

## Congress Tour (September 5, 2017)

3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Physical Education, Health and Sport.

08.30-09.00 AM

Departure from hotel

09.00-10.30 AM

Visit the Sanam Chandra Palace

11.45 -12.00 Noon

Departure to Pra Pathom Chedi

### Sanam Chandra Palace



**Sanam Chandra Palace** is located in Nakorn Pathom, a province 56 km south of Bangkok . The palace is about a kilometer away from the majestic pagoda, Phra Pathom Chedi. The location was formerly called "Noen Prasart", and believed to be the site of an ancient palace. Close to Noen Prasart, before a

Brahman shrine, was located a natural pool called "Sa Nam Chand" (presently Sa Bua).

Before ascending the throne, the then Crown Prince Vajiravudh (later H. M. King Rama VI 1910 - 1925) came to this city to pay homage to the big pagoda. He wished to build a palace here as a retreat and a residence during his pilgrimage trip to the pagoda. He preferred this area for he viewed it as a strategic location. In 1907, he bought about 335 acres of land around Noen Prasart from local people. He then had Luang Phitak Manop (Noi Silapi, later Phraya Visukam Prasit) design and supervise the construction of the palace. The construction began in 1902 by the end of the Fifth Reign (1868 - 1910). It was completed in 1911. H.M. King Rama VI named it Sanam Chandra Palace.

In addition, the king had another plan for this palace. It was to serve not only as a retreat, but also as a stronghold during a national crisis. Here, he regularly held practices for the Wild Tigers Corps, a para - military troop.

## Phra Pathom Chedi



**Phra Pathom Chedi** is the largest pagoda in Thailand and the official provincial symbol of Nakhon Pathom. The present Phra Pathom Chedi was built during the reign of King Rama IV in 1853, under his royal command, the new Chedi was constructed to cover the former Chedi of which the shape was of an upside down bell with a Prang top. It is assumed that the former Chedi was dated back to 539 AD as the upside-down-bell-shaped Chedi has a similar style to the Sanchi Chedi in India, built in the reign of King Asoka. The construction of the new huge Chedi was completed in the reign of King Rama V in 1870 AD. In total, it took 17 years to build. The completed Chedi became a circular one that covers an upside-down, Lankan style, bell-shaped Chedi. The height from bottom to a top crown is about 120.45 metres, and 233.50 metres diameter at the base. During the reign of King Rama VI, Wat Phra Pathom Chedi was renovated and later became the royal temple of the King. Within the monastery compound, the sacred Chedi houses Lord Buddha's relics. There are various interesting historical items, including the Phra Ruang Rodjanarit an image of Buddha bestowing pardon, is enshrined in a vihara located in the North and in front of Phra Pathom Chedi.