



## **Open Letter from Multiple Award-Winning PADI Course Director - Matt Bolton**

At this crucial stage of your dive career the importance of choosing the right IDC for your professional training with the right Course Director can never be understated. I remember how I felt when I was a PADI Divemaster with the same decision to make.

Drawing up a short list, talking to PADI Instructors and asking for their opinion, working out what was important and what wasn't, making contact then meeting the Course Directors and asking plenty of questions along the way.

It was a tough decision. A decision that will ultimately have a major effect on the impact you have within the dive industry and the success you enjoy in your career.

I can imagine this is how you're feeling right now.

At IDC Koh Tao (Black Turtle Dive's professional level training), we strive to meet all IDC candidate's needs and expectations. We continually seek to improve candidate experience and standards and adapt our program and techniques to allow us to stay ahead of a dynamic and progressive industry.

We believe this produces a more dynamic and progressive thinking dive instructor, highly skilled and knowledgeable but also possessing an understanding of the business of diving required to succeed in one of the world's fastest growing industries.

I have built my IDC's on exactly this philosophy. I start with the creation of a solid foundation and encourage candidates to arrive as early as possible before the IDC.

We utilise and have full access to the fantastic beachside facilities at Black Turtle Dive and can fit in lots of additional skill circuits in our pools.

Additionally, we conduct extra dive theory presentations in the classroom to refresh and polish the basic skills every dive educator requires to be successful both on the IDC and in the real world afterwards.

We set our standards well above those required on the Instructor Examinations and make sure every one of our candidates is thoroughly prepared prior to the start of the IDC.

During the IDC we schedule extra presentations in the classroom, the swimming pool or on our IDC boat that is at our disposal 24/7 throughout the course. This ensures our candidates are thoroughly prepared with increased confidence and scoring expectations

far and above the passing score on the IE.

During the IDC I place emphasis on the objective of passing the IE but equally on the real-world application that you experience when you begin your new career as a dive educator.

My personal diving experience extends over 25 years and I have certified many thousands of PADI divers in addition to over 6000 PADI professional certifications.

In my IDC teaching I relate my real-life experience throughout the IDC and apply my own extensive management experience gained whilst managing a PADI 5 Star Career Development Centre (CDC) over 20 years.

I believe my current role of resident PADI Course Director and Director of Dive Operations allows me to stay ahead of the changes within the industry, from an Instructor Trainer's perspective and a grass roots perspective too.

As one of my IDC candidates, you can be sure to get your professional scuba diving career off to the best possible start.

**Matt Bolton**  
**PADI Course Director**