



PRESS RELEASE

1200 helmets donated to Thai primary schools where zero students wear helmets

14 June, 2017 – Songkhla Province, Thailand

As part of the latest stage of the *Street Wise* road safety program in Thailand, 1200 helmets will be donated to five primary schools where 0% of students currently wear helmets. More than 500 teachers, students, and parents from the schools, which are located in the Singkhanakon and Muang districts of Songkhla Province, attended the recent launch ceremony for Phase 2 of the road safety initiative. Chevron Thailand Exploration & Production, Ltd. and AIP Foundation launched the initiative in 2014.

“From talking with parents and teachers at these new program schools, we have found that there is a severe lack of awareness about the importance of having children wear helmets while traveling on motorcycles. Cost is also a major concern for them,” Ratanawadee H. Winther, Thailand Chairperson of AIP Foundation, said. “This program aims to mitigate both of those barriers by providing students with helmets, while also implementing road safety education and awareness activities throughout the community.”

Songpol Sawastom, the governor of Songkhla Province, gave the opening speech at the project launch ceremony. In addition to handing over the helmets to students, representatives from the schools signed an official Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the program. AIP Foundation also presented certificates to the “Master Trainers” who recently completed the road safety curriculum training. These trainers will be responsible for training fellow teachers and community members on helmet safety.

“We would like Songkhla to be a role model province for increasing the number of students wearing motorcycle helmets. We want to increase the community’s understanding of road safety issues to reduce the amount of road crashes, “ Mr. Santi Sangrawee, Director of the Songkhla Primary Educational Service Area Office 1, said. “This can start by raising awareness about safety with students, which requires cooperation from both local- and provincial-level governments to instill a strong safety culture in the community.”

Representatives from AIP Foundation, Chevron, Vespriario (Thailand) Co., Ltd., Tesco Lotus (Thailand), the Road Accident Victims Protection Company Limited, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and several provincial infrastructure- and health-related government agencies attended the event, which was hosted at Singkhanakon District’s city hall.

From 2014 to 2016, helmet-wearing rates at neighboring *Street Wise* program schools in Songkhla Province increased from 3% to 38%. Since the program’s launch, 4700 parents have attended workshops and 250 teachers from 10 target schools have been trained on the road safety curriculum. Thailand has the second-highest road crash fatality rate in the world. *Street Wise* provides school-based education and awareness tools to make the country’s roads safer.

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About AIP Foundation

AIP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low- and middle-income countries. Since 1999, AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit www.aip-foundation.org or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

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