



# KaleidoScope

Mahidol University International College Newsletter

April 2010





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# Editor's Note

Most people familiar with MUIC know that this campus is a learning-intensive environment. What often goes overlooked, though, are the great strides the College takes toward making the campus a comfortable, accessible, supportive place for students, staff and faculty to convene. In this issue we have tried to shed light on some of the great resources available to those of us who work and study at MUIC. Don't take these outlets and facilities for granted!

# ASEAN in Today's World

MUIC and Kyushu University of Japan, in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, sponsored "ASEAN in Today's World 2010," from February 26 to March 13 on the Salaya campus. This two-week ASEAN Studies program, the second of its kind, was coordinated by Mr. Brian Phillips, Assistant Dean for International Affairs, and Ms. Yoshie Takahara, Coordinator for International Affairs. Last year's program attracted 24 students; this year 52 students from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Japan, South Korea and China participated.

The MUIC newsletter is written and produced by the faculty and staff of Mahidol University International College (MUIC).

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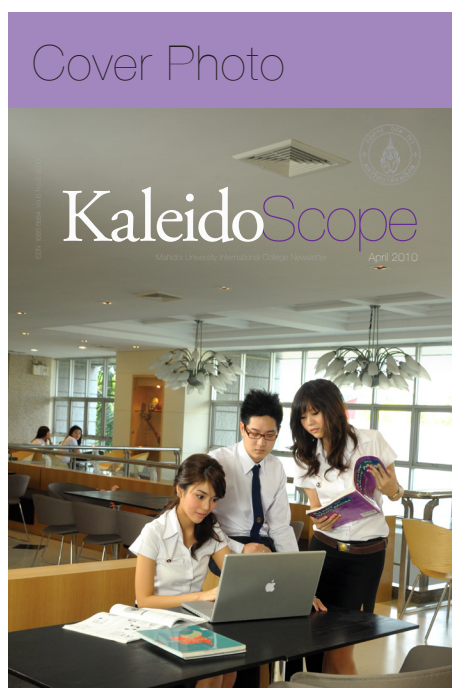
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## Cover Photo



The cover photo for this issue was shot during a promotional shoot in the MUIC study lounge, one of the most popular places for MUIC students to congregate.



Upon their arrival at MUIC, the 52 undergraduate and graduate students engaged in an orientation session, after which they traveled to Koh Samet where they had an opportunity to get to know one another and enjoy the island attractions.

At the opening ceremony on March 1, Dr. Termsak Chalermplanupap of the

ASEAN Secretariat, delivered the keynote address, “Current Affairs of ASEAN,” followed by a report from Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonsawat, Dean of MUIC, and welcoming remarks by Professor Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, President of Mahidol University, and Professor Shin-ichi Ago, Vice President of Kyushu University.

During the ensuing two weeks the participants attended classes and workshops in ASEAN Studies and Asian Languages and Cultures (Japanese, Thai and Bahasa Indonesian) for which they received academic credit from the University of Kyushu. They also engaged in personal cross-cultural exchanges, all of which were further supported by a number of cultural field trips which included a trip to historic Ayutthaya and visits to temples, the Amphawa Floating Market, an elephant camp, the Sunlum Night Market and Joe Louis Puppet Theatre.

This ASEAN program enabled the participants not only to gain a deeper understanding of ASEAN and East Asia and their respective roles in the international arena but also to develop their own cross-cultural sensibilities.

## Honoring Our First Director

As part of Mahidol Day, which annually commemorates His Majesty the King naming the university after his father, Prince Mahidol of Songkla, the university conducted a ceremony honoring a number of its distinguished retirees on March 2 in the Professor Chatchawan Osanthanon Conference Room, in the Office of the President Building.

## MUIC Anniversary Celebration

MUIC executives, lecturers, staff members, student representatives and honored guests gathered at the Por Koon Toong Shrine (across from the Brew and Bev Coffee House) on March 26 to offer blessings and commemorate the day when, 24 years ago, the Mahidol University Council officially approved the formation of the university’s international program.



The participants then proceeded to the Seminar Room where they attended a religious ritual. Dr. Rassmidara Hoonsawat, Dean of MUIC, lit the ceremonial candles and joss sticks as visiting Buddhist monks chanted their prayers and subsequently received an offering of food and alms. After the ceremony, everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch in front of the Atrium Cafeteria.



The 24th anniversary celebrations continued in the afternoon in the Mahaswasdee Room of the Salaya Pavilion Hotel. Dr. Rassmidara presented a number of awards, certificates and plaques to lecturers and staff members in recognition of their contributions to the college in the areas of academics, research, work ethic and loyalty.

MUIC nominated Professor Serene Piboonniyom in recognition of her service to Mahidol University and her invaluable contributions as first director of the college, which at that time was designated as the International Student Degree Program. During her 10 years as director, Dr. Serene exercised her pioneering and administrative skills as she navigated the college through the challenges and difficulties of its early years.



## Job and Study Abroad Fairs



The Offices of International Relations and Student Affairs organized MUIC’s annual Job and Study Abroad Fairs on the ground floor of Building 1 on February 3 and 4, 2010, respectively. Thirty-two



companies, representing the service and hospitality industry, finance, manufacturing, information technology and non-profit organizations, actively recruited both MUIC and MU students. On the following day, 29 educational institutions and agencies, representing North America, Europe, Australia and Asia, promoted their undergraduate and graduate programs.

## Thai-German Exhibit

**MUIC** and the German Embassy sponsored an exhibition, "150 Years of the Thai-German Relationship," from March 4 to 20 in the study area on the second floor of Building 1. The opening ceremony was presided over by MUIC Dean Rassmidara Hoonsawan and Ms. Elke Tiedt, from the embassy's Press and Cultural Affairs. Invited guests, who included visiting, exchange and full-time students from Germany, then proceeded to the Herb Garden Restaurant where they were treated to a special German lunch.



The exhibition, which was conceived by Ajarn Barbara Ekamp, a lecturer of German in the Foreign Languages Program, featured historic photographs and documents of the Thai-German relationship that began with King Rama IV

## Green Tourism Exhibit



**TIM** students in the Consumer Behavior in Tourism class organized the second installment of

their exhibition, "Supporting Green Tourism: Start a Sea Change," from February 2-4 in front of the Atrium Cafeteria.

The purpose of the exhibition was to further awareness of the marine environment and promote responsible behavior. Displays, video presentations and a workshop addressed the issues of marine debris, "green beach" destinations and the protection of marine life, especially coral reefs. The Green Fins Association and Tetra Pak of Thailand offered special presentations on responsible tourism and sustainable waste management. In addition, there was an appeal to help Haiti by donating to the Thai Red Cross.

These regular exhibits have generated an enthusiastic response from students and teachers alike, so much so that Ajarn Kaewta Muangasame, student advisor and instructor for Consumer Behavior, is currently in the process of forming Club TIM, an organization that will enable not only TIM but also all MUIC students to participate in organizing exhibits and field trips, engaging in research and social networking, and volunteering for special projects, including community outreach efforts.

## New Appointments



**Assistant Professor Surapong Lertsithichai** was recently appointed Chairman of the Fine and Applied Arts Division, effective February

1, 2010. He received his doctorate from the Harvard Design School and, before arriving at MUIC, was Assistant Professor and Researcher at the Faculty of Architecture, Silpakorn University. Prior to entering academia, Dr. Surapong was a research scientist, developing intelligent software in both the United States and Thailand.

\*\*\*\*\*

The MUIC Graduate Center, located at Sathorn City Tower, has recently undergone changes in its leadership. **Dr. Atthapong**



**Sakunriprasert** was appointed Director of the MBA in Business Modeling and Analysis Program. He has been a lecturer at MUIC

for the last three years in Strategic Management, Business Marketing and Directed Research and has served as Advisor for BBA students participating in business plan competitions.



**Assistant Professor Chanin Yoopetch** was appointed Director of the MM in Tourism and Hospitality Man-



agement Program. He arrived at MUIC in 2009 as a full-time lecturer in the Travel Industry Management Division. Dr. Chanin's areas of expertise include international business finance, economics, project management, organizational behavior and research.

\*\*\*\*\*



The Business Administration Division announced the appointments of **Dr. Pandej Chintrakarn** as Program Director of Business Economics and **Ajarn Jun Jiang** as Acting Program Director of Finance.



\*\*\*\*\*



**Dr. Pisut Yuwanond** of the Travel Industry Management Division was designated Program Director of Tourism and

Hospitality Management. He will continue to serve as the division's Internship Program Manager.

\*\*\*\*\*



In February the Mahidol University Council conferred on **Dr. Pakorn Bovonsombat**, Chairman of the Science

Division, the position of Assistant Professor.



## 2010 Staff Field Trip

A contingent of 140 executive, faculty and supporting staff members participated in the annual MUIC Field Trip from April 3-5, 2010. The three-day excursion offered a mix of community-outreach, educational and recreational activities.

On the way to their destination the group paid a visit to the Border Police School for Charity in Prانبuri Province. They interacted with the children, enjoyed a lunch together and donated educational materials and money for the school's scholarship fund. After the visit, the group then proceeded to the Cabana Resort in Chumphon, designated as one of the country's outstanding ecologically-friendly tourist destinations. There they were welcomed by Mr. Authai Woramaskul, Provincial Director of Tourism.

The second day was spent at Koh Tao, one of the world's premier attractions for divers and the island where MUIC continues to conduct its environmental restoration project in an attempt to preserve the endangered coral reefs. Some of the participants went diving while others took in the beauty and diversity of the island's marine life.

The group enjoyed their final day at the Cabana Resort and explored a number of its ongoing "green" projects, all of which serve as an example for other tourist destinations.



## Foreign Language Film Festival

Throughout the week of January 18-22 films from France, Germany and Spain screened in the MUIC auditorium as part of the annual Foreign Language Film Festival. Organized by Ajarn Bruno Mahon, in cooperation with the French, German and Spanish embassies, MUIC screened 10 popular films that span genres as well as decades. The festival was highlighted by a number of well-known and award-winning titles, including the 2004 Best Foreign Film Academy Award Winner, *The Sea Inside*, beloved Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's *Talk to Her*, and *Persepolis*, adapted from a popular graphic novel of same name. Ajarn Bruno reported another successful, enthusiastic turnout for this year's festival.





# Jit Ar-SA

Tourism Industry Management students in the ICIM 310 Event Management course collaborated with the MUIC Student Association in sponsoring the “Jit Ar-SA” Project, a charity campaign that solicited money and donated items during the second trimester. Their efforts raised 124,200 Baht, which was donated on March 21, 2010, to the Wat PhraBat Namphu Center of Hope in Lopburi, a complex that serves the medical needs of HIV-AIDS patients and operates a school and orphanage.



# SIFE Projects Supported by Grants

In trimester II, SIFE International and HSBC awarded SIFE Mahidol grants for two on-going projects.

In November 2009, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) was awarded a \$750 grant in the form of the HSBC Financial Literacy Award in support

of the Banara project. Launched in 2008, the Banara project aims to educate and empower target communities - including old women, farm housewives, children, and handicapped people - by teaching them how to support themselves by producing handmade goods and flowers from natural raw materials such as banana sheath.

In January 2010, SIFE International presented SIFE Mahidol with a \$500 Economic Opportunity Grant to support the Econ Child Project. Econ Child raises awareness of poverty and inefficient use of resources by educating children aged 9-15 about environmental sustainability, ethics and financial management. The Econ Child program is currently running in its first school, Wat Pak Nam Jolo in Chachoengsao.



Banara Project

# Foreign Languages Round-Up

The Foreign Languages department would like to recognize a number of student achievements from across their curricula from recent semesters.

In 2009, 26 students completed the Chinese Minor program and 14 students completed the Japanese Minor. In March, 2010, the German Minor and French Minor were completed by seven students each.

Competing in La Fête de la Francophonie at the Alliance Française de Bangkok on January 30, 2010, Ms. Vanille Domont and Mr. Pattapol Kongwattananon placed first and third, respectively, in the Senior Francophonie Quiz. Ms. Chomkate Ngamkaiwan received second prize in the French Songs contest.



# One Young World Summit

Two MUIC students were selected to represent their respective countries at the One Young World Inaugural Summit in London on February 8-10, 2010. Ms. Sutawan Chanprasert, an International Business major, represented Thailand while Wen-Yu Weng, a Social Science major, attended on behalf of Taiwan.

The summit is a global initiative that brought together some 1,500 energetic young leaders from 192 countries. The opening ceremony was hosted by London Mayor, Boris Johnson, with a keynote address by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate. Other distinguished speakers included two other laureates, Kofi Anan, former Secretary General of the UN, who urged the participants to exercise their leadership and “be the change you want to see” and Professor Mohammad Yunus, celebrated for launching the microfinance movement.

The participants attended six plenary sessions which generated both discussion and debate on the environment and its protection, the need for interfaith dialogue, the role of global business, the changing power of the media, global health and politics for a positive future. These sessions included the participation of global leaders in the political, business, environmental, communication, medical and religious sectors. Additionally, a draft resolution



was presented on each of the plenary issues. The proceedings of the summit were live-streamed to the Internet and selected segments were carried on the BBC and CNN websites.

Both MUIC students were well suited to participate in this singular event. Apart from their academic achievements, they are involved in activities that require a global outlook. Ms. Sutawan is an active member and treasurer of the MUIC chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), an international organization that mobilizes students to create business opportunities for the poor and disenfranchised. Ms. Wen-Yu is the President of the MUIC Debate Club and a regular competitor, requiring a mastery of national, regional and global issues.



## MUIC Student Wins Speaking Competition



Mr. Tawin Kim, a second-year Environmental Studies major at Mahidol University International College, won the “Thailand Public Speaking Competition 2010” on the university

level with the theme “Speculation on our Future.” Tawin’s speech considered the positive and negative implications of speculating on future events.

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with The English-Speaking Union Association (Thailand) arranged the competition on March 26, 2010, at The Imperial Queens Park Hotel, Bangkok. The competitors represented more than 50 educational institutions around Thailand on both the high school and university levels. The

winners in each category received a certificate and an award from the Honorary Councilor of the English-Speaking Union Association (ESU), His Excellency M.R. Thepkamol Teavakul, Privy Councilor.

Moreover, Thawin will represent Thailand at the ESU International Public Speaking Competition in London, England, from May 17 -21, 2010.



# Student - Centered

Anyone who spends time on the MUIC campus can see that the College is growing. The campus is freckled with signs of growth: construction projects are nestled among the buildings; students overflow the canteen, library, cafes and study center during free periods on class days; conferences, campus tours and activities with local high schools and partner universities pepper the walkways and conference rooms.

In response to increases in student numbers and campus activity, MUIC's administrators and student leaders are working to ensure that the College's offerings accommodate and support the needs of a growing student body.

## Building for Success

As college campuses go, MUIC's is a young one. Despite that many of the campus buildings were built less than 10 years ago, some of the College's facilities have begun to feel the strain of increased numbers of students, faculty and staff. As the number of people on campus has continued to grow, parking, tram service, classrooms and common area needs have become prevalent.

On campus, many improvements have been made to make the College more communal and student-friendly. The success of these efforts is evident on a daily basis. The much-frequented Study Lounge (adjacent to the cafeteria in Building I) has been a huge success. During midday free periods, the Lounge is abuzz with packs of students studying and conversing. A recent survey of students found that they appreciate the Study Lounge for its central location and, unsurprisingly, its air conditioning.

Similarly, the library, which offers computer workstations and a quieter study environment, has seen a surge in student visitors.

A large portion of MUIC's students, staff and faculty commute to the College, which has begun to put stress on Mahidol's parking facilities. To account for the necessary parking, MUIC is renovating and adding spaces to the parking lot near Building 1. In the future, MUIC commuters will benefit from the use of a 950-space parking structure that Mahidol will be adding in 2012. Until then, the College has increased golf cart and tram services to ferry commuters between outer lots and the center of campus.





# Working Together Achieving Together

Just as having the appropriate facilities is integral for hosting a growing number of bodies, augmenting open platforms for dialogue, debate, socializing, and intellectual exchange are tantamount when hosting a number of growing minds. The student-led Student Association and the Student Affairs Department are responsible for facilitating communication between individual students, student groups, academic organizations and MUIC administration.

The Student Association (SA) is a group of student leaders who convene with administrators on behalf of student concerns. The SA consists of a president and various officers and works with Mahidol University, student clubs and other campus and non-campus organizations to create new and diverse opportunities at MUIC.

Student Affairs is the department of MUIC that supports individual students and student groups with issues and opportunities ranging from scholarships to first aid, from military service to attending conferences.

Student Affairs and the SA work together to improve the social, academic and domestic offerings at MUIC. However, Jason Jiaratuwanont, President of Student Clubs, points out that many students are confused about the roles of the two organizations.

“The Student Association listens to student demands about their campus and it is our job to convey it to higher-ups. We are also the voice for students engaging in

any SA activities. Student Affairs, on the other hand, deal with students on a more personal level. For instance, if a student wants information on scholarships that the College has to offer, or if they need to postpone their military service, Student Affairs is where they can expect to receive help from.”

In such cases of confusion or misdirection, the SA and Student Affairs work together to direct students to the appropriate venue for their concerns or interests.

Student Association President Thanis Suwannakul feels strongly about the support his groups receive from Student Affairs.



“Student Affairs has played a vital role in our Student Association activities and events. They have provided us with support and have helped us with issues regarding finances, scheduling and general counseling.”

The results of the relationship of the SA and Student Affairs don't lie. With the help of Student Affairs, the SA has been able to add student lockers and study areas, extend library hours, create S-Net, improve campus transportation options and organize events such as Speakers' Corner and MUIC House Games.

“Student Affairs and the Student Association have been formed to support and help the entire student body,” says Thanis. “Students can - and should - expect to benefit from the various projects that we undertake.”



# Student Clubs



In addition to offering students great facilities and expanding academic opportunities, MUIC gives students the chance to commune around ideas and activities that motivate them by starting and participating in student clubs. At present, MUIC is home to more than 20 clubs whose members work for social change, health and well-being, environmental preservation, economic education, improved communication and more.

Kaleidoscope offered the officers of the clubs the chance to tell the MUIC community what their organization was all about. Here's what they had to say.





## Cycling Club

Established two years ago, MUIC Cycling Club (MUICCC) is committed to more than just cycling. Cycling Club is very active in its role of promoting environmental awareness in the surrounding community and has participated in various Car-Free Day events in Thailand. In addition to MUICCC's environmental bent, the Club coaches its members on road safety and riding techniques and seeks to challenge members' physical fitness while appreciating nature.

In addition to weekly rides, Cycling Club makes frequent excursions. Recent trip sites include Ayutthaya, Pra Pathom Chedi, Lampraya and Khao Yai National Park.

Cycling Club owns nine mountain bikes that are available free of charge for MUIC students, staff and faculty who wish to join rides. The Club meets for social rides around Salaya twice a week.



## Social Dance Club

The Social Dance Club trains its members in two styles of social dance: Ballroom (Tango, Waltz) and Latin (Cha Cha, Jive, Cuban Rhumba). The goals for Social Dance are that all members learn to dance as a way to enhance their social lives and to prepare members to compete in competitions such as the annual University Games. Pictured at left are MUIC contestants at the Maharakarm Games at Maharakarm University in February 2010.

Social Dance Club meets once a week and is open to students of all dance levels, from beginner to advanced.

## Inner Peace Club



Inner Peace Club is one of the newest clubs at MUIC. The Club's main aim is to introduce the benefits of Buddhist meditation to all MUIC students by practicing meditation on a weekly basis. In addition to weekly meditation meetings, the Club will engage in fund raising, offer alms to monks during Freshman Welcoming Camp and attend a Meditation Camp in Kao Yi. Inner Peace Club is an opportunity for practicing Buddhists to expand their own practices and a great introduction to meditation for beginners.

## Art Club

Art Club's motto - "Art is anything, anyone, anywhere" - is meant as an open invitation to combine all kinds of people with all kinds of creativity. Art Club meets weekly and hosts various art-related activities, such as painting, sculpting, and handcrafting. No special skills are required to be a participant as there are professionals on hand helping and teaching at every workshop. In trimester 3, 2010, Art Club will be having acrylic painting workshops, field trips, a Hall of Fame painting competition, and exhibitions.







## Multicultural Club

Multicultural Club was established by a group of enthusiastic student activists in 2006. The Club organizes a couple of activities each trimester to establish a platform for the members to recognize the ideological similarities and differences between different countries. Multicultural Club is an activity-based organization that supports the annual MUIC Multicultural Day and offers culturally enriching fieldtrips often based on theme, such as multicultural religion and classical music.

## Music Club

Formed in 2000, Music Club is one of the largest and oldest clubs at MUIC. Music Club was established to organize music events and festivals, host music competitions such as acoustic contest and full band competitions, and to offer singing, guitar, and bass classes to interested students. Music Club provides members with rehearsal space and

a chance to attend classes taught by professional music instructors.

Every year, Music Club organizes a charity concert that offers its members a chance to work with professional artists and record companies while raising money for a worthy cause.



## Thai Cheer Club



current students to interact with alumni. When the alumni come back to visit the club during the Freshy Game period, they share their experiences from working in the real world. We invite all MUIC students who love to dance to join us. TCC meets twice a week and trains basic as well as advanced dancing.

skills in a swimming pool. Diving Club also sponsors a PADI course that allows students to obtain a diving license that is recognized worldwide. To promote marine environment awareness, the divers do beach cleanup trips that encourage students to be concerned about marine biology. All interested students are invited to join.

Thai Cheer Club (TCC) is one of the MUIC Cheer and Dance clubs. Hosted annually by TCC, the Freshy Game is an event for all MU students. The Freshy Game is a social event, a reunion for the alumni and a chance for

## Diving Club

Diving Club's activities are centered around marine environments, recreational diving, snorkeling and beach cleanup. Each trimester, Diving Club provides discovery scuba diving training to teach basic scuba





## Photography and Multimedia Club

**P**hotography and Multimedia Club provides its members with photographic and cinematic knowledge while imploring them to seek distinctive perspectives. Anyone who is interested in photography or film is encouraged to join, regardless of experience.

Club members are encouraged to participate in photography shows and the club organizes a field trip every term for the purpose of shooting and discussing the processes of photography and film.

Contact the Club for information on meeting times and events.



## Debate Club



**D**ebate Club is one of MUIC's most active student organizations, one that seeks to establish strong relationships with other universities through debating. The Club strives to promote the arts of debating and public speaking in an effort to promote greater communication and interaction between staff and students. Debate Club members are trained to represent MUIC in external debates and speech-related events, and the Club frequently sends teams of debaters abroad. On July 10, MUIC's Debate Club will be hosting the

## Karate-Do Club

**F**ounded 10 years ago, Karate-Do Club practices the traditional karate style of Goju-Kai under the guidance of Sensei Polakit Mankongkit. Karate is a higher-path martial art imbued with elements of Zen Buddhism that people practice as a sport to maintain health and vitality. Karate-Do Club is a recreational club, but competitive members participate in tournaments all year round, including Goju-Kai Thailand, Thailand Open and All Thailand Karate. Competitors who achieve top finishes at tournaments while representing MUIC can be awarded an academic scholarship. Karate-Do club welcomes and encourages all members of the MUIC community to join free of charge.



nation's largest tournament, the 6th European Union-Thailand National Intersarsity Debate Championship. The tournament will be the world's first carbon neutral debate tournament, as the debate club is now using the debate platform for not only words, but also concrete actions for change.





## Capoeira Club

Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art that combines fighting, dancing, music and philosophy that originated from a blend of many African tribal cultures during the age of the slave trade. People practice Capoeira for enjoyment, self-discipline and respect.

In 2009, MUIC's Capoeira Club performed at and appeared in advertisements for the 1st Annual Bantus Capoeira Festival Thailand.

The Capoeira Club is part of Cheer and Dance Club. The Club meets once a week for practice sessions conducted by a member of Grupo Bantus Capoeira Thailand.



## Volunteer Club

As its name suggests, every activity that Volunteer Club is involved with is voluntary work aimed at helping needy people in different places. In addition to many smaller efforts, Volunteer Club hosts an annual 10-day camp that can involve teaching,

construction and renovations, offering health care and any other services that circumstances might call for.

Volunteer Club is open to all MUIC students.



## Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is a diverse group of students that represent a number of MUIC faculties. SIFE's mission revolves around

the philosophy that was given by Prince Mahidol Na Songkhla which states that "true success is not in the learning, but in its application for the benefit of mankind."

SIFE Mahidol has four on-going projects that reflect the Club's commitment to social responsibility and environmental sustainability. SIFE is also looking forward to an upcoming opportunity to work with UNIFEM, in collaboration with the United Nations. The SIFE chapter at MUIC invites anyone who is interested in increasing their leadership, communication and presentation skills to join.





# MUIC Foreign Language Summer Trips

For more details on Foreign Language Summer programs, host university-organised workshops, cultural activities and excursion trips, see MUIC website.

| Country | Language institute                                 | Date 2010   | Registration deadline 2010 | Accommodation                           | Remarks                                     |
|---------|--|-------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| China   | Capital Normal University, Beijing                 | 31/7 - 31/8 | 30/6                       | International Camp Dormitory            | Credits transfer for ICML 133, ICLC 320-330 |
| France  | International University of Sophie-Antipolis, Nice | 03/8 - 27/8 | 04/6                       | French families or university residence | Credits transfer for ICML 123               |
| Germany | Freie Universitaet Berlin                          | 08/8 - 28/8 | 04/6                       | International students' hotel           | Credits transfer for ICLG 211               |
| Japan   | Osaka University Suita Campus / Toyonaka Campus    | 02/8 - 15/8 | 15/5                       | JICA Osaka International Center         | Credits transfer for ICML 113               |
| Spain   | University of Leon                                 | 02/8 - 27/8 | 04/6                       | Spanish host families                   | Credits transfer for ICML 143               |

## A Postcard from France

France - land of wine and cheese, superb cuisine, fascinating culture - is one of the most visited nations in the world. As French minors, Hemaka Niyomnaitham and I (Narisa Dawar) went on an exchange to France, to study at the *Ecole de Biologie Industrielle* (EBI) for six months, as part of our Bachelor of Science degrees. Situated in a tranquil town called Cergy-Pontoise, EBI is reputed to be one of the best engineering schools in France, a perfect environment for studying.

The beginning of our stay at EBI was daunting, especially since all our classes were taught in French. But with the help of tutors and our three years of French at MUIC we got through our courses smoothly. The teaching method at EBI is different from MUIC. In addition to lecture classes, every course is accompanied by an applied course, which was both challenging and very interesting, and helped us understand the lectures better. English is rarely used at EBI since there aren't many international students. Therefore,

through regular usage of French, our writing and speaking skills improved remarkably.



During our stay we were given a studio across the street from campus. One of the benefits of the location was that Paris was only a forty minute train ride away. Our best times in France were spent roaming around Paris, sipping lattés in street cafes, absorbing the sights and sounds of Paris and eventually feeling at home in it. We found that the stereotypes about French people being aloof, arrogant and unhelpful were untrue and we befriended many generous, helpful people. Through these friends we were introduced to the French lifestyle.

In addition to our great experiences, we encountered some frustrating ones as well. France is reputed to have complicated systems and we can vouch for that after having spent a month trying to open bank accounts.

All in all, the experiences we had were at times difficult and overwhelming but in the end it was immensely rewarding. The cultural and personal experiences of studying abroad are invaluable. The best and most memorable part was having befriended many French students. They helped introduce us to their culture and gave us a better understanding of it. Our only regret is that we only got to spend one semester in France. We would highly recommend anyone considering an exchange to do it. It is an experience you won't regret.

We would like to thank the EBI professors, staff and tutors, Mme. Florence Dufour, Director of EBI, Dr. Chariya and the French Embassy for their contributions in making this exchange possible.

**First Trimester**  
20 SEPT - 14 DEC 2010

**2010 - 2011**  
**Academic Calendar**

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| INSTRUCTION BEGINS:   | 20 SEPTEMBER 2010                     |
| FIRST ENTRY APPLICATION DATES:  | 20 APRIL – 4 MAY 2010                 |
| ENTRANCE EXAMINATION DATES:   | [FIRST ENTRY] 15 – 16 MAY 2010        |
| WRITTEN EXAM RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT:                                      | 2 JUNE 2010                           |
| INTERVIEW:  | 4 – 8 JUNE 2010                       |
| FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT:   | 16 JUNE 2010                          |
| ALL NEW STUDENTS REPORT TO OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SERVICES (ADMISSION DATE) | 23 JUNE 2010                          |
| SECOND ENTRY APPLICATION DATES:   | 1 - 20 JULY 2010                      |
| ENTRANCE EXAMINATION DATES: [SECOND ENTRY]                              | 31 JULY - 1 AUGUST 2010               |
| WRITTEN EXAMINATION RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT:                               | 17 AUGUST 2010                        |
| INTERVIEW:  | 19 - 24 AUGUST 2010                   |
| FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT:   | 8 SEPTEMBER 2010                      |
| ALL NEW STUDENTS REPORT TO OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SERVICES (ADMISSION DATE) | 14 SEPTEMBER 2010                     |
| NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION:  | 15 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2010                |
| NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION:   | 16 SEPTEMBER 2010                     |
| CHANGE MAJOR DATES:   | 1 – 30 NOVEMBER 2010                  |
| ADVISING DAY:   | WILL BE ARRANGED BY EACH DIVISION     |
| REGISTRATION PROCESS: (ADVISING, REGISTERING, AND ADVISOR APPROVING)    | 7 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2010                 |
| PAYMENT DATES   | 7 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2010                 |
| PAYMENT DUE DATE  | FRIDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2010             |
| LATE REGISTRATION & DROP/ADD:   | 20- 21, 27 SEPTEMBER 2010             |
| PAYMENT DUE DATE  | FRIDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2010                |
| CLOSING OF THE REGISTRATION SYSTEM                                      | FRIDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2010               |
| SUBSTITUTION FOR CHULALONGKORN DAY (HOLIDAY):                           | MONDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2010               |
| MID-TERM EXAMINATION DATES:   | 26 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER 2010         |
| WITHDRAWAL PROCESS: (WITHDRAWING AND INSTRUCTOR APPROVING)              | 15 – 27 NOVEMBER 2010                 |
| LAST DAY OF CLASS:  | 4 DECEMBER 2010                       |
| SUBSTITUTION H.M. THE KING'S BIRTHDAY (HOLIDAY):                        | MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2010               |
| CONSTITUTION DAY (HOLIDAY):   | FRIDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2010              |
| FINAL EXAMINATION DATES:  | 7 - 9 DECEMBER, 11 - 14 DECEMBER 2010 |
| LAST DAY OF GRADE SUBMISSION FOR GRADUATION APPROVAL:                   | 28 DECEMBER 2010                      |
| RECESS:   | 15 DECEMBER 2010 – 9 JANUARY 2011     |

Check out <sup>the</sup> **New MUIC Alumni Page!**

The MUIC Alumni Association has reformatted their homepage and will be featuring information on membership, issues of the Alumni Association newsletters and upcoming events in this new space. The Association hopes to develop a more dependable alumni database through this new space and their Facebook page. Links are available to the new Alumni Association page as well as their Facebook Group on the MUIC homepage under the links “Alumni Association Page” and “MUIC Facebook Groups,” respectively.