

WORLD MARITIME DAY

The new normal: protecting the seas and their coral reefs in Thailand

The Embassy of France in Thailand in partnership with Alliance Française Bangkok is presenting its first event of the season for the world maritime day!

On the occasion of the *World Maritime Day* on September 24th, the Embassy of France in Thailand and the Alliance Française Bangkok are holding an event on the protection of the seas and their coral reefs in Thailand.

After the great success of the '*Night of Ideas*' in January, the Embassy of France is starting its new season with a rich and multidisciplinary night. Excellent panelists from diverse backgrounds such as *United Nations Environment Program* (UNEP), *Oceans For All Foundation*, *Chulalongkorn University* and *Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia* (IRASEC) will gather at the Alliance Française Bangkok to discuss and raise awareness on the importance of coral reefs in the marine environment, their role in protecting coastlines, and the threats that weigh on these ecosystems today.

The award-winning conservation photojournalist **Sirachai Arunrugstichai** will present his work on Thai seas and Marine Protected Area with his well-documented exhibition. Also, The French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) will celebrate the beauty of coral reefs and highlight their essential place in the marine environment in a scientific exhibition.

The event will be the occasion to discover **Wild Immersion**, the world's first Virtual Nature Reserve. An immersive journey into wildlife! With **Aqua**, dive into the sea and watch colorful tropical fishes, peaceful sea turtles, impressive sharks and various species of whales.

Thursday 24th September 2020, – from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Alliance Française Bangkok [map](#)

Information and registration [here](#)

In partnership with



September, 24th
6:30pm at Alliance Française

**THE NEW NORMAL:
PROTECTING THE SEAS AND
THEIR CORAL REEFS IN
THAILAND**

PROGRAM

World maritime day - September 24th at 6:30 pm.

PANEL DISCUSSION

The new normal: protecting the seas and their coral reefs in Thailand

6.30 pm – 8 pm followed by a cocktail

Moderated by

Dr. Petch MANOPAWITR is a Thai conservation scientist with 20 years of experience in biodiversity research, protected area management and conservation science training. He recently completed his PhD. in designing resilient Andaman marine protected area network at the Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Canada. Petch has also been a freelance environmental writer and received a Green Globe award from the former prime minister of Thailand for the best environmental writing of the year. In 2017, Petch has co-founded ReReef, an environmental and sustainable enterprise based in Thailand with outreach in SE Asia which aims to provide practical solutions for a healthy planet by empowering consumers and build business cases for circular economy.

Speakers

Dr. Suchana Apple CHAVANICH, currently works at the Department of Marine Science, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University. Suchana has a broad base of ecological research interests that involve the study of nearshore species from tropical to polar regions. In addition, her research focuses on impact of current stressors on marine biodiversity, conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems particular on coral reefs. At present, she is also the Sustainable Ocean Ambassador.

Tunnie SRISAKULCHAIRAK, is a Programme management officer to UNEP and implementing the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia project to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and Circular Economy in Asia. She has extensive experience working with multi-stakeholders to promote and mainstream environment into sectoral and national development plan. Coastal and marine issue is her educational background and deep passion.

Dr Christine CABASSET, a geographer trained in Sorbonne University (Paris) in territory planning, in charge of the research axis on Societies, Environment and Climate Change for IRASEC (French Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia). One of her current research topics is about territorial governance in which tourism's, sustainable development, and social cohesion, focusing on coastal areas & islands.

David MARTIN, French national and professional diving instructor, Marine environmental consultant for the tourism industry, Underwater cameraman specialised in Sharks. An Author and documentary film maker, he is the president and co-founder of Phuket based non profit organisation Oceans For All Foundation with projects as shark breeding, seagrass nursery, coral farming and ocean plastic cleaning.

Sirachai (Shin) ARUNRUGSTICHAI is a Thai conservation photojournalist and marine biologist, who combines marine science and photographic storytelling. As an independent photographer, he mainly works on assignment for National Geographic Magazine (Thai edition) and various conservation organizations. He is an Emerging League of the International League of Conservation Photographers, a talent of 6x6 Global Talent Program of World Press Photo Foundation and a National Geographic Explorer.

EXHIBITIONS

Journey to the heart of the coral reefs

by the **French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development**

While celebrating the beauty of the coral reefs with wonderful photos, the exhibition highlights their essential place in the marine environment and for the development of the populations that depend on them. Accompanied by short and educational texts, these illustrations enable you to discover the astonishing biology of coral, the exceptional wealth of biodiversity that the coral reefs harbour, their role in protecting the coastlines, and also the multiple threats that weigh on these ecosystems today.



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The truth from two seas

by award winning conservation photojournalist and marine biologist, **Mr Sirachai (Shin) Arunrugstichai**

"The purpose of my photographs is to bridge the gap between the conservation community and the general public. Through these imageries, I hope that the public eyes would not only gaze upon the dazzling beauty of the aquatic world, but also the widespread devastation that is being inflicted to marine ecosystems. I travel all over the places, seeking for these moments that may help portraying our intertwining relationships between mankind and the sea to inform my audiences on pressing marine conservation issues and make them reflect on the impacts from our activities. And maybe the positive changes that the sea needs may come to fruition by our hands one day." Sirachai (Shin) Arunrugstichai

The exhibition will be shown at Alliance Française form September 24 - October 12, 2020



VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

Aqua

By Wild Immersion

A 12 minutes movie by Adrien Moisson and Raphael Aupy

Wild Immersion is the world's 1st Virtual Nature Reserve. An immersive journey into wildlife! With Aqua, dive into the sea and watch colorful tropical fishes, peaceful sea turtles, impressive sharks and various species of whales.

Watch the teaser [here](#)!