

# THAI

## *Is Embraced in the Motherland*

*By Bob Haddad*

Only four months after the Thai Healing Alliance International began operations, the organization was embraced by major Thai massage schools and teachers in Chiang Mai and Bangkok. In addition to these major schools becoming active members of THAI, a number of independent Thai nationals also joined the organization.

In March of 2006, Bob Haddad and Al Turner II visited schools in Chiang Mai and gave presentations about THAI to directors and owners of Thai massage schools, to “farang” students, and to native Thai practitioners. Among those who pledged their enthusiasm and support of THAI were the Old Medicine Hospital, Sunshine Massage School, International Training Massage (ITM), Nerve Touch Massage School, Loi Kroh Massage School, and many others (a complete list appears online at [www.thai-healingalliance.com](http://www.thai-healingalliance.com)).

Information printed in Thai language was distributed to the owners and operators of the schools to help them understand THAI’s mission, and its basic standards of study and practice of traditional nuad phaen boran (traditional Thai massage). Without exception, each school accepted an honorary membership certificate, posted THAI decals and stickers on their premises, and agreed to promote THAI to their students. A number of schools made verbal presentations about THAI to their students in session, and expressed interest in the THAI advertising incentive program. After two weeks in Chiang Mai, Bob traveled to Bangkok where he met with the directors of several other schools.

Those involved in teaching traditional Thai massage in Chiang Mai seem to truly understand the need for an organization such as THAI. They believe that the study and practice of Thai massage should be ongoing,



**Chongkol Setthakorn, of International Training Massage School (ITM) poses with his wife Atchara (left) and daughter Chulaluck (right). ITM recently opened Spa Mantra nearby the school, which is managed by Chulaluck. Photo by Bob Haddad**

ing, and they agree with the directors of THAI that students all too often begin to practice professionally while they are still under-qualified. It is our hope that together, as a worldwide alliance, we can cultivate an atmosphere of non-partisanship, diligent study, basic standards, serious practice, and professional ethics. Now that THAI is connected directly to major centers of learning in Thailand, these goals should become more easily attainable.

A partial list of schools and teachers who have recently become active members in the Thai Healing Alliance appears in the sidebar to this article. Throughout the issues of the Living Traditions newsletter and in the THAI member archives, you will find photos and information that correspond to THAI’s maiden voyage to the motherland.



**Mama Nit Chaimongkon, a master of traditional Thai massage in Chiang Mai, poses with her daughter (left) upon accepting her THAI honorary member certificate. Photo by Bob Haddad**

## NEW CHIANG MAI MEMBERS

**The following have become active members of THAI at the Institution or Instructor level. Study with these Approved Providers is valid for all levels of membership in THAI.**

**Nerve Touch Massage School**

**ITM (*International Training Massage*)**

**Old Medicine Hospital**

**Loi Kroh Massage School**

**Sunshine Massage School**

**Therdchai Chumphoopong (*Mac*)**

**Aum Health School (*Formerly School of Massage For Health*)**

**Lanna Thai Massage School**

**Mama Nit Thai Massage**

**School of Massage for Health,  
Sripoom**

**TMC (*Thai Massage School of Chiang Mai*)**