

Lifestyle products for the 'kidult' in you

NOW

25togo started life as a design and creativity information blog that introduced unique designs and rapidly developed a large readership. Starting in 2006, 25togo branched out and began selling international designs and developing products under its own brand. A diverse spectrum of designers subsequently joined the 25togo with the goal of making "Made in Taiwan" designs a part of people's daily lives. 25togo was featured earlier this year at 100% Design in Tokyo week.



My Document laptop case (My Document電腦包) NT\$720

These bags are targeted at "kidults," grown-ups who have maintained a taste for youth culture. They're made from waterproof fabric bound with water-resistant rubber seams.

The front bears the "My Document" logo with either a cursor, a finger or an hourglass symbol.

TRANSLATED FROM *THE LIBERTY TIMES' WEEKENDER*
BY JENS KASTNER

Rocking Horse leather mobile phone case (搖搖馬皮革手機座) NT\$980

Childhood themes have provided a major source of inspiration for 25togo's designers, who believe that there is a small child inside everyone of us.



Somebody celebrity notebook (SOMEBODY? 名人筆記本) NT\$350

Color the boxes with the number "1" and the image of a well-known celebrity will appear



Message messenger bag (信封郵差包) NT\$2,800

Water-proof and shock-absorbent with an adjustable strap. One side looks like an airmail envelope, the other an e-mail icon.



Shopping List eco-friendly shopping bag (購物清單環保包) NT\$380

Comes with a handy built-in grocery list



Togo Transformer folders (打包資料夾) NT\$280 (for a package of three)

These dual-use folders can hold documents or be flipped open and expanded to the size of a shoebox



Polapost photo postcards (Polapost相框明信片) NT\$230 (for a package of seven)

Use these PVC postcards to decorate your walls or mail them to friends.

For a complete list of stores that offer 25togo products, visit www.25togo.com/store/how.aspx

Store notes

Address: 20, Ln 90, Anhe Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市安和路一段90巷20號)
Tel: (02) 2700-2426
On the Net: www.25togo.com

Other vendors

The Door

Address: 34, Ln 40, Taishun St, Taipei City (台北市泰順街40巷34號)
Tel: (02) 3365-2199

Lakaffa (六角咖啡)

Address: B1, 6, Ln 14, Siwei Rd, Taipei City (台北市四維路14巷6號B1)
Tel: (02) 2701-9227
On the Net: www.lakaffa.com.tw

Esilite Stationery and Collection (誠品文具精品館)

Tel: (02) 2775-1500
On the Net: www.esilite.com/stores/Stationery/Stationery.aspx

Transsexual Miss World contest aims to boost awareness

The contest, held in Thailand, is taken just as seriously as more traditional pageants in a nation that is famed for its sexual tolerance

BY **DANNY KEMP**
AFP, PATTAYA, THAILAND

Shimmering in a tight gold evening gown, a Japanese television host wept and called for greater tolerance as she was crowned the world's most beautiful transsexual at a pageant in Thailand.

Haruna Ai, 37, beat off stiff competition from 20 other glamorous contestants at the Miss International Queen 2009 who came to the Thai beach resort of Pattaya from as far as Brazil and the US. "I am very, very, very happy," a tearful Ai said minutes after the previous title holder carefully placed a faux-diamond tiara on her head.

"I want contests like this to show everyone that they should love each other and live freely. The way of life in Japan is more traditional and transsexuals cannot live freely, but in Thailand they can do what they want," she said.

The contest, which was called off last year because of political turmoil in Thailand, is taken just as seriously as more traditional pageants in a nation famed for its sexual tolerance.

Millions of Thais watched live on television late Saturday as the statuesque beauties — all of them born men — strutted their stuff at Tiffany's Show Pattaya, billed as the world's largest transsexual cabaret.

The first round saw them in kitschy national dress, with a US contestant resplendent in a feathered Native American costume and a British entrant donning a Beefeater outfit with black satin leggings and Busby hat.

The lights then sank low as the contestants paraded elegant evening gowns and later modeled pink swimsuits, while giant fluorescent kites soared over the stage.

Japan's Ai won US\$10,000, a year's stay at a Pattaya hotel and a US\$500 surgical voucher after judges picked her over runners-up Kamgsadal Wongdusadeekul from Thailand and Daniela Marques of Brazil.

While the audience may have whooped and cheered raucously, contestants and organizers said there was a serious side to the pageant — boosting



Japan's Ai Haruna, 37, is kissed by second runner-up Daniela Marques, left, of Brazil and first runner-up Kamgsadal Wongdusadeekul of Thailand at the Miss International Queen 2009 transsexual beauty pageant in the Thai resort city of Pattaya.

PHOTO: REUTERS

public awareness of transgender issues.

"An event like this for us is something I can only hope for in the US," said US contestant

Sunny Dee-Lite, 32, a party promoter from New York City who won the best evening gown gong. Many participants had stories of discrimination.

Maggie Gao, from China, earlier this year won Miss World Shenzhen, a women's beauty pageant in the southern Chinese city — but it then emerged that she was a man and the organizers withdrew her title.

"So I am very glad that Miss International Queen has given me the chance to take part," the 27-year-old ballet dancer from Shanghai said backstage before the contest.

Camilia Dzelma, 22, from Singapore, said her Muslim family had accepted her as she is and called for more transgender beauty pageants.

"I am here to open up things and show the world that I am not a freak," said Dzelma, a children's dance instructor at a government-run school.

"These competitions reduce discrimination. My family is Muslim but they do not care about

what my identity is as long as they know that I am happy. My mum just called me and wished me good luck," she said.

Thailand's laws have failed to keep up with the country's tolerant reputation.

Transsexuals in Thailand complain that they are legally discriminated against because they cannot change their gender on their ID cards, while new rules on waiting periods have been imposed for sex-change operations.

"In Thailand, after they operate they are physically a woman but legally a man. In the US and Britain and other countries they can change their passport so they are a woman," said Alisa Phanthusak, one of the contest organizers.

Thai contestant Sorawee Nattee, who won the domestic version of the pageant in May, said that she had been drafted for military service despite having had a sex-change.

"But when I went to the drafting center looking like this, like a girl, with boobs, they told me to go away," the 21-year-old said.