



PRESS RELEASE

Forty-six student Road Safety Ambassadors honored in Songkhla Province

24 August, 2016 – Songkhla Province, Thailand

Street Wise, a program supported by Chevron Thailand Exploration and Production, Ltd., recognized 46 student Road Safety Ambassadors for their dedication to the program during a ceremony attended by nearly 350 community members. The event took place at the Weicheinchom School in the Muang District of Songkhla Province. The ambassadors have been educating their peers on the importance of safe road behaviors through Extracurricular Activities at their school.

The students were joined by Ms. Ratanawadee Hemniti Winther, Thailand Chairperson of AIP Foundation; Mr. Donnyapinit Pooyoo, Manager of Chevron's Settatap Center; and Mr. Ekkarat Leesen, Vice Governor of Songkhla Province. Others in attendance included representatives from Road Accident Victims Protection Company Limited (RVP), and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of the Ministry of the Interior (DDPM). Representatives from Songkhla Province governmental offices were also present, including the Provincial Administrative Organization of the Transportation Office; Provincial Health Office; Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; Public Relations Department; Primary Educational Service Area Office 1 Department of Rural Roads; Provincial Police; and Provincial Land Transportation.

"The *Street Wise* program has brought about change for this community, and today is a day to acknowledge the work that has been done while reminding each other that there is still much to do to address this critical issue," said Mr. Leesen, Vice Governor of Songkhla Province.

At the event, Ms. Winther, Mr. Leesen, and a representative from Chevron honored the students, and presented the ambassadors with certificates. They also shared the results from a school-wide "Children and Road Safety" themed art competition that was part of the ambassadorship program. Students created mottos, essays, books, and paintings to raise awareness about the issue.

"Being a road safety ambassador has given me a way to help keep my schoolmates safe," Thipayaporn Duangwisut, a grade six student and ambassador, said. "I love that through creative activities I am able to share my road safety knowledge with my friends."

"We started at a rate that was nearly zero for the number of students wearing helmets in this area, but we have seen considerable improvements. There is still work to be done in making helmet use and road safety key parts of the curriculum in Thailand, but these results show that our efforts have been making an impact," said Ms. Winther, Thailand Chairperson of AIP Foundation.

The *Street Wise* program launched in 2014 in the Singhanakorn District of Songkhla Province, where the helmet-wearing rate was only 3%. By the end of the first year of implementation, that number increased to 33%. Since then, the program has expanded to the neighboring Muang District. Thailand has the second-highest road crash fatality rate in the world, and *Street Wise* provides school-based education and awareness tools to help 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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