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Academic Cooperation with University of Hamburg (Universität Hamburg)



Partnership with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Embassy of Portugal



Book Launch



After "Macbeth," What's Next?

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Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, signed an agreement with Professor Dr. Oliver Huck, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Sciences, University of Hamburg, Germany, on June 29, 2011. The Agreement aims to enable the exchange of scholars, researchers, lecturers and students, to establish academic and cultural cooperation as well as to enhance friendship and create a better understanding between the people of the two countries. This agreement lasts 3 years.

The University of Hamburg, which was established in 1919, is one of the largest universities in the Federal Republic of Germany with a student population of 38,000. There are 11,600 supporting staff members and 4,100 faculty members, 650 of whom are full professors. The Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Sciences comprises six departments, namely, Protestant Theology; Languages, Literature and Media; History; Philosophy; Cultural History and Contemporary Culture; and Asia-Africa Sciences. 





Partnership with the Islamic Republic of Iran



On March 15, 2011 Ajarn Dr. Julispong Chularatana invited Mr. Jalal Tamleh, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to pay a courtesy visit to the Faculty of Arts. The visitors were warmly welcomed by Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs. The discussion about the possibilities of academic and cultural collaboration was fruitful. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed willingness to provide sufficient funding for the arrangement of all envisaged academic and cultural activities. These activities are aimed to enhance the cordial relations between Thailand and the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as to disseminate information on Iranian culture and people. Ajarn Dr. Julispong Chularatana will be responsible for writing proposals for budget approval and will act as a coordinator in designing activity plans.



Partnership with the Embassy of Portugal



On May 12, 2010. Professor Dinah Azevedo Neves, the Vice President of Instituto Camoes Portugal, Mr. José Carlos Serafino, Counsellor at the Embassy of Portugal, and Ms. Luisa Dutra, Director of the Portuguese Cultural Center, paid a courtesy visit to Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty of Arts. On this occasion Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, together with Ajarn Dr.Piriyadit Manit, the Coordinator of Portuguese courses, gave the visitors a warm welcome. The purpose of the visit was to follow up on the implementation of Portuguese courses as a minor for Arts students and to discuss the preparation for the Portuguese Language and Culture Week to be held at the Faculty of Arts. The event is planned to take place in mid November. There will be an exhibition, a book, magazine and CD display, a movie screening as well as a reception featuring Portuguese food and dessert. The Portuguese Language and Culture Week will be held in connection with an international conference on Portugal coorganized by the Embassy of Portugal and the European Studies Center of Chulalongkorn University.





A Visit by students from Zhejiang University



Professor Shen Ivming, Deputy Director, Quality Development Officer, and lecturer, took 25 students from Zhejiang University to visit the Faculty of Arts on July 27, 2011. The group was cordially welcomed by Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs. Professor Fu, Chinese Director, Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University, gave a brief introduction of the Confucius Institute, followed by a talk on the long relations between the Chinese and the Thai people. After the lecture Zhejiang students were given a wonderful opportunity to meet, talk and socialize with Arts students majoring in Chinese. The students from the two universities exchanged ideas and attitudes in a friendly and enjoyable manner.



Zhejiang University, established in 1897, is one of the leading and oldest universities of the Republic of China. The University is situated in Hangzhou near Xihu Lake. It has a student population of 45,000, 1,700 of whom are foreign students. The University comprises altogether 26 schools and has six affiliated hospitals.





Book Launch



On July 25, 2011 the Section of the Malay Language, Department of Eastern Languages, held a book launch, presenting two new releases: Thai-Patani Malay-Standard Malay Picture Dictionary and Thai-Patani Malay Phrasebook in Room 105, Maha Chulalongkorn Building. The event was presided over by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn. The author of the two dictionaries is Ajarn Dr. Nureeda Hayiyakoh who received full financial support from the Asia Foundation. The purposes of the dictionaries are to foster understanding among people of different cultures living in the same community—between government officials and local people as well as between local people themselves—and to reduce the problems of misunderstanding, mistrust and suspicion so as to achieve peace, harmony, and sustainable development in the three Southernmost provinces.

Both dictionaries are the first dictionaries of Malay Patani in the Thai language. The dictionaries feature vocal structure, grammar, dialogues, vocabulary as well as idiom used in daily life complete with colorful illustrations on culture and lifestyles of the Thai people of Malay Patani origin whose religion is Islam.

The number of the audience totaled 165 from 26 institutions, for instance, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Directorate of Armament and Army Training Command Unit, Ministry of Defense, the Office of the Royal Thai Police, Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, Thammasat University, Srinakarin Universtiy, Ramkamhaeng University, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGOs and, of course, the Thai people of Malay Patani origin from the Chao Phraya River and from the Southern provinces.



After “Macbeth,” What’s Next?

by Pawit Mahasarinand



The Department of Dramatic Arts’ recent production of “The Scottish Play,” the official opening event of the Sodsai Pantomkomol Center for Dramatic Arts and in celebration of the department’s 40th anniversary, is probably, for lack of a better word, a phenomenon—with unprecedented support and responses from colleagues, students, alumni, media, as well as the general public. A few tickets were even sold online at a higher price by an audience member who wanted to make some profit. Critical responses are, of course, mixed—some say that Shakespearean productions are no longer staged in such a traditional style; others praise Assoc. Prof. Nopamat Veohong’s immense effort in translating this tragedy into Thai while keeping the flavor of The Bard’s language.

But what’s more important is the future as, to quote Lady Macbeth herself, “what’s done cannot be undone.”

The fact that the new playhouse has been dark for the past two months means that it may not be fully, or properly, operated. A theatre, filled with expensive equipment yet without performances, instead with sleeping insects, may be similar to a library full of significant books, yet some visiting students are dozing off—except that the library’s lights and air-conditioners are always on, no matter how many visitors.

Theatre cannot prosper if we regard it as a special or charity event—or even worse, entertainment. In many countries around the world, teachers, who believe that theatre is more than a cultural event, take their students to the theatre on a regular basis and then these students later become regular theatre goers. Here in Thailand we focus more on producing artists and much less on audience development. The media are always excited by special-event theatre, like the recent Khon production at the Thailand Cultural Center, forgetting the fact that Khon has been staged regularly at the National Theatre.





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(continued)

Good news is that a variety of performances, along with relevant workshops, discussions and lectures, have already been lined up here until March, and the subject matter they deal with relates to what many departments in our Faculty of Arts are teaching.

Early next month, Silpathorn artist Pichet Klunchun will stage the Thailand premiere of “Nijinsky Siam,” after a European tour. Later on, another Silpathorn artist, Nikorn Saetang, will stage Acharn Dr. Parida Manomaiphiboon’s new script, adapted from a Ramakien episode.

As part of Chula Vichakan and the Bangkok Theatre Festival 2011 in November, we’ll host three productions. First is a play in which a human actor performs with an android—a collaboration with the Japan Foundation and our Japanese Section as well as with the Department of Mechanical Engineering—for the first time in Asia, outside Japan. There’s also Assoc. Prof. Pornrat Damrhung’s adaptation of another Ramakien episode, and a full production of the multi-award winner from last year’s Sodsai Awards, by our students.

In January is our department’s mainstage production, a collaboration of Assoc. Prof. Charunee Hongcharu, Acharn Dangkamon Na Pombejra and Acharn Dr. Parida in their historically correct and well researched account of a meeting between King Chulalongkorn and Anna Leonowens, in the form of musical play. Next are our students’ senior project and thesis showcases. In February, we’ll collaborate with the British Council and the English Department in hosting a contemporary British play, “An Oak Tree” by Tim Crouch; and then, we’ll co-host with the French Section a few performances from France, as part of the French Embassy’s “La Fête: French-Thai Cultural Festival”.

Let’s hope, or pray, that these productions will be met with the same kind of support and response as that of “That Play”. Otherwise, we’ll have to wait another 10 years, when we celebrate our 50th anniversary, and create another “phenomenon” again. 🌸



🌸 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, Donald Scott Humphries, Dr. Julispong Chularatana, Dr. Nurida Hayiyakoh, Pawit Mahasarinand, Dr. Piriyadit Manit, Dr. Saseporn Petcharpiruch, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, Mathurin Leelasetakul, Wipada Petcharak, 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.