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KaleidoScope

Mahidol University International College Newsletter



A
transition
in
MUIC
leadership

Editor's Note

This past March members of the MUIC community commemorated the occasion when, 25 years ago, Mahidol University officially announced the formation of a new international bachelor degree program, the first of its kind at a public university in Thailand and designated at that time as the International Student Degree Program.

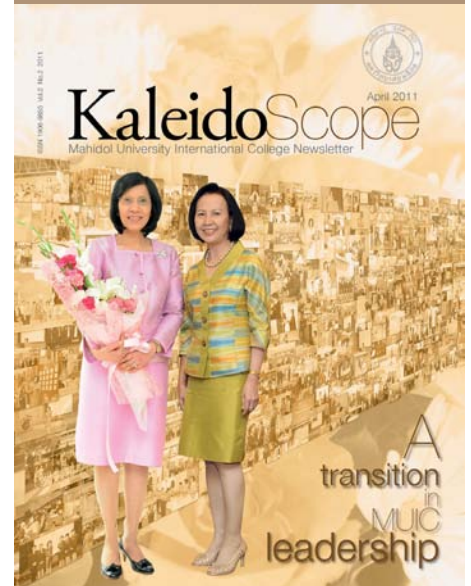
This past April carried its own significance inasmuch as it ushered in another important milestone in the college's history: the retirement of Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonsawat and the subsequent appointment of Professor Maleeya Kruatrachue as Dean of MUIC.

This issue of KaleidoScope features that transition, consisting of an interview with Dr. Maleeya who articulates her vision and priorities for the college, her recent administrative appointments and an overview of Dr. Rassmidara's accomplishments over the past two years.

Mahidol University
International College
ANNIVERSARY
1986-2011



Cover Photo



Our cover, which features Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonsawat and Professor Maleeya Kruatrachue, was photographed and designed by Pratchaya Leelaprachayanont.

Contents

Academic News	03
25 th Anniversary	07
New MUIC DEAN	08
New Administrative Team	09
Expectations Fulfilled	10
Student Activities	12

ASEANⁱⁿ Today's World 2011



MUIC and Kyushu University, in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, once again hosted ASEAN in Today's World, a two-week ASEAN Studies Program, from March 11 to 25, 2011.

Forty-one students, representing nine ASEAN countries as well as Japan, China and South Korea, participated, beginning with an orientation session on Samet Island, during which they were introduced to the program's requirements, became acquainted with one another and enjoyed the island's attractions.

A special Opening Ceremony was held on March 14 at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel. Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonsawat, Dean of MUIC, delivered a report, after which Professor Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, President of Mahidol University, and Professor Shin-ichi Ago, Vice President of Kyushu University, welcomed the participants and guests.

During the following two weeks participants attended classes in Current Affairs of ASEAN and East Asia, Agricultural Economics and Food Safety and Cross-cultural Communication, in addition to language and culture courses in basic Japanese, Thai, Bahasa Indonesia and Chinese. As in previous years, the group enjoyed a number of field trips, including the ancient ruins of Ayutthaya and the Amphawa Night Floating Market.

The program concluded with a special luncheon on March 25 at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel, during which the participants received certificates of merit and were introduced to the newly-designated MUIC Dean, Professor Maleeya Kruatrachue.



Film Festivals

The Humanities and Language Division, in cooperation with the French, Spanish and Federal Republic of Germany Embassies, presented the 8th MUIC Film Festival from January 17 to 25, 2011, in the college auditorium. All 12 films, which included such classics as *El Labertino del fauno* (Pan's Labyrinth), *Ceux qui restent* (Those Who Remain) and *Die Blechtrommel* (The Tin Drum), were screened with their original soundtracks with English subtitles.

The Fine and Applied Arts Division hosted the Little Big Film Festival 2011 on March 29 in the MUIC auditorium. The festival featured the films of 2nd and 3rd year students majoring in Television, Film and Animation Production and studying 2 and 3D animation as well as music video and advanced film production.

M-I-T Student Mobility Pilot Project

In 2010 the South East Asian Ministry of Education Organization and Regional Institute for Higher Education and Development, in collaboration with the Commissions of Higher Education in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, launched the M-I-T Student Mobility Pilot Project whereby students would engage in both educational and cultural exchange.

Five academic disciplines were identified and Thailand's Commission of Higher Education designated one university for each of the fields of study: Agriculture (Kasetsart University), Tourism (Prince of Songkla University, Phuket), Food Science (Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai), Arts and Culture (Thamassat and Chulalongkorn Universities) and International Business (Mahidol University International College), all of which offer instruction in English or are designated as international programs.

According to Dr. Chairawee Ananthawat, who serves as the MUIC Project Manager, the exchange period should be for at least one term with a minimum of three subjects or 9-12 credits. Thailand's Commission of Higher Education offers scholarship to outbound students, including round-trip air fares, health insurance and per diem. Moreover, MUIC provides additional support by waiving tuition fees for its outbound students.

During the first trimester MUIC received six inbound students from Indonesia while MUIC students Eriko Mineshima, Goanpon Chongsanguan, and Tinnapope Chammuangpuk studied at the University of Indonesia and Karnkeerati Uakulwarawat and Thanakrit Bandasakdi went to Bina Nusantara University, Indonesia.

Five other MUIC students traveled to Malaysia: Wannasiri Chatsuwan

(Universiti Putra Malaysia), Ploithip Asawarachan (Universiti Teknologi MARA), Atikarn Monga (University of Malaya), Chanokphol Chaisuparakul (University Kebangsaan Malaysia) and Medina Adulyarat (University Sains Malaysia).

In turn, two Malaysian students, Nurul Afiqah and Muhammad Adib, both International Business majors, studied at MUIC during the second trimester.



In an interview with the Malaysian and MUIC students, some of the project's other features emerged. Eligibility for participation in the program varies with each country, although fluency in English is a prerequisite. Moreover, most of the student participants carry an academic load beyond the minimum requirement, with some of them anxious to learn the language of the host country. There was also a general consensus that attending classes at MUIC was more academically challenging, due in large measure to the student-teacher ratio. However, the most striking impression was the commitment to regionalism that these students demonstrated and their clear understanding of living and working together in a new world order.



The Committee for Cultural Promotion and the Humanities and Foreign Language Division sponsored the Chinese Fair from February 3 to 11, 2011, on the ground floor of Building 1.

Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonnsawat, Dean of MUIC, presided over the opening ceremony on February 3, which coincided with the Chinese New Year. There was a traditional dragon dance, after which MUIC students presented a musical performance and related their experiences from the summer's student abroad program in China.

The fair also featured Chinese foods and music in addition to an exhibition that promoted the college's minor program in Chinese and highlighted the history and culture of China.

Job and Study Abroad Fairs



The Office of Students Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of International Relations, organized the annual MUIC Job and Study Abroad Fair 2011 on January 19-20, 2011, on the ground floor of Building 1.

On January 19, 42 companies from the private and public sectors were represented; on the following day 57 national and overseas universities and educational agencies promoted their undergraduate and graduate programs.

Research Grant Award

Ms. Udomrat Tivasub, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, and Mr. Kawin Pla-on, Head of Curriculum and Educational Development, received a research grant award from the Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company Limited, Thailand, at a special ceremony which was held on January 13, 2011, at the Bangkok Club, Sathorn City Tower.

They were one of four recipients, from a total of 42 submissions, to receive a grant for their projected research on "Risk Behaviors and Attitudes of Truck Drivers toward Road Safety."



New Appointment



Assistant Professor Chanin Yoopetch, who arrived at MUIC in 2009 as a full-time lecturer and currently serves as Director of the Master of Management

in Tourism and Hospitality Program, has been appointed Chairman of the Travel Industry Management (TIM) Program.

Self Assessment Report

On February 8-9, 2011, a Mahidol University committee, chaired by Associate Professor Chailerd Pichipornchai, arrived at MUIC to evaluate the college's Self Assessment Report for the fiscal year 2010. Committee members focused on four major areas: administration, academics, research and cultural heritage; over the two days they interviewed a number of executives, faculty and supporting staff members.

At the conclusion of the evaluation, they presented their findings at a meeting in the Seminar Room. In their judgment, this latest Self Assessment Report was by far the most comprehensive and successful.



Training Program

The Academic Services Section, under the leadership of Ms. Gingpayom Rodklongton, conducted the training program, "Thai Language, Culture and Professional Ethics," for 15 foreign national teachers on January 28-30, 2011, at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center.



A series of lectures, group discussions and demonstrations were provided by Professor Chariya Brockelman, Dr. Matthew Copeland, Ms. Arpaporn Iemubol, Ms. Natanaree Posrithong and Ms. Wanpimon Senapadpakorn. The participants also enjoyed an excursion along the Mahasawat Canal during which they were able to observe the lifestyle of the community.

Staff Exchange Project



Mr. Kawin Pla-on, Head of Curriculum and Educational Development, and Ms. Laddawan Jianvittayakit, International Network Development Officer, participated in a staff exchange project with Kyung Hee University (KHU) in Korea from January 24 to February 5, 2011.

The purpose of this exchange was to promote staff development and foster stronger ties between the institutions. Mr. Kawin and Ms. Laddawan spent the two weeks at KHU observing and participating in the operations and procedures of the Offices of Academic and International Affairs, respectively. Their experiences have enabled them to bring a new perspective to their work.

Public Relations Activities

The MUIC Public Relations Unit sponsored the "Seminar for School Advisors 2011" in the Seminar Room on February 11, 2011. Forty school advisors from 32 leading schools in the Bangkok metropolitan area participated in the seminar, whose purpose was to strengthen the relationship between MUIC and school advisors and provide them with information about MUIC and other international study programs in Thailand.

The Public Relations Unit also hosted its 4th MUIC Thank the Press Day on March 18-19, 2011, by inviting members of the print and website media for a weekend at the Haven Resort in Prachuapkhirikhan. On the way to the resort the group visited the Baan Don Khun Huay School where they

donated books, sports equipment and t-shirts, all of which were previously solicited in a charity campaign.



Celebrating MUIC's 25th Anniversary

On March 26, 1986, the Mahidol University Council officially endorsed the formation of a new international program, designated at that time as the International Student Degree Program. Ten years later its name was changed to Mahidol University International College, giving it the full weight and stature of a faculty.



On Friday, March 25, 2011, the college commemorated the 25th anniversary of that milestone. MUIC executives, faculty and staff members, students and distinguished guests, including Clinical Professor Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn and Professor Napatawn Banchuin, President and

Vice President of Mahidol University, respectively, gathered at the Chao Por Koon Toong Shrine (across from the Brew and Bev Coffee House) for the ritual of offering blessings.

The group then proceeded to the Seminar Room for a special religious rite. Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonsawat, Dean of MUIC, lit the ceremonial candles and joss sticks as a group of Buddhist monks chanted their prayers. After the ceremony, MUIC executive, staff and faculty members offered food and desserts to the monks.

The day's observance concluded with a buffet luncheon for all of the participants near the ground floor of Building 1.

The Supreme Artist of Siam

Celebrating the occasion of His Majesty the King's 7th Cycle Birthday Anniversary and its own 25th Anniversary, MUIC presented the exhibition, "The Supreme Artist of Siam," on March 16, 2011, in the college auditorium.

The exhibition featured His Majesty King Bhumibol's interest in and contributions to the arts and culture of Thailand. While his accomplishments in music, as both musician and composer, are well known, the King has also painted from an early age, producing 107 works of art, representing the movements of realism, expressionism and abstract, in addition to creating two pieces of round-relief sculpture which are kept at the Chitrlada Mansion in the Dusit Palace.

The exhibit also highlighted His Majesty's contributions not only as a writer and translator but also as an artisan who has, over the years, demonstrated skills

in craftsmanship. Furthermore, his interest in photography was featured, particularly for the purpose of documentation when the King distributed photographs of underdeveloped, drought stricken and flooded areas to various agencies for immediate remedial action.

Apart from the exhibition, there was also a performance of one of the King's musical compositions and a Joe Louis Thai traditional puppetry performance, featuring the "Monkey Warrior Hanuman Capturing the Mermaid Princess."



NEW MUIC DEAN

At its March 16 meeting, the Mahidol University Council officially appointed Professor Maleeya Kruatrachue as Dean of Mahidol University International College (MUIC), effective April 1, 2011.

This appointment clearly signals a commitment to continuity inasmuch as Dr. Maleeya has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the college. From the very onset, when the college was designated as the International Student Degree Program twenty five years ago, she was a member of the original curriculum committee, a part-time lecturer and served on a pro bono basis as Director of the Biology Program. In 2003 Dr. Maleeya was appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, a position she has held until this year.

KaleidoScope met with Dr. Maleeya to ascertain her priorities and vision for the college's future.

KALEIDOSCOPE: On behalf of the entire MUIC community, congratulations on your appointment.

DR. MALEEYA: Thank you.

KALEIDOSCOPE: Candidates for this position were asked to articulate their vision for the college. What is your overall view?

DR. MALEEYA: First of all, I think it's accurate to say that MUIC has secured a reputation as one of the best international programs in Thailand – if not actually the best. I would like us to be one of the top international colleges in Asia, a vision that is shared by our previous dean, Dr. Rassmidara Hoonsawat.

In order to achieve that goal we need to engage in more benchmarking efforts. By selecting more competitive partners in Asia, we'll be able to more accurately measure our own performance and determine where we are in relation to other prestigious institutes in the region. And I mean benchmarking across the board, in academics, administration, research, the quality of our teaching faculty, our international and exchange programs, our community outreach efforts as well as student activities.

KALEIDOSCOPE: Will there be any major changes?

DR. MALEEYA: There will be some personnel changes – but apart from that, no. My priority is to maintain the college's strong liberal arts focus and consolidate its strengths.

KALEIDOSCOPE: MUIC's previous directors and/or deans were identified according to their leadership style, for example, Dr. Serene as pioneer, Dr. Chariya as visionary and Dr. Rassmidara as strategist. How can we best characterize your strength as Dean of MUIC?

DR. MALEEYA: Well, over the years, both at MU and MUIC, I've primarily dedicated my time and energies to quality education and academic excellence – and I have every intention of continuing to do so.



KALEIDOSCOPE: Then academicians may be the most accurate designation.

DR. MALEEYA: Yes. At the same time, however, my responsibilities as dean require that I address all aspects of the college. In fact, there are some issues that will demand my special attention. For example, we're in the initial stages of accreditation with AACSB (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business). One of my priorities is to accelerate that process. Secondly, I would like to see not only a greater representation of foreign national students but also a more equitable balance of inbound and outbound students in our student exchange program. Finally, I want to create a greater visibility for MUIC on the national, regional and international levels in order to attract quality student candidates, in addition to considering the value of our stakeholders.

KALEIDOSCOPE: Could you explain that?

DR. MALEEYA: My administration will be informed by four general guidelines, which I've extracted from the Education Criteria for Performance Excellence: leadership, strategic planning, a customer focus and a knowledgeable workforce. The customer or consumer focus means meeting the needs of our students, any educational institute's major priority. At the same time, we have stakeholders such as parents, high schools from which our students are recruited, the local community, our partner universities around the world and firms at which our alumni work. Including these stakeholders in our calculations for future growth and development is an important factor if we are to achieve our ultimate goal of becoming one of the top international colleges in Asia.

New Administrative Team

Professor Dr. Maleeya Kruatrachue, newly-appointed Dean of Mahidol University International College, announced the following administrative appointments, effective April 1, 2011:

Interim Associate Deans:



Ms. Sumalee Visetratana
Interim Associate Dean
for Administration



Asst. Prof. Yingyot Chiaravutthi
Interim Associate Dean
for Academic Affairs



Dr. Charles Windish
Interim Associate Dean
for International Affairs

Assistant Deans:



Assoc. Prof. Chulathida Chomchai
Assistant Dean for Research



Dr. Atthapong Sakunsriprasert
Assistant Dean for Planning



Mr. Michael Naglis
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs



Ms. Somluck Lunsucheep
Assistant Dean for Administration



Ms. Udomrat Tivasub
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs



Mr. Brian J. Phillips
Assistant Dean
for International Affairs

Expectations Fulfilled

When Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonsawat arrived at the college as the newly-designated Dean of MUIC on April 1, 2009, she had clear expectations about what needed to be addressed if MUIC was to continue on its journey in becoming one of the leading international educational institutes in the region.



One of the significant features of her leadership was an insistence on engaging in strategic thinking before implementing any plan of action, a style and process that necessitated careful statistical analysis.

To cite one example, in an effort to promote MUIC's Study Abroad Program, Dr. Rassmidara created an extensive data base that focused on the core components of the college's exchange program, such as the number of partner universities and nationalities represented, the credit transfer process, facilities and mechanisms for evaluation, among others. The findings revealed some shortcomings, including the need for more partner universities in North America and an imbalance in numbers between inbound and outbound students.

In response, Dr. Rassmidara waged a campaign to promote the outbound component of MUIC's exchange program not only through the college's Study Abroad Fairs but also through the newly-established M-I-T Student Mobility Pilot Project, which enables MUIC students to study in Malaysia and Indonesia. As a result of these efforts, the number of outbound students increased 41 percent over the past year.

Therefore, it should have come as no surprise when, on December 13, 2011, at the annual National Academic Conference, MUIC received the Best Practice Award for its exchange program from the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education.

In addition, Dr. Rassmidara introduced this system of analysis, planning and accountability to both the college's academic divisions and administrative sections, encouraging them to implement this procedure.

Another feature of her leadership was a commitment to transparency and relationship building that would inspire trust. And so she introduced regular Meet the Dean sessions in which she briefed MUIC faculty and staff members not only on current developments but also on strategies for future activities.

Dr. Rassmidara has made other significant contributions as well. She established the Committee for Cultural Promotion, in conformity with one of Mahidol University's major objectives.

While its purpose is to primarily advance the cultural heritage of Thailand, the committee also focused on MUIC's international character by promoting other cultures. It conducted a series of fairs that celebrated the histories and cultures of Germany, Spain, Japan and China.

These exhibitions also featured MUIC's minor programs in each of the respective languages, a promotional investment that clearly paid dividends. Over the past year the number of students taking minors increased dramatically, more than double the number from the previous year.

Moreover, under Dr. Rassmidara's leadership the college received a Creative Academy Award from the Ministry of Commerce for its proposal to establish a center, in concert with other MU faculties, that will promote historical and cultural tourism in Thailand. This project is meant to contribute to the country's efforts in developing creative industries for the purpose of economic growth.

During her tenure at MUIC progress was also made on a variety of different fronts. As a strong advocate of benchmarking, Dr.





Rassmidara selected a number of regional universities in order to measure MUIC's performance in terms of student and faculty demographics, exchange programs and research, and in the process has further elevated the regional profile of MUIC. In 2011 the college continues to participate in the M-I-T Pilot Project, Sponsored by the Commission on Higher Education, Organized ASEAN in Today's World and is scheduled to host the ASEAN University Network Conference and Speakers Contest and the 5th Thai-Malaysian Conference.

Under the leadership of Dr. Rassmidara, the research strength at MUIC is no longer in question; in 2010 the number of research publications doubled from the previous year. In addition, the introduction of e-learning and m-learning, along with the MU iPhone Application that is being pioneered by the college, is providing our students access to both information and services. Finally, the number of applicants to the college was at an all-time high in 2010, a clear indication that the reputation of

MUIC is very much intact.

Given this overview, it is obvious that Dr. Rassmidara Hoonsawat's expectations for MUIC have been fulfilled during her brief two-year tenure. On behalf of the MUIC community, its administrators, teachers, students, staff and alumni, KaleidoScope expresses its gratitude to Dr. Rassmidara for her service and extends its very best wishes for the future.



A Farewell Tribute

MUIC executives, faculty and staff members assembled in the Taweewattana Room at the Salya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center on Thursday, March 31, 2011, in order to pay tribute to Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonsawat in recognition of her retirement and her years of service to MUIC.

The proceedings began with a traditional ceremony during which Dr. Rassmidara officially handed over the leadership responsibilities of MUIC to the newly-designated dean, Professor Maleeya Kruatrachue. This was followed by a video presentation, highlighting the former dean's activities and accomplishments.

Dr. Chairawee Anamthawat, Director of the BBA International Business Program, and Ajarn Carol Siatras, Director of the Communication Design Program, offered their own testimonials, citing Dr.

Rassmidara's leadership qualities and contributions to the college.

In response, Dr. Rassmidara delivered her farewell address, expressing her attachment to MUIC and her gratitude for the support of her colleagues.

The proceedings concluded with a presentation of flowers and gifts to Dr. Rassmidara and a group photograph, after which everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch.



ASEAN-Korea Cross-Cultural Exploration

Thanaporn Thabjan, a Social Science major, was selected as one of five delegates representing Thailand at the ASEAN-Korea Youth Exchange and Cultural Community Building Project from February 20 to March 1, 2011, in Deagu, Korea.

Over 80 students from the 10 ASEAN countries who are part of the ASEAN University Network, along with representatives from Korea, participated in this project which featured three programs: creating an online cultural community, participating in a cross cultural camp and producing a documentary film featuring the activities of the camp.



Ms. Thanaporn chose to participate in the Asian Cross-Cultural Exploration Camp Program at which students explored the similarities and differences among diverse types of food in Asia, including the creation of fusion food. They also shared with one another the musical traditions of their respective cultures and engaged in designing and creating original percussion instruments that were adaptable to each culture.

According to Ms. Thanaporn, the wealth of recreational activities demanded a commitment to both team play and team work, resulting in a realization that creating harmony in Asia requires a clear understanding of both its differences and similarities.



SIFE Visitation

Dr. Chairawee Anamthawat, Advisor, and Thanakrit Bandasakdi, President of the MUIC chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), welcomed Mr. Alvin Rohrs, SIFE Worldwide President and CEO, and Mr. Sylvester John, President of the International Affiliate Division of SIFE, to MUIC on March 22, 2011.

The two guests and their party met with Dean Rassmidara Hoonsawat and MUIC executives, after which they engaged in a roundtable discussion with SIFE students and toured the Salaya campus. In the afternoon the group went to Nakornchaisri where they visited the SIFE Parachute Rice Plantation project.

All-Thailand Karate-do GojuKai Championship

Eight members of the Karate-do Club participated in the annual All Thailand Karate-do Goju-Kai Championship 2011 on January 6 at Sripatum University. Pasakorn Jiaratuwanont, Vice President of the Karate-do Club, was the first runner

up in the Kata Event, earning a silver medal, and also ranked 5th in the Male Individual Kumite Event. Bhumiphat Aigchotaranan was the second runner-up in the Male Individual Kumite Event.



Student Association Projects

The MUIC Student Association (SA) sponsored several projects during the second trimester. On January 25 it conducted the second annual **SPEAKERS' CORNER** in the Seminar Room where students were able to meet with MUIC executives to air any grievances and to collectively arrive at solutions to any perceived problems.

The Student Association, in collaboration with the TIM Event Management class,

also organized a business simulation project, the **MUIC INTERNATIONAL MARKET**, which was held on February 7-8 on the ground floor of Building 1. The SA allotted space for booths to MUIC students who sold their products, representing a wide range of merchandise that included food, electronics, clothing, jewelry, cosmetics and much more. Members of the Cheer and Dance and Music Clubs performed intermittently in order to attract costumers and generate sales.

In cooperation with students in the Event Management class and MUIC alumni, the association conducted the **MUIC CHARITY ANTI-DRUG RALLY** on March 12-13, 2011. The rally games began at MUIC; a contin-

gent of 33 cars then began their journey, with several strategic stops along the way that included games, lucky draws and live music, until the participants finally arrived at their destination, the Fountain Tree Resort in Pakchong, Nakorn Ratchasima.

The following day they visited the Pongtalong School in Pakchong in order to donate two computers, an LCD television, one DVD player, one printer, educational CDs, school supplies, canned foods and first aid equipment, all of which was purchased with funds from a previous charity campaign and a substantial donation from PTT Public Company Limited.



SPEAKERS' CORNER



MUIC INTERNATIONAL MARKET



MUIC CHARITY ANTI-DRUG RALLY

Science Society Club

Members of the Science Society Club met on February 1-2, 2011, to discuss articles and news reports from scientific journals and engage in an exchange of ideas among freshman and sophomores and their more senior counterparts. A subsequent meeting was scheduled on February 9 at which members shared ideas and offered advice on major and minor courses as well as the value of participating in exchange programs.

The Science Society, with the cooperation of the Volunteer, Debate, Diving, Apple Tree and Public Media Clubs and several MUIC alumni, also organized the

“Saving Sharks, Saving Us” event which was held on March 2, 2011. Its purpose was to create an awareness of sharks and their environmental significance.

In the morning the film “Sharkwater” was screened in the college auditorium, followed by a debate and discussion. Throughout the day there were exhibitions on the ground floor of Building 1, some of which were sponsored by non-governmental organizations. In addition, there were displays of

underwater photography, interactive games and the sale of photographs and shark-related souvenirs.



Mangrove Tree Planting

Two separate clubs participated in Mangrove Tree Planting Projects. On February 5-6, 2011, Apple Tree Club members and non-members alike traveled to the Maeklong Camp in Samut Songkhram where they witnessed first-hand the irresponsible disposal of resources on the environment. With access to the wisdom of local community members, the group joined in the planting of mangrove trees. This hands-on experience enabled the MUIC students to understand the relationship between nature and the local community. The weekend concluded with a discussion on how the participants can be stewards of the earth by changing their attitudes and behavior.

Thirty-nine members of the Volunteer Club spent the weekend of March 12-



13 at Baan Khun Samut Chin in Samut Prakan. The volunteers attended an orientation session on the rising sea levels and local environmental situation and visited the Khun Samut Trawat Temple. During their two-day stay they not only planted mangrove trees but also participated in shrimp

and mussel farming. While the main purpose of the outing was to promote environmental awareness, the group also learned about the lifestyle of the local community which included a wedding celebration.



Art Club

The Art Club set up a Valentine Workshop on the ground floor of Building 1 on February 3, 2011, in order to offer its services to both club members and other MUIC students by providing t-shirts, acrylic colors, sticker blocks and brushes so that participants could create their own t-shirts in anticipation of Valentine's Day. The following day club members went to the Soi Sor Poosub community in Salaya to teach the children how to express themselves through painting.

On March 5, 2011, 26 Art Club members traveled to Ratchaburi Province. They visited the Scenery Resort & Farm and the Camp Boutique Resort where they

engaged in outdoor painting sessions in acrylic. They also visited Baan Hom Tien and enjoyed making their own hand-made candles.

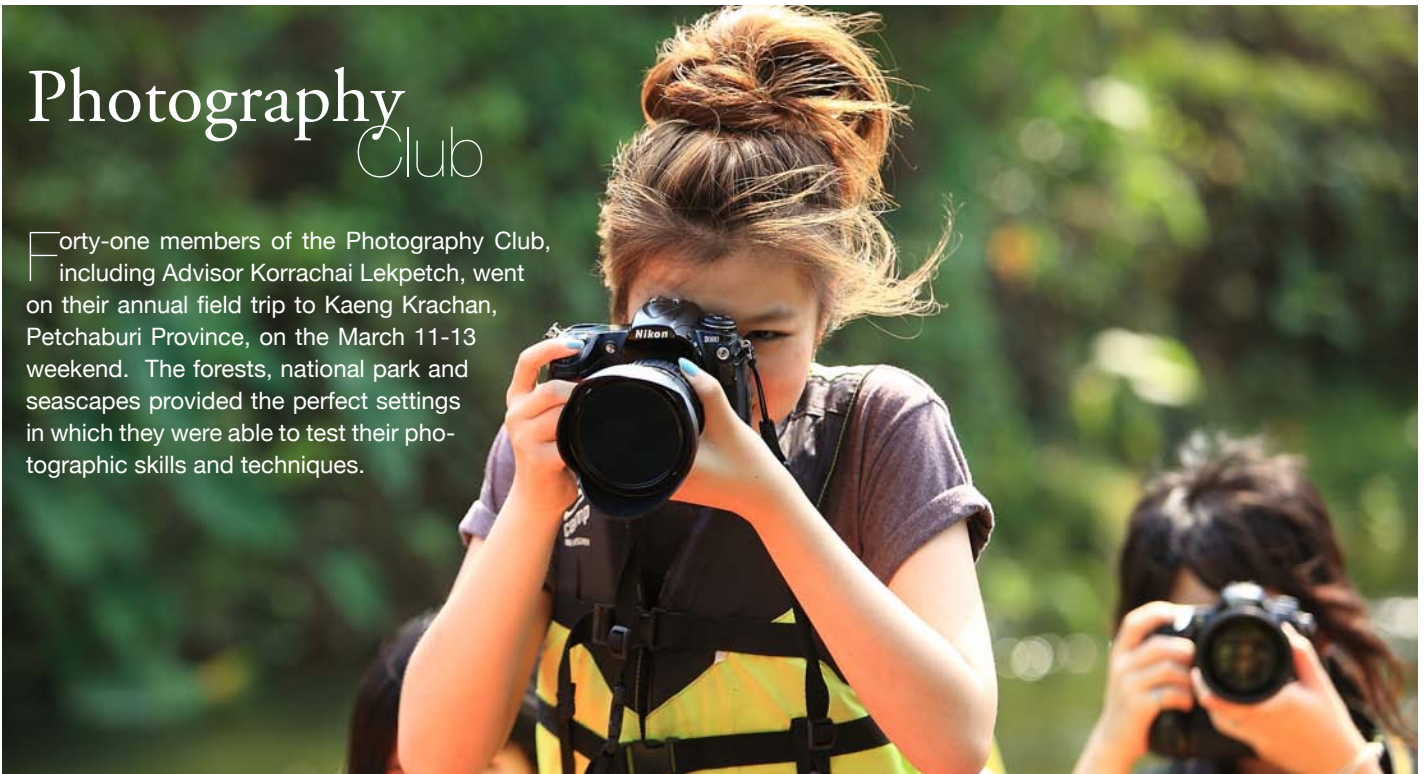
Multicultural Contest

The Multicultural Club organized a "Multicultural Contest" on March 10, 2011, on the ground floor of Building 1. MUIC students were invited to perform and showcase their talents, either individually or in groups of no more than five people, with an emphasis on a particular cultural tradition. Ms. Pattarin Chalchai-charin and Ms. Nuttha Janesiripanich won the competition with their unique performance of a Muay Thai demonstration and dance. The club anticipates offering more such contests in the future.



Photography Club

Forty-one members of the Photography Club, including Advisor Korrachai Lekpetch, went on their annual field trip to Kaeng Krachan, Petchaburi Province, on the March 11-13 weekend. The forests, national park and seascapes provided the perfect settings in which they were able to test their photographic skills and techniques.



Value Investment Club

The executive team of the Value Investment Club provided an “Analysis of Value Investment” to club members on February 19, 2011. The presentation featured the major principles of value investment, such as market capitalization, price to earning, mega trends in the economy, price to book value and income statement projections.

In March the team conducted another session on Stock Trading Competition. Club members were introduced to the well-known stock trading program, Streaming Plus, on how to adapt to the real stock market, and were given information about the stock market’s commands and tools in order to trade stock wisely.

On March 11, 2011, the Value Investment Club invited Dr. Thatchakorn Teetrakul and Mr. Tanadech Opasayanont, Vice President of the Business Development Group and Assistant Vice President of Corporate Finance, Siam Commercial Bank, respec-

tively, to address members about a wide range of financial issues and their applications to the stock market.



Diving Club Activities



On February 13, 2011, the Diving Club offered instruction in scuba diving for 59 MUIC students and staff members at the pool in Nisachol Village. Participants were taught basic swimming and diving techniques as well as instruction on how to properly use diving equipment.

Both members and non-members of the Diving Club embarked on two separate excursions during the second trimester. In January a group of 18 traveled to

Similan Island to inspect the marine environment, with special attention given to the status of coral reefs. They also scheduled a separate dive for an extensive underwater clean up. On March 20, 2011, the club organized another clean up effort, this time on the beaches of Srichang Island. After a long and arduous day digging up and sorting litter and garbage, the 35 volunteers went snorkeling at Tamphung Beach; they returned to MUIC in the evening.



DELE (Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language) is the official accreditation of the degree of fluency in the Spanish Language, issued and recognized by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain. These exams are the Spanish equivalent of IELTS, TOEFL or Cambridge University Exams. They are organized by Instituto Cervantes which is the most important Spanish Institution in the world for Spanish as a Second Language (like the British Council, Alliance Francaise and Goethe Institute in English, French and German, respectively). This institution is in charge of organizing the exams, while the University of Salamanca is in charge of the preparation, correction and final evaluation of all the tests.

The Diplomas in Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE) are the only officially accredited qualifications issued by the Ministry for Education of the Kingdom of Spain that are administered internationally. They are recognized worldwide by private companies, chambers of commerce and public and private educational systems.

The exam takes place twice a year, in May and November.
In 2011, dates will be 21st May and 19th November.

For more information, please contact:
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DELE in the web:
<http://diplomas.cervantes.es>

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

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