



# SEPAK TAKRAW ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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## 20<sup>TH</sup> KING'S CUP SEPAK TAKRAW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Bangkok, Thailand, December 14 – 19, 2005



For Canada, it really was a disappointment when the King's Cup date was announced to be in December ... December is a very difficult time to try to travel with a team due to high season air fares and university final exams (impossible for players who are university students to participate). So the Junior Men's team that won gold in Canada's Centennial Cup (university students) and had hoped to compete at the King's Cup, will now have more time for training and preparation before competing in their first international tournament.

Canada did have a presence at the King's Cup, however, as Rick Engel, STAC President, attended the event. He was happy to meet with many of the other leaders in the sport from the almost 20 countries that attended, and promoted the upcoming 2006 Canadian Open Sepak Takraw Championships. Potential future Sepak Takraw exchanges with China was also discussed as a possibility, among other interesting ideas with various countries. Rick also took copies of his book "Takraw 101" and the instructional DVD "Sepak Takraw – Just For Kicks" to promote to the newer countries in the sport, which of course were received with interest and enthusiasm among a few of the countries who were looking for resources on the sport.

As for the King's Cup tournament itself, with some 20 countries involved, competing in the Sepak Takraw Team Event, Doubles Takraw and Hoop Takraw for both men and women, involving over 400 players, coaches and officials, the host Takraw Association of Thailand certainly had a huge undertaking to manage ... 'hats off' to the organizing committee for a job well done.



Men's Team Event: Germany blocking against Singapore in a match that turned out to be a much closer than anyone could have suspected ... to the credit of the Germans, though losing the match, have really showed big improvements.



Men's Team Event Final: No surprise here, with Thailand (spiking) squaring off against Malaysia (blocking). Having recently lost to Malaysia in the SEA Games, Thailand was looking for revenge, and they got it at the King's Cup.



This is a nice sequence of pictures that shows excellent serving execution by one of Thailand's Tekongs during the final against Malaysia. In the end, it was Thailand's more consistent serving that secured their win.



This is the guy who got the spectators cheering ... which unfortunately was really needed in the final, due to boredom setting in when referees allowed players to continually delay the game.



After the initial meetings, all the matches and the finals, the 400 plus players, coaches and officials from some 20 participating countries were treated to a farewell dinner with local Thai entertainment.



China came with a large, enthusiastic women's team. They always prove to be a well disciplined and trained team. Potential future exchanges were discussed as a possibility with Canada.



Though Canada did not have a team competing at this King's Cup, Rick Engel, STAC President, was present and here poses with officials from Korea and China.



Rick with officials from Iran, a country that has only been involved in Sepak Takraw for a couple of years by already have some 2,000 players and came with a strong showing at this King's Cup.