

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Sigma Elevator donates 160 helmets to at-risk preschool students in Bangkok**

*14 November, 2013 – Bangkok*

On November 14, 2013, Sigma Elevator donated 160 high-quality helmets to students and teachers of Ban Kookot preschool in Bangkok through collaboration with the Asia Injury Prevention (AIP) Foundation on the *Helmets for Kids* program.

The donation was made during a helmet handover ceremony at the school which was attended by Sigma Elevator VIPs Mr. Kay Jang, Managing Director, Mr. Teerachai Larsar, Manager of BPO, EH&S, Ms. Anna Son, Manager of Marketing & Communications, Mr. Sujin Chotijaruchaiya, Manager of NE Sales, Mr. Kaikangwon Neelapai, Manager of Service Sales, and Mr. Surasak Hongthong, Manager of FOD. The ceremony included road safety-themed performances by students, remarks by representatives of Sigma and AIP Foundation, a training on proper helmet use, and road safety games.

“Safety has been the uncompromised value of Sigma Elevator Thailand Company,” said Mr. Kay Jang, Managing Director of Sigma Elevator. “With continuous innovations and application of high-technologies in our product and operation, we focused on delivering the high level of safety standard to our customers, employees and our subcontractors. For Sigma Elevator, This is already the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of sponsorship for the *Helmet for Kids* program through which we have been contributing to the safety of local communities. This sponsorship will ensure the safety of the preschool students and will build up the strong safety awareness with its post donation education.”

Ban Kookot preschool is located in the Minburi District within Bangkok province; there are no sidewalks around the school and there is a blind curve on the road near the school gate which prevents those entering and exiting the school from seeing oncoming traffic until it is close by. The road situation students face each day in their daily commute puts them at a great risk of road traffic injuries and fatalities, a major cause of death among young people in Thailand. In 2011 alone, there were 68,582 road traffic incidents in Thailand that resulted in 14,033 deaths.

The students of Ban Kookot preschool are aged between two and six. In this and many other low-income areas, purchasing helmets for younger children is thought of as an impractical luxury. Many parents make the assumption that small children will outgrow their helmets too quickly, or that they spend less times on motorbikes. This is an extremely dangerous misapprehension as small children usually ride on the front of their parents’ motorbikes, putting them in even graver danger of potentially serious head injury as the result of road traffic crashes. For this reason, reaching young children and ensuring that they wear helmets is of the utmost importance.

“Helmets have been proven to reduce the risk of injury resulting from a road traffic crash by 69 percent and death by 42 percent,” said Ratana Winther, AIP Foundation Thailand Country Director. “Children are the most vulnerable group of road users, and it is important that we take this small step to protect them from potential injury or, even worse, death. We hope that these students will remember the road safety lessons that they learned here today and continue to value their helmets as they do now for years to come.”

Sigma Elevator’s generous sponsorship of helmets and helmet use education was supported by Thai road safety stakeholders including the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation and the National Police.

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### **About Sigma Elevator**

Sigma Elevator, a global elevator company, has been dedicated to providing its customers with the best quality products and services since its first establishment in 1968. Sigma offers elevators and escalators in more than 80 countries worldwide. For more information about Sigma, please visit [www.sigmalelevator.com](http://www.sigmalelevator.com)

### **About Asia Injury Prevention Foundation**

The Asia Injury Prevention Foundation (AIP Foundation) is a U.S. registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that uses public-private partnerships, public awareness education, and school-based programs to reduce the rate of traffic injuries and fatalities in developing countries. AIP Foundation has offices in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Bangkok, Thailand; and Chengdu, China in addition to offices in Africa. In 2001, AIP Foundation built its non-profit helmet assembly plant, V-SPEC, which manufactures Protec brand tropical helmets. These helmets offer an environmentally appropriate, safe and affordable option for motorcycle and bicycle users.

In 2009, AIP Foundation, in collaboration with the FIA Foundation and the World Bank, launched the Global Helmet Vaccine Initiative (GHVI), an international coalition with the objective of “putting a helmet on every head in the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020).”

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