

PADI Member CD-469459 (2001-present)

The Journey of a PADI Course Director

A 23+ years in PADI Instructor Development & Mentorship



Introduction

As I reflect on the past 23 years as a PADI Instructor, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude. From the first moment I stood in front of my very first PADI Open Water Diver Course in November 2001, to my first PADI Instructor Development Course in August 2004, it had been an incredible journey, with the ending yet to be written.

I am grateful for opportunities to train thousands of divers, to guide hundreds of aspiring PADI Instructor candidates over the past decades in becoming the Dive Industry's Leaders. This journey has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Mentoring Dive Leaders

The PADI Divemaster Course and Instructor Development Course are just baby steps in earning the right to work as dive professionals. In 20 years of training, I can honestly say that the most important aspect of my role as an Instructor Trainer is mentoring my Instructor Candidates after they have passed their Instructor Exams. It is the thousands of messages and phone calls over the years between us, taking time to share, coach and motivate, those are the critical steps to support new instructors toward their success.

As a PADI Course Director & Instructor Trainer, I've had the honor of witnessing many fantastic individuals transforming their passion for diving into professional pursuits. Watching my candidates grow into confident and competent leaders, capable of inspiring the next generation of divers, those are the measure for my success as a PADI Course Director.

Recognizing Former Students and Staff's Success

I am proud of all of my students over the years! Meet the current and past successful former IDC Candidates and IDC staff, whom I have had the pleasure of working with over the past 20 years. They are my best professional references, so you can look them up on Google or any social media channels!

Working with PADI Regional Offices

Vinod Bondi	Regional Manager & PADI Course Director, PADI Asia Pacific (India & Sri Lanka, 2022-present)
Anisha Kumar	Marketing Manager, PADI Asia Pacific (2021-present)
Nick Buskirk	PADI Examiner & Course Director, PADI America (2006-present)
Suli Wong	Training & Quality Management, PADI EUMEA (2006-2018)

Working as PADI Course Director & Management

Ryon Tan	Owner, AquaOne PADI 5 STAR IDC Center, Nai Yang Beach, Phuket (2023)
Nhan (Chris) Pham	Managing Director, Rumblefish Vietnam PADI PADI 5 STAR IDC Center, Ho Chi Minh City & Nha Trang, Vietnam (2022)
Saow Tom Chan	Owner & Technical Instructor Trainer, Scuba DoBeDo PADI 5 STAR IDC Center, Malaysia (2022)
Ann Christmas	Co-owner, Go 2 Similans PADI 5 STAR IDC Center, Khao Lak, Thailand (2019)
Marcel Jensen	Course Director at Seafun Divers PADI 5 STAR CDC Phuket, Thailand (2018)
Daren Yang	PADI Platinum Course Director, Diving King Dive Resort, Taiwan (2017)
Hardik Datanwala	2nd Indian PADI Course Director, conduct IDC for multiple dive centers in India (2016)
Anne Hospital	General Manager, the Six Sense Resort & Spa 5 STAR Dive Center, Maldives (2015)

Working as PADI Course Director & Management (cont.)

Denzil Linhares	1st ever Indian PADI Course Director (retired), (2014)
Angel Navarro Moya	Owner & PADI Platinum Course Director, the GoPro Family PADI 5 STAR IDC Center, Playa del Carmen, Mexico (2007)

Working as PADI Instructor, Business Leaders & Management

Manish Mahadik	PADI Master Instructor & Base Leader, The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort, Maldives (2016-present)
Steven Ng	Owner & PADI IDC Staff, Oceanic Quest PADI 5 STAR IDC Center, Kingdom of Brunei (2009-present)
Rohan Perkins	Co-Owner & PADI IDC Staff, Scuba Junkie - Komodo PADI 5 STAR Dive Resort, Indonesia (2014-present)
Vishwanath Rajan	PADI Technical Deep Instructor, Founder & Co-owner, Scuba Evolution India PADI 5 STAR IDC Center, Goa, India (2015-present)

Up Next: 2025 PADI IDC Programs in 3 Locations

Looking ahead into our dive season 2024-25, we are excited to announce that my PADI Instructor Development Courses (IDC) will be scheduled in three countries throughout ASEAN. The locations are:

- ★ A multi-Awarded Resort and Dive Center, Scuba Junkie is one of Southeast Asia premier PADI 5 Star Facilities located in Asia top dive destinations, Sipadan-Mabul Islands, Malaysia (2010-present);
- ★ Kingdom of Brunei's first and only PADI 5 Star IDC Dive Center Oceanic Quest, you can dive the best wrecks in the world here (2012-present);
- ★ Rumblefish Adventure PADI 5 STAR IDC Dive Center at the premiere Kata Beach, Phuket, where PADI has been conducting the Instructor Examination every month in Thailand since 1998 (since 2003-present).

All PADI IDC Programs will always be under my direction, a 20+ years experienced and multi-Awarded PADI Platinum Course Director. My 2024-25 PADI IDC curriculum is equipping the next generation of PADI instructors with more real life skills, knowledge and adaptable teaching techniques to accommodate divers from all cultures to succeed in learning to scuba dive.

The programs will be more comprehensive and efficient than ever, incorporating the latest advancements in diving education and instructional techniques to ensure all candidates are competent and confident to conduct their first PADI courses successfully.

Why Choose your PADI IDC and Instructor Training Program with me and my facilities?

Choosing the right instructor training program is a crucial decision for any aspiring scuba professional. Here's why our program stands out:

Experienced PADI Course Director & supporting Pro Team of Instructors: With 20 years of instructor training experience, candidates will gain a wealth of knowledge and expertise from us. Our supporting team of PADI Staff Instructors also includes some of the most experienced and respected professionals in the industry. And, you can rely on support after your IDC/IE, even 10-120 years later as you progress through the dive industry. There's no one in the world providing this mentorship!

Eco Friendly 5 Star Facilities: All PADI IDC facilities are among the best in the region, with spacious seminar room for study and class presentations, FREE wifi access, generous amount of cylinders, dive equipment and "the cleanest" air & nitrox filling stations. This ensures that our instructor candidates have access to the best resources available.

Strategic Partners Network: Did you know that Scuba Junkie has 5 dive centers and a Five-Star Liveaboard yacht in Southeast Asia? Did you know that Rumblefish Adventure has 3 PADI facilities in 3 countries (Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia)? This closely knit network provides our PADI IDC candidates with valuable opportunities for employment, career advancement, collaboration, and continued learning.



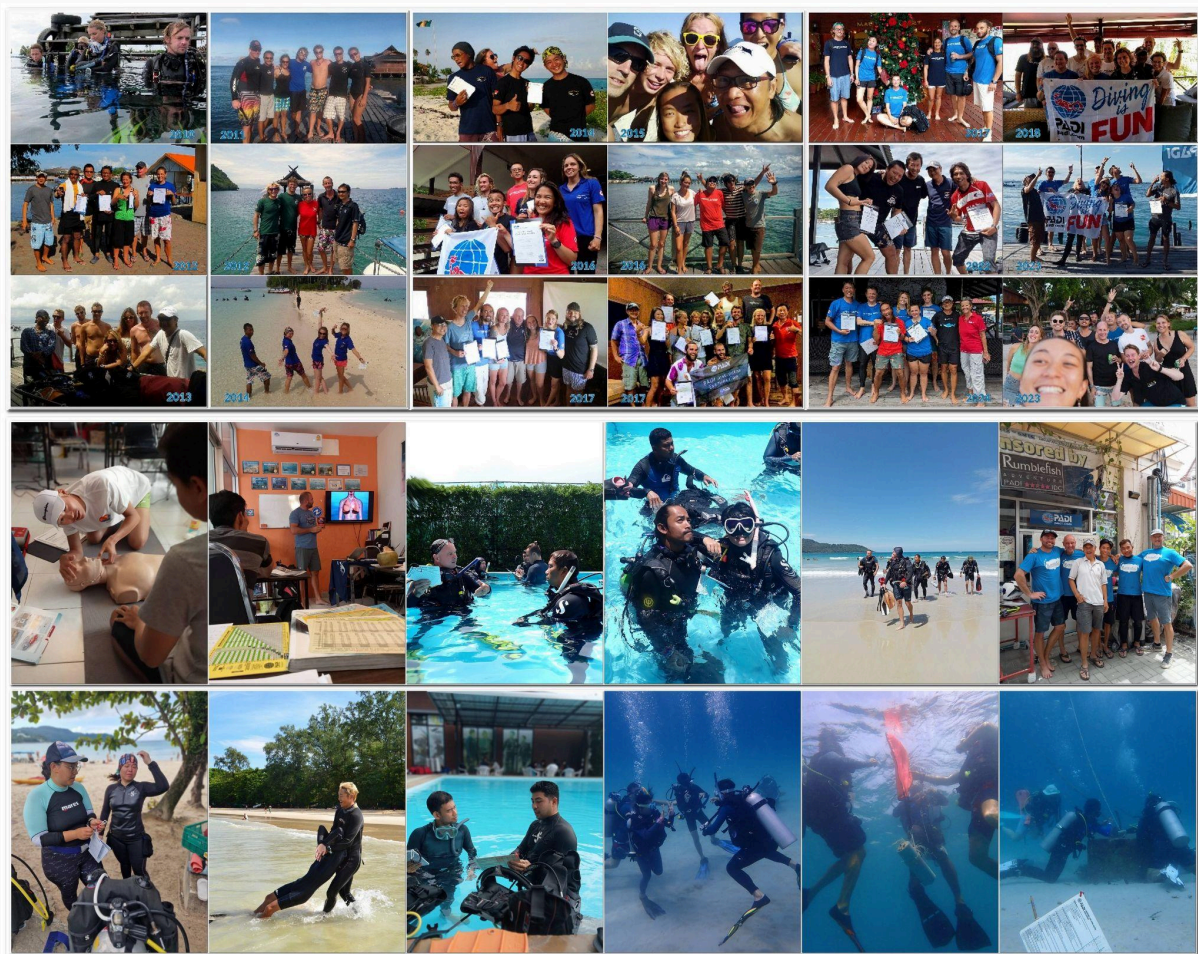
Proven Track Record: Our program has a proven track record of success. Most of our graduates have gone on to successful careers as scuba instructors, dive center managers, and marine conservationists.

Lifelong Friendship: you will always be a part of my diving family for as long as I am able to dive and teach. My continuing support, encouragement and partnership are always available for you. Diving is a lifestyle, not a job or a hobby for me!

More About Me: Life before Diving

My first view of the underwater world was through an old swimming goggle on a pristine reef off the [Refugee Camp at Pulau Bidong](#), Malaysia in 1980. As a political refugee awaiting UNHCR to decide my future under the [Orderly Departure Program](#), little did I know that first glimpse under the sea will be a part of my life's passion decades later.

I immigrated to the US in 1981 as a political refugee and grew up in San Francisco, California. A Bachelor of Art graduate of [University of California at Santa Barbara](#), and member of [Alpha Epsilon Pi](#), Thien's previous main professional life has been as a Store Manager for [Gap Inc.](#) and Business Development Manager for the formerly [E-greetings Network Inc.](#) (acquired in 2001 by Americans Greeting Corporation LLC). [Read more](#)



Photos of past PADI IDC programs, from 2010-2023 in Borneo and Thailand

Contact Information

Website: <https://rumblefishadventure.com/gopro/padi-idc/>

WhatsApp: <https://wa.me/66987458650>

Telegram: [@thienxdo](#)

Email: fdc@rumblefishadventure.com

I look forward to meeting and working with you toward achieving your goal in becoming a PADI Dive Instructor and Dive Industry's leader!