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# Iguanas reproducing on Galapagos island century after disappearing

A land iguana that disappeared more than a century ago from one of the Galapagos Islands is reproducing naturally following its reintroduction there, Ecuador's environment ministry announced Monday. The reptile from the *Conolophus subcristatus* species, one of three land iguanas living on the archipelago, disappeared from Santiago Island in the early part of the 20th century according to a 1903-06 expedition there by the California Academy of Sciences, the ministry said.

In 2019, the Galapagos National Park

(PNG) authority reintroduced more than 3,000 iguanas from a nearby island to restore the natural ecosystem of Santiago, which lies at the center of the Pacific archipelago. The remote island chain was made famous by British geologist and naturalist Charles Darwin's observations on evolution there. In 1835, Darwin recorded a huge number of iguanas of all ages on Santiago.

PNG director Danny Rueda said "187 years later we are once again seeing a healthy population of land iguanas with adults, juveniles and newborns. "It's a

great conservation achievement and strengthens our hopes of restoration on the islands that have been severely affected by introduced species." Located close to 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) off the coast of Ecuador, the Galapagos islands are home to unique flora and fauna and are a Natural World Heritage site. —AFP

A Land Iguana (*Conolophus subcristatus*) is seen in Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos Archipelago, in the Pacific Ocean, 1000 km off the coast of Ecuador. — AFP



# WWE-style wrestling hits Bangkok - with a Thai twist



This photo shows Thai pro-wrestler Tanapol Mahavong aka P'Suchart working in his room apartment in Bangkok a week before the SETUP Thailand Pro Wrestling show.

A fighter bursts through a flimsy tarpaulin curtain and bounds into the ring wearing a helmet and the unmistakable bright orange jacket of a Bangkok motorbike-taxi rider-it's Thailand's take on WWE wrestling. The 25-year-old wrestler with the stage name "P'Suchart" was one of almost 20 individuals slapping, slamming and smacking one another at SETUP Thailand Pro Wrestling. The part-sport, part-show has been slowly gaining popularity in the country and co-founder Pumi Boonyatud hopes to carve out a space for local wrestlers using distinctively Thai characters.

A crowd of about 250 in Bangkok suggests it could take off. "We try to put some of the Thai fighting background... together with professional wrestler training," the 32-year-old said, in order to create "what we call the real Thai version of wrestling". "P'Suchart", real name Tanapol Mahavong, was first captivated by wrestling when he played video games as a child. He believes that "character-building is more important than wrestling skills".

"Wrestling skills you can train for, build them up, if you put enough energy into it then you could become a good wrestler," he told AFP. "But to have a good character is a whole different story," he said, adding his motorbike-taxi wrestling persona was inspired by a character in the Thai film "Heart Attack". Like many on the stage Saturday evening, he trains and performs around his nine-to-five job as an editor.



Thai pro-wrestler Pichet Guaysinsub (left) aka Paksa performing in the ring during a match at the SETUP Thailand Pro Wrestling show in Bangkok.

"When I train hard and my body gets beaten and bruised up, the manager of my office would tell me to go home and rest," Tanapol said.

And although he ultimately lost his bout, the spectacle in the ring definitely struck a chord with the crowd. "They won me as a fan," said American tourist Jerry Massey,

who had stumbled across promotions of the show and pitched up to see how it measured up. "This is something different for me," said the 45-year-old, a fan of pro-wrestling in the United States.

"We saw chairs shattered tonight, we saw paint shots tonight, you could really feel it in your body being so close to the action,"

Massey added. "I was absolutely impressed." As Tanapol puts it: "Anyone can become a good wrestler, but not everyone can be an entertaining wrestler." — AFP



Photo shows pro-wrestler Monomoth grimacing in the ring during a match at the SETUP Thailand Pro Wrestling show in Bangkok.



This photo shows Thai pro-wrestlers Tanapol Mahavong aka P'Suchart (right) and Bital Srisawat aka Bital Hasdin (left) practice at a gym in Bangkok a week before the SETUP Thailand Pro Wrestling show.



This photograph shows Singaporean pro-wrestler Andrew Tang (center) aka "The Statement" performing in the ring during a match at the SETUP Thailand Pro Wrestling show in Bangkok.



This combination of photographs show pro-wrestlers posing during the SETUP Thailand Pro Wrestling show in Bangkok. — AFP photos



This photo shows Thai pro-wrestler Bital Srisawat aka Bital Hasdin lifting his opponent in the ring during a match at the SETUP Thailand Pro Wrestling show in Bangkok.



This photo shows pro-wrestler Hoshitango (left) jumping on Thai pro-wrestler Bital Srisawat aka Bital Hasdin (right) in the ring during a match at the SETUP Thailand Pro Wrestling show in Bangkok.