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TOURISM

Two awards for Andaman Discoveries

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Andaman Discoveries, a Phangnga-based non-governmental organisation, has won international awards for turning communities that were devastated by the tsunami in 2004 into sustainable tourism spots.

The organisation was handed the Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Award for the best conservation of cultural heritage. The award was presented to its director Kelly May at the World Travel Mart (WTM) 2007 in England recently.

The agency was also named a runner-up when Wild Asia handed out its annual Responsible Tourism Awards to community or family-run homestays in Phuket recently.

Andaman Discoveries is continuing the work of North Andaman Tsunami Relief, an independent non-profit organisation that was started by Bodhi Garrett who lost his home, job and many of his close friends when the tsunami hit the Andaman Coast in 2004.

The NATR has implemented over 120 projects in 12 villages.