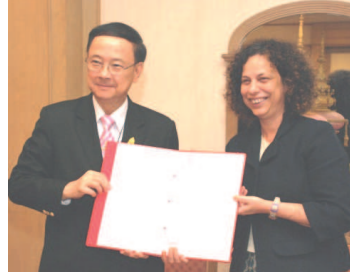


- ✿ MOU Signing Ceremony between the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain and Chulalongkorn University
- ✿ A Courtesy Visit by the Ambassador of the Republic of Peru
- ✿ Buddhist Studies: Arts Student Wins Khyentse Foundation Scholarship
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MOU Signing Ceremony between the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain and Chulalongkorn University



Prof. Pirom Kamolratanakul, M.D., President of Chulalongkorn University, and Maria del Carmen Moreno Raymundo, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Chulalongkorn University and AECID (the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development) on March 21, 2013. The witnesses of the signing ceremony included Associate Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Assistant Prof. Wipada Petcharak, Ajarn Laura Castro Sanchez, both from the Spanish Section as well as Mr. Antonio Casado Rigalt, Cultural Attache.

Before the signing ceremony, Deputy Dean Surapeepan Chatraporn gave a report to President Pirom Kamolratanakul about the close collaboration between the Faculty of Arts and the Spanish Embassy, particularly in terms of the academic assistance rendered by the Embassy for a good number of years. H. E. Ms. Maria del Carmen Moreno Raymundo expressed her delight in the close ties between the Faculty and the Embassy over the long years and reiterated her willingness to render more support both in academic and cultural aspects to the Faculty. President Pirom Kamolratanakul expressed his gratitude on behalf of the University for the ongoing assistance and discussed with the Ambassador about new ways and means of collaboration. ✿

A Courtesy Visit by the Ambassador of the Republic of Peru

Assistant Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, our Dean, and Associate Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, gave a very warm welcome to H.E. Mr. Felix Denegri, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru, and Mr. Emilio Iribarren, Deputy Head of Mission, on August 8, 2013.


Present to greet the Peruvian Ambassador were Ajarn Dr. Pasuree Luesakul, Director, Latin American Studies Center, and Ajarn Dr. Penpisa Srivoranart from the Spanish Section. Upon his taking up a new position in Thailand, H. E. Mr. Denegri expressed his wish to continue the goodwill between the Peruvian Embassy and the Faculty of Arts and to strengthen the ties even further by augmenting both the academic and cultural collaboration between the Embassy and the Faculty of Arts. ✿



Buddhist Studies: Arts Student Wins Khyentse Foundation Scholarship



The renowned Khyentse Foundation, founded in 2001 by Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche to promote Buddhism and Buddhist studies, does not only provide support for the management of an electronic database of Tibetan Buddhist scripts, but also promotes international tertiary education in Buddhist studies. And it was to our Faculty's MA student, Mr. Natchapol Sirisawad, that the foundation's Peter Skilling presented one of their coveted scholarships. Presiding over the award ceremony in the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building's Learning Commons was Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, while the awardee had been selected by the screening committee consisting of Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, and Dr. Charnwit Tadkaew.


Khyentse scholarships are given to students at top universities worldwide such as the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Sydney, the University of Hamburg and Peking University. In Thailand, the Foundation has contributed US \$3,000 to the Faculty of Arts, to be awarded to one student per academic year from 2011-2013. Each student will be awarded US \$1,000. This was the last year of the three-year scholarship project for Chulalongkorn University. The Section of International Affairs, Faculty of Arts, has made a request to the Khyentse Foundation to renew this scholarship project for another three years from 2014 to 2016. The Board of the Khyentse Foundation has taken the request into consideration and will announce their decision in the near future. 

A Visit by Representatives from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities of Ho Chi Minh City (USSH-HCMC)



Twenty two representatives from the Faculty of Linguistics and Literature, University of Social Sciences and Humanities of Ho Chi Minh City comprising Dean, Deputy Deans, Department Heads and Center Directors paid a visit to the Faculty of Arts on August 5, 2013. Assistant Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean, and Associate Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs welcomed the administrators and led them to the Prof. Emeritus Suthiluk Meeting Room, Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building. Waiting to greet the Vietnamese administrators and to have a meeting with them were Associate Prof. Dr. Nattama Pongpairoj, Deputy Dean for Research, Assistant Prof. Sunij Sutanthavibul, Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Prof. Dr. Wirote Aroonmanakun, Head, Department of Linguistics, Assistant Prof. Dr. Chutima Prakardwuttisarn, Head, Department of Comparative Literature, Ajarn Dangkamon Na Pombejra, Head, Department of Dramatic Arts, Associate Prof. Dr. Monthira Rato, Head, Section of the Vietnamese Language, Assistant Prof. Dr. Namtip Pingkarawat, Department of English, Ajarn Dr. Pittayawat Pittayaporn, Department of Linguistics, and Associate Prof. Pornrat Damrhung, Department of Dramatic Arts.



The Dean and Deputy Deans of the Faculty of Linguistics and Literature, University of Social Sciences and Humanities of Ho Chi Minh City, introduced their Faculty and University to us and Deputy Dean Surapeepan Chatraporn, in turn, gave a PowerPoint presentation of Chulalongkorn University and the Faculty of Arts to her Vietnamese colleagues. Both groups discussed ways and means to collaborate between the two institutions. To begin the relations between the two Faculties, the Vietnamese Dean of the Faculty of Linguistics and Literature, invited Thai faculty members to participate in an international conference on "Studies on Vietnamese and Japanese Literature in the Globalization Context of the 21st Century," which would be held in December 2013. The Faculty of Linguistics and Literature would provide accommodations and meals for the Thai faculty members. Dean Dr. Prapod expressed his thanks for the generosity of his counterpart and agreed to co-host an academic event in 2014. 

“REACHING THE WORLD 2013: An international Conference and Workshops on Teaching and Practice of Creative Writing and Literary Translation”



Event Date: Thursday, October 3 to Saturday, October 5, 2013 featuring International conference and workshops on the Teaching and Practice of Creative Writing and Literary Translation.
Sunday, October 6, 2013 featuring free public literary festival, hosted by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre)

Venues: Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building, Chulalongkorn University, the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, and the Bangkok Art and Culture Center (BACC)

'Reaching the World 2013' was a successful international conference that brought together more than 150 authors, literary translators, emerging writers, teachers of creative writing, literary scholars and publishers from 22 nations. It involved a series of wide-ranging discussions, creative writing workshops, public readings, and special keynotes on topics highly relevant to the practice and teaching of literature in Asia.

Distinguished scholars from universities in the Philippines, Vietnam, Australia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Thailand, India, the U.S.A. and the U.K. were among the delegates to this event. Given that writers in Asia are generally not attached to universities, many other delegates self funded their attendance.

Funding from the Chula Global Network made it possible for the Faculty of Arts to co-organize the event with the Asia Pacific Writers & Translators Association (AP Writers). Other organizations which supported the conference included the South East Asian Writers Award (in conjunction with its 35th anniversary of S.E.A. Write), the British Council, the Fulbright Program, the US Embassy, the Indian Embassy, the Australian Embassy, the Singaporean Embassy, and the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development of the Netherlands. Generous additional support was provided by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

'Reaching the World 2013' included five creative writing workshops which attracted approximately 60 participants, as well as well-attended public readings in the evening around the city – at a local poets' haunt called the WFT Café and Gallery, at the Hemingway's Pub and Restaurant, and at the Overground Bar and Café.

This cosmopolitan gathering of writers made it possible for the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA) to host a one-day free public international literary festival, in conjunction with UNESCO's Bangkok as the World Book. The festival was, we believe, the first of its kind in Bangkok. It included Thai poets and authors as well as the visiting writers. The BMA provided an auditorium and workshop space as well as catering on the day.

Also, in recognition of this special gathering of literary talent, Bangkok's Governor Mom Rajawongse Sukhumbhand Paribatra made a well-received speech at a glittering dinner he hosted for all conference delegates in the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. This special event supported by the BMA was held in conjunction with UNESCO's Bangkok as the World Book.

A report and summary video of 'Reaching the World 2013', from the perspective of the co-organiser AP Writers, can be found on <http://apwriters.org/bangkok-what-happened-and-whats-next/>. The objectives of the Conference were as follows:

1. To provide a forum for international and local authors and poets, scholars of literature, Creative Writing teachers and practitioners, students, as well as readers to explore ideas and problems that inspire and impact literary works.

“REACHING THE WORLD 2013”

(continued)

2. To showcase the creative outputs of current and potential writers.
3. To create networking between international and local writers, translators, scholars, and readers.
4. To enhance networking and collaboration between Chulalongkorn University and other institutions and international organizations.

At the opening, President of Chulalongkorn University, Professor Pirom Kamolratanakul, M.D., and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, welcomed delegates and thanked sponsors. AP Writers Chairman, the author Nury Vittachi, thanked Chula and the BMA. VIPs attending the opening included diplomatic representatives from five nations: Australia’s Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. James Wise; Singapore’s Ambassador, H.E. Chua Siew San; India’s Ambassador, H.E. Anil Wadhwa; representative of the Ambassador for the Netherlands in Thailand, Doris Voorbraak; the Cultural Attaché of the US Embassy, Michael Honnold; and the Deputy Director of the British Council in Thailand, Steve Bates.

The first keynote was a provocation (‘Against Creative Writing and Literary Translation’) by Professor Dr. Harvey Hix, a Fulbright Professor. Hix was introduced by the Arts Faculty’s main ‘Reaching the World’ organizer, Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs. His address was followed by a second keynote delivered by celebrated US-Korean author Krys Lee. Her talk, “The Importance of Community for Writers,” set the tone for the rest day.



Following a coffee break, the conference broke into parallel panels which featured enlightening discussion on the topics ‘Do Creative Writing Courses Turn Out Clones?’ and ‘Only Connect – Rule One for Writers’. (Full speaker details can be found on the AP Writers’ website: <http://apwriters.org/reaching-the-world-2013-program/attachment/bangkok2013-alt/>).

The first afternoon session began with an informative interview with the author Sunjeev Sahota, one of the upcoming authors listed by Granta magazine as among 2013’s Best of Young British Novelists, by the Director of a new Centre for 21st Literature in the UK, Dr Katy Shaw. Dr Shaw’s and Mr Sahota’s participation were both supported by the British Council.

Parallel sessions completed the afternoon, featuring 19 academics and authors, including Thai writer Prabda Yoon, whose contribution was warmly welcomed and admired by delegates.

The day concluded with well-attended poetry readings organized by Bangkok’s poets at a local poets haunt, the WTF Café and Gallery.

Thirty scholars and writers took part in panels or readings on the second day. The afternoon concluded in time for delegates to transfer from the University to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel for the dinner provided by the BMA. This spectacular dinner with the Governor as the host delighted all participants. Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs of the Faculty of Arts, gave a report of the conference to the Bangkok Governor and all dignitaries which included Chulalongkorn University President, Professor Pirom Kamolratanakul, M.D., Australia’s Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. James Wise; Singapore’s Ambassador, H.E. Chua Siew San; India’s Ambassador, H.E. Anil Wadhwa; representative of the Ambassador for the Netherlands in Thailand, Doris Voorbraak; the Deputy Director of the British Council in Thailand, Steve Bates, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, BMA administrators and many guests of honor. Bangkok Governor gave a speech on the importance of literature on ASEAN. As a token of appreciation and to contribute to Bangkok as UNESCO World Book Capital, AP Writers’ presented the Governor with over 100 books by the authors who participated in the conference for Bangkok’s libraries.

“REACHING THE WORLD 2013”

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The focus of the conference on the third day, Saturday 4 October, was on literary translation, starting with a keynote by Dr. Chris Baker and Dr. Pasuk Phongpaichit on their translation of the Thai folk epic *The Tale of Khun Chang & Khun Phaen*, called ‘arguably the greatest achievement to date in the field of South East literary translation’. The celebrated team was introduced by Associate Professor Dr. Trisilpa Boonkhachorn from Chulalongkorn University.

In addition to the panel discussions about literary translation, the Saturday sessions included four half-day creative writing workshops led by international poets and authors. These were surprisingly well attended by Bangkok residents and visiting emerging writers.

The evening event on Saturday was at Hemingway’s Pub and Restaurant. It was funded by five international authors launching their books.

The Sunday Literary Festival at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre was supported by Asia Books which set up a book stall at the venue. One of the highlights of the festival was the opening session of Thai poetry, some of which was sung, or intoned in classic style, by Dr. Witchnee Kuptawathin, Anothai Jinaporn, Siriworn Kaewkan, Glen Chatelier, and Tipsuda Chichana. The festival concluded with a poetry slam conducted by the Editor of *Asia Literary Review*, and won by Filipina poet Jhoanna Cruz.

While the festival was underway, a full-day novel writing workshop was held in a conference room at the BACC, led by celebrated British author Sarah Bower.

In all, the festival featured 38 authors and poets. The full program can be found on <http://apwriters.org/bangkok-2013-mini-literature-festival/>.

The short video record of the event can also be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/77012024>.

This conference not just met but well surpassed its originally stated objectives. By all indicators, the conference was a resounding success. Media coverage was achieved in *The Bangkok Post*, *The Philippine Star*, *Komchadlouk*, *Sakul Thai*, and the newspaper from the Nation group.


More than one hundred writers, authors, poets, publishers, and academics from twenty countries participated as presenters, speakers and/or chairs, and audience. They were joined by an enthusiastic local audience of over one hundred scholars, students and laypeople. The event was engaged and animated with spirited discussions and a productive exchange of ideas in both the papers and post-presentation question time. Participants responded universally that the conference was a rewarding academic experience that allowed them to present and receive innovative literary and translation studies research in a welcoming and friendly environment. As such, the conference clearly achieved its stated principal objectives:

1. International participants identify Chulalongkorn University and Bangkok as a hub of creative writing and translation exploration and support.
2. Local participants network with the international literary community.
3. Student/teacher interchanges between Chulalongkorn University and international universities teaching Creative Writing and Translation have inspired future programs in these disciplines. By forging such bonds between participants from reputable institutes as well as literary and translation associations in Asia, Europe, America and Australia, the conference has paved the way for further alliances, collaboration and exchanges in literary studies, thereby helping to bring Chulalongkorn University’s academic potential up to international standards, and fulfilling its mission to serve as the pillar of the Kingdom.

A Visit by Representatives from Vietnam National University



Five representatives from Vietnam National University, Vietnam, namely, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Hieu, Deputy Dean of Faculty of Geography, Prof. Dr. Nguyen Cao Huan (Geography), Prof. Dr. Truong Quang Hai (Geography), Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Ngoc Thach (Remote Sensing and GIS) and Dr. Dinh Thi Bao Hoa (Remote Sensing and GIS, and M.Sc. of Remote Sensing and GIS in AIT) paid a visit to the Faculty of Arts on July 10, 2013. Waiting to welcome them in Room 705, Boromrajakumari Building were Associate Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Assistant Prof. Dr. Sirivilai Teerarojanarat, Head, Department of Geography, Assistant Prof. Dr. Pannee Cheewinsiriwat, Ajarn Dr. Thitirat Panbamrungkij, Ajarn Areerut Patnukao, and Ajarn Puttaporn Areeprachakun, all from the Department of Geography.

The representatives from Vietnam National University introduced the curriculum of the Faculty of Geography to us and the Head of the Geography Department, in turn, gave details about the teaching and learning at our department. The representatives from Vietnam National University expressed their desire to cooperate with the Department of Geography at our Faculty of Arts, in terms of student and faculty exchange, study trip programs, as well as research and seminar projects for both students and faculty. After a long discussion, Chulalongkorn's Department of Geography agreed to get the cooperation started by drafting the MOU between the two institutions and making a plan for a study trip to the Faculty of Geography, Vietnam National University. 

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, Dr. Pasuree Luesakul, Dr. Suebpong Changboonchoo, Dr. Brett Farmer, Dr. Ingo Peters, Donald Scott Humphries, Scott Oltmann, 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.