

Top Thai Course Celebrates 5th Anniversary



In just five years Banyan Golf Club in Hua Hin Thailand has won both international awards and many friends to become one of the top courses in Asia. The list of VIP's who took part in the club's 5th Anniversary tournament in February showed the club's ability to attract golfers, celebrities and politicians to this popular Hua Hin club.

The governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Thawatchai Arunyik, spoke to the 200 guests after playing in the 5th anniversary tournament, and praised the management for creating a superb golfing experience, which he said was a credit to Thailand's golfing experience.

Golf course architect Pirapon Namatra and Smith Obayawat, Principal Clubhouse architect (OBA) have achieved the perfect blend of a challenging 18 holes across some beautiful countryside. Pirapon Namatra and his company Golf East have built and renovated over thirty courses, including the Banyan, Singha Park and the Santiburi courses plus renovations including Blue Canyon and Alpine.



Namatra said 'I am currently building the new Waterside golf course at Siam Country Club in Pattaya, however I have many fond memories of creating Banyan which we actually complete in just 18 months. It's a beautiful piece of land, and I think the final product is proof of that.'

Namatra added, 'The owner didn't want us to touch any of the trees so we left them alone too. All but one, the big Banyan tree that was in the middle of the 10th fairway which we moved about 50m to the left.

Perhaps one of the highlights is driving along to the course and seeing the magnificent club house overlooking the front nine holes. Designed by famed architect Smith Obayawat, Principal Clubhouse architect (OBA) who has also created several iconic projects including the So Sofitel and K Village in Bangkok and the Thai Consulate in Guangzhou.

'Our Thai style clubhouse has been awarded several international awards, including winning Best Clubhouse in Asia Pacific for two consecutive years, which were very gratifying. The location is beautiful and the weather is always nice in Hua Hin, and thanks to the owners they allowed me to exercise my imagination, 'said Obayawat.

The Dutch based owners are continually looking at ways to improve the golf club and their 75 villa Banyan Resort. But perhaps the biggest success has been the dedicated behind the scenes work headed by General Manager Stacey Walton and Stuart Daly Director of Operations. After just 12 months of opening the club was recognized as the "Best New Course in Asia Pacific" in 2010 by Asian Golf Monthly, and has continued to collect a number of awards annually. General Manager Walton said, 'The demand for golf in Hua Hin is still growing and our long term plan, using land we own adjacent to the current course, would be to eventually create a sister course with the same natural feel of the Banyan, but a bit different in character.'

For more information visit www.banyanthailand.com