

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Safe School, Safe Community* provides 1,000 helmets to Thai primary school at launch**

*17 July 2018 – Bangkok, Thailand*

Students, parents, and teachers at Wat Rachasingkorn School received 1,000 helmets to officially launch the *Safe School, Safe Community* program. The program is being implemented by AIP Foundation and supported by the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) and Rotary International. Pre-implementation surveys showed that Wat Rachasingkorn School had a helmet-wearing rate of only 1%.

“In Thailand, road crashes are one of the deadliest challenges we face today,” said Suwat Tansathein, Director of Bang Kho Laem District. “Programs like *Safe School, Safe Community* play a crucial role in increasing road safety for our most vulnerable road users such as school children and their families.”

Over 450 participants attended the launch ceremony, including students, parents, teachers, government representatives, and other guests. Representatives from ARRB, Rotary International, AIP Foundation, and the government gave speeches at the ceremony, followed by a road safety performance from the students. Local traffic police and donor representatives provided an interactive helmet-wearing demonstration on stage.

“As experts in the field of road and transport issues, providing helmets can have a significant impact on reducing the rates of road crash injuries and fatalities,” said David Milling, Senior Technology Leader, Safe Systems and Human Factors at Australian Road Research Board (ARRB). “The *Safe School, Safe Community* program is an opportunity for us to address this key issue.”

At the ceremony, the Rotary Club of Srpathum also presented awards to the winners of a school wide competition on the theme of “Road Safety in My Community.” The competition included coloring, essay writing, and public speaking categories. Three students were declared winners in each category.

“As countries like Thailand continue to increase the use of mobilized transport, we must play our part to encourage safe habits that will keep our children protected on the roads,” said Wandee Aroonsangmanee, President of the Rotary Club of Srpathum.

“The *Safe School, Safe Community* program is Rotary’s first Global Grant promoting road safety for children. Prevention of road crashes will continue to be a priority for us as we work to create lasting change in communities,” said Dr. Sílvia Shruballs, Member of the International Committee, Rotary Club Matilda Bay.

Over the course of the program, *Safe School, Safe Community* will provide three trainings and one extracurricular activity to members of the Wat Rachasingkorn School community. The initiative aims to increase helmet use among children to better protect them from head injury and raise public awareness of the importance of child quality helmet use.

“Helmets have been scientifically proven to decrease the likelihood of death or injury in a crash,” said Oratai Junsuwanaruk, Thailand Country Manager of AIP Foundation. “These families may have limited road safety knowledge or resources, but thanks to the *Safe School, Safe Community* program, their children will be protected.”

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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](http://www.aip-foundation.org) or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

### **About Australian Road Research Board**

With over 50 years' experience in research and consulting, the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) is Australia's National Transport Research Organisation. ARRB is inspiring, connecting and delivering global mobility solutions to the transport industry, as well as providing expert advice to road agencies in maintaining safe and sustainable roads for the community. The organisation has a national and international reputation for innovation, independence, scientific integrity and professional excellence. At the core of this reputation are the research and consulting capabilities of its staff. In addition to the ability to provide a total service across a wide variety of disciplines, its activities are backed up with third party certified laboratory and testing facilities plus quality assurance procedures. ARRB – shaping our transport future.

### **About Rotary International**

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million volunteers who take local, regional and global action to create lasting change. In Thailand, 8460 Rotarians belong to 346 clubs, and in Australia, there are 30,000 Rotarians in 1100 clubs. The Rotary Foundation transforms financial gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. Rotarians carry out sustainable service projects in six Areas of Focus that include disease prevention and treatment. The Safe School, Safe Community project is the first Global Grant to promote road safety for children. The Rotary Clubs of Matilda Bay in Perth and Srpathum in Bangkok partnered with two Rotary districts and 11 Rotary Clubs in Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Portugal to develop this project with the AIPFoundation. As a result, prevention of traffic and vehicle related accidents has been added to the Disease Prevention and Treatment Area of Focus.

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