

ISSN 1906-9855 Vol.9 No.2 2017



Apr-Jun 2017

# KaleidoScope

Mahidol University International College Newsletter



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EU-TH  
DEBATE  
**CHAMP!**

KaleidoScope is  
environment-friendly.



*KaleidoScope* magazine is the official publication of Mahidol University International College (MUIC). It is published four times a year.

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## We are the Champions!

It's a rare occasion to win a tournament championship, much less nine out of 12 tournament championships. Which is what the Debate Club did this year—making Mahidol University International College (MUIC) win its incredible 9th national championship in the European Union in Thailand (EU-TH) Intersvarsity Debate Tournament, one of the most prestigious debate competitions in Thailand. The art of debate requires its practitioners to have excellent communication, research, public speaking, and persuasive skills, some of the hallmarks of an excellent liberal education of which MUIC is well-known for. This issue celebrates the debaters'—and MUIC's—victory.

Also in the spotlight are our students who have done their best in their exchange studies abroad along with two of our alumni who excel in the field of photography.



### This Issue's Cover

MUIC's debate team which won the championship of this year's EU-TH National Intersvarsity Debate Tournament strike a relaxed yet confident pose with their trophy.

## DELEGATES to ASEAN Youth Summit



*Mr. Pawinpon (top photo) and Ms. Suthida (bottom photo, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right) in some of the ASEAN Youth Summit activities*

Two MUIC students became the only representatives of Thailand to the ASEAN Youth Summit held in Manila, Philippines on April 24-28, 2017.

Ms. Suthida Chang (Inter-Cultural Studies and Languages) and Mr. Pawinpon Theerawong (Social Science) joined almost a hundred other student delegates from other ASEAN member-countries at the campus of host De La Salle University Manila for three days, learning more about the regional organization and its member-countries.

The two representatives, whose participation was sponsored by both Mahidol University and MUIC, made the most out of the three-day event by actively participating in the various activities. Mr. Pawinpon acted as the Prime Minister of Cambodia while Ms. Suthida was assigned as a member of the Malaysian cultural committee during the mock proceedings. They also had the opportunity to bond with their counterparts from the region, visit historical places in Manila, and get a taste of Filipino food.

## International Seminar on Migration

In a milestone event, the Social Science Division of Mahidol University International College (MUIC) collaborated with the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies of Mahidol University and the United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) in organizing the International Seminar on Mixed Migration in Southeast and East Asia on June 21-22, 2017 at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel, MUIC.



Almost 30 research papers were presented by university researchers from the US, Europe, Australia and Asia and also officials from UN agencies and international organizations. There were also several panels of experts during the two-day seminar.

There were also a photo exhibition on the lives of migrant construction workers in Bangkok, Thailand entitled "Behind Tin Walls" at the lobby of Aditayathorn Building, and a presentation and demonstration of an educational board game on sexual trafficking in Nepal by two students from the Social Science Division of MUIC.



## Seminar on IT and Small Business

Online media can indeed boost small businesses. This is the underlying principle behind the groundbreaking seminar-workshop "It's Time to Catch: A Digital Tool 2GO" that was hosted by Mahidol University International College (MUIC) on May 26, 2017 at Salaya Pavilion Hotel.

This seminar-workshop is a part of the ASEAN academic partnership for small business and ICT knowledge transfer, which is supported by the Australian government through the Australia-ASEAN Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. More than 40 participants, including lecturers, supporting staff, graduate students, and future entrepreneurs, attended the workshop.



The workshop began with a welcome speech by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phitaya Charupoonphol, Dean of MUIC, followed by the introductory remarks by Ms. Octavia Borthwick, Deputy Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy in Thailand. Distinguished speakers included Mr. Korlarp Suwacharangkul, Strategy and New Services Manager of LINE Corp.; Mr. Bounthay Khammanyong, Country Manager of Honestbee Thailand; Mr. Army Hinchiranan, Founder of Mother Trucker; Dr. Chanchai Phonthanukitithaworn and Asst. Prof. Yingyot Chiaravutthi, lecturers from MUIC; and Dr. Carmine Sellitto, senior lecturer from Victoria University.

## Envoy Hails Thai-French Relations



Mahidol University International College (MUIC) was honored to have His Excellency Gilles Garachon, French Ambassador to Thailand, deliver a speech on such a special occasion as the 160th year of Thai-French relations.

In a well-attended event at the Seminar Room on June 2, 2017, Ambassador Garachon traced the long history of diplomatic, political, socio-economic and cultural ties between the two countries and noted that their relationship continues to be strong in the present day.

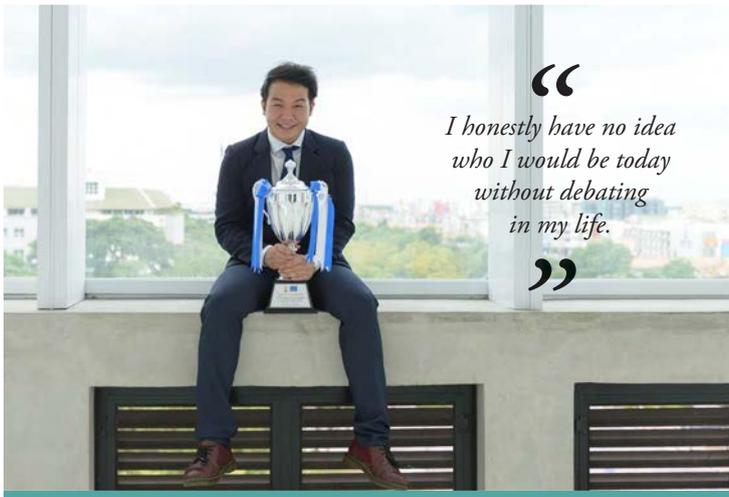
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phitaya Charupoonphol, Dean of MUIC, led executives in formally welcoming the diplomat and his entourage.

# RECORD-BREAKING

Nine out of 12. That's right. As of this year, Mahidol University International College (MUIC) has won nine out of 12 grand championships of the European Union in Thailand (EU-TH) National Intersivity Debate Tournament. Simply incredible!

MUIC sent three teams this year. Team 1 reached the grand finals and emerged as the grand champion. MUIC's debaters also swept away five out of the 10 best speaker awards of the tournament.

Enjoying such a winning streak might sound easy, but Mr. Sae-Seah, who is also Debate Club President, would respectfully disagree. Winning the



“  
I honestly have no idea  
who I would be today  
without debating  
in my life.  
”



“ The Debate Club  
always has a competitive spirit  
[in order] to change the way  
people think. ”

## Mr. Chun-Heng Sae-Seah (Social Science)

2<sup>nd</sup> Best Speaker (Overall)

President, Debate Club

Chairman, Thailand National Debating Council (2016, 2017)

“Debating is an intense experience. It feels like having a lot of electricity in, and all over, your body as you struggle to focus that energy into a coherent and persuasive version of a better world you want to convince the audience with.

“Debating has truly helped me develop a much more rigorous and critical mindset when approaching any issue I might come across – not settling for explanations that are merely accepted by a majority.

“We can go from being a victim of oppression to becoming someone that empowers marginalized voices.”



“ It's been  
my personal dream  
to win in this  
tournament. ”

# G DEBATERS

championship of a prestigious tournament like the EU-TH is no walk in the park, especially if the pressure of a defending champion is added to the mix.

He explained that the Debate Club (which has around 20 members as of the 3rd Trimester of academic year 2016-17) under its trainer, Ms. Avianna Nahzneene Castaño, conducts six-hour sessions every week. The sessions are called a plenary which consists of lectures, sparring, and other activities. Ms. Castaño, a quarterfinalist in the World Universities Debating Championship 2015 among other international achievements, also holds one-on-one sessions with members in the areas of speech impediments, vocabulary building, and speaking style.

Once they start preparing for a major tournament, they ratchet up the training hours. Mr. Sae-Seah said they began researching about the debate topics a month before the

EU-TH contest. Two weeks before the event, they were doing the more intensive sparring sessions. And during the tournament itself, the three teams still rehearsed up to 3:00 a.m. Mr. Sae-Seah pointed out that "What matters more is how regularly we develop this skill. It is more often an accumulation of dedication and tenacity for the craft."

But winners don't rest on their laurels. The Debate Club enters 2-3 international competitions every trimester. After EU-TH in July, the Club will be fielding teams to the 8th United Asians Debating Championship, to be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia from July 28 to August 5. Mr. Sae-Seah said it is "the largest tournament in Asia with over 600 participants from all over the continent competing for the title of 'Asian Champion.'"

Let's give a cheer to our champion debaters!

## Ms. Saranya Sachdev (Biological Sciences)

5<sup>th</sup> Best Speaker (Overall)

Vice President, Debate Club

*"Debate isn't about creating ideas; it's about creating thoughtful individuals."*

*"I've grown much more understanding and considerate of a lot of issues the world faces, and I have also learnt a lot about myself."*

*"One thing I have learned for sure is to not dismiss the thoughts and opinions of other people, no matter how much you may disagree with them. Shutting them down is not going to make them change their mind, or help you understand others any better, but only increases divisions."*

## Mr. Dikshant Konwar Prasai (Computer Engineering)

8<sup>th</sup> Best Speaker (Overall)

*"As a debater, I've gone from speaking for two minutes of mumbled sentences to seven minutes of coherent stream of ideas and logic in front of a fairly large crowd."*

*"Debate is a truth-seeking sport. In a world without absolutes, it's only through debate that we find our moral and ethical boundaries. Debating makes you realize how important it is to have an opposition to your own thoughts and biases."*

## MUIC'S DEBATING TEAMS AT 12<sup>TH</sup> EU-TH:

TEAM 1:

**Dikshant Konwar Prasai**  
(Computer Engineering)

**Chun-Heng Sae-Seah**  
(Social Science)

**Saranya Sachdev**  
(Biological Sciences)

TEAM 2:

**Apivich Hemachandra**  
(Physics)

**Rusali Agrawal**  
(Social Science)

**Terawee Kangwannarakul**  
(Chemistry)

TEAM 3:

**Pasika Panaputtikul**  
(Marketing)

**Arthitaya Rusmintratip**  
(Finance)

**Kenny Hendro Yudo**  
(Social Science)



# Expanding MUIC'S NETWORK of PARTNERS ABROAD

One of the strengths of Mahidol University International College (MUIC) is its very active student exchange program supported by a wide network of university partners in Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Oceania.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Kangwan Yodwisitsak, Associate Dean for International Affairs and Networking, said his mandate upon the start of his term in 2015 included continuously developing exchange links and thus provide MUIC students with a diverse choice of destinations abroad and a variety of educational opportunities beyond student exchange as guided by Mahidol University requirements.

"This means we look for potential partners in all regions and also prefer universities abroad that offer learning opportunities beyond student exchange," he said.

Since October 2015, MUIC has signed new agreements with more than 15 universities, all of which have high rankings by QS World and Times Higher Education (THE).

MUIC recently forged new links with universities in France, UK, the Netherlands, and Germany. It is also currently in talks with high-ranking US universities for potential partnership linkages. The College has been also continuously exploring for potential partners in Asia.

## • Recent Institutional Partners of MUIC •



Aside from student exchange, MUIC also aims for other learning opportunities that its partners can provide. One example is **ESB Business School of Reutlingen University** in Germany. Business Administration students can enlist in its internship program which has an extensive network of business establishments in Germany.

With an expanding network of partners abroad, MUIC students are given more opportunities to become global citizens who can confidently compete in the international labor market.

Another example is the **School of Hotel and Tourism Management of Hong Kong Polytechnic University** (#95 QS World University Ranking 2018). Not only can MUIC students go on exchange but can also avail of a +1 program wherein THM students can enroll for one academic year and six months of internship. Recent graduates can also enter a dual degree master's program.



# Back From STUDIES ABROAD



## THE SPORTS FAN



If you're into both studies abroad and sports, where would you go? Why, to the University of Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), of course!

Well, that's what was in the mind of Physics major Nopphrakorn "Nop" Kerdsamut when he opted to go on exchange study last fall.

Wanting to know more about the American academic system, Nop was determined to find out if he could hack it there. Choosing UNC because "it is one of the best partner universities of MUIC," he duly enrolled in courses like Thermal Physics, Mathematical Logic, Introduction to Psychology, and Fluency in Information Technology.

And of course, there's the famous basketball team of UNC, the Tar Heels, to consider. "I've always been a fan of Western sports events. I had hopes of going into the gigantic stadiums and being part of a thunderous crowd," Nop said, adding that "The Tar Heels have the highest level of athleticism I've ever seen."

No culture shock for this sports fan, thanks to friendly classmates. "As an easy- and outgoing person, I transitioned easily. My classmates were so shockingly helpful. They provided me with homework aids, rides to groceries stores, and tours around campus."

His advice to MUIC students who also want to study abroad: "Be outgoing and open-minded. Look for student activities to participate in. Be resourceful with what universities provide you with. Work hard with schoolwork. But most importantly, have fun!"



For many outbound students, the US is one of their prime destinations. Ms. Varita "Jean" Patavinthranond, 22-year-old International Hospitality Management major, got her wish and was able to do her exchange studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

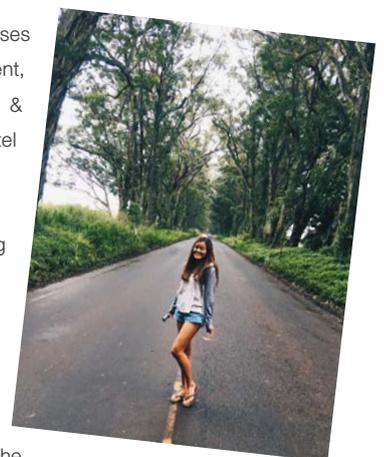
Jean said she joined the exchange program because she wants "to gain more experience about living abroad, making new friends, learning more about different cultures, and seeing the world from different perspectives, aside from increasing her knowledge about the tourism industry."

Why Hawaii? "Hawaii has always been on my bucket list. I love beaches and the outdoors," she said, adding that Hawaii is one of the top dream destinations in the world for tourists.

She enrolled in four major courses including Restaurant Management, Revenue Management, Food & Beverage Management, and Hotel Management.

For Jean, the most challenging part of studying abroad is living in a dormitory. "I have to cook for myself!" On the other hand, the advantages outweigh the challenges. She said she got the chance to "have friends around the globe and have a chance to live in a different environment."

Here's her advice to those aspiring to become an exchange student: "One semester is super short so make the most out of it. Make memories that will last a lifetime. Don't be afraid to explore and try something new."



## Two Lensmen Receive Spotlight Abroad

Two alumni are getting positive recognition abroad for their photography skills. Their respective careers in this field only shows how flexible MUIC alumni are in charting their own paths, that once they set their mind there is no stopping them from attaining success.



**Mr. Tawanwad "Tang" Wanavit** is a Film Production alumnus (Class of 2014) who now works as a video cameraman for commercials and films. His photograph, "Friends of the Pool," recently won 1st Prize in the "Down by the River" photo competition by Observe Collective. His work was also selected for exhibition at Observations 2017 Street Photography Festival in Iserlohn, Germany on July 14-23, 2017.



Photo credit: Tawanwad Wanavit

Tang started taking pictures as a hobby eight years ago. "Many people told me to send my work to festivals and contests to get some exposure. I had no idea how big the festivals were until people congratulated me and assured me that they are indeed significant (photography events).

"I love street photography. My main interests are light and shadow. Oftentimes, they change the setting that the subject is in. For instance, when it's noontime in Thailand, sunlight comes straight down from above and anything under a roof-like object like umbrellas, hats, actual roof, becomes completely dark, which is a great way of putting the subject out of space."



Photo credit: Sirachai Arunrugstichai / National Geographic (Thai Edition)

**Mr. Sirachai "Shin" Arunrugstichai**, an Environmental Science major (Class of 2010) and an MUIC Outstanding Alumnus (2016), recently had two of his works declared as finalists in the Big Picture Natural World Photography Competition 2017. His photograph, "Rest in Pieces," shows the dismembered parts of a shark taken in a fish market in Ranong province, Thailand. It appeared in the National Geographic Thai edition in 2016. His second photo is entitled "School Ground" which he took for the Save Our Seas Foundation.



His thoughts on advocating for nature conservation through photography: "I think the road is still long and perilous for humanity to shift its behavior toward a more sustainable way to coexist with nature's other creations. Photography is my medium to speak out to the public, to create discussion among people."