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An Awe-Inspiring Morning with the Chinese Ambassador




In a much anticipated visit, His Excellency Mr. Guan Mu, the Chinese Ambassador to Thailand, together with his Cultural Attaches, electrified a crowd of more than 150 faculty members, undergraduate and graduate students at Chulalongkorn University on February 2, 2010. An ambiance of friendship and cooperation greeted H.E. Mr. Guan Mu as he was received by the Dean, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn; Distinguished Scholar, Associate Professor Dr. Prapin Manomaiwibool; Associate Professor Surapepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs; Assistant Professor M.R.Kongkarn Tavetheekul, Deputy Dean for Administration; Assistant Professor Sunij Sutanthavibul, Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs; Assistant Professor Sankavat Pradithpongse, Deputy Dean for Student Affairs; Professor Fu Zengyou, Director of the Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University, and faculty members of the Chinese Section.

The Ambassador's face lit up with smiles as he walked the line of students majoring and minoring in Chinese from both Thai and International programs. In accordance with Chinese tradition, the students clapped their hands as a gesture of welcome to the Ambassador while presenting His Excellency with a bouquet of flowers. The day began with informal discussions between H.E. Mr. Guan Mu, Faculty administrators, and faculty members from the Chinese Section, the Confucius Institute Director and staff. Further cooperation was the topic at hand as the Chinese Ambassador looked to strengthen friendship and to forge additional relations between the Faculty of Arts and the Chinese Government, with a particular emphasis on scholarships. The Ambassador praised the Faculty for the high standards it has employed over the years and looked forward to continuing achievements between the two partners.



As the visit progressed, the Dean acted as a tour guide showcasing the beauty of the Faculty of Arts. The highlight of the day was when H.E. Mr. Guan Mu stopped in Room 105 of the Maha Chulalongkorn Building to act as an honorary guest speaker.



His speech entitled "Thai-Chinese Relations and Their Partnership in Education" was conducted entirely in Thai. The Ambassador spoke Thai very fluently with no hint of a Chinese accent. The fact that he could so easily pass as a native Thai made a strong impression on the whole audience. His Excellency impressed on the students how essential the Chinese language was along with the importance of continuing and furthering relations between the two cultures. His speech reflected not only his remarkable Thai proficiency but also his profound thoughts. As an example of his play on Thai words, he advised the students, "When dealing with people, you must be both 'ru-jai' (perceptive, astute or attentive) and 'jing-jai' (sincere in your approach)." In studying Chinese, His Excellency further stated, students equally learn about Chinese wisdom and virtues through the language's numerous mottos and ancient philosophy, which, he assured, would be useful in their lives and future careers. Moreover, Chinese culture's belief in the great harmony of humans and nature emphasizes unity and reconciliation, leading to a peaceful co-existence, especially among different global communities. His Excellency also stressed the significance of history and its impact on the present. 

Fruitful VTS Workshop




To follow up from the US Ambassador's visit to the Faculty of Arts, the Section of International Affairs joined forces with the Section of Academic Affairs and the US Embassy in organizing a Visual Thinking Strategy Workshop (VTS) for faculty members and students on January 29, 2010. The US Embassy graciously provided a leading expert to helm the workshop, Professor Philip Yenawine, former Director of several museums in the U.S. including the Metropolitan Museum of New York, and a visiting professor at numerous universities.

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) uses art to teach thinking, communication skills, and visual literacy to learners. Growth is stimulated by three factors: looking at artworks of increasing complexity, responding to developmentally-based questions, and participating in rigorous discussion. This process of thinking about art or aesthetic production advances a mode of cognition that educators refer to as critical and creative thinking. Through careful guidance, participants are able to enhance their skills of observation, speculation and reasoning on the basis of evidence and then transfer these skills to the examination of other phenomena, as well as to reading and writing.




The workshop proved to be a success with 23 participants (the number exceeded the limit of 20 seats). Professor Yenawine encouragingly introduced participants to innovative strategies of visual literacy and demonstrated how to apply these techniques in teaching and learning. Through his guidance, participants learned how to use art strategically to sharpen observational powers, heighten thinking ability, stimulate analytical capacity, enhance critical skills as well as broaden and deepen their imaginative power. The stimulating and thought-provoking ambience was sustained throughout the workshop with participants encouraged to use their imagination, speculations, and recollections in response to colors, lines, shapes and pictures presented by Professor Yenawine in over 100 slides.

The workshop was not only rich and rewarding, but also lively with a lively dose of humor and considerable laughter. The Faculty of Arts was grateful to the US Embassy for their generous support of this workshop and we hope to organize another collaborative activity in the near future. 



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. Duanthem Krisdathanont, Dr. Ingo Peters, Dr. Julispong Chularatana, Dr. Nurida Hayiyakoh, Pawit Mahasarinand, Dr. Piriya-dit Mani, Dr. Saseporn Petcharpiruch, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, Mathurin Leelasetakul, 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. 



Morning with the Chinese Ambassador (continued)

The visit ended with Dean Dr. Prapod hosting a sumptuous luncheon at the Plaza Athenee Hotel. H.E. Mr. Guan Mu, who was in a joyful mood throughout the visit, recounted the good working relations and friendly ties between the Chinese Embassy and the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. It is hoped that this is only one of many productive exchanges between the two longtime associates.



The First International Conference on Translation and Interpretation 2010

The Chalermprakiat Centre of Translation and Interpretation is pleased to announce its first international conference on translation and interpretation (T&I), to be held on 1-3 November 2010 at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok. The event, presided over by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, will feature internationally renowned T&I scholars such as Mona Baker (University of Manchester), Martha P.Y. Cheung (Hong Kong Baptist University), Wang Lidi (Beijing Foreign Studies University), and Ingrid Kurz (University of Vienna).

Papers are invited on all aspects of T&I, with a suggested length of 4-6 pages. The deadline for submission is 1 June 2010. For more details, please visit www.ictithailand.com.



Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University

The Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand (CICU) was established jointly on 26th Mar, 2007 by Chulalongkorn University (CU) and Peking University (PKU). H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn attended the inauguration ceremony where she personally unveiled the CICU plaque with its motto, "Renzhongdaoyuan" (There is before us a heavy responsibility and a long way to go).

The purpose of the CICU is to provide support for Chinese education and the training of teachers of Chinese in Thailand. It also provides scholarships for teachers and students of CU to undertake further study at leading universities in China.

Since 2007, the Institute has organized many cultural activities in cooperation with the Faculty of Art's Chinese Department.

These activities have enabled people from all walks of life in Thailand to gain a better understanding of Chinese culture. We also host many excellent lectures and discussions for teachers, compile Chinese/Thai dictionaries, and provide dedicated service to the field of Chinese education in Thailand. The Confucius Institute is administered by an Executive Council Committee, under the combined leadership of two presidents, representing China and Thailand respectively. Currently, Professor Fu Zengyou serves as the President of the Chinese side of the CICU, while Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn is the President of the Thai side, with Dr. Cai Suping as Vice-President. In addition, there are five teachers of Chinese working in the CICU, four from China and one from Thailand.

The CICU will continue with its efforts to promote Chinese culture in Thailand, and is committed to becoming an international centre of excellence for the study of the Chinese language and culture through the publication of Chinese books and reference materials and the development of Chinese cultural and linguistic research. Through its pursuit of these goals, the Institute is dedicated to fostering increased relations of cultural exchange and friendship between Thailand and China.

