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A Memorable Morning with the US Ambassador



It is not every day that the American Ambassador to Thailand visits Chulalongkorn University, and far rarer still does he honor a specific faculty with his presence. So when His Excellency Eric G. John, invited by Dean Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn and the Section of International Affairs under Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, came to the Faculty of Arts on December 3, 2009, more than 120 faculty members, undergraduate and graduate students gathered in the Maha Chulalongkorn Building showed their appreciation by not only giving him a friendly welcome and listening attentively, but also by engaging him in precisely the lively discussion he had been asking for.



After reminiscing about his own undergraduate days and wondering which students, following his old habit, would soon start counting the beautiful ceiling tiles in room 101 out of boredom, Ambassador John provided the audience with enough fascinating insights on the productive partnership between the United States and Thailand to disperse his mock-worries. While his informative talk -- introduced and moderated by the three able MCs, Ms. Parima Kampookaew, Ms. Alisa Lertpratchya and Ms. Waranaree Chattrakulpong, all our own English majors -- covered everything Thai-American, from culture to politics and education, it was the following discussion session that proved the heart of this meeting of the minds: Our students queried Ambassador John on everything from possible U.S. involvement in the South (certainly not to be expected) to his stance on Bangkok (very livable, much more so than in the eighties) and cram schools (bad). Supported by Cultural Attache Mr. John Paul Schutte and Dr. Kaniittha Navarat, the Cultural Specialist, he enlightened the audience not only about studying opportunities, stressing how much the U.S. wants the best Thai students, but also about his personal yearning for better walking spaces (his only lament about the City of Angels) and his rather elaborate musicological theory of the Three Miles Davises. Thrilled by the personal and engaging style and his dry humor, the students sent Ambassador John and his team, later joined by Mr. Kenneth L. Foster, Counselor for Public Affairs to the following lunch with a hearty applause.

Dean Prapod hosted the luncheon in honor of the Ambassador in the intimate setting of the Plaza Athenee Hotel's private dining room. Here, the topic of the earlier talk—Thai-U.S. partnerships—was continued not only by discussions about further cooperation but also with many witty, strange or fabulous Thai-U.S. anecdotes.



Before delivering the morning talk with the students His Excellency Eric G. John, together with his Cultural Affairs team, had a meeting with the Dean, the Deputy Deans, the Head of the English Department, Assistant Professor Dr. Nattama Pongpairroj, and colleagues from the English Department to explore the possibility of academic and cultural cooperation between the U.S. Embassy and the Faculty of Arts. Very productive discussions and proposals arose from this formal talk. The first event to be co-organized is a workshop on "Visual thinking Strategies," an innovative pedagogical approach which has been enjoying increasing popularity both in the U.S. and Russia. The Embassy will invite a specialist from the U.S. to conduct the workshop for faculty and students, and the Faculty will make other necessary arrangements. Overall, as faculty, students, and the Embassy agree, it was a great day for Thai-American friendship. 🌸





A New Partnership with Communication University in China



On November 30, 2009 Professor Peng Zongping and Professor Bao Xueju from the International College for Chinese Language Studies, Communication University of the Republic of China, paid a courtesy call to the Faculty of Arts and were warmly welcomed by Dean Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Deputy Dean Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Assistant Professor Dr. Worawut Chirasombat, Head of the Department of the Eastern Languages, and Associate Professor Dr. Prapin Manomaiwibool, Distinguished Scholar of the Department of Eastern Languages. After a long discussion on mutual interests and upcoming action plans, the Dean signed a cooperation agreement between BALAC and the International College for Chinese Language Studies. Present at the signing ceremony were Assistant Professor Dr. Suradech Chotiudomphan, BALAC Director, and Ajarn Dr. Sasiporn Petcharapiracha, BALAC Deputy Director.

Communication University of China (CUC) is one of China's key universities of Project 211 (a project endorsed by the State Council and designed to upgrade, by the early part of the 21st century, some 100 universities in order to turn a number of them into first-rate world universities) directly under the jurisdiction of the State Ministry of Education. Devoted to the cultivation of high-level talent and scientific research in the fields of radio, television, film, network, publication and new media, CUC ranks among the best educational institutions of communications in China. CUC is vigorously promoting international academic exchange to cultivate bachelors, masters and doctors. And now CUC has established exchanging and collaborative relationships with over 160 universities and media organizations in about 50 countries.

Another New Partnership with Waseda



On December 25, 2009, Professor Dr Masakazu Iino, Associate Dean of the School of International Liberal Studies (SILS), Waseda University, and his team were warmly welcomed by Faculty Dean Assistant Professor Dr Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Deputy Dean Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, and the BALAC team, Assistant Professor Dr. Suradech Chotiudomphan, Director, and Ajarn Dr. Sasiporn Petcharapiracha, Deputy Director. On this occasion, the Dean signed an MOU for academic cooperation between the SILS and the BALAC, thus commencing an exciting partnership that will flourish in the years to come. Waseda University is the latest to sign an exchange agreement with the BALAC program, after the Communication University of China in November, thus further raising the international profile of the program.


Founded in 2004, the SILS is one of the 13 undergraduate schools of Waseda University, one of the most prestigious and oldest universities in Japan. It is a new institute that offers a unique curriculum in the field of liberal arts for international students from all over the world.

An MOU Renewal with Kyoto Notre Dame University




On November 27, 2009 Professor Kazumi Inoue, Director, Office of International Programs, Kyoto Notre Dame University, paid a courtesy visit to Dean Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn. Both agreed on the renewal of the existing MOU for another three years starting in December 2009 and ending in December 2012. On this occasion, Professor Kazumi Inoue met and talked with Ms. Piamboon Uthaitamarat, a Japanese major who has been awarded a scholarship to study at Kyoto Notre Dame University in the next academic year. Piamboon is the third exchange student to receive a full grant to study for one year at Kyoto Notre Dame University.

 **Courtesy Visits** 

Embassy of Spain 




On November 2, 2009, Mr. Antonio J. Millán, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Spain, together with his wife, Mrs. Rosana Millán, Professor César Alvarez, Vice President, Universidad de Cantabria, Professor Jesús A. Casabiell, Vice President, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela and Ms. Eugenia Noriega, Deputy Director, Public Foundation for the International Promotion of Spanish Universities paid a courtesy call to the Faculty. On this occasion, they were cordially received by Dean Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Deputy Dean Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Associate Professor Sathaporn Tipayasad and Assistant Professor Rasamee Kritsanamit. In the course of warm and productive discussions, proposals were raised to explore the possibility of formal academic and cultural cooperation between the Embassy of Spain and the Faculty of Arts. Moreover, the Spanish visitors observed the teaching and learning of a Spanish class and took great delight in participating in class activities with our Spanish majors. 

National Chengchi University 



On November 25, 2009 Professor Yu Nai – Ming, Dean of National Chengchi University's College of Foreign Languages, paid a courtesy visit to the Faculty to discuss the feasibility of academic exchange and to pinpoint specific details in the forthcoming MOU between the Faculty of Arts and the College of Foreign Languages. Present with Dean Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn and Deputy Dean Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn to warmly welcome our Taiwanese colleagues were Assistant Professor Dr. Worawut Chirasombat, Head of the Eastern Languages, and Ajarn Dr. Suree Chunharoengdej, Head of the Chinese Section.

The National Chengchi University, established in 1927, is a public university in Taipei, Taiwan. It is one of the most prestigious universities in Taiwan and is noted for teaching and research in the social sciences, commerce, communication, liberal arts and for its MBA programs. There are a total of 15,167 students, with 9,052 completing an undergraduate degree. The remaining student population includes master students, Ph.D candidates and international students. 

Communication University of China 



On December 1, 2009 the Faculty had an opportunity to receive another delegation from Communication University of China, headed by Professor Dr. Fan Zhou, Dean, Institute for Cultural Studies. Participating in the meeting presided by Dean Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn were Deputy Dean Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Associate Professor Dr. Prapin Manomaiwibool, Distinguished Scholar of the Department of Eastern Languages, Director and Deputy Director of the Thai Studies Center, Prof. Dr. Siraporn Nathalang and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suchitra Chongstitvatana, and Ajarn Dr. Sasiporn Petcharapiracha from the Chinese Section. It was agreed upon in the meeting that the Faculty will join hands with the Institute for Cultural Studies in organizing an international conference on cultural studies in the year 2011. Preparations and arrangement for the international conference will be discussed in the next meeting.




National and International Conferences



The Phantasm in Southern Thailand: Historical Writings on Patani and the Islamic World

The Department of History in collaboration with the Regional Studies Program, School of Liberal Arts, Walailuk University, held an international conference, funded by the Thailand Research Fund and the National Discovery Museum Institute, on “The Phantasm in Southern Thailand: Historical Writings on Patani and the Islamic World” on December 11 – 12, 2009 in the Maha Chulalongkorn Building. The conference turned out to be a big success, with over 200 local and international participants from Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. The audience ranged from scholars, local politicians, diplomats, private development organization officers, and the local and international press to the interested public. Several sessions generated so much interest that some participants were willing to stand in the overcrowded venue, and some were sitting in front of the stage and along the aisle.




The conference boasted a handful of world-renowned and well-recognized speakers and academics. Professor Dr.Thongchai Winichakul, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Professor Dr.Anthony Reid, Kyoto University, delivered keynote speeches while Professor Dr. Benedict Anderson, Cornell University, Professor Dr.Barbara Andaya, University of Hawaii, Professor Dr. Duncan McCargo, Leeds University, and Professor Dr. Azyumardi Azra, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, gave concluding remarks. After the conclusion of the conference, a thank-you party organized in a warm friendly atmosphere was given to all speakers and presenters at the Chula Narumitre Reception House in the forest canopy. 



National and International Conferences

Melayu in Thailand



The Malay Section, Department of Eastern Languages, held a national conference on “Melayu in Thailand” on August 20, 2009 in Room 105, Maha Chulalongkorn Building. The main objectives of the conference were to provide deeper and more intensive knowledge of the Malay language and culture in Thailand, to foster better understanding between Malay Thais and other ethnic groups in Thailand and to create a collaborative network of academics and researchers in the field of Malay Studies. This conference, which was the first of its kind in Thailand, proved to be a success with over 170 participants comprising scholars, students, government officials, NGO workers as well as descendants of ethnic Malaya throughout the country 




Cultural Activities

Mural Painting




On August 20, 2009, Dr. Gerhard Jaiser from the Universitas Indonesia in Jakarta held a talk on “Thai Culture and Local Life in Mural Painting.” The event was jointly organized by the Thai Studies Center, the Center of Folklore Research, and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). Dr. Jaiser delivered a very interesting speech and presented a selection of pictures, which he had taken at more than 200 temples in Thailand. Among the 50-plus audience members were the Dean, Asst. Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, faculty lecturers, students, and interested members of the general public.

Thanks went to Prof. Dr. Siraporn Nathalang, Assoc. Prof. Sukanya Sujachaya, and Claudio Kasperl for making this event possible. 

Chulalongkorn University International Film Festival 2010

The Department of Dramatic Arts, with support from the Cultural Centre, invites you to join the Chulalongkorn University International Film Festival 2010 and watch six award-winning films from six countries --"Caramel" (Lebanon), "Everlasting Moments"(Sweden), "Still Walking" (Japan), "Tulpan" (Kazakhstan), "Mid-August Lunch" (Italy) and "Revanche" (Austria)-- all of which have never been commercially released in Thailand.

Stay on after the film screening and share your opinions with professional film critics Kittisak Suvannapokhin, Nopamat Veohong and Kong Rithdee.

For more details, call 0-2218-4802 or visit <http://chulafilmfest.multiply.com> 

We are at Your Service.

The Committee Members of the Section of International Affairs, which comprises Deputy Dean Surapeepan Chatraporn, Dr. Brett Farmer, Charunee Hongcharu, Dr. Duantem Krisdathanont, Dr. Ingo Peters, Dr. Julispong Chularatana, Dr. Mattanee Palungtepin, Dr. Nurida Hayiyakoh, Pawit Mahasarinand, Dr. Piriyaadit Mani, Dr. Saseporn Petcharpiruch, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, Wipada Petcharak, and Walailuk Chorpankul 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.