



'Bangkok to host 14th Annual Asian Gaelic Games'

Bangkok & Dublin, September 12th, 2009: The Asian GAA County Board, which covers the largest population and area size in the world – ranging from China to Qatar - has announced details of the forthcoming 14th Annual Asian Gaelic Games which will be hosted for the first time by the Bangkok-based Thai GAA Club on **Saturday & Sunday 17 & 18 October at the Bangkok Patana School.**

The weekend will open with the 3rd Annual **Asia Pacific Ireland Business Forum at the 5-star Dusit Thani Hotel.** The APIBF is the premier business networking event for Irish professionals from the 10 Irish business groups in Asia-Pacific and the Gulf. This year the event will be supported by Business & Finance. **Former Tánaiste Dick Spring** will give the keynote address at the opening session.

The opening ceremony for the Games will be held on the evening of 16th October at the Dusit Thani Hotel with the games being held on the Saturday and Sunday on the pristine playing fields of Bangkok Patana School. The competition for the men's football event – the Derek Brady trophy – will be intense with **Hong Kong seeking an unprecedented 4th title in a row.** In the ladies' competition, holders Dubai will have to battle it out with a record entry of teams. The hurling competition is expected to be a shootout again between holders Singapore & challengers Dubai. The kids football tournament will see teams from Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai, Hong Kong & Thailand battle it out.

Teams will travel from **Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Beijing, Dubai, Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Shanghai, Tokyo, Taipei with Singapore & Hong Kong** bringing the largest contingents.

The awards ceremony and announcement of the Asian All-Stars team will be held on the evening of the 18th at the Dusit Thani Hotel.

“Just when we thought the event could not get any bigger, along have come new ladies football & kids teams – so we’re looking forward to a great weekend. Bangkok is a great city to host the games given its central location so from the point of players & supporters it will be our best attended games yet – the support we are getting from the **Tourism Authority of Thailand** has reinforced Bangkok as an attractive venue” commented **Paraic McGrath, Chairperson of the Asian County Board**.

“The weekend has grown beyond recognition from even a few years ago & we are delighted that **Micheál O’ Muircheartaigh** will once again join us for the weekend. Having him here with us reminds us of what we all miss about home – by playing gaelic games together in Asia we not only showcase to our hosts but more importantly keep our links with home” “None of this would be possible without the strong support we are getting from our sponsors including **Property Care Services (PCS), Enterprise Ireland, Irish Abroad, LawtonAsia, ADT, Guinness, Etihad, PCH & the Tourism Authority of Thailand**”.

John Campbell, Chairman of the Thai GAA Club which is hosting the games is “confident that the event will help put the Irish Community & Gaelic Games on the map in Thailand” and is “very pleased that we will be able to support those less fortunate than ourselves through the three nominated charities – The **Human Development Foundation, PREDA and the Good Shepherd Sisters**, which do powerful work with disadvantaged young people in Thailand & across the region.”.

The **games mascot** – a white elephant with upturned trunk & green white & orange markings - an animal considered especially lucky in Thailand, and named ‘**ABÚ**’ will be seen right across the city over the coming month as word spreads amongst the locals & expat community that the ‘Irish are coming to Bangkok’.

Note for Editors:

The hosts of the competition are the **Thai GAA Club**, which was founded in 2006. It has men's & women's gaelic football teams as well as the best logo in the GAA!



For more information about the club please log onto www.thaigaa.com

For more information on the teams taking part in the weekend's events go to www.asiancountyboard.com – there is also information there on the designated charities & on the sponsors of the Bangkok event & all GAA tournaments in the region.

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