

One Night in Bangkok

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During 18 – 25 April 2005, the 11th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Bangkok, Thailand. Participants from criminal justice field around the world joined the congress to share knowledge and experiences in paving the way for the more humane and effective methods of crime prevention and management. The participants also had opportunity to make a tour to some prison facilities in Bangkok as part of observation visit program.

Mr. Nathee Chitsawang, Director General of the Department of Corrections hosted a dinner reception on the evening of April 22, 2005 to welcome corrections colleagues and alliances from all over the world. Prison choir was a special program of the evening, which it was overwhelmingly applauded by the participants. Male and female inmates from 3 facilities namely Central Women correctional Institution, Women correctional Institution for Drug Addicts, and Pathumthani Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts sang a variety of Thai, English, Chinese, Spanish, and African songs while some inmates performed Thai traditional dances and had made the night a memorable one.

Initially operated as music therapy for drug-addicted prisoners, prison choir has been practicing in Thai prison facilities for over 5 years, and has been recognized by the public as one productive activity behind bars.