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## Japan in Bangkok: The President of Chulalongkorn University Welcomes Soka University's Vice-President and Representatives



Any account of our strong Asian connections would be woefully incomplete without mention of Chula's ties to Japan. Recent examples include Soka University: At 1:30 P.M. on January 28, 2014, visitors from this institution met Prof. Pirom Kamolratanakul, M.D., the President of Chulalongkorn University, at the Reception Room of the Chamchuri 4 Building. The list of visiting dignitaries included Mr. Hiromasa Ikeda, his Advisory Board and the Vice-President.

Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, the Deputy Dean for International Affairs, was invited to participate in the meeting in order to strengthen the academic and cultural cooperation between Chulalongkorn University and Soka University. ✿

## Aksorn and ASEAN: Forging Thai-Malaysian Relations




Cultural exchange and strong academic networks with Malaysia, the important neighbor to the South and partner in ASEAN, certainly need be a top priority of any university these days. And our faculty is leading the way in this regard, as evidenced by the official visit from the National University of Malaysia's School of Language Studies and Linguistics, which is part of their Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. On November 5, 2013, Assist. Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts; Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, the Deputy Dean for International Affairs; and Dr. Nurida Hayiyakoh welcomed the delegation to the Learning Commons. Dean Assavavirulhakarn gave a speech and presented a token of appreciation to Prof. Sulaiman Ramli, the Head of the Malaysian Foreign Language and Translation Unit. Faculty of Arts students thereafter joined with their Malaysian counterparts in performing cultural shows about their respective countries. Prof. Ramli also introduced the National University of Malaysia and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities to the Thai Faculty of Arts students.

Following the welcoming ceremonies, students from both universities had conversations at the Learning Commons while their professors discussed possibilities for future cooperation and exchange programs in Room 814 of the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building. ✿

## Nine BALAC Students on Exchange Program to Hiroshima University

It goes without saying that Japanese visits to our campus are not the only aspect of cooperation with the East Asian nation: meaningful and long-lasting exchange needs students who can experience Japan. It was this idea that framed the December 18 meeting of Assist. Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty of Arts; Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs; and Assist. Prof. Dr. Duanthem Krisdathanont, Deputy Director of BALAC, with visitors from Hiroshima University, Japan, in Room 814 of the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building. The delegation included Professor Dr. Taiji Hotta, Vice-President of International Affairs; Dr. Makoto Katsube, Dean of the Graduate School of Letters; and the Dean of the Faculty of Letters.




The purpose of their visit was to build cooperation between the two universities and to sign an agreement for the AIMS-HU Program, which facilitates student exchanges starting in 2014. Nine BALAC students have already been selected as exchange students to Hiroshima University for the April-July semester of 2014, and students from Hiroshima University will also be taking classes in the BALAC during the August-December semester later that year. The program is generously funded by the Japanese government, so BALAC students will not need to pay tuition and housing fees. 

## Representatives from Waseda University Visited the Faculty of Arts



Waseda University is a name that inspires awe, and so the Faculty was delighted to welcome Dr. Norimasa Morita, Dean of the School of International Liberal Studies; Dr. Min Shu, Director of AIMS; and Mr. Hitoshi Nagamura, Administration Director, of this prestigious Japanese institution. Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs; and Assist. Prof. Dr. Duanthem Krisdathanont, Deputy Director of BALAC, met with the delegation at 9 A.M. on February 3, 2014 in Room 814 of the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building in order to support the agreement between the Faculty of Arts and Waseda University in regards to the AIMS Program. The program requirements are:


- (1) exchange students must have good academic standing, defined as a GPAX of at least 2.75 and a TOEFL score of at least 550, (2) sixteen to twenty-one credits may be transferred, (3) not more than five exchange students are allowed each semester, (4) effective August 2014, Faculty of Arts students take classes at Waseda University from March to July and Waseda students take classes at the Faculty of Arts from August to December, (5) application deadlines are May 31 and January 31, and (6) students are responsible for airfare and accommodation.

After the meeting, Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn took the representatives from BALAC and Waseda University to lunch at Baan Khanitha. 



## An MOU Signed between the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, and the Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University

Our Faculty's efforts in internationalization do not end at Asia's borders, of course. On January 9, 2014, Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs; and Ms. Waraporn Puangchanhom, Director of the BALAC program, welcomed Ms. Ruth Davison, Director for Foreign Affairs, from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Intent on fostering academic cooperation and setting up an exchange program between the two universities, the representatives signed a Memorandum of Understanding and a Student Exchange Agreement between the Faculty of Arts of Chulalongkorn University and Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities. These are effective for five years, beginning in February of 2014, and there will be two to four exchange students each year. 



## Planning a Thai Language Center in China: A Visit by Representatives from Fudan University



China, as a global power with tremendous regional influence on Thailand and ASEAN, is another country that our Faculty is keen on maintaining close ties with. One example of these ties is the cooperation with Fudan University, whose representatives paid a visit to us on November 14, 2013. Assist. Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean of the Faculty of Arts; and Assoc. Prof. Surapepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, welcomed a team that included Dr. Jing Yijia, Associate Dean of the School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Ms. Zhu Yife, Program Officer of Asian and African Affairs and Ms. Zhu's assistant.

The meeting came with a concrete purpose: to discuss how to work together in establishing a Thai Language Center at Fudan University. The envoys also took the opportunity to make preparations for an upcoming visit by the President of Fudan University and to invite professors from the Faculty of Arts to participate in the 2014 International Conference at the Shanghai Forum.

Also participating in the meeting were additional representatives of Chulalongkorn University: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suchitra Chongstitvatana, Director of the Institute of Thai Studies; and Prof. Dr. Siraporn Nathalang, Director of the Thai Studies Program. 



 We are at Your Service. 

The Committee Members of the Section of International Affairs, which comprises Deputy Dean Surapepan 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, Assist. Prof. 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.