ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO

The 29th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration IT'S TIME......

Hosted by the Thai American Association of Illinois February 25, 2012 ~ Hyatt Regency O'Hare

October 26, 2011

Dear friends,

New Years usher in new hope. And this year, Thailand is desperate for hope in the face of rising floodwaters. In Chicago, we – the Thai Community – come together to celebrate the Lunar New Year in Chicago, bridging religious, geographical, and cultural divides. And, this year we will continue to unite the diverse communities of Chicagoland, and for a cause: to raise hope.

The Thai-American Association of Illinois (TAAI) is proud to host the Asian American Coalition's 29th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration on February 25, 2012 and dedicate the event to rebuilding Thailand in the wake of the floods of this fall. Few events are so celebrated as the dawn of the New Year, and few tragedies are so devastating as when disaster eclipses the festivities. This year in Thailand, the Lunar New Year arrives on the heels of a terrible flood that continues to ravage the country, disrupting economies, shattering lives, and offering little cause for celebration.

With your help, however, we will be able to inspire hope and restore celebration to the New Year in Thailand.

Since 1983, the Celebration has not only rallied the Asian community, it has introduced Asian culture to thousands of new consumers. This year, the event will also raise awareness of an international struggle in the face of natural disaster. TAAI is proud to continue its tradition of mutual aid, which began over fifty years ago. In the past half century, TAAI has continued to evolve to meet the new challenges that confront the Thai community of Illinois and internationally.



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The Lunar New Year Celebration arrives as an opportunity to reaffirm TAAI's commitment to promoting the history of the Thai Community and the success of the larger Asian Community of Chicago. In February, we will have the opportunity to celebrate that success and strength of our community at home by helping rebuild a community abroad.

I hope you will join us in our celebration and contribute to the efforts to bring new hope to Thailand in the wake of this disaster.

Sincerely,

Vallapa Kongsri,

President, Thai American Association of Illinois

Chair, 2012 Lunar Celebration

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doc id 10/26/11