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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

UNESCO Bangkok
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific
Regional Adviser for Culture in Asia and the Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

OCT 2006

UNESCO presents the 6th annual Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts across Asia

BANGKOK – October 2006 – An international panel of judges and experts in design, marketing and handicraft production have gathered across four regions in Asia over the last few weeks to judge a record number of entries for the *2006 UNESCO Seal of Excellence* in Handicrafts (referred to as the SEAL.)

Today marks the announcement of SEAL awarded products across all the regions, which will be published on the UNESCO [Bangkok](#), [Beijing](#), [New Delhi](#) and [Almaty](#) websites respectively.

Established to encourage craft-workers to use traditional skills and materials, the SEAL looks to ensure the continuation of traditional knowledge and the preservation of cultural diversity in the region. Submissions are reviewed against six key criteria, incorporating excellence, innovation, authenticity, marketability, eco-friendliness and social responsibility.

By recognizing such attributes in craftsmanship, the programme aims to set quality standards, raise international awareness and strengthen market demand for Asian handicraft products.

The programme was established in Southeast Asia in 2001 by UNESCO and the ASEAN Handicraft Promotion and Development Association (AHPADA) and was expanded to Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) and South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) in 2004.

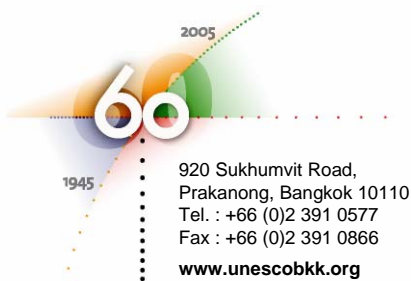
UNESCO Beijing has also successfully launched the SEAL program in East Asia this year, with a strong number of entries from China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia and Republic of Korea.

The Seal of Excellence in Southeast Asia

With 129 submissions received from Southeast Asia this year, the judging panel spent two full days at the SUPPORT Arts and Crafts International Centre of Thailand (SACICT) in Ayutthaya examining a diverse range of crafts, with entries ranging from traditionally woven textiles to contemporary batiks and ceramics.

The 27 Southeast Asian SEAL awardees are listed below. Products will be displayed at the Bangkok International Gift fair between 17th and 22nd of October at Impact Exhibition Centre Hall alongside a selection of Seal winners from previous years. This display area has been kindly donated by SACICT who has provided strongly support to UNESCO and AHPADA throughout the 2006 programme.

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For those interested in supporting or learning more about the development and preservation of the handicraft sector in Southeast Asia, please contact the UNESCO office directly. More information on the Seal of Excellence is available on the programme website: www.unescobkk.org/culture/craftseal or contact:



ASEAN Handicraft Promotion and Development
Association (AHPADA), Bangkok
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2006 UNESCO Seal of Excellence Southeast Asia SEAL Awarded Products

Cambodia: Sunset Shawl, Artisans d'Angkor
Natural Plate, Artisans d'Angkor

Indonesia: Pareo Batik, Wirokuto Batik
Tenun Songket, Salila Antiq Songket
Butterflies Balinese Shawl and Dancer Kebaya, Biat Design
Ethnic Travel Bag, Jasia Daya Creation
Bemban Bag, Piluss Andini Exporindo
Perahu Layar Mojopahit, SSBT

Laos: Organza Silk Shawl, Phaeng Mai Gallery
Organza Silk Scarf, Phaeng Mai Gallery

Malaysia: Spirit Sculptures (series), Museum Shop, Muzium Negara KL
Spirit Masks (series), Museum shop, Muzium Negara KL

Myanmar: Vase (WA 482), Wah Lwin Manufacturing Co.

Philippines: Wicker Muslim Craft Pillow, S.C.Vizcarra Incorporated

Singapore: Art Glass Jewelry, Simont Silver and Glass

Thailand: Traditional Thai Revival Wood Block Printed Textile, Triphum & Ong
Hand Shuttle Woven Silk Double Ikat Scarf (2), Ban Reng Khai Group
Tradition Hand Weaving Clothes, Chatthamon Thai silk
Double Ikat Thai silk, Chabatik Co. Ltd.
King Rama IX Mosaic, Bangsai Arts and Crafts Centre
Jongpara, Bangsai Arts and Crafts Centre
Buffalo Horn and Bone Comb Set, Ngern Boonsrang

Viet Nam: 3 Ceramic Vases, Tran Minh Kinh Ceramic Workshop
Bat Trang Pottery Vases, Chuc Hung Ceramics
Fruit and Wine Lacquer Bowl, Kima Lacquer Art