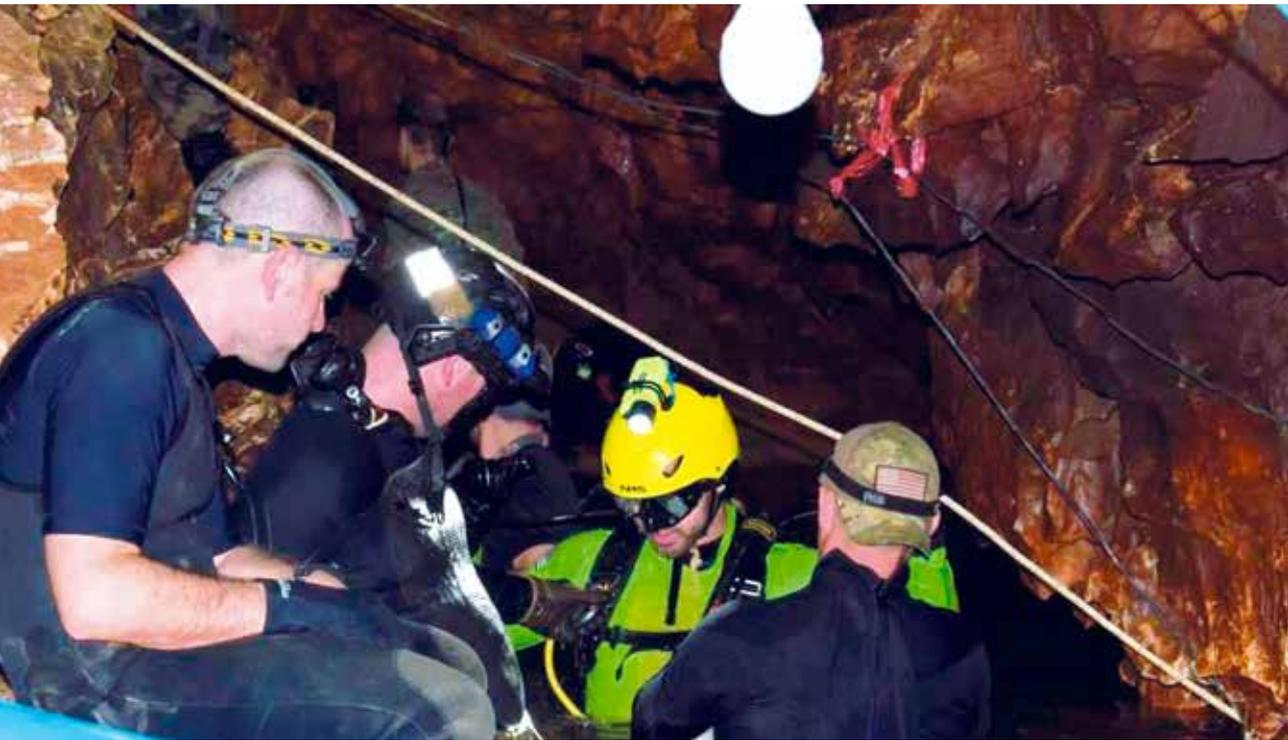
Authorities carrying the water pipes and installing the cable system to support the rescue mission



Authorities and volunteers were conducting a rescue operation.









Diving experts from overseas and the Royal Thai Navy SEALs diving inside the cave, installing the rope lines, and delivering oxygen tanks



Authorities installing the pipes to change the water course and prevent additional water from coming inside the cave





Pilots from 41st Aviation Battalion of the Royal Thai Army preparing the equipment for delivering the tools and supplies before flying a helicopter above Tham Luang Cave on Pha Mee side to supply the cave excavation tools



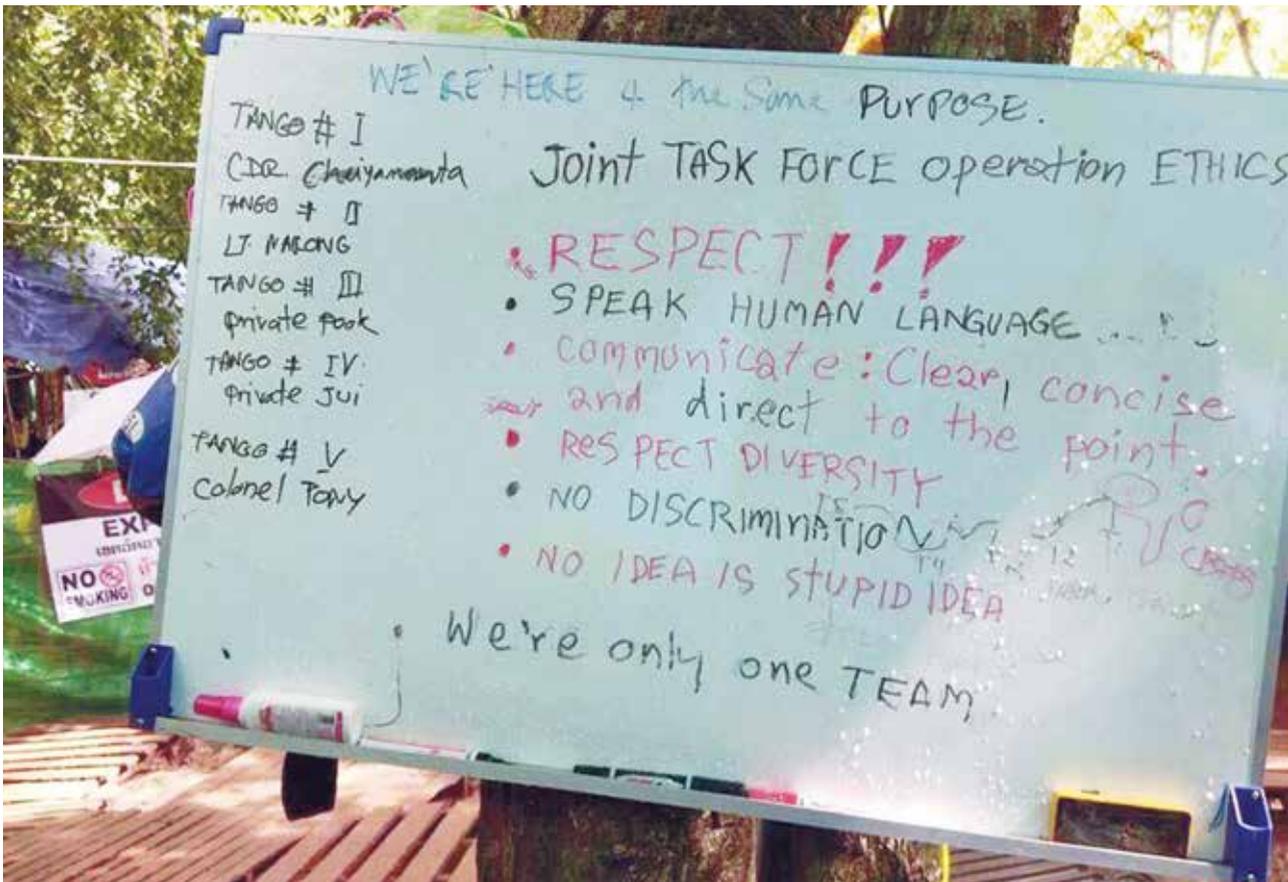
Soldiers delivering the rescue supplies while the search operation was underway.



Doctors and nurse with a mobile hospital getting ready to support the operation



Rescuers were pulling a groundwater drilling vehicle out of the ditch to later mobilize the vehicle in preparation of a drilling operation.



The sign in front of Tham Luang Cave saying that everyone in this rescue operation is in the same team.

“WE’RE ONLY ONE TEAM.”





Thai and foreign rescuers cooperatively built a rescue plan to bring the Mae Sai Wild Boars football team out of the cave.





United States Indo-Pacific Command (USPACOM) sent military and civilian experts on disaster relief with geological satellite equipment.



Caption Jessica Tait, communication officer of search and rescue team from United States Indo-Pacific Command worked with the media at the Tham Luang cave face.



above International divers during the search and rescue operation

middle Ivan Karadzic, a Danish diving instructor, was one of the international volunteer divers joining this operation.

below Erik Richard Brown, a Canadian diving instructor (*left*)

Mikko Paasi, a Finnish diver (*middle*)

and Claus Rasmussen, a Danish diver (*right*)



above International experts joining the rescue operation to save the 13 lives of Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai

middle The British rescue unit in action

below The rescue experts from China and their rescue gears



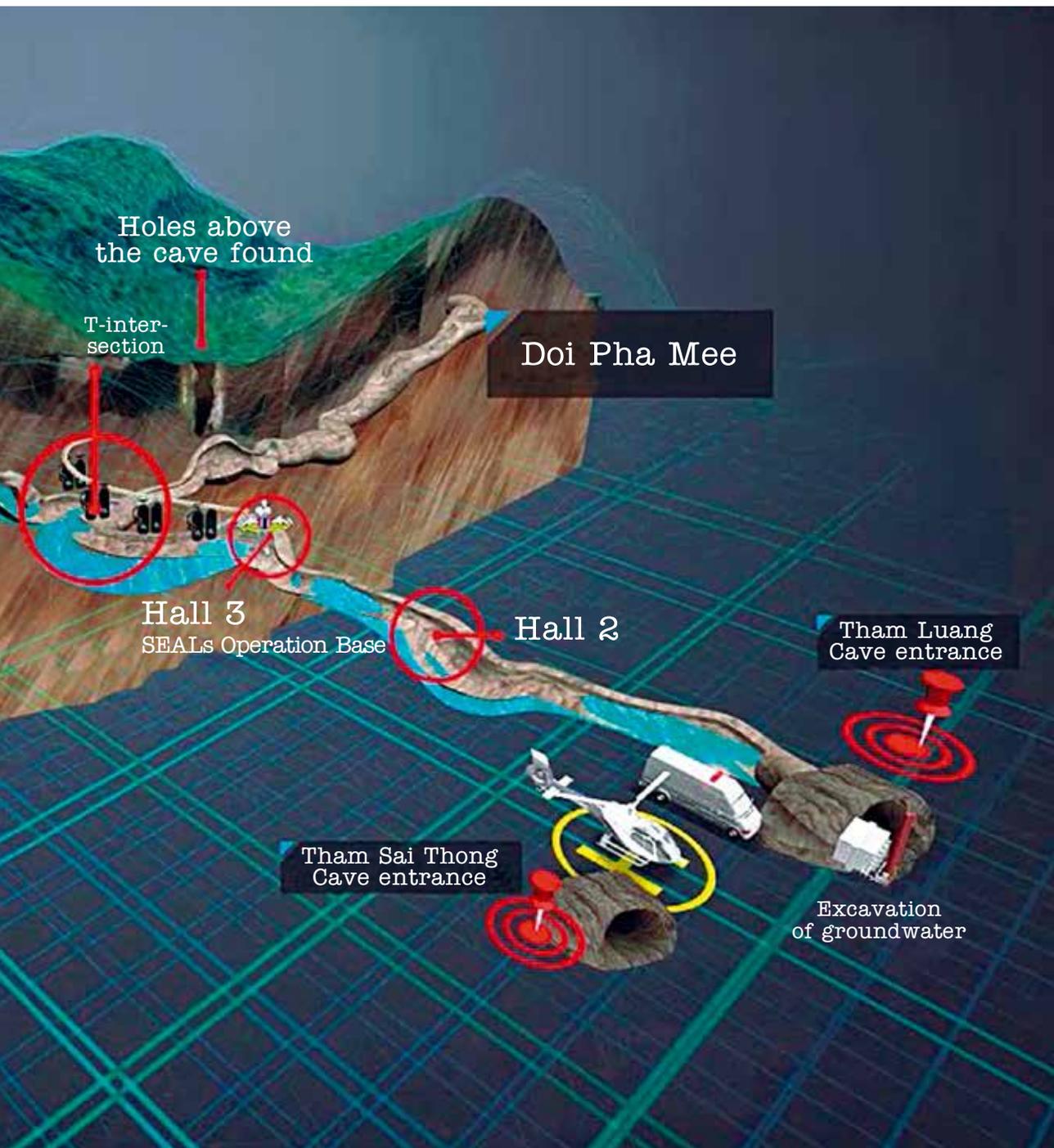
The power supply and the lighting system installation



Installation of mobile phone signal transmitter to support the operation



Preparation of the equipment to transfer 13 members of Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai to the hospital



The virtual model of Tham Luang Cave and the plan to extract the 13 boys from the cave



Power of Kindness

The crisis of the 13 lives trapped inside Tham Luang attracted kindness and sympathy from all over the world. Several government agencies, state enterprises, and private corporates joined hands in the mission together with international experts. Volunteers and the general public lent their hands in different forms, such as preparing food and drink, vehicles, laundry service, haircut, and necessary equipment related to the operation, in order to facilitate the rescue team.



Volunteer chefs preparing different kinds of food for the operation team near Tham Luang Cave

Chiang Rai Muslim Women Group volunteered to cook halal food



K Yaowarat Goldsmith's owner drove a car to distribute free food, coffee, and steak for breakfast.



Anne Marie Trenholm, 23, from the United States, came to Thailand as a tourist. She heard of the news and became a volunteer chef. She said she was delighted to witness unity of Thai people during crisis and this is hard to find elsewhere.



Volunteer chefs



Governor Narongsak Osotthanakorn waiting in the line for food



Volunteer barbers from Chiang Rai grouped up to service the authorities for free.



Male and female volunteers used their motorcycle to pick up and send authorities and media staff.



Rawinmart Luelert (Prem), owner of Miss White, a laundry business in Chiang Rai's Mae Chan District lent a hand in something she is good at. She provided a 24-hr laundry service to the rescue team and the media.



Chiang Rai volunteers collecting trash around Tham Luang – Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park

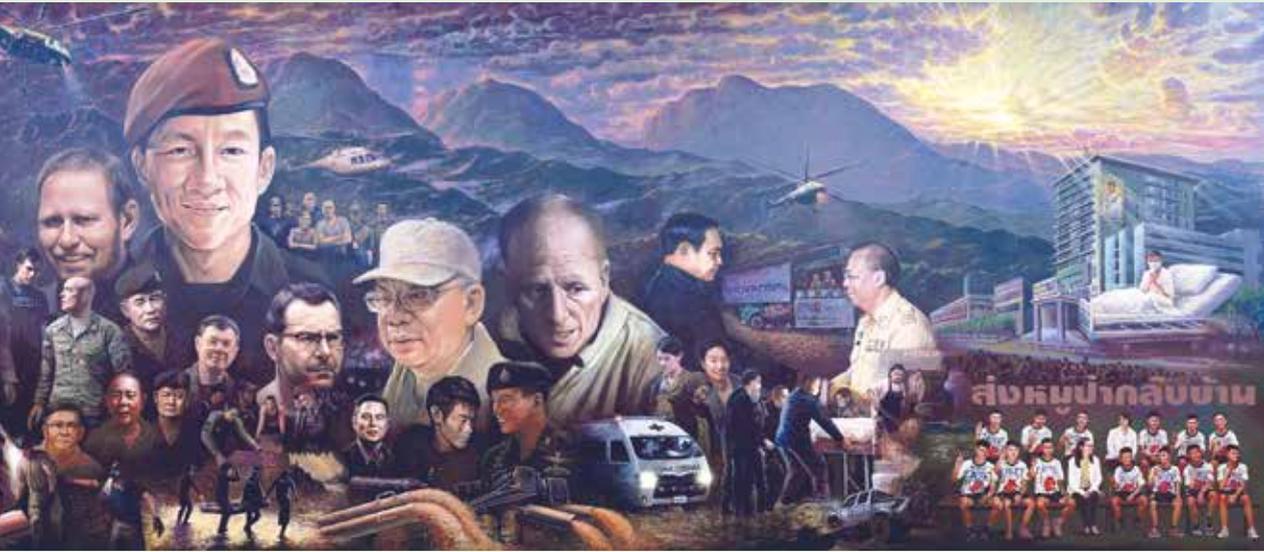


THE HEROES, borderless friendship, a piece of art made by over 300 Chiang Rai artists led by National Artist Dr. Chalermchai Kositpipat



Vira Rojpojchanarat, Minister of Culture, went to Chiang Rai to have a meeting on making an archive about the rescue mission and encouraged the artists who were working on THE HEROES on July 15th, 2018.

Tham Luang Cave Heroes



The rescue of Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai players, including 13 young football players and a coach assistant, was spectacularly successful due to the unity of Thai people and the international team. The operation was challenging and unprecedented. The environment was very risky as the cave is complex, narrow, and having almost vertical passage in certain areas. Most of the pathways were flooded by rainwater and the water did not seem to stop flowing in due to stormy weather. The rescue mission was, therefore, carried out by experts and experienced personnel, such as cave divers, Thai Royal Navy SEALs, and other international rescue units who performed their jobs very effectively in installing the equipment, delivering the oxygen tanks, cables, water drainage pipe, lighting system, communication devices, and other necessary supplies. Also, rice farmers in the plains were willing to get their rice flooded as the water were drained from Tham Luang Cave to their paddy lands.



“We Must Keep Fighting, Never Back Down.”

In the meantime, apart from the teams that went inside the cave, others were trying to find another way into the cave. Some even attempted to drill the cave wall or find a way to change the course of the incoming water in order to lower the water level inside the cave. Encouragement and support were provided in every possible way. It could be said that the success of this mission came from the power of unity of the global citizen regardless of nationality, religion, and language. They shared the same goal without expecting anything in return. Worth mentioning were the cave diving experts, Thai and international cave divers and doctors, SEALs, Thai and international rescue units, rescue volunteers, Disaster Mitigation Unit, scouts, forestry staff, physicians and nurses, Department of Mental Health, Department of Mineral Resources, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Royal Irrigation Department, Provincial Waterworks Authority, Provincial Electricity Authority, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, birds’ nest collectors, mountain climbers, groundwater excavators, Royal Thai Army, Royal Thai Navy, and Royal Thai Air Force, Police, universities and colleges, The Engineering Institute of Thailand, mobile services, local



farmers and villagers, as well as other people who lent their hands in the mission. Therefore, everyone involved in this mission should be praised and admired for their devotion as true heroes of the situation.

In this successful rescue, however, there was a sad story of former navy seal Saman Kunan during the operation. Saman Kunan was at the time working as a security guard employee of Airports of Thailand PCL, at Suvarnabhumi International Airport. In the operation, the former seal helped the SEALs team by placing the air tanks from Hall 3 to the T-intersection inside the cave. Unfortunately, he died tragically from

suffocation and drowning after returning from placing the air tanks at 1.00 a.m., July 6th, 2018. Saman Kunan did this job as a volunteer and expected nothing in return, only hoping to save the boys. He was a “Great Hero of Tham Luang – Khun Nam Nang Non”. His Majesty the King kindly ordered that his funeral be organized with honor and his ranking be promoted to “Lieutenant Commander”



A model of the statue, dedicated to LCdr. Saman Kunan, a former Navy SEALs who died during the operation



“The heroes in this rescue operation are people from all over the world. We have achieved something that no one would have expected. It is the Mission Impossible, and we should be proud of ourselves.”

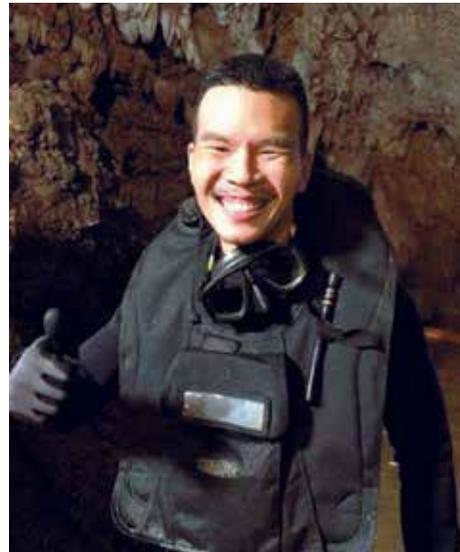
Narongsak Osotthanakorn

Chief of the Rescue Operation
of Tham Luang – Khun Nam Nang Non

“To be exact, this event is similar to a jigsaw puzzle where every piece is dispensable - with only one missing piece, the whole picture cannot be completed. I am that one small piece among all other pieces assigned to be in that place to provide those boys safety. With an absence of only one person there the mission would be impossible. – ”

Lt-Colonel Dr. Pak Loharachun (Dr. Pak)

Commander of the 3rd Medical Battalion
who took care of the boys
in Tham Luang Cave





“ We are not heroes. We just worked to the maximum extent of our ability, of what we could do. But one thing we were bearing in mind, was that the Navy had told us to never leave the people behind, and as for our part, we would never give up if the mission was yet to be achieved.”

RAdm. Arpakorn Yookongkaew



“The Moo Pa Academy rescue operation is now over. Thai Navy SEALs would like to thank divers, doctors, supporting unit, former SEALs, Khru Ba Monk, all other people who provided spiritual supports, supplies team, air pump team, water pump tam, electrical team, climber team, chef staff, laundry service, cleaners, trash collectors, local Mae Sai People, and people from all over the world for kind and encouraging words. Our success and the power in this operation shall be remembered for a long time.”

SEALs Unit in the operation of Tham Luang Cave



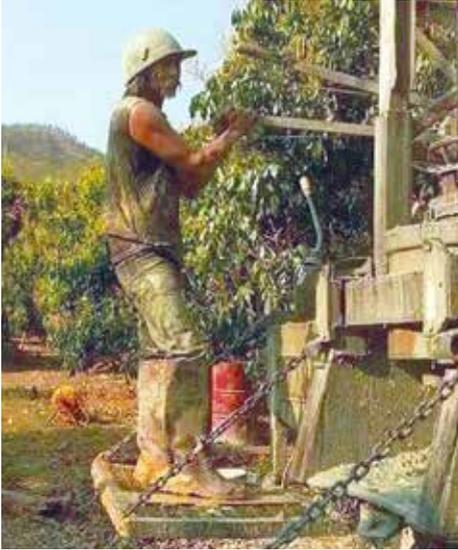
“Every one of us came willingly. We want to use our skills and local wisdom in birds’ nest collecting to save the boys from the cave.”

Birds’ nest collectors from Libong Island, Kantang District, Trang Province
abseiling on the small cavity to help the operation



“We volunteered to come here. We have our tools. We hope they make it out safely.”

The high-pressure water pump team from Nakhon Pathom and Samut Sakhon Province
who helped drain the water outside to reduce the water inside the cave as soon as possible



“My wage is the lives of the 13 boys. I’m not going home with failure.”

Suratin Chaichompoo,

President of Thai Water Well Association
deployed large drilling machines and over
100 men to assist the rescue operation.



“We prayed for the return of the boys trapped inside the cave, despite our problems. We are glad that they are alive and well. Wherever the flood comes from, we always see the sky. But the 13 boys couldn’t see anything inside the cave. They are relatives to us.”

Rice farmers sacrificed so much by letting the water from the cave flood their rice.

“Our role is not more important nor less important than that of a hundred or thousand people involved in the operation. The mission that we did might be more praised than it deserved. We only felt lucky to lend some of our skills for the success of the mission.”

Dr. Richard Harris

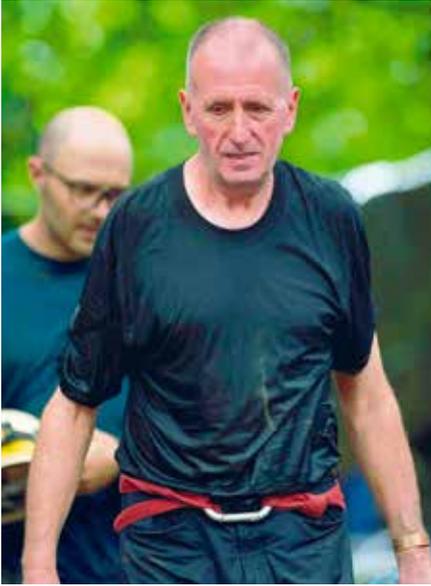
An Australian anesthetist and diver who lent his specialties in the cave rescue, examined the boys’ health, and prepared them for the extraction operation.



“I dive for passion and always wondered if it would have purpose. Last two weeks was what I prepared for my entire life.”

John Volanthen

British cave divers Richard William Stanton (*left*), John Volanthen (*right*), the first rescue team who first found Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai football team at Noen Nom Sao Ledge in Tham Luang and Robert Charlie Harper (*middle*) from British Cave Rescue Council.



Time is running out !

- 1 ROB HARPER
- 2 RICK STANTON MBE
- 3 JOHN VOLAMTHEN

they're the world best cave divers
please contact them through
UK. EMBASSY ASAP

This is among the most difficult cave diving operations I have ever experienced. It was far and very complicated, with the constant flooding that caused close to zero visibility. The boys were to be taken out of the cave one person at a time, which put them at stake due to their being merely unable to swim.

Vernon Unsworth,
A British cave explorer,
in an interview with the New York Times

Left Vernon Unsworth, British cave diver stayed in Chiang Rai and helped in planning and searching for the missing Moo Pa Academy from the very beginning.

Right The message Vernon Unsworth advised the rescue team to contact expert cave diver from the UK to assist in the operation urgently, sent from the Minister of Interior to the Minister of Tourism and Sports.

Morale From all over the world

The situation of Tham Luang attracted the interest of people around the world. The rescue mission was full of challenges and difficulties. The world was concerned for the safety of the children. Without food and water, they were trapped in the darkness. The longer they were in there, the expression of concern flooded to their parents and family members, as well as the prayer for the successful operation and safety of the children.

It took the search team 10 days to locate the missing boys (June 23rd – July 2nd, 2018). When found, the 13 boys were of good spirit. They knew how to survive. Still, it was difficult to extract them from the cave. The extraction operation needed to be done very carefully as it was a fight against the environment and the stormy weather. Finally, the 13 Wild Boars were extracted safely and the world celebrated.

In the rescue operation, Thailand received encouragement from all over the world, including national leaders, religious leaders, celebrities, and the media. The encouragement came in such forms as electronic media and cartoons. Everyone wished us success. This phenomenon reflected friendship, unity, and humanity among mankind, regardless of nationalities or religions.

Religious leaders



**Somdet Phra Ariyavongsagatanana,
Supreme Patriarch of Thailand**

On July 1st, 2018, Somdet Phra Ariyavongsagatanana, Supreme Patriarch of Thailand kindly wished the missing 13 kids trapped inside Tham Luang – Khun Nam Nang Non safety.



Foreword of Compassion

When 13 of our countrymen were facing critical situation at Tham Luang Cave in Chiang Rai's district of Mae Sai, many military and civic officials, volunteers, and kind-hearted foreign friends worked so hard to help the victims. This is a true power of unity among Thai people and generosity of friends in need. It is so much praiseworthy.

On Friday, June 29th, 2012, Somdet Borommabophit Phraratchasomphancho, ordered Buddhist monks in Thailand to meditate and say the prayer of Metta Sutta for the lost boys. I would like to extend my blessings and invite all Thai people to say the prayer of Metta Sutta, and closely study the meaning of the prayer, in order to deliver the kind blessing for happiness and wellbeing for all lives in the incident.

I wish all the victims and everyone involved in the rescue operation safety and success in their missions.

Somdet Phra Ariyavongsagatanana
Supreme Patriarch of Thailand

Wat Ratchabophit Sathit Maha Simaram
July 1st, 2018

Chula Ratchamontri Aziz Pitakkumpol



On June 28th, 2018, Chula Ratchamontri Aziz Pitakkumpol expressed his concern and prayed for God's blessing on the safety of the missing kids and coach. He personally delivered words of encouragement to the rescue team. Aziz Pitakkumpol circulated a letter to provincial Islamic committee throughout the country to encourage Muslim people to pray for the children on June 29th, 2018 after the routine Friday worship of the Allah's kindness.



Pope Francis, head of the Catholic Church



On July 1st, 2018, Pope Francis prayed at St. Peter Square for peace in every region of the world and well-being of the missing young sportsmen in Tham Luang Cave of Thailand.

National Leaders and Globally Famous People Congratulating on Social Media



Casa de S.M. el Rey
@CasaReal

¡Ya están todos los niños y su entrenador sanos y salvos! Todos hemos estado pendientes, minuto a minuto, de su rescate en [#ChiangRai](#) Enhorabuena a sus familias y a todos los que han colaborado en este increíble rescate [#ThaiCaveRescue](#) [#ThaiRescueMission](#) [@MFAThai](#)

All the children and their coach are already safe and sound! We have all been pending, minute by minute, of your rescue in [#ChiangRai](#) Congratulations to your families and to all those who have collaborated in this incredible rescue

The Royal Household of Spain

July 10th, 2018





On behalf of the United States, congratulations to the Thai Navy SEALs and all on the successful rescue of the 12 boys and their coach from the treacherous cave in Thailand. Such a beautiful moment - all freed, great job!

Donald Trump
President of the United States
July 10th, 2018



Delighted to see the successful rescue of those trapped in the caves in Thailand. The world was watching and will be saluting the bravery of all those involved.

Theresa May
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
July 10th, 2018





Katrín Jakobsdóttir
@katrinjak

To the dear brave boys and coach trapped in the Tham Luang cave in Thailand and their families: People are thinking of you all over the world and so are we here in Iceland.

Katrín Jakobsdóttir
Prime Minister of Iceland
July 10th, 2018



문재인
@moonriver365

The Thai boys are now all safely back with their families, a miracle made possible by the brave rescue crew, the coach, and the boys themselves. I wish them all a speedy recovery, and remind myself that always, the primary duty of a state is guarding the safety of its people.

Moon Jae-in
President of South Korea
July 10th, 2018





Tshering Tobgay ✓
@tsheringtobgay

Bhutan celebrates the rescue of the thirteen Wild Boars. Congratulations Thailand! Hooyah!!!
[#ThailandCaveRescue](#)

Tshering Tobgay
Prime Minister of Bhutan
July 10th, 2018



Lee Hsien Loong ✓
@leehsienloong

Delighted & relieved that the 12 Thai boys & their football coach have been successfully rescued from the [#thamluangcave](#)! A remarkable display of the strength of the human spirit. – LHL [#ThaiCaveRescue](#)

H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister of Singapore
July 10th, 2018



Glyn T. Davies
@GlynTDavies

FREEDOM! The brave Wild Boars have been set free. Hearts full of hope, joined by multitudes worldwide, Thais everywhere willed this remarkable success. USA commends ingenuity & determination of Thai-led multinat'l team & is proud to play a supporting role. Remember Saman Kuman!

H.E. Mr. Glyn T. Davies
Ambassador of the United States
to the Kingdom of Thailand
July 10th, 2018



Brian Davidson
@brijdavidson

Confirmation from the team at [#ThamLuang](#) that final phase of rescue has gone to plan. Thanks to the selfless bravery of all those involved - incl friends of [#Thailand](#) coming together to bring the 13 home. V proud of [#britishcaverescuecouncil](#) divers for their contribution.

H.E. Mr Brian Davidson
Ambassador of the United Kingdom
to the Kingdom of Thailand
July 10th, 2018



The great football player @paulpogba, dedicates the victory of the French Team in semifinals to the children of the cave in Thailand. 🇫🇷🇹🇭⚽ #ThamLuang #CaveRescue #ThailandCaveRescue #พาทีมหมูป่ากลับบ้าน #ทีมหมูป่าอะคาเดมี #WildBoars #ChiangRai #Thailand #Thaïlande

H.E. Mr. Gilles Garachon
Ambassador of the French Republic
to the Kingdom of Thailand
July 10th, 2018



The news of the rescue of the last four boys and their coach is fantastic. Tremendous achievement by all involved. We are very proud of Australia's contribution. We wish the 13 a quick recovery and return to their families. #ThamLuang #AusFedPolice #YourADF

H.E. Mr. Paul Robilliard
Ambassador of the Commonwealth
of Australia to the Kingdom of Thailand
July 10th, 2018





Mark Zuckerberg

From everyone at Facebook -- your bravery has been amazing and **congratulations** on the successful rescue of eight Wild Boars. Best of luck as you work to get the remaining three players and their coach to safety.

Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook founder
July 10th, 2018



davidbeckham So pleased to hear the news from Thailand. These boys are heroes, as is the coach, the men and women who risked their lives rescuing them and the incredible Saman Kunan. Such a positive, uplifting story.



David Beckham
Former England national team football player
July 11th, 2018



Fantastic news that all 12 boys from the Wild Boars football team and their coach have been rescued from the flooded caves in Chiang Rai. 🙏

#ThaiCaveRescue

England national football team
July 10th, 2018



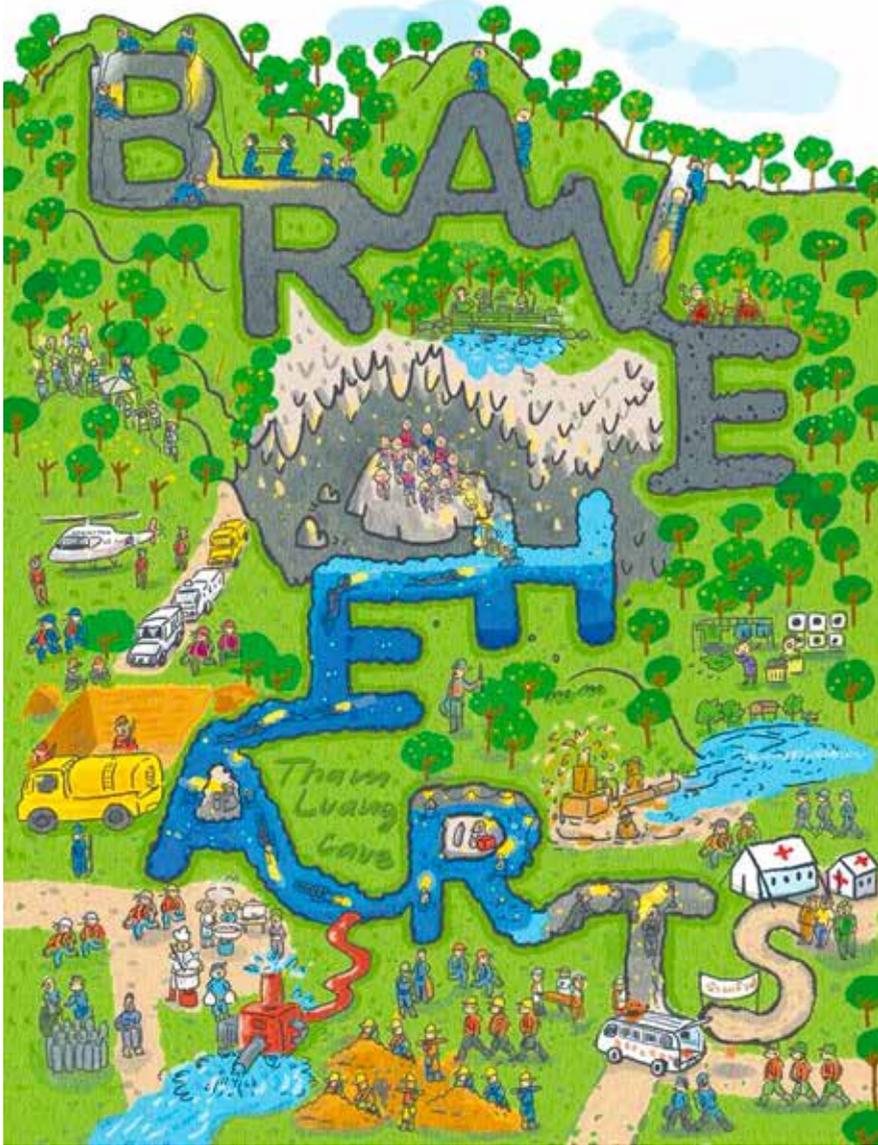
The best football news of the summer – ALL 12 young Thai players and their coach have been rescued after being trapped in a cave in Thailand for two weeks.

Our thoughts are with the family of ex-Navy SEAL diver Saman Kunan who died after delivering the boys oxygen. A real hero

Associazione Sportiva Roma
July 10th, 2018



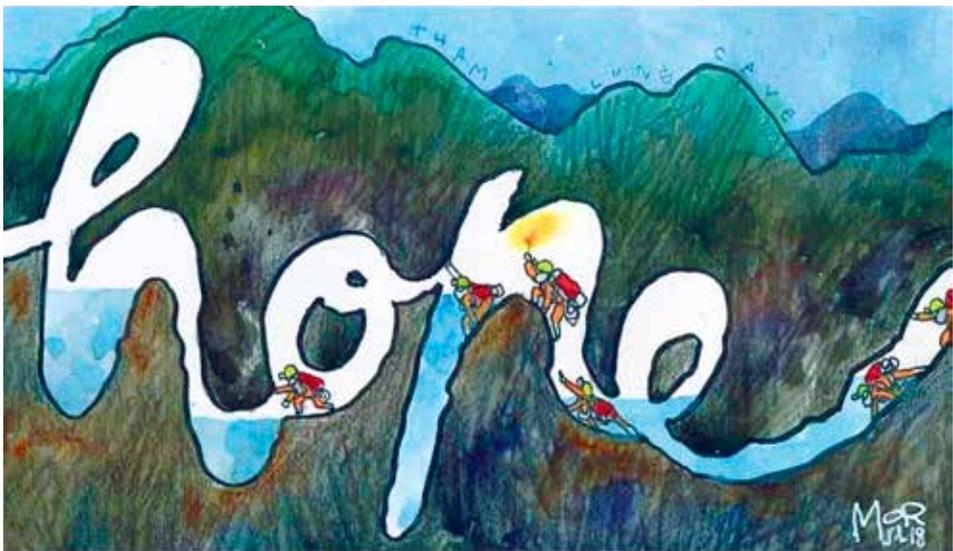
Cartoon expressing the concern
and morale to the Wild Boars



Nanthawan Wata



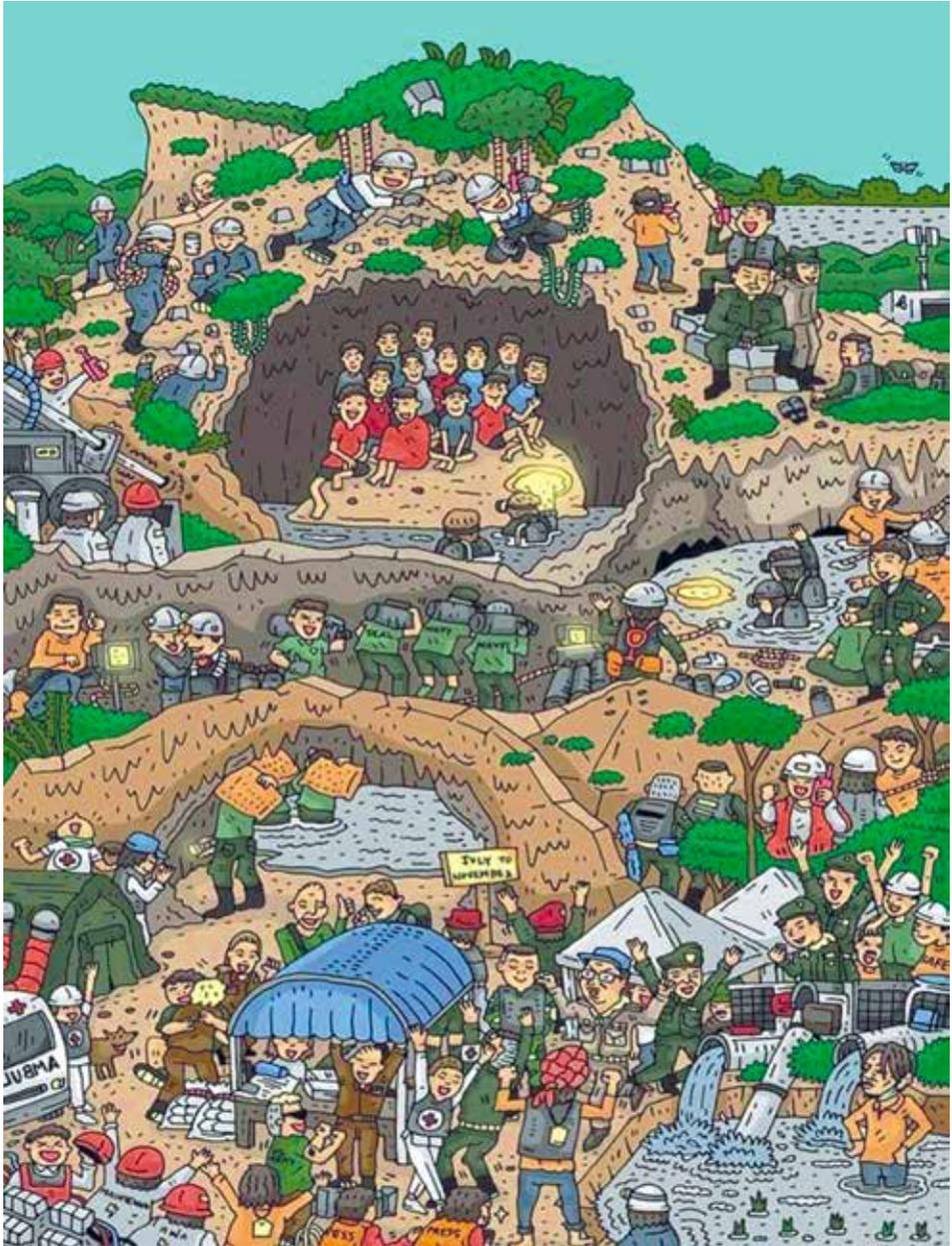
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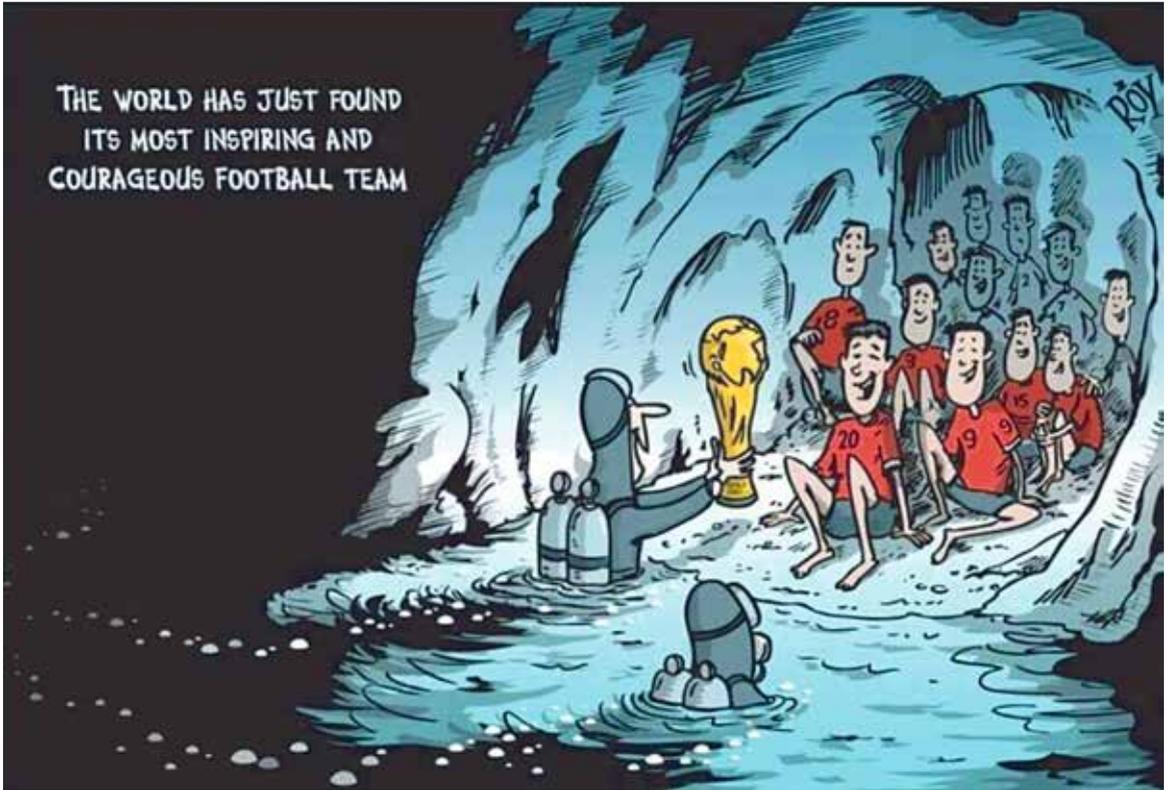
Tiwat Pattarakulvanich



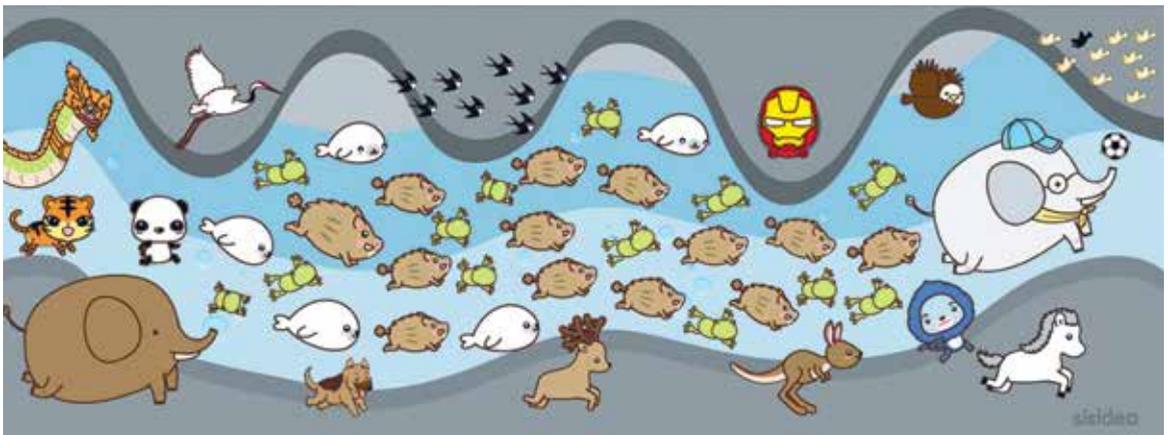
Peerapong Uthaiphaen



Ekkalak Satittawat

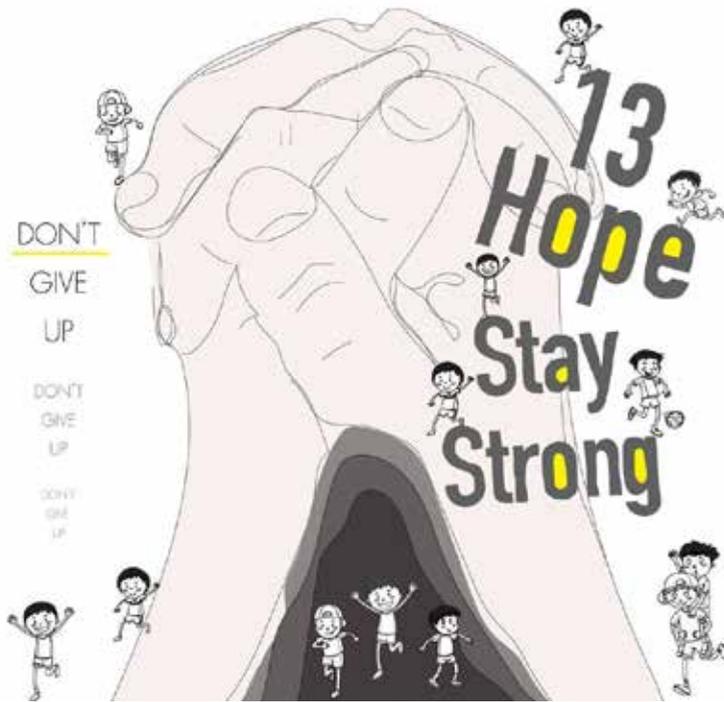


Chris 'ROY' Taylor, Australian cartoonist

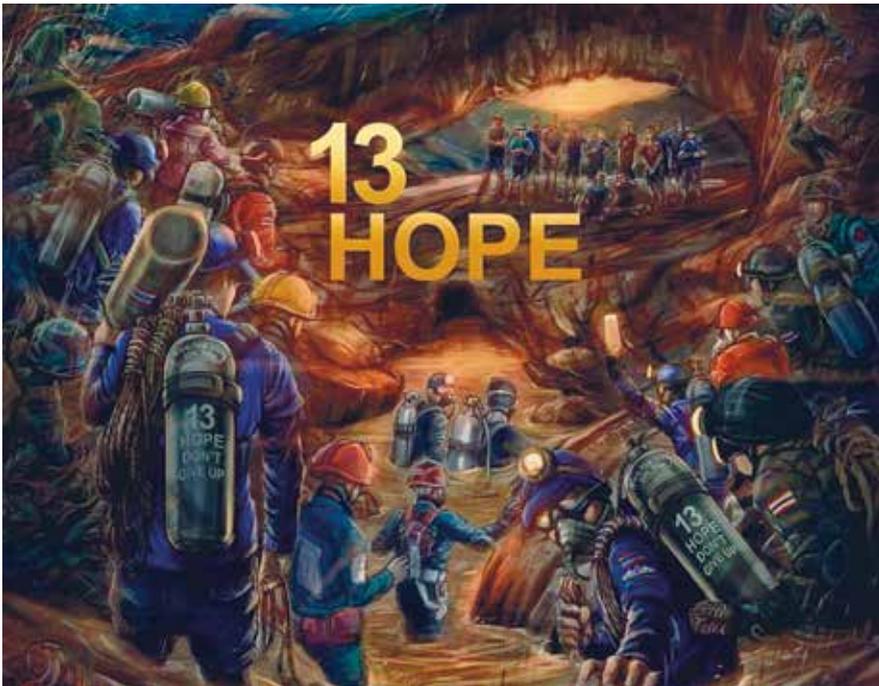


SISIDEA (Pseudonym)





P.O.CARE OFFICIAL



Zing Peerapong Uthaipan

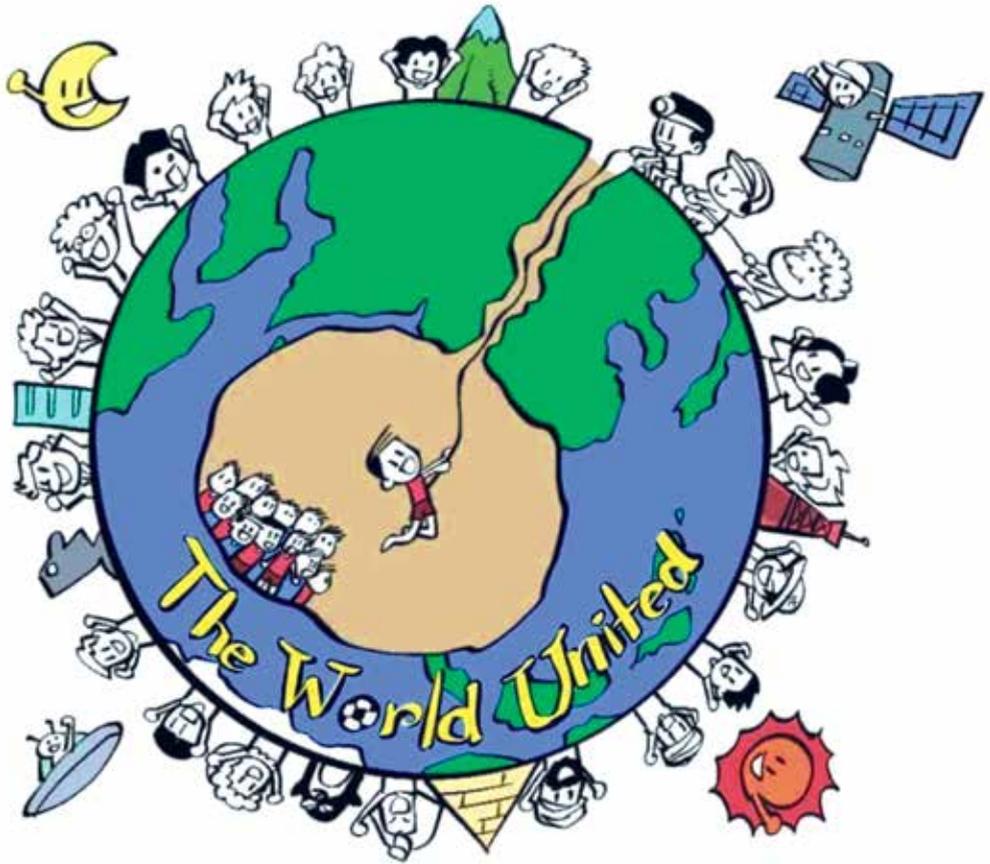


Cakebb



Whyframe design





โลกของเรา

Media all over the world closely monitoring and reporting the rescue operation



CNN Home

Missing Thai boys found alive



BREAKING NEWS

Entire youth soccer team and their coach found alive after nine days trapped in caves



Bild INFOS ZU BILDPLUS WETTER 20°C SPENEN

WOLKENLOS BILD MITSCHNITT WELTWEIT

ERAPER KONTAKT BILD SHOP LOGIN

BILDplus NEWS POLITIK GELD UNTERHALTUNG SPORT BUNDESLIGA LIFESTYLE RANGEREI REISE AUTO DIGITAL SPIELE REGIO VIDEO

BREAKING NEWS ANGELIQUE KERBER SIEGT SICH INS HALBFINALE +++ WIMBLEDON: ANGELIQUE KERBER SIEGT SICH INS I

HÖHLEN-WUNDER VON THAILAND VOLLBRACHT ++ ALLE GERETTET



Endlich Luft! Endlich Licht! Endlich wieder **LEBEN!**



Four boys saved from cave, but a race against time for all



First stage of daring underwater rescue goes without a hitch

Four boys and their soccer coach were rescued from a flooded cave after a race against time for all...



Read more news at bangkokpost.com

THE NEWSPAPER YOU CAN TRUST

THURSDAY

Cave rescue hailed as 'miracle'



The 12 soccer players and their coach who were rescued from a flooded cave arrive for their warm welcome in the northern province of Chiang Rai yesterday.

ESCAPE FROM KILLER CAVE

THAI BOYS BROUGHT OUT ALIVE ■ 30 DIVERS INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL RESCUE MISSION



Four boys and their soccer coach were rescued from a flooded cave after a race against time for all...

ONNERSTAG, 5. JULI 2010



น้องๆ ลึกๆ Seid tapfer, Jungs!

THE NEWSPAPER YOU CAN TRUST

Four boys out safely

13 foreign divers, five Thai ferals take part in rescue ■ Children escape from cave in under four hours ■ Others waiting turn, operation could take days

Countdown to Mission infographic showing rescue procedure and timeline.

Advertisement for a mobile phone promotion: 'Probleme mit Internet oder Smartphone? Die größte Telefonaktion zu DSL- und Mobilfunk-Arger'.

“13 Wild Boars”, uplifting the hearts of people globally through 243 videos on YouTube by 7 news agencies



ABC News

Reported a series of “Thailand Cave Rescue Coverage”, including 60 videos



BBC News

Reported a series of “Thailand Cave Rescue”, including 35 videos



CBS News

Reported a series of “Thailand Cave Rescue”, including 27 videos





CNN News

Reported a series of “Thailand Cave Rescue”, including 17 videos



Daily Mail

Reported a series of “Thailand Cave Rescue”, including 48 videos



NBC News

Reported a series of “Thailand Cave Rescue”, including 30 videos



Al Jazeera English

Reported a series of “Thailand Cave Rescue: Boys Finally Home”, including 26 videos

Remark: Data as of August 31st, 2018



A Lesson Of the World

The extraction of Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai football players were safe and successful. Now, the operation at Tham Luang – Khun Nam Nang Non is over. Everyone was happy. It was an earth-shaking operation for people all over the world due to unprecedented and countless of obstacles like in the movie Mission Impossible, but now it's Mission Possible. This event should be recorded in the history. Thailand has been mentioned and praised by the world for many dimensions throughout the rescue operation. Many people were monitoring the updates and news agencies from all over the world came to Thailand to report their coverage.

The rescue operation was an important lesson for Thailand and the world to learn, including strong leadership, crisis management, integrated planning, and shared goal of the team, unity, humanity, sacrifice, patience, bravery, and deployment of many disciplines, techniques, equipment, and tools. All these were reflected in the operation at Tham Luang – Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park.

Thai educational institutes, ranging from primary, secondary, university, medical school, media, and other fields of studies brought this into analysis in order to address the problem, as well as find the preventive and corrective measures for similar incidents in the future.

Many countries used this incident into the lesson to educate their children and people in general to learn from this unprecedented situation. Many articles, documentaries, short films, news scoops, cartoon model, online media, and short videos regarding the operation were produced.

Thailand

General Prayut Chan-O-cha, Prime Minister, held a press conference to thank all parties involved. He said that this incident is a great lesson that despite the hardship and obstacles, if you are of the right mind, united, dedicated, and voluntary to sacrifice for the public, all the difficulties will be gone. (July 11th, 2018)



Governor Narongsak Osoththanakorn, Chief of the Rescue Operation, gave a speech at the closing ceremony of the operation. He said that this incident will be a lesson to remind us of the danger of cave and water. The rescue techniques will be improved for the future. On this particular occasion, we witnessed unity, collaboration, knowledge from within Thailand and overseas. This is more than just a rescue mission. It is a collaboration of many different nations. (July 11th, 2018)



Australia

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said to the rescue team operating at Tham Luang. He said *“You made us so proud, selflessly courageous, superbly, professionally competent. We could not have better ambassadors showing the best of our Australian values than you... You saved those young men and as you did so inspired not just your own nation, our nation - but holding its breath, and praying for your success - you inspired the whole world.... If only leaders were as collaborative as you were...You held up an example to us all.”* At the end of the speech, the Prime Minister bestowed the honor medals called *“Star of Courage”* to Dr. Richard Harris and Craig Challen, as well as the Bravery Medals to 7 authorities from Australian Federal Police and Navy, and the insignia for all people in the operation. (July 24th, 2018)



The United States

Jay Parini, an American poet and writer wrote an article in CNN website on *“Why we couldn't stop watching the Thai cave rescue”*. The writer noted that the ideal world without nationality, religion, and race as the barrier is true.



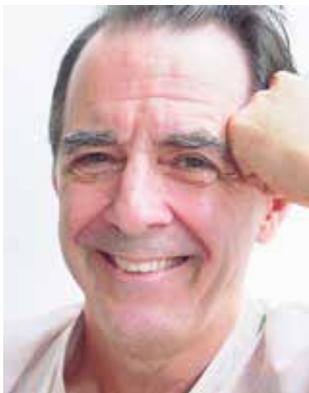
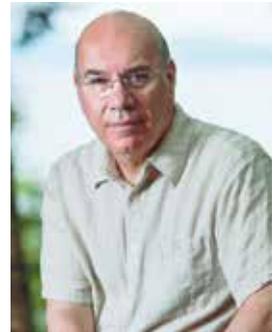
Why we couldn't stop watching the Thai cave rescue

By Jay Parini
Updated 15:41 GMT (23:41 HKT) July 10, 2018

Editor's Note: Jay Parini, a poet and novelist, teaches at Middlebury College. His most recent book is *“The Way of Jesus: Living a Spiritual and Ethical Life.”* The views expressed in this commentary are his own. This commentary has been updated from an earlier version in response to the news of the rescue of the boys and coach trapped in a cave.

(CNN) — All eyes were on Thailand, as we watched the brave divers who risked their lives to bring a trapped boys' soccer team and their young coach to safety.

Our hearts went out to these divers, who have shown not only great courage but incredible skill. One can hardly imagine the difficulty of this rescue effort, which took place deep underground in impossibly narrow and jagged areas, with powerful currents pushing against divers who had to perform a complex task in near-zero visibility in parts of the cave.



Burton Blume, an American market analyst wrote an article on re-branding of Thailand with Tham Luang. He wrote that saving Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai football team from the cave was great. This story would amaze people for a long time. People would talk about Thailand and Thai people as the new hope. They were brave and dedicated. They have good leaders who will never stop working.

They were always smiling even in such a crisis. More importantly, they had the right mind. Also, the rescue operation showed how the whole world can be united. He summarized that *“a nation is determined by the value of its people.”*



LEADERSHIP

The Thai Cave Rescue: What Are the Leadership Lessons?

Jul 16, 2018

ASEAN, Asia-Pacific Business Radio, Podcasts

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Wharton's Michael Useem and Andrew Eavis from the International Union of Speleology discuss the leadership lessons from the Thai soccer team rescue.



Few experiences bring the finest display of management principles as the Tham Luang Cave Rescue, an 18-day saga that played out over recent weeks in a Thai forest reserve. Twelve boys, ages 11-16, and their soccer coach braved hunger, thirst, darkness and despair inside the flooded cave system before they were rescued.

Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, one of the most famous business school in the world noted that this mission is a leadership lesson that demonstrates the great spiritual expression of humanity and excellent crisis management.

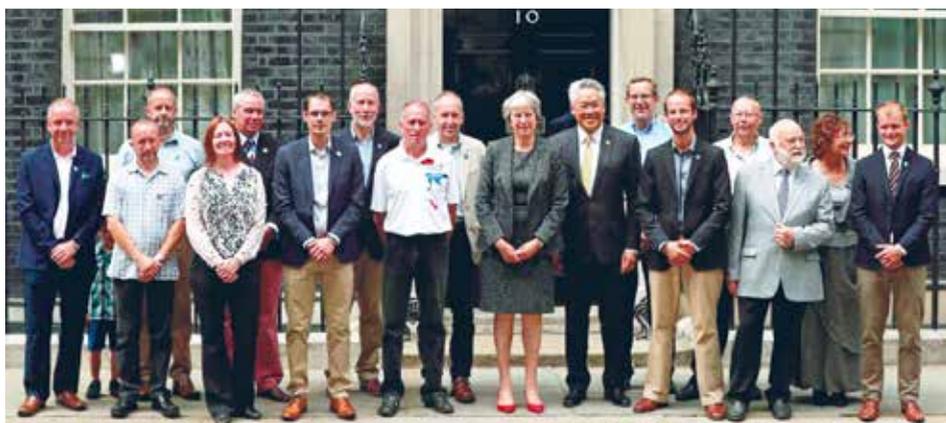
The success factors of the rescue mission are the physical and intellectual powers of the Thai, British, and American divers, as well as the Chief of the Rescue Operation who led the mission in the same direction. Another factor is the supports from the Thai Government and leadership of the Chief of the Rescue Operation, and survival skills of Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai football players and the coach. The other factor is technical management such as allocating medical personnel with the divers, the technique of draining a large amount of water out of the cave, and the farmers who were willing to let their rice fields flooded.

This is a great lesson and should be included in leadership course in Wharton Business School and other schools throughout the world.

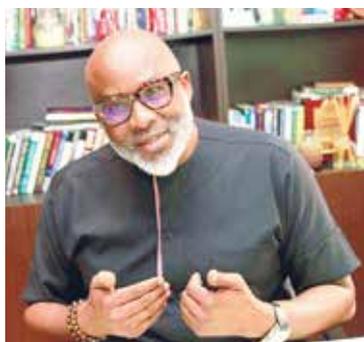


The United Kingdom

Theresa May, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, organized a party to celebrate and honor British divers who helped in the rescue mission of Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai. The Prime Minister added that *“They did extremely well. We can be very proud of them. They did a fantastic job. They’re great heroes.”* (July 24th, 2018, UK time)



Nigeria



Lanre Olusola, a psychotherapist and life coach summarized the lesson on how the Moo Pa Academy football managed to survive. He noted that the young football players stayed positive with 4 powers. 1) The power of talking about positive things. For example, when they introduced themselves to the diver who found them, the kids emphasized that they were strong and well. 2) They had the positive power because they always had hope of survival. For instance, they did try to dig holes to find the way out. 3) The power of fun kept them alive. Even at critical times, the young victims were still playing with their peers and their humors were evident in the letters that they sent to their families while waiting for the extraction mission. 4) The power of good guidance was one of the survival factor. Coach Ek encouraged the kids to meditate in order to save the energy and maintain good spirit.



Japan

Japan developed a model of Tham Luang Cave and produced a short film to educate people about the danger and how to survive when trapped in caves.



The model of Tham Luang Cave before and after flooding.



Short film “Moo Pa Trapped in the Cave”, a lesson on how to survive when trapped in caves.

Summary of Rescue Operation
13 Lives of Moo Pa Academy Mae Sai
Trapped at Tham Luang - Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park
Chiang Rai Province



June 23rd, 2018

Football players and a coach assistant, in total of 13 people, were trapped inside Tham Luang Cave.

June 24th – 30th, 2018

Rescue units from within Thailand and overseas were assembled for the search operation.

July 1st, 2018

The rescue system was established. Ropes were placed inside the cave to guide the way.

July 2nd, 2018

At 9.38 p.m., the 13 victims were found at Noen Nom Sao Ledge.

July 3rd – 7th, 2018

The diving team prepared and practiced to extract the boys from the cave.



July 8th – 10th, 2018

Extraction operation
to save the boys

July 8, 2018

Four boys were evacuated.

The press conference took
place at 8.40 p.m.

July 9th, 2018

Four boys were evacuated.

The press conference took
place at 9.30 p.m.

July 10th, 2018

Five boys were evacuated.

The press conference took
place at 9.30 p.m.



July 8th – 18th, 2018

The victims were
admitted to Chiang Rai
Prachanukhro Hospital.



July 18th, 2018

The 13 Wild Boars were
reunited with their families.

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