

# Bangkok Post

## INFRASTRUCTURE

# Crystal Lagoons taps athletic opportunity

Multinational water innovation company Crystal Lagoons plans to develop an artificial crystal lagoon to improve triathlete training in line with the Amazing Thailand Tourism Year 2018 campaign.

The crystal lagoon concept has been patented in 190 countries, allowing the construction and maintenance of large bodies of water in crystalline conditions at low cost.

Applications range from installing beach scenes in the middle of cities to providing industrial solutions for closed-circuit cooling systems for thermal power plants and data centres.

Crystal Lagoons has over 600 projects in different stages of negotiation and development in 60 countries.

Some 28.8 million foreigners visited Thailand from January to October this year, says the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), up 6.7% year-on-year. The country generated 1.47 trillion baht in revenue from tourism during this period, up 9.3% year-on-year.

In 2018 Thailand is projected to log 3.1 trillion baht in tourism revenue, TAT said.

TAT's Amazing Thailand Tourism Year 2018 focuses on sports tourism, opening up opportunities for business owners such as Crystal Lagoons to build or enhance projects at a very low construction and maintenance cost.

Thais are growing more conscious about their health and physical fitness, indicated

by the increasing interest and development of running, bicycling, and swimming among the general population.

Triathlons are also gaining popularity, but finding suitable venues for athletes to train or compete in difficult, especially in Bangkok.

Crystal Lagoons develops large artificial lagoons for the use of athletes, which reduces the risk of encountering dangerous or unexpected waves.

According to the company the water in the artificial lagoons is of drinkable quality since it uses a hundredth of the quantity of chemicals seen in swimming pools.

"Thailand has held many international triathlon races, including in Phuket, Hua Hin and Pattaya, but it is quite challenging to find the perfect training facility in Bangkok," said Jaime Rivera, Crystal Lagoons' regional director for Southeast Asia. "Though many facilities use saltwater swimming pool systems instead of chlorine based systems, they both contain a lot of chemicals."

The Crystal Lagoons will also improve the quality of life for society, families, and athletes, Mr Rivera said.

"The project would allow athletes to practice for a race in a tropical beach environment right in the capital city," he said. "The project could also be used by visitors looking for exciting aqua entertainment, including underwater spinning workouts, or aquabikes."



A pool developed by Crystal Lagoons at San Alfonso del Mar resort in Algarrobo, Chile.