



Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Lao Community Cultural Center of San Diego, I extend to you a warm welcome to our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lao Boat Racing Festival. We are very excited and proud to celebrate this national tradition with all of you and your family.

We are very fortunate than most to be able to celebrate a Lao boat racing festival here in San Diego. As you may have known that Lao Americans are scattered throughout the United States. Only communities with a large concentration of Lao Americans can afford to uphold this tradition. This year we have attracted many local contestants, including a team traveling from Atlanta, Georgia. We are anticipating both local and out of town spectators. There are three different divisions to compete in this year festival.

Lao Boat Racing Festivals are often held toward the end of Buddhist Lent, which coincides with the end of the monsoon season as well as the conclusion of rice planting. The celebration is observed in many ways that can be seen as free expressions of joy and great sense of relief after hard labor work in the field. For obvious reasons we cannot exactly mimic the tradition here in San Diego. However, we promise that there will be a celebration that is unique and worth observing.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the LCCC team and the volunteers for organizing this event. I also want to express my sincere thanks to the dancers, performers, music band who will entertain us during the festival. We are equally grateful to the sponsors that help make the Lao boat racing festival a special and fun event for everyone. My heartfelt thanks go to the racing teams that participate in the race. I know how much they have put their heart and mind into this race, not to mention the countless rounds they have practiced. The mental preparation and the number of practices rounds they have made are commendable.

I hope you are enjoying our Lao Boat Racing Festival today and celebrating this special event with your friends and family. Enjoy not just the festival but also the beautiful weather in San Diego!

Again, I would like to say thank you very much for your participation and look forward to seeing everyone again in many years to come.

Warmest regards,

Vannasing Antoine Keodara, Chairman of LCCC



**Sticky Rice Power** 



Sticky Rice Power is back to defend its Championship!! We're so exciting to be back again and so proud to be part of the Lao Boat Racing Festival. Thank you LCCC for making it happen again. Last thing we'd like to say is ...we are Sticky Rice Power, we stick together and we build a stronger foundation and to be much more powerful.





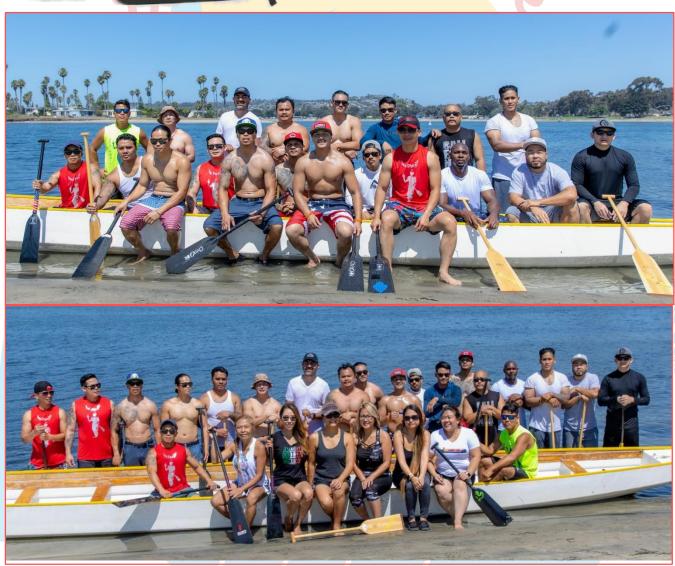
Team Angels is honored to be part of the 6th annual Lao Boat Racing Festival in San Diego. We are indeed privileged to partake in an event that promotes a much loved and celebrated Lao tradition. The bond between the Angels grows stronger and stronger as the ladies continue to nurture their friendship and share their appreciation of the Lao culture (especially food!) outside of practices. Even though the team is made up of new and veteran rowers, the ladies know the key to a successful race is working together as a team. Go Angels! Flap your wings synchronously!

Jao Pha Ya

"WEROWAS1"







Team Jao Pha Ya is returning once again. Rise to fame from the neighborhood of Southeast San Diego, Team Jao Pha Ya is a fierce boat race competitor known to the Lao community. We like to be out for fun in the sun!

## **QDragon**

Raging in the Mission Bay since 2007, the QDragon team has been introducing the dragon boat sport to people with diverse backgrounds. While the core members of the QDragon team is Qualcomm affiliated, this team has brought together experienced and novice paddlers from all over San Diego. QDragons paddle together and WIN together!



# **Solar Dragons**



Solar Dragon Boat Club is a Solar Employee Recreational Association from Solar Turbines Incorporated, a division of Caterpillar. Commissioned in 2012 Solar Dragons began as a casual interest group and turned into a powerhouse of diverse and highly motivated new and experienced men and women paddlers. Our strength lies in every one of our teammates' dedication to training, professionalism, and will to win! We paddle to realize our core values of "Integrity, Excellence, Teamwork, Commitment, and Sustainability" which is the force multiplier in our profession, our community, and our lives. We, Solar Dragons, are second to none!

### **Paddle Warriors**



We are a team of 22 women that work together towards one common goal. We are breaking stigmas that women are weak, too sensitive, too emotional and that you have to be a certain "way" to be in a competitive sport. We are mothers, wives, and daughters. We are all different shapes and sizes and we all come from different walks of life. We have a vision that goes beyond dragon boating, a vision to empower women through a sport that is physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging, a vision to give back to our community.

THIS IS OUR TIME!!! We are STRONG! We are COURAGEOUS! WE ARE WARRIORS!





Wat Lao Buddharam is represented by Team Noom Lao Wat Market who originally got together because of each member had grown and seen this temple since we were kids. This temple became our guidance center for our youth in San Diego. We are dedicated and proud to enter, represent and win on behalf of Wat Lao Buddharam (aka Wat Market). It is our turn to give back to the temple and our community. We know the competition will be fierce, but we have our eyes on the Championship trophy this year. Thank you and may Buddha bless all of you.

**Phoenix Rising** 



"Phoenix Rising" is a group of dedicated paddlers representing 9 different cultures and countries from around the world. The Phoenix is a historic symbol of strength, renewal and rebirth. We chose the Phoenix to symbolize not only our team's spirit of competition, but also of Friendship and Community. We are honored to compete this year as we are every year, and welcome the challenge before us.

### Satree Lao San Diego





After winning the Women Division B race last year, Satree Lao San Diego is back for a second year to move up to Division A! These gorgeous ladies include past contestants of Miss Lao San Diego along with their friends and family. Investing in future generations of Lao Americans and women empowerment, the Lao Community Cultural Center (LCCC) of San Diego is the main supporter and sponsor of this all women crew.

#### **LV 92111**





People say "good friends come and go, best ones stay forever". The saying holds true for the Linda Vista (LV) teams. It has been over 30 years since we became friends and most of us are still here in San Diego with unbreakable friendship bond. Today, these childhood friends reunited in support of common good, which is to preserve our cultural celebration—the Lao Boat Racing Festival while cherishing the ever lasting friendship among the LV men and women. LV legacy lives on... Lao and proud! GO CHAMP!!



Defending the ocean and conquering the Waves. Rain or shine, Tsunami will rise. Through the pounding drums, we paddle into the sun. Diversity, integrity, teamwork and friendship. One team, one family, TSUNAMI 'UNITED and STRONG".

#### **Team Ban Lao**



Team Ban Lao by Phim Pisa and LSDSC is dedicated to promote physical and mental wellness through recreational, social and cultural activities. As part of the LSDSC family, Team Ban Lao accomplishes this through engaging, assisting and cooperating with the Lao Community to help preserve and promote Lao culture, tradition and heritage. As a result, Team Ban Lao promotes friendship, activities, and community involvement.



NO SOCCA



The Lao San Diego Soccer Club (Sea Devils) is dedicated to promote physical and mental wellness through the game of soccer, other sports, and recreational, social and cultural activities. The club accomplishes this through engaging, assisting and cooperating with the Lao Community to help preserve and promote Lao culture, tradition and heritage. As a result, the club promotes friendship, activities, and community involvement.

### **Sweet Rice & Team Lao United**







What does 12 East Coast men paddlers and 6 West Coast women paddlers have on common? They love to eat "Sweet Rice"

#OneHeartOneBeat #GoTeam

Big THANKS to LCCC for doing such a great job hosting this fun Festival year in year out. You guys Rock.



#### **Lao Boat Racing Festival SPONSORS and DONORS**

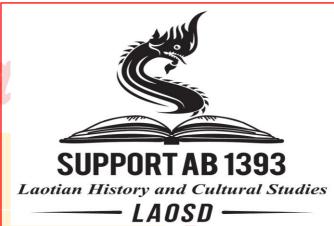




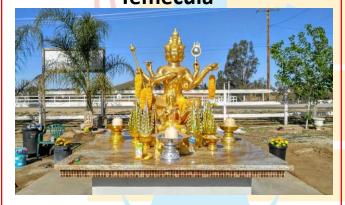
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