

BIMSTEC Exhibition: 10 Years of Friendship and Cooperation
20 June 2007, Thailand



On 20 June 2007, Mr. Sawanit Kongsiri, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, presided over the opening ceremony of ***BIMSTEC Exhibition: 10 Years of Friendship and Cooperation*** held from 20 to 24 June 2007 at TK Park, Central World Plaza. The event was well attended by ambassadors, representatives from BIMSTEC member countries and students from the Virtue Program School.

In this regard, H.E. Ms. Latha Reddy, Ambassador of India to Thailand also delivered a remark, in her capacity as a BIMSTEC Working Group Chairperson.

During the opening ceremony, Deputy Foreign Minister also presented the prizes for national winners of the Discover BIMSTEC Postcard Design Competition (please see page 4). The guests also enjoyed the authentic national cuisine supported by the BIMSTEC countries' embassies in Bangkok.



Over the past ten years, the BIMSTEC has played a significant role as a bridge of relationship and cooperation between Southeast Asian and South Asian countries. It also serves as a strategic link of cooperation in the frameworks of ASEAN, GMS and ACMECS of which Thailand is a member along with various South Asian coastal countries. The current members of BIMSTEC comprise Thailand, Myanmar, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

BIMSTEC Week Exhibition



The main target group of BIMSTEC Week Exhibition is the youth who are considered as the future of BIMSTEC and the prosperity of the organization, that's the reason why TK Park was chosen the venue of the Exhibition. Furthermore, the event also promotes the *"Thai Young Ambassadors of Virtue Program"* dedicated to His Majesty the King. The program is a mechanism through which the Foreign Ministry has used to encourage morality, principle, and goodness of Thai youth.



The Exhibition comprised of the 7 member countries' booths, in which the in-depth information of each country was provided directly by the native who stationed at the booth. As we strolled along the boards, the development and mechanism of BIMSTEC were also highlighted for visitors to get a clearer picture of what BIMSTEC is all about and how it works with various mechanisms.



The BIMSTEC Week Exhibition also includes cultural arts show from BIMSTEC member countries. The artworks from Thai artists are water color paintings of Dr. Suchart Vongthong, the photographs collection taken by Ms. Duangdao Suwunarungsri and poems of Mr. Naowarat Pongpaiboon, which all of them had visited the BIMSTEC countries (Nepal, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka.) under the People-to-People interaction program of the Thai Foreign Ministry in 2005 and 2006. Once entering the mini-theatre, not only the beautiful paintings and photos were shown, but also each country's visualpresentation were run as programmed daily.

