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Thailand-Hong Kong-Singapore Trilateral Dramatic Arts Cooperation

The Department of Dramatic Arts form a vital part of our Faculty and its international mission. The latest proof took place when a trilateral collaboration program with Hong Kong and Singapore was initiated. From August 20-23, 2015, representatives from the three regions met to discuss this: Prof. Dr. Ceri Sherlock (Chair of the School of Drama of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts), Dr. Amanda Morris (Dean of Faculty of Performing Arts) and Mr. Adam Marple from LaSalle College of Arts in Singapore, Assist. Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, the Dean of our Faculty of Arts, and Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, the Deputy Dean for International Affairs. Also participating in the meeting which specially tracked the progress of the trilateral collaboration were Ajarn Dangkamon Na-pombejra, Head of the Dramatic Arts Department, Assoc. Prof. Pornrat Dumrung, and Assoc. Prof. Charunee Hongcharu, who is the key person.



The three institutions named above have a plan to jointly produce William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with students from each of them at the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, after a two-week workshop in early June 2016. At the moment, the three institutions are discussing the draft trilateral memorandum of understanding. 

Cooperation with Fukui University: MOU and Agreement on Academic Exchange



A similarly lively exchange of ideas and cooperation exists with Japan. Fukui University had visited the Faculty before, and cemented the relationship with our Faculty further on August 17, 2015: Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, welcomed Prof. Dr. Hideo Teraoka, Vice President, and Prof. Dr. Koji Kobata, Director of International Center. The visit followed up on the cooperation between the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Global and Community Studies of Fukui University. Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan walked the Vice President and Prof. Dr. Kobata through Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Maha Vajiravudh, and Maha Chulalongkorn buildings.

Two weeks after their visit, the Faculty of Global and Community Studies officially approved the draft agreement that the Faculty of Arts proposed, and sent the draft MOU and Agreement on Academic Exchange to be signed by Assist. Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, in conjunction with Prof. Dr. Hideo Teraoka, Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Global and Community Studies of Fukui University. 

Faculty of Humanities, Srinakharinwirot University, Seeks Advice on Administrating International Program from BALAC



On July 16, 2015, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Room 708, Boromrajakumari Building, 12 faculty members from the Faculty of Humanities, Srinakharinwirot University, visited the BALAC program and gathered in Room 708, Boromrajakumari Building, to acquire useful suggestions on how to design and manage their international program, and tackle problems that may arise. The party includes Assist. Prof. Dr. Siriporn Panyamethikul, the Director of the English for Careers international program,

10 faculty members from the Faculty of Humanities and 10 graduate students.

Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Director of the BALAC program, Assist. Prof. Dr. Duantem Krisdathanont, the Deputy Director of the BALAC program, Assist. Prof. Dr. Villa Vilaithong, Program Board Member, and Ajarn Dr. Asadayuth Chusri, faculty lecturer, welcomed the party, and discussed and offered suggestions about program development and management. They also answered questions and provided solutions to existing problems.

The Faculty of Humanities at Srinakharinwirot University offers English for Careers international program starting in academic year 2015, with four fields, including English for Mass Media, English for Hospitality and Management, and English for Business. 

A Collaborative Project between Hokkaido University and the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University



The Section of International Affairs collaborated with Hokkaido University in organizing a joint project on academic and cultural exchange. On August 21, the Faculty of Arts welcomed 17 students from Hokkaido University who came on a short study tour and intercultural exchange led by Pof. Mikio Masaki. The Arts student who participated in this activity included both the BALAC students and students from the Thai program, who major in Japanese. Ajarn Dr. Asadayuth Chusri was the coordinator of the activity.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty, gave a speech in which he warmly greeted the Hokkaido students and invited them to make friends with the Arts students and maintain the good relations. Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, gave a short introductory talk on the Faculty of Arts, expressed her delight in this collaborative project and expressed her goodwill to all the Japanese students in this immersion program.

For the morning session, Assistant Prof. Dr. Wasana Wongsurawat, Director of Thai Studies, gave a short talk on a glance of Thailand and Thai culture. After the talk, she led a discussion on the exchange of culture and the values of Japan and Thailand, in which students from both institutes actively participated.

The focus in the afternoon session was on the students. The student representatives of each university introduced their own university. Then all students enthusiastically exchanged ideas on and attitudes toward their university lives. They shared their hopes, their dreams and solutions to their problems. The event concluded with the students writing their names and put all these together to make the word "KIZUNA" which means friendly bonds. 

BALAC Annual Seminar



On Friday, July 17, 2015, our international Bachelor of Arts Program in Language and Culture (BALAC) organized a faculty lecturer annual seminar for the academic year 2015 at Courtyard by Marriott from 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. The conference was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Director of the Program, and attended by faculty lecturers and representatives from the departments of Thai, English, Philosophy, Dramatic Arts, Comparative Literature, Geography, Western Languages, and Eastern Languages, as well as the Director for Academic Affairs, and other faculty and staff, adding up to 30 people.

The conference started with the introduction to CUCAS, and the discussion among participants on how to enhance teaching methods and encourage students to complete teaching evaluation forms for further improvement.

The participants also discussed the student exchange programs and academic cooperation with foreign universities to provide a truly international teaching and learning environment. In addition, the participants exchanged their views on previous problems, such as academic dishonesty, class attendance, books and teaching materials, student uniforms, grade appeal, and credit transfer. The Program gathered and summarized the results from the conference as guidelines for current and future faculty lecturers' reference to facilitate effective teaching and learning. 

Orientation for New BALAC Students



The Bachelor of Arts in Language and Culture (International Program), or BALAC, is entering its 8th year. This year, the program has accepted 99 new students through direct admission, and 2 students through international admission. Also, there are 75 new graduates who started their undergraduate program in 2011. Of these, 7 received first class honors, and 26 received second class honors.

The BALAC Student Orientation and Parent Meeting was held on July 24, 2015, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Room 301-302 of the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building. New students and their parents had the chance to meet faculty board members and lecturers, and obtain information about classes and student regulations. Around 180 new students and parents joined.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, gave the opening remarks and presented certificates to the 7 above-mentioned graduates who received first class honors. These are Mr. Jakkapat Kuhapremkit (Gold Medal), Mr. Chanwit Eimudom, Mr. Tanarat Chaichompu, Mr. Porames Tungsataporn, Miss Watanya Sompong, Miss Wasitta Chayanupatkul, and Mr. Wisrut Homhuan.

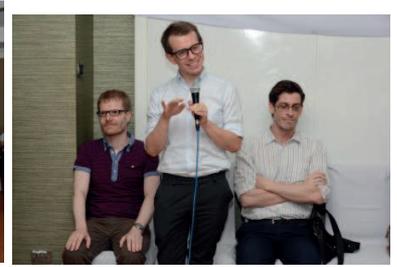
In addition, Assist. Prof. Dr. Prapod presented certificates to 10 students for their service to society and the community. These include Mr. Pasawit Boonkongcheun, Miss Arada Arayawut, Mr. Ronakorn Rojrattanadarong, Mr. Wisrut Homhuan, Miss Tanyaporn Roongreungtanya, Mr. Chanwit Eimudom, Miss Nichamon Srichaiyongpanich, Miss Nichada Teanchao, Miss Parima Chanrawi, and Miss Chindarat Sopasripan.

Then, Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Program Director, introduced the Faculty of Arts and provided information on the BALAC program. Additional focus was on program development for international purposes, extra-curricular activities, more international students, and student exchange program abroad. After that, Assoc. Prof. Sankavat Pradithpongse, the Deputy Dean for Student Affairs, talked about life and activities on campus. Three Arts alumni were invited to share their stories on education and work opportunity after graduation. These include Mr. Thongchai Chasawat, the Director-General of the Department of Consular Affairs of the MFA, Ms. Chernchooti Tempitak, Refugee Officer of UNHCR, and Ms. Alice Toy, MC and actress at GMM and owner of Mr. Bean Coffee Shop. The alumni shared their experiences gained at Chula and their career success. Assist. Prof. Dr. Duanthem Krisdathanont was the MC.

For the afternoon session, Assist. Prof. Dr. Duanthem Krisdathanont, the Deputy Director of the program, explained the curriculum and courses in the program. Ajarn Dr. Lowell Skar, and Ajarn Dr. Jaime Moreno Tejada gave an introduction to cultural studies. Then, new students had a chance to meet and talk with their advisors. There are 4 new advisors this year: Ajarn Dr. Jaime Moreno Tejada, Ajarn Dr. Simon Turner, Ajarn Dr. Wiroj Kosolritthichai, and Ajarn Nenuphar Supavej. The advisors provided information on courses, registration process, and life at the Faculty of Arts. Although this session was primarily meant for new students, some of the parents stayed on. The Student Orientation was successful. New students as well as their parents were interested, and exchanged useful opinions and suggestions. The orientation ended at about 4 p.m. 



BALAC Orientation for International Students 2015 and Welcoming Party



On Friday, August 21, 2015, the BALAC Program Director, Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, along with eight BALAC Program instructors, Mrs. Vipa Homsiri, the Director of the Academic Affairs Office of the Faculty, the three BALAC Program staff, and four BALAC student representatives, welcomed 35 foreign students from various countries both from the East and the West. The event, which started at 4:30 PM in the Dipak C. Jain Hall of the SASA International House, also included 51 BALAC students. Besides welcome messages and introductions from those present, plans were announced for three weekend outings for foreign students during the semester, along with arranging for a Thai “buddy” from the BALAC Program to be assigned for each exchange student. Lively conversation then took place during a buffet dinner. The evening’s event ended around 7:00 PM.

Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan’s welcoming message warmly greeted the students from abroad, touching on the importance of international education and a cosmopolitan vision for all students today. She was delighted to see so many energetic students from so many countries and hoped that many BALAC students would likewise plan to study abroad. She tied her welcome and hopes to the cosmopolitan ideals of King Chulalongkorn and the international vision of Chulalongkorn University, which is soon approaching the centenary of its establishment. While asking foreign students to take opportunities for learning about Thailand and her people both in and out of the classroom, she also reminded them that they should remain cautious and aware of their environment so they would be sure to remain safe and to enjoy their time here fully. The BALAC Staff, Administrators, and Faculty were all here to ensure that all foreign students would benefit the most possible from their time at Chulalongkorn University and in Thailand. The evening’s events were also aiming to create new bonds of friendship and assistance between BALAC students and the foreign students that would continue through the semester and into the future.

Following her short introductory welcome speech, Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan invited all Ajarns present to introduce themselves, which they did in succession, starting with Ajarn Dr. Simon Turner, Ajarn Dr. Jaime Moreno Tajeda, Ajarn Dr. Lowell Skar, Ajarn Dr. Paolo Euron, and Ajarn Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn. A highlight of the Program faculty introductions came when Ajarn Dr. Asadayuth Chusri gave a rousing rendition of “Getting to Know You” to both laughter and applause, and was followed by further faculty introductions from Ajarn Somjit Jirananthiporn and Ajarn Albert Bosch. Mrs. Vipa Homsiri then briefly introduced herself as well since foreign students may contact her about their academic affairs.

The leaders of the BALAC students, Mr. Kasidit Sornvai and Ms. Hathaiphath Kongpoe, assisted by Mr. Papol Dhutikraikriang and Ms. Lalin Sathirakorn then took over the proceedings. They first announced that there would be three Sunday trips planned for foreign students outside of Bangkok in the Fall, the first to the Khlong Khon Mangrove Forest Preservation Center on August 30, the second, on October 11, to a nearby floating market and the last, to a surprise and as yet unannounced location, on November 8. The student organizers also announced that each foreign student would be assigned a BALAC student “buddy” later that evening, to whom she or he could turn in the remainder of the semester if there was any problem or question. Those announcements were then followed by short introductions from each of the foreign students in attendance, giving their names, where they were from, and whatever they would like their new friends to know them by.

A group photo was taken in front of the SASA International House building of the foreign students along with the BALAC Faculty and Staff.

These events were followed by a buffet-style dinner of several delicious dishes and desserts prepared by the SASA Restaurant. During dinner, BALAC students were assigned to foreign students during in the Dipak C. Jain Hall, while BALAC Faculty and Administrators socialized in the Sasa Alumni Room nearby. The orientation for international students at Sasa International House ended around 7:00 p.m. 

Cooperation with Guangxi University, China



Chula's collaboration with China continues: Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, the Deputy Dean for International Affairs, was invited by the University to join its delegation to visit and discuss the possibility of cooperation with universities in Guilin and Nanning Prefectures from May 10 to 14. To follow up on this matter, Guangxi University in Nanning invited 20 Arts students to participate in the 2015 "Guangxi University's Experiencing Chinese Camp for Students from ASEAN Countries" with 150 more students from other ASEAN countries from July 20-26, 2015. Guangxi University is responsible for accommodation, food, class participation, cultural trips, and domestic travel arrangements. Arts students are responsible for their own Bangkok-Nanning-Bangkok air fares.

As the invitation was on rather short notice, and the Chinese Camp was held during the semester break, there were less than 20 Arts students who signed up. Thus, International Affairs let students from other Faculties participate to gain knowledge and experience, and build a connection with Chinese and ASEAN students.

Guangxi University can claim a long history of both academic excellence and research expertise. The university was founded in 1928. Now 9 disciplines are offered: philosophy, Economics, Law, Languages, Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Management, and Education.

The university constitutes a cooperation between the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Guangxi Autonomous Region, and is also named "Project 211." The institution takes up 307.19 square kilometers, is composed of 20 colleges, and offers 85 undergraduate programs, 143 master's programs, and 10 PhD programs. Currently, there are 19,879 undergraduate students, 4,145 master's students, and 181 PhD students. 281 international students complement the 28,000 local ones. 

 We are at Your Service. 

The Committee Members of the Section of International Affairs, which comprises Deputy Dean Surapeepan Chatraporn, Assoc. Prof. Charunee Hongcharu, Assist. Prof. Dr. Duanthem Krisdathanont, Assist. Prof. Dr. Julispong Chularatana, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, Dr. Anant Laulertvorakul, Dr. Nurida Hayiyakoh, Dr. Pennisa Srivoranart, Assist. Prof. Dr. Pasuree Luesakul, Dr. Suebpong Changboonchoo, Assist. Prof. Dr. Ingo Peters, Scott Oltmann, Dr. Simon David Turner, Dr. Jaime Moreno Tejada, 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.