

Directions: Read the text and discuss with your friends.



<http://travel.trueid.net/detail/68196>



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1

Rocket Festival or “Bun Bang Fai” is celebrated throughout Isan (North East Thailand) but the most important place for the celebration is Yasothon province. This festival is held to *request* seasonal rainfall for farming from Phaya Thean, the God of Rain and Mae Phosop the goddess of rice, to ask for both the much-needed rain and a *bountiful* harvest. It takes place on the second weekend of May, which marks the beginning of the planting season.

“Bang Fais” are *bamboo* rockets. They come in different lengths, ranging from a foot to the height of a 2-story building. In the old days, the rocket bodies were made of bamboo, but today they can be made of either bamboo or iron pipe. They are *decorated* with Thai designs, usually in the shape of a Naga.

Source: <http://monthichanick5.blogspot.com>

Vocabulary



- **Request** (v.): politely or formally ask for (ขอร้อง, ขอ)
- **Bountiful** (adj.): large in quantity; abundant (มากมาย)
- **Bamboo** (n.): a giant woody grass which is grown chiefly in the tropics (ไม้ไผ่)
- **Decorate** (v.): make (something) look more attractive by adding extra items or images to it (ตกแต่ง)



2

The first day of the celebration begins with *merrymaking*, including *traditional* dances and *processions* of rocket floats. On the second day is the actual shooting of the rockets. Early in the morning, the rockets are paraded around the town. Each procession consists of *clowns*, dancers, and musicians playing drums, gongs, cymbals and *reed* pipes. In the afternoon of the festival day, rockets are carried in the procession to the launching site. *Villagers* dressed in colorful traditional costumes attract the eyes of the onlookers, who line up along the procession route.

Source: <http://monthichanick5.blogspot.com>



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2013_Yasothon_Rocket_Festival_13.jpg



<http://www.manager.co.th/Local/>



<http://www.manager.co.th>

Vocabulary

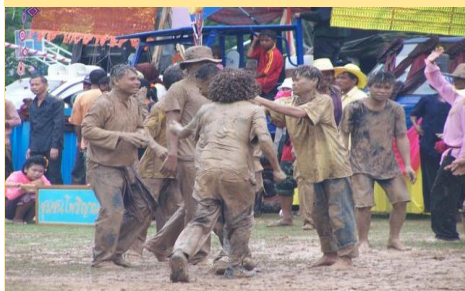


- **Merrymaking** (n.): fun; festivity (การเฉลิมฉลอง)
- **Traditional** (adj.): existing in or as part of a tradition; long-established (ดั้งเดิม)
- **Procession** (n.): a number of people or vehicles moving forward in an orderly fashion, especially as part of a ceremony or festival (ขบวน)
- **Clown** (n.): a comic entertainer, especially one in a circus, wearing a traditional costume and exaggerated makeup (ตัวตลก)
- **Reed** (n.): a tall, slender-leaved plant of the grass family that grows in water or on marshy ground (กก)
- **Villager** (n.): a person who lives in a village (ชาวบ้าน)





<https://pantip.com/topic/32706342>



<https://www.gotoknow.org/posts/276>



<http://daily.bangkokbiznews.com/home/2015>

Before **ignition** of the rockets, there will be more singing and dancing to celebrate the festival. The climax of the festival is the ignition time. One by one the rockets are fired from the launching platforms. Each **liftoff** is greeted by cheers and noisy music. The rocket that reaches the greatest height is the winner and the owner of this rocket will dance and urge for **rewards** on their way home while the owners of the rockets that exploded or failed to fly, will be thrown into the **mud**. The celebration is a communal affair of the villagers who come to share joy and happiness together before heading to the **paddy fields** where hard work is waiting for them.

Source: <http://monthichanick5.blogspot.com>

Vocabulary



- **Ignition** (n.): the action of setting something on fire or starting to burn (จุดไฟ)
- **Liftoff** (n.): the vertical take-off of a spacecraft, rocket, or helicopter (การนำจรวดขึ้นฐานปล่อยจรวด)
- **Reward** (n.): a thing given in recognition of service, effort, or achievement (รางวัล)
- **Mud** (n.): soft, sticky matter resulting from the mixing of earth and water (โคลน)
- **Paddy field** (n.): a field where rice is grown (นาข้าว)

