

## BALAC Trip at Kanchanaburi

Hatsaya Teerananon  
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From 24 to 26 July 2017, the BALAC student representatives organised the annual BALAC trip to welcome the new students, as well as to strengthen the bond between juniors and seniors in a unique setting. This three-day activity took place by the serene River Kwai, overlooking the majestic mountains of Kanchanaburi. Students were accompanied by BALAC staff and lecturers, who—it was reported—felt privileged to be part of this remarkable (ad)venture.

On 24 July 2017, after returning from a fascinating outing to Mallika R.E.124: The Siamese Living Heritage Town, Ajarn Lowell Skar and Ajarn Kyja Noack-Lundberg gave talks about one of the most pressing topic in the field of cultural studies today—namely, Life in a “Digital & Screen-centred World”. They introduced and showed to students the first 16 minutes of a TV show called Nosedive, of which setting is a city where people obsessively use a phone app to rate interactions (both online and in real life) with other people, and where the phone app and ratings shape how people behave in real life. Students were invited to examine the impact of digital behaviour in their lives and society. This educational activity was followed by fun and games in the compound of the beautiful River Kwai Village Resort which had been carefully crafted and set up by seniors to “break the ice” and encourage new students to get to know each other better.

The productively planned activities gained significant concentration from the freshmen especially during the second night which is renowned by the host as the highlight of the trip. The hit fashion show organized by the dedicated Balac team allowed juniors to display their talents and inventive ideas through this year’s theme “Tribal”. Students were separated into groups and asked to cooperate as a team to present the show of each tribe.

The night was followed by traditional welcoming or the so called “Baisri” ceremony which was impressive for it exalted the stress of the institution not only as a place of wisdom but also as a home for the next 3 years.

On behalf of the BALAC programme, the BALAC team would like to thank the BALAC seniors for planning such a memorable experience for the new students. We would like to express our appreciation to Associate Professor Kingkarn Thepkanchana, PhD (Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Director of BALAC), for honouring us with her presence at the opening ceremony. We would also like to extend our appreciation to Ajarn Lowell and Ajarn Kyja for their wonderful contribution.

To the new BALAC students, once again,

Welcome aboard!









