

## Long Awaited Opening of ThRCT Indoor Arena

The 5<sup>th</sup> Hope Cup on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, marked the opening of the ThRCT indoor arena. Originally used as a sheltered workshop where bedding was made, the building was restructured to accommodate a bigger classroom and a small indoor arena of about 15m x 30m.



Photo of a group of contestants before the start of the competitions

Even this is not a standard size; this indoor arena is very useful for the center to fight the inconveniences of foul weather. Actually we do like the outdoors very much and appreciate the loads of stimuli they are providing, but the cold winds during the winter intrigued a higher spasticity in many of our CP-patients and caused parents to cancel classes. During the rainy season alike we also often were without our regular work. Weather conditions in Jungli, where the center is located, and Taipei, where two thirds of our patients come from, can be quite different, so often we were waiting for our riders at fair weather conditions, while it was raining in Taipei and the parents were assuming that classes would be

cancelled. When rain was on and off, we never knew whether we should ask our riders to come or not, because after one hour's drive the conditions could have changed again. Now with the new indoor arena in place, a lot of pressure is taken from our shoulders and therapy can be done on a much more constant basis. This is especially true for the classes held in cooperation with different centers for early development. Before we never could make definite schedules for these programs, because we always had to fear the weather would overthrow our plans. This also meant that we were not able to tell volunteers exactly when we would or would not need their help.



A rider during the "Happy Farm"-Competition held in the indoor arena

We are very thankful to all the donors who despite the economic recession contributed to the restructure of the building and made a dream, we were bearing for five years, finally come true. The indoor arena gives us the possibility to install many new educational toys, some of them produced in the course of a scout project by Taipei American School student Levi Le Baron Chiles and his group. These toys are adding a lot of color and fun to our activities.



The ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted by Mr. Apollo Chen, Director of the Cultural Bureau of Taoyuan County, Ms. Ho Li-mei, Chairwomen of the CP-Association of Taoyuan County, Mrs. Joyce Chiao, Chairwomen of the PSA Charitable Foundation, Mr. Henry Lee, Secretary General of the Chinese Taipei Equestrian Association, Director Lee Chung-hsin of the Vocational Training Center of the Mentally and

Emotionally Challenged and Mrs. Uta Rindfleisch-Wu, Program Director of the ThRCT and FRDI Director. It was followed by a performance of two little participants of the Hippotherapy Program riding a pattern on two horses.



Having an indoor arena also enabled us to arrange the first art competition held together with the Hope Cup. Winner in the adult section was a mother, who portrayed her son performing during last year's competition.

