

## SISTERATHON TWO

# Great Wall Marathon Completed!

*Following up on last month's article on Sister Joan Evans and her work in Bangkok's slums, AustCham has received this letter from Megan Payne who recently completed the Great Wall Marathon in China as a fund raising effort.*

**Hello all,**

For all of you who were kind enough to sponsor me for Sisterathon 2 (even before I hit the wall) and for those of you who were waiting to see how many kilometres I covered, I am very pleased to inform you that I completed all 42.125km of the Great Wall Marathon in China on 21 May. It was an extremely difficult but definitely memorable race.

The Great Wall Marathon was held in Huangyaguan (3 hours drive from Beijing). A brief breakdown of the course is this: the race began with a 5 km run up a hill to get to the steps of the Great Wall, then you climb the Great Wall up, up and more up, once you get to the other side you run through the picturesque local villages back up another mountain before heading to another hill, back onto the wall for some more climbing and then finally a 5km run down hill to the finish line.

The race organisation was sensational. The Chinese hosts did a fantastic job pulling the whole thing together. The local children and people in the villages smiled and cheered on as the runners went past, runners spurred each other on just when you felt you could go on no further, fantastic stuff. The atmosphere is something I will never forget.

I would like to say THANK YOU to all of you who have helped to make all this possible, because without your support there is no way that "Sisterathon 2: Great Wall Marathon" would have taken place. A particular thank you to Sister Joan Evans - I cannot say enough great things about the fantastic work you do with the poor communities in Thailand. I wish there were more people like you.

For anyone who is yet to donate but would like to do so, please go to [www.sisterjoan.info](http://www.sisterjoan.info) and click on the Sisterathon 2 link. I should hopefully have an update about the run with some photos on the website shortly. Sister Joan is currently right in the middle of the "school uniform run" (the new school year began at the end of May) which means taking hundreds of Thai kids to the local market, buying school uniforms, shoes, bag etc and then paying their school fees. Every donation goes a long, long way.... 🌱

Thank you,

Megan Payne



*Marathon runners on the Great Wall.*



*Warming up before the start.*



*Megan Payne with her Beijing Marathon Medallion.*