

-  A Courtesy Visit by the Argentinian Ambassador
-  The Prince of Malaysia and his Consultants at the Faculty of Arts
-  A Visit by Administrators of Guangdong University
-  Vietnamese-Thai Friendship for ASEAN

A Courtesy Visit by the Argentinian Ambassador



Argentina and our Faculty have had very friendly ties for a while, and many of our former and present students will remember Argentinian events fondly. Thus, it was both pleasant and logical to continue the tradition: On February 15, 2013 H.E. Ana Maria Ramirez, the current Ambassador, paid a courtesy visit to the Faculty of Arts to discuss the feasibility of further collaboration between our Faculty and the Argentinian Embassy, and to strengthen the existing ties between the two institutions. Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn gave a welcome speech to the Ambassador and presented her with a token of friendship. Present at the ceremony were Associate Professor Surapepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Ajarn Dr. Nunghatai Rangponsumrit, Head of the Spanish Section, Ajarn Dr. Pasuree Luesakul, and Ajarn Dr. Penpisa Srivoranart, both from the Spanish Section.

To mark the occasion, H.E. Ana Maria Ramirez together with Dean Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn presided over a special talk on “A Socio-Cultural Perspective on Thai-Argentina Relations” delivered by Prof. Ezequiel Ramoneda, a researcher from Argentina. The lecture, co-organized by the Latin American Studies Center and the Section of International Affairs, took place in Room 304, Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building from 10 to 12 a.m. A good number of students and faculty members attended the special lecture. After the talk Dean Dr. Prapod hosted a lunch in honor of H.E. Ana Maria Ramirez at the Crystal Jade Restaurant. 



The Prince of Malaysia and his Consultants at the Faculty of Arts



It is well known that Chulalongkorn University in general and our Faculty in particular can claim close links to Royalty. However, even insiders might not know that these 'royal links' now extend to the neighboring nation of Malaysia: On January 8, 2013 at 10:30 a.m., His Royal Highness Prince Khairil Imran, the son of the King of Malaysia, and his Consultants paid a visit to the Faculty of Arts. Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean, Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, and Ajarn Dr. Nureeda Haiyakoh from the Section of Malay gave a courteous welcome to His Royal Highness and the delegates from Malaysia. The Dean also humbly presented an emblem of the Faculty and a token of friendship to His Royal Highness Prince Khairil Imran.



The Prince inquired about the curriculum of the Faculty and expressed his interest in enrolling in some courses. Addressing the specific interests of His Royal Highness, Associate Professor Pornrat Damrhung, Chairperson of the M.A. program in Dramatic Arts, Assistant Professor Sankavat Pradithpongse, Deputy Dean for Student Affairs and Director of the Academic Service Center, and Ajarn Dr. Thosaeng Chaochuti from the Department of Comparative Literature joined the discussion and gave detailed information about courses in the Intensive Thai Program, in Dramatic Arts, and Comparative Literature as well as about various courses offered in the BALAC Program. Taking the nature of the courses and the profile of His Royal Highness into account, the Consultants have been developing suggestions and an ideal package for him. After the meeting Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn took Prince Khairil Imran and his Consultants on a brief tour of the Maha Chulalongkorn and Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Buildings. 



MOU Signing

Not only Chinese, but also Indian administrators are becoming increasingly aware of our Faculty. On February 7, 2013, an Administrative Team comprising seven professors from Jain Vishva Bharati University, India, came to visit the Faculty of Arts to establish formal relations between the two universities. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn and Assistant Professor Dr. Samani Aagam Pragya on behalf of Professor Dr. Samani Charitra Prajna, Vice-Chancellor, Jain Vishva Bharati University in the newly-decorated room of the Arts library, Maha Vajiravudh Building. Witnessing the MOU signing ceremony were Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, and Associate Professor Dr. Soraj Hongladarom from the Department of Philosophy. The MOU lasts five years, from February 2013 to January 2018.

The kind gift of valuable and rare books to the Faculty, given by Assistant Professor Dr. Samani Aagam Pragya deserves special mention and illustrates the significance of the occasion, which went beyond mere administrative discussion. The books will be placed in the library for the benefit of both the students and faculty members. 



A Visit by Administrators of Guangdong University



To Guangdong University, our Faculty of Arts is a highly esteemed destination -- after all, when an administrative team from the Chinese institution visited on September 27, 2012, the delegation consisted of a whole range of top staff: the Vice president, Prof. Yong Heming, Prof. Li Huanrong, Director of the MBA Center, Prof. Hong Yong, the Dean of the School of Mathematics and Computer Technology, Prof. Lai Qing, and Mr. He Xiongwei, Deputy Directors of the School of Information Technology and the Human Resources Department, respectively, and Ms. Yang Chun, Head of the Section of International Affairs. To do this justice, Guangdong University's administrative team was welcomed by an equally distinguished group from the Faculty of Arts, namely Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Ajarn Dr. Chanyaporn Parinyawuthichai, Head, Section of the Chinese Language, Ajarn Dr. Hathai Jia, and Assistant Professor Dr. Suree Chunharuangdej.

Needless to say, the exchange focused on the specific characteristics of both institutions and the opportunities that follow from there, especially in terms of Chinese studies. In her welcome address, Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, to lay the groundwork, combined an overview of the Faculty's history with an introduction to the administrative structure. Prof. Yong Heming, Vice President of Guangdong University, in turn explained the various schools of Guangdong University, as well as their particular areas of expertise and specialization. Chula's Chinese Language Section with its curriculum was illustrated in detail as well, by its faculty members, all of which led to discussion about definite possibilities and benefits of future collaboration and exchange.



Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, our Dean, and Associate Professor Dr. Prapin Manomaivibool, the founder of the Section of Chinese Language and also the Director of the Asia Research Center, hosted a lunch for the Administrative Team from Guangdong University and the faculty members of the Faculty of Arts at the Montien Hotel, where the Dean and the Director presented tokens of friendship to their Chinese counterparts. 

A Mini Seminar with Waseda University



On February 7, 2013, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, the Dean, Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, the Deputy Dean for International Affairs, and Assistant Professor Dr. Duanthem Krisdathanont, the BALAC Deputy Director, together with selected BALAC students welcomed Professor Dr. Min Zhu and a group of students from the School of International Relations at Japan's prestigious Waseda University. The purpose of the visit was to establish relations between our own Bachelor of Arts in Language and Culture Program (BALAC) and the School of International Relations at Waseda University and to participate in a mini-seminar on, appropriately, "Multiculturalism in Asia." The mini-seminar took place in Room 708, Borom Rajkumari Building, from 9 to 12 a.m. and was followed by lunch -- hosted by the Dean -- for faculty members and students of both programs. 

Vietnamese-Thai Friendship for ASEAN



The Section of International Affairs, Faculty of Arts, in collaboration with the Faculty of International Relations at the College of Social Science and Humanities, Vietnam National University of Ho Chi Minh City organized an event labelled “Vietnamese-Thai Friendship for ASEAN,” which took place on January 11, 2013, from 9 to 12 a.m. in Room 304 of the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building. Participating in the event were six faculty members and 80 students from Vietnam National University of Ho Chi Minh City.

The event started with a dance of welcome and a blessing ceremony performed by the students of the Faculty of Arts. Then Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean delivered a speech in which he expressed his delight in this second activity co-organized by the Faculty of Arts and the College of Social Science and Humanities and his pleasure in seeing the close ties between the students of the two institutions. Present at the event were Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Assistant Professor Sankavat Pradithpongse, Deputy Dean for Student Affairs, Assistant Professor Dr. Duanthem Krisdathanont, BALAC Deputy Director, Assistant Professor Dr. Julispong Chularatana, Ajarn Dr. Penpisa Srivoranart, Ajarn Dr. Nureeda Haiyyakoh, Ajarn Scott Oltmann, and Ms. Yupin Chancharoensin, Director of Humanities Information Center. Ajarn Proud Sethabutr teamed up with an instructor from Vietnam National University of Ho Chi Minh City as MC.

After the introduction of the faculty members of both universities, Deputy Dean Surapeepan Chatraporn gave a PowerPoint presentation of Chulalongkorn University and the Faculty of Arts This was followed by the traditional exchange of gifts between the administrators of the two universities. A series of cultural performances, both traditional and modern, were alternately staged by students who had well rehearsed and dressed in elaborate cultural costumes. After the performances students mingled and took part in a variety of activities in which prizes were generously given by the Faculty of Arts. This event turned out to be a success which helped foster friendship and enhance better understanding between the two countries of ASEAN. The event ended with a group photo of all the joyful students and professors. 



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, Dr. Julispong Chularatana, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, Dr. Anant Laulertvorakul, Dr. Nurida Haiyyakoh, Dr. Penpisa Srivoranart, Proud Sethabutr, Kamon Butsaban, Dr. Brett Farmer, Dr. Ingo Peters, Donald Scott Humphries, Scott Oltmann, and Kankanok Singhareg 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.