



330 Years of Contact, 4 Days of Arts:
The Iranian-Thai Cultural Week



Chengdu Exchange Student Wins
Second Prize at Speech Contest



Meet Chinese Ambassador at the Embassy


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The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Thailand can boast 330 years of relations, dating back to the reign of King Narai. This astounding fact, together with the 33rd anniversary of the founding of the Islamic Republic, gave rise to the “Iranian-Thai Cultural Week” jointly organized by the Faculty of Arts and the Iranian Embassy from 7 to 10 February 2012. Aimed at promoting cultural relations between the two countries, the event included, among several highlights, an exhibition of Persian drawings by Iranian artists, Persian handicrafts and the screening of Iranian films. H.E. Majid Bizmark, the Iranian Ambassador to Thailand, and Chulalongkorn University’s President Professor Piroon Kamolratanakul presided over the opening press conference of the high-profile event in the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building. Among the approximately 100 people attending were Thai and foreign diplomats, academics, businesspeople and exchange students. The press conference was then held at the Learning Commons on the 2nd floor. About 50 people representing local and overseas television, radio stations, and newspapers were invited. The conference was broadcast live to Iran and Iranian embassies worldwide.



It was succeeded by a ceremony to launch the Cultural Week proper in room 304. The highlight was the presentation of the 2012 Ahmad Qumi award by the Iranian Ambassador to General Banjob Bunnag, president of the Ahmad Qumi Foundation, for his role in establishing good relations between Thailand and Iran.

Before the ceremony ended with a display of Iranian traditional costumes worn by Arts students, H.E. Majid Bizmark presented souvenir plates to the Chulalongkorn University President, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs. 



Thai Wellbeing and Perseverance: Chengdu Exchange Student Wins Second Prize at Speech Contest



Pitting the top foreign students of Thai against each other in a competition that involves both prepared and impromptu speeches on complex topics, the “International Tertiary Education Speech Contest,” the brainchild of the Chulalongkorn University Alumni Association (CUAA), is one of the toughest tests for learners of the language of the Land of Smiles. And the Faculty has reason to celebrate that one of its own went on to shine in the contest, held to celebrate His Majesty the King’s 84th birthday on 11 February 2012 at the Arnoma Hotel: Ms. Shuhua Qi, an exchange student at the Faculty of Arts and originally a Thai major from Chengdu University in China, emerged as the first runner-up with her well-thought-out ideas on “Thai People living well through Royal Initiated Projects” and her spontaneous thoughts on the topic “Perseverance brings success.” Her successful performance within the field of students from eight countries currently studying at 24 educational institutes in Thailand earned her a 10,000.-Baht cash prize and a trophy in honor of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Attending the opening ceremony of the speech contest were Professor Dr. Suchada Kiranandana, CUAA’s Vice President, Assistant Professor Dr. Pornthip Pookpasuk, Chairperson of the organizing committee, and Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Arnoma Hotel Bangkok and the Felix River Kwai Resort Kanchanaburi, who provided the venue and refreshments.

Buddhist Studies: Arts Student Wins Khyentse Foundation Scholarship



The renowned Khyentse Foundation, founded in 2001 by Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche to promote Buddhism and Buddhist studies, does not only provide support for the management of an electronic database of Tibetan Buddhist scripts, but also promotes international tertiary education in Buddhist studies. And it was to our Faculty’s MA student Sararat Nawato that the foundation’s Peter Skilling presented one of their coveted scholarships. Presiding over the award ceremony in the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building’s Learning Commons was Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, while the awardee had been selected by the screening committee consisting of Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, and Dr. Charnwit Tadkaew.



Khyentse scholarships are given to students at top universities worldwide such as the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Sydney, the University of Hamburg and Peking University. In Thailand, the Foundation has contributed US \$3,000 to the Faculty of Arts, to be awarded to one student per academic year from 2011-2013. Each student will be awarded US \$1,000. The Foundation will discuss the possibility of further support with the Faculty of Arts’ International Affairs division.



New Horizons: Collaboration with Turkish University



The rise of Turkey has been one of the big global stories in recent years. Our Faculty has been one of the first bodies to react to the opportunities this offers, and to join hands with colleagues and institutions in this fascinating nation. On 24 January 2012, Professor Erkan Kirbiyik from Suleyman Demirel University in Turkey and Mr. Zeki Parilti, the Thai-Turkish Business Association's Cultural Director, paid a visit to the Faculty of Arts to seek academic collaboration between Suleyman Demirel University and Chulalongkorn University via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They were welcomed by the Faculty's Dean, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, and Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs.



South-East Asian Exchanges: Indonesian University Representatives Pay Visit

Closer to home, but certainly no less important for Thai academic relations is Indonesia; and the Faculty's international cooperation takes this country very seriously indeed: On 27 January 2012, Assistant Professor Dr. Safrina Noorman and Dian Dia-an from the English Education Department, Universitas Pendidikan, Indonesia, paid a visit to the Faculty of Arts and were welcomed by Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs and Assistant Professor Dr. Nattama Pongpairoj, Head of the Department of English. In addition to exchanging views about teaching and research, the visitors were here seeking suggestions for curriculum development and improvement of Pendidikan's newly established program in English and Linguistic Studies.





Chengdu Exchange Students Accompanied by Arts Dean Pay Visit to Chinese Ambassador



At 4.00 p.m. on 9 March 2012, 26 exchange students from Chengdu University had the chance to meet an illustrious countryman: Led by Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, academic advisor Ms. Preena Manomaivibool, and Dr. Prapin Manomaivibool, honorary advisor to the exchange program, they paid a visit to the Chinese ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Guan Mu. They were greeted on arrival by the Attaché for Education, Chu Ning.

The Dean took the opportunity to congratulate Ms. Shuhua Qi, the abovementioned exchange student, for winning the second prize at the speech contest organized for students in international programs in Thailand celebrating His Majesty the King's 84th birthday. H. E. Guan Mu expressed his appreciation to the Faculty of Arts for taking good care of the students and gave them valuable words of advice. The visit which lasted over 2 hours ended with the Dean presenting a souvenir to the Chinese ambassador and a photo of the group being taken in front of the embassy.

The 26 students from Chengdu attended classes at the Faculty of Arts during the second semester 2011 and were due to return to China on 30 March 2012. 🌸

🌸 We are at Your Service. 🌸

The Committee Members of the Section of International Affairs, which comprises Deputy Dean Surapeepan Chatraporn, Dr. Brett Farmer, Dr. Ingo Peters, Assoc. Prof. Charunee Hongcharu, Dr. Duantem Krisdathanont, Donald Scott Humphries, Dr. Julispong Chularatana, Dr. Nurida Hayiyakoh, Pawit Mahasarinand, Dr. Piriyaedit Manit, Dr. Saseporn Petcharpiruch, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, Dr. Mattanee Palungtepin, Assist Prof. Wipada Petcharak, and Kankanok Singharerg as secretary, welcome advice and suggestions concerning any plans and activities. We aim to encourage a fully internationalized environment and to promote increased networking with overseas institutions and scholars. If you would like to talk to us, you can contact any of the committee members. We would be very happy to hear from you and cooperate closely with you.