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U.S. CAPITOL REFLECTING POOL, Nov. 17, 2007, LOY KRA-TONG: Festival of Unity, Light, and Hope

Washington, D.C. – It’s time for the **1st Annual “Loy Kra-Tong: Festival of Unity, Light, and Hope.”**! The event is **FREE ADMISSION** that begins from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. It is to promote, celebrate and honor the full moon night of the 12th lunar month. Singha Beer is sponsoring this event with the support from the Thai-American community, Royal Thai Embassy, Thai Airways, and the Tourism Authority of Thailand. This is the 1st Loy Kra-Tong celebration in front of the U.S. Capitol Reflecting Pool.

“Loy Kra-Tong” (“Loy”– to float and “Kra-Tong” – a leaf cup or bowl) is the most charming of all Thai Festival which began some seven centuries ago. The annual event is held on the full moon night of the twelfth month on the lunar calendar. One this full moon night, Thais nationwide fill tiny floating device with flower, color lighting and incense and launch them into rivers or ponds as a token of gratitude to the goddess of water and to wash away sins. Nowadays Loy Kra-Tong is one of the largest cultural celebrations in Thailand and among Thai overseas.

In Thailand, entertainment such as light and sound presentation, spectacular fireworks, lamp and lantern, candle burning, Thai classical plays, Kra Tong competitions and Miss Loy Kra Tong beauty contest. The Loy Kra-Tong Festival, also known as the "Festival of Lights"

Special guests attending the event include Her Serene Highness Princess Vudhichalerm H.E. Ambassador Krit Garnjana-Goonchorn (Ambassador of Thailand to the United States), H.E. Ambassador Stuart Holliday (President, Meridian International Center) and many other honorable guests.

The Festival area stage will include “non-stop” performances from international renowned Mantra Music group from Los Angeles who has combine traditional Thai compositions with original contemporary arrangements, Miss Loy Kra-Tong beauty contest where anyone can enter to win a 7 day package to Thailand!

For more information, to sponsor, apply for beauty contest at the Loy Kra-Tong Event in front of the U.S. Capitol, please contact Joanne Duangmanee at 703-589-4144 or email Joanne at medialoykratong@asianfestivaldc.com or www.asianfestivaldc.com

Location: U.S. Capitol Reflecting Pool
Pennsylvania Ave, between 1st and 3rd St. NE
Washington DC, 20002

Date/Time: Saturday, November 17, 2007
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Parking: public parking available

Press Conference: 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 at Tara Thai Restaurant (Ballston),
4001 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington VA 22203
Tel. 703-908-4999

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