

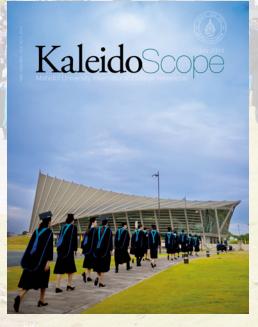






aleidoScope Magazine salutes this year's graduates. As they savor the culmination of their hard work for the past few years, MUIC keeps its sight on the future, ensuring that current and future students receive the same level of education. This issue, we report on the factors that make an MUIC brand of education among the best in the land: Mahidol University was ranked No. 1 in Thailand (and No. 40 in Asia) in the QS Asia University Rankings. MUIC touched base with current and potential partner universities at NAFSA in further strengthening its international ties. An accelerated graduate program (MBA and MM) at the Salaya campus will be launched in September this year. MUIC students won in several national and regional competitions while others went abroad in the 3rd Semester to participate in international youth events. These plus more in the pages that follow.





#### Cover Photo

This issue's cover photo captures the essence of a commencement exercise: Graduates marching on to their chosen career path.



#### QS ASIA: MAHIDOL NO. 1 IN THAILAND

Mahidol University was recognized again as the leading university in Thailand, based on the QS Asia University Rankings 2014.

Mahidol University was ranked No. 40 in the survey which covered 300 universities in Asia, ahead of second place Chulalongkorn University, which occupied No. 48.

In this year's rankings, released on May 13, the top categories in which Mahidol University excelled were: Citations for Paper, (comprising 15% of the criteria), with a score of 94.3 points; Faculty-Student Ratio (20% of the criteria), 92.6 points; and Academic Reputation (30% of the criteria), 80.9 points.

The survey also showed that Chiang Mai University stood at No. 92, Thammasat University at No. 134 and Prince of Songkla University at No. 142. The other Thai universities which made it to the list include Kasetsat University, Khon Kaen University, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Burapha University and Srinakharinwirot University.

#### MUIC IN NAFSA

As part of its international program activities, MUIC participated in this year's NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo held in San Diego, California on May 25-30. The College's delegates used the occasion to promote MUIC's academic offerings aside from meeting their counterparts from partner universities and academic service providers and exploring possible linkages with other international academic institutions.

Dr. Charles Windish, Associate Dean for International Affairs, told KaleidoScope that "conferences such as NAFSA are initial meeting points for the development of many of our partner agreements. Participating at NAFSA also helps MUIC's International Affairs (IA) to keep up with trends in international education and best practice for this field."

He said that the MUIC team had a total of 45 meetings during the conference. "We can expect new exchange agreements in the US, Canada, South Korea, Spain and France." Dr. Windish said that despite the concern of some partner universities about the political situation in Thailand, he is confident that there will be around 150 inbound students in the 1st trimester of the next academic year while MUIC expects to send 110 students to its partner universities abroad through its exchange program.

The other delegates were Mrs. Sumalee Visetratana, Associate Dean for Administration, Ajarn Chompunuch Pongjit, Assistant to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and two International Affairs staff members, Mr. Pongphan Chungwattanamongkol and Mr. Napat Srithongperng. Ms. Boonyarat Suwanchinda, Director of the International Relations Division of Mahidol University, was also part of the team.



#### ORIENTATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Student Exchange Unit organized to watch a Thai traditional performance an orientation for international students who will enroll in the 1st trimester of the academic year 2014-2015 in the Seminar Room 1210 on April 25, 2014.

The international students were brought later to Siam Niramit Theater in Bangkok and also learn about Thai arts and cultural heritage. This batch has 31 Inbound Exchange and Visiting students from the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Singapore, France, and the US.

#### **FAST-TRACK**

#### **GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

MUIC now offers an accelerated graduate studies program at its Salaya campus.

Beginning September 2014, students can enroll at MUIC's graduate program, dubbed Young Talents, and finish either an MBA in Business Modeling and Development or an MM in International Hospitality Management in just 15 months. Classes will be held during weekends on the Salaya campus.

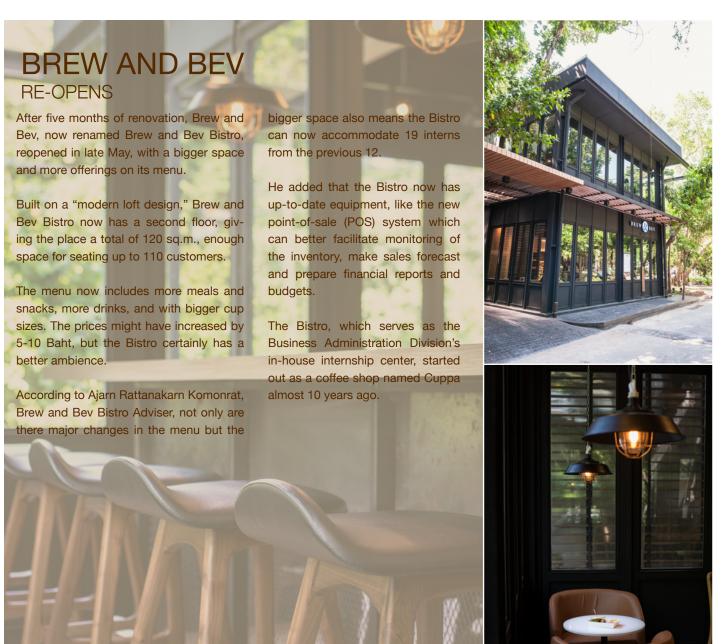
Aside from having a Bachelor's degree, applicants should have at least two years' work experience, with a GPA of 2.50 or above.

Those without work experience must have a GPA of 2.75 or above. Applicants should also have a TOEFL score of 550 (or equivalent), IELTS 6.0, or pass MUIC's English Proficiency Test.

The average total cost for each graduate program is 444,700 Baht.

#### For more details.

visit: www.muic.mahidol.ac.th/grad or contact the MUIC Admission Office at Tel. No. (+66) 02-441-5090 Ext. 1124, 1327 and Email: icdad@mahidol.ac.th.













# FORUM ON ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

A panel discussion on the entertainment media industry was conducted on April 1, 2014, on the third floor of Mahidol University's Patanadol Building. The panelists included Tong Banjong Pisanthanakun, director of the horror-comedy film, "Pee Mark Phra Kanong;" Yarinda Bunnag, a film actress and singer, Auchara Kijkanjanas, an animation producer and Chaiwat Anutrakulchai, an actor and television host who shared their perspectives on the entertainment media industry.

The main thrust of the session was to inspire the students and explore a variety of issues related to the industry. This panel discussion was a part of the course, ICEM 111 Introduction to Animation, taught by Asst. Prof. Surapong Lertsithichai.

# LITTLE BIG FILM FESTIVAL

The Fine and Applied Arts Division (FAA) held the 5th Little Big Film Festival on June 24, 2014, at the Mahidol Learning Center. This film festival showcased the class projects of 2nd and 3rd year animation, television, and film students.



#### TAT TALK

The Tourism and Hospitality Management Division (THM) invited Dr. Walailak Noypayak, Director of the Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Tourism of Authority of Thailand (TAT), to speak on the topic, "Tourism Authority of Thailand: Its Roles and Operations" on June 17, 2014, in the Seminar Room. Dr. Walailak, who has been working at the TAT for 30 years now, also discussed the major role of tourism in Thailand's economy and its impact on Thai society. More than 100 students attended the event.

## RUSSIA

Asst. Prof. Sompong Amnuay-ngerntra, lecturer in the International Hospitality Management Division, and Ms. Thanakarn Vongvisitsin, a Master of Management alumna, were invited by Ural Federal University to deliver papers on "Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development: Lessons Learned from Thailand" and "Travel Preferences of Russian Tourists in Thailand" on April 21-23, 2014, at the university's campus in Yekaterinburg, Russia.



After the presentations, Dr. Sompong had a fruitful conversation with Prof. Dmitry Bugrov, First Vice Rector and Director of the Institute of Humanities and Arts and the President of the Ural Tourism Association regarding the development of student exchanges and collaborative research.



# THAI CULTURAL SHOW

Renowned Thai folk singer and national artist Ms. Kwanjit Sriprajan was the featured performer in the Thai Cultural Show organized recently by the MUIC Committee for Cultural Promotion.

Around 300 people, including MUIC executives, faculty, staff, students and representatives from schools and communities in Nakhon Pathom Province attended the show on June 19, 2014, in the college auditorium. MUIC's Thai Music Club also performed the finale of their musical, "The Enchanted."

#### SONGKRAN FESTIVAL

MUIC celebrated Songkran Festival on April 10, 2014, on the ground floor of Building 2. This year's theme was "MUIC's Happy Songkran." There were many activities such as the Rod Nam Dam Hua ceremony (pouring of sacred water over the hands of the MUIC Dean and other executives), receiving the Thai New Year's Eve blessing from the Dean and a video presentation contest with an 80s theme. Some 150 students, staff and lecturers attended the event.







#### THAI PROGRAM

**ACTIVITIES** 

It was a busy semester for the Thai Language Program of the Humanities and Language Division. Aside from their regular teaching courses, the program's faculty gave lectures to instructors both inside and outside MUIC.

Its Program Director, Ajarn Arpaporn lemubol, and one of its lecturers, Ajarn Wimonsiri Hemtanon, were invited by the Teachers Council of Thailand to conduct a training course entitled, "Thai Language, Culture and Professional Code of Ethics for Foreigners" at the National Institute for Educational Development of Teachers and Educational Personnel (NIDTEP) at the Ministry of Education on June 6-8, 2014. Schoolteachers from the Philippines, USA, UK, Japan, China, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Cameroon, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh and India attended the course.

The two lecturers were also invited by Ajarn Alexander Nanni, the Program Director of the Preparation Center for Languages and Mathematics (PC), to teach a 20-hour Thai course on "Listening and Speaking Thai" to foreign instructors at the PC. The course ran from May 14 to July 23, 2014.

On May 3 and 31, Ajarn Arpaporn was invited by the Language School of the Technology Promotion Association (Thailand-Japan) to give three-hour lectures on "Teaching Thai Writing to Foreign Learners" and "Teaching Thai Pronunciation to Foreign Learners." The two lectures were part of the 48-hour certificate program attended by Thais interested in teaching the Thai language to foreigners.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **UNESCO**

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Two Communication Design students, Ms. Prim Bunsopis and Mr. Sakan Poomnak won 1st and 2nd Prize, respectively, in the UNESCO-Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT) World Press Freedom Day Youth Poster Competition. Their winning entries, along with those of other finalists were featured in an exhibition at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand in Bangkok on April 30.

In her note, Ms. Prim said of her poster: "Truth is where freedom stands. How much truth is there in what we get from the press these days? What we see is manipulated by social trends, prejudice and power. Once filtered, only a tiny grain of truth remains."

Eight more students from FAA were chosen as finalists. They are: Ms. Natthaya Thanasaenchok, Mr. Wattarapong Lertkhunakorn, Wichuda Dechachongjumroen, Warinee Pisitpundha, Ms. Pakwan Chotiparayon, Ms. Nutnicha Achavakulthep, Mr. Bancha Boonsomsuk, and Ms. Arparsiri Siriyodhin.



## SILVER AND BRONZE IN CAKE CONTEST

Four interns at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel won silver and bronze medals at the recently held Cake Decoration Competition.

The first team, composed of Ms. Apichaya Leewattanaporn and Ms. Chanawan Wongpanich, won 2nd Prize for its creation, "Julianna." In addition, the entry of Mr. Surapat Sriratanobhas and Ms. Woramon Katesermsuk which they dubbed, "Opera Cake Choc Mousse," won 3rd Prize. The students, all Tourism and Hospitality Management majors, were trained by the Salaya Pavilion Hotel's bakery team led by Mr. Narongdech Janthong, Pastry Demi Chef.

The contest, held on March 29, 2014, at Muang Thong Thani, was participated in by six universities and four hotels.

# JURY PRIZE FOR ANIMATION STUDENT

A senior student from the Entertainment Media Program won a Jury Prize at the Bangkok International Student Film Festival (BISFF 2014) for her animated film entry, "P.O.V. Point of View."

Ms. Praveena Danchaiviroj, along with 12 of her classmates, submitted their entries to the film festival, which was held on April 29 to May 1, 2014, at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center.



The other entries, a mix of short animation and documentary films, were: "A Million Minds" by Mr. Christopher Roberts, "The Rebirth of Jimmy" by Mr. Charmnanvudh Vancharoen, "To the Moon by Ms. Chayanit Hansaward," "No Love Lost" by Ms. Jomkwan Jaemjirasai, "Clouds of Memories" by Mr. Natthaphon Sakulvanaporn, "Krombis" by Ms. Aimee Provost, "Rovelover" by Mr. Panakom Santayanon, "Charlie's Garden" by Mr. Jonathan De Hoop, "Ma Ma Gor" by Mr. Nattapol Paibulbaramee, "The Interception" by Mr. Kanakorn Chanama, "The Heart of Vietnam 1975" by Ms. Vorapitcha Rattanaprasert and "In Flames" by Ms. Sita Lerdjarudech.

#### **DEBATE CHAMPIONS**

ONCE AGAIN

One of MUIC's debating teams won the grand prize in the 9th European Union-Thailand National Intervarsity Debate Championship held at Khonkaen University on May 16-20, 2014.

Team 1, composed of Mr. Zaw Htun Lat, Mr. Panyarak Roque, and Mr. Narongpol Sathorn—all Social Science majors and members of the Debate Club—was awarded the championship cup blessed by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Mr. Roque was also adjudged "Best Speaker of the Tournament."









#### CONFERENCE ON THAI-CAMBODIAN TIES

The Social Science Division held the 2nd dents from both countries Academic Conference on Thai-Cambodian Relations on May 27-28, 2014, at the Salaya other's culture. Pavilion Hotel.

Prof. Maleeya Kruatrachue, MUIC Dean, noted in her welcome remarks the value of academic dialogue in further enhancing the relations between Thailand and Cambodia. For his part, Mr. Minea Tim, Executive Director of the Kdei Karuna Organization (KdK), a Phnom Penh-based NGO that co-organized the event, said that the conference is a good opportunity for stu-

to learn more about each

With the theme, "Thai-Cambodian Relations: From Conflict to Cooperation," the conference attracted numerous academics from Thailand and Cambodia whose research papers delved on various aspects of the two countries' political and socio-economic relations. Thai and Cambodian students also presented reports of their field studies during a week-long stay in Cambodia last March.

#### **ROADSHOW IN** YANGON

Representatives from MUIC visited Myanmar on May 5-7, 2014, to promote the College in several secondary international schools in the capital city of Yangon.

The team was composed of Dr. Charles Windish, Associate Dean for International

Affairs, Mr. Nutthaboon Pornrattanacharoen, Assistant Dean for Marketing and Public Communications, Ms. Supida Wangrattanakorn, Head of the Admissions Unit, Ms. Pharuchaa Aketanaphokin, Marketing Officer and Mr. Zaw Htun Lat, an MUIC alumnus.

The schools visited were Myanmar International School Yangon (MISY), Yangon International School (YIS), Nelson International Education Center (NIEC), Yangon Academy, and International School Yangon (ISY). The team also paid a courtesy call to the Royal Thai Embassy.

#### MUIC STUDENTS IN ASEAN EVENT

Two Social Science students participated in ASEAN-related activities recently.

Ms. Phonthip Chaisrisoponkit, a Social Science major, represented MUIC at the ASEAN in Today's World (AsTW), held on February 28-March 16, 2014, at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City, Philippines.

AsTW is an international program coorganized in 2009 by Kyushu University, Mahidol University, Ateneo de Manila University, and Fukuoka Women's University that aims to instill a deeper understanding and appreciation of ASEAN and ASEAN + 3 Cooperation among university students. Participants attended courses on ASEAN studies and languages and culture taught by lecturers from the four universities.

On June 1-6, 2014, Ms. Pongpisuth Jongudomsuk attended the 3rd ASEAN Children's Forum at The Tide Resort in Chonburi province. Aside from serving as the event's emcee, she also helped with the event's segments that involved children.







# CONGRATULATIONS, 2014

very year hundreds of thousands of university graduates throughout Thailand embark on the daunting task of securing gainful employment. Given the political uncertainty and volatile public demonstrations that have affected the nation's economy over the past several years, only a minority have been able to find suitable jobs within the first year after graduation.

MUIC graduates, on the other hand, do very well. A pattern has developed over the past decade in which a vast majority of our graduates were able to secure employment or gain admission to graduate programs, due in large measure to their English skills and MUIC's reputation for academic excellence. According to statistics from the Career Development Unit of the Office of Student Affairs, 63 percent of 2012 graduates were able to find a job within six months of having graduated, with an average salary of 26,000 Baht per month. In addition, 37 percent successfully continued with their graduate studies. It is hoped that this trend will continue, improve even, with this year's batch.







The prospective graduates had an opportunity to gain insight into their possible future when they attended the annual MUIC Final Touch program, sponsored by Office of Academic Affairs, on May 1, 2014, in the college auditorium.

After congratulatory remarks from Professor Maleeya Kruatrachue, Dean of MUIC, and Assistant Professor Chotechuang Panasoponkul, Associate Dean for Students, a panel discussion, "A Perspective on Lifestyle," ensued which was moderated by Ajarns Michael Naglis, Assistant Dean for Students Affairs, and Alexander Korff.







The panelists of MUIC alumni who represented the business, finance, hotel, aviation, education and non governmental organization sectors included Mr. Patchrapon Kanjanasiripadkdhi, Business Development Manager of 3M Thailand, Mr. Chonlawoot Vacharayoo, Head of Foreign Direct Invest for United Overseas Bank, Ms. Pattama Daraboth Yoshimura, Manager of the Sukhothai Bangkok, Mr. Schwin Suwanasat, a pilot for Etihad Airways, Ms. Vipavinee Artpradid, part-time lecturer in MUIC's Social Science Division, and Ms. Pornpun Rabil Tossaporn, Regional Business Development and Funding Coordinator for Oxfam's Asia Regional Center.

They not only shared with the audience the challenges in their work experience but also explored other facets of their lives such as family, friends, recreation and the responsibilities of citizenship.

After a buffet lunch on the ground floor of Building 1, the prospective graduates were measured for their caps and gown in preparation for their commencement exercise in July.













# Commencement

The 648 graduates who majored in the arts, sciences and business administration participated in two different ceremonies. On July 4, 2014, they assembled in the college auditorium for the MUIC graduation ceremony.

The proceedings began with a report by Asst. Prof. Yingyot Chiaravutthi, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, followed by congratulatory remarks by Prof. Maleeya Kruatrachue, Dean of MUIC, the chairpersons from each of the six academic divisions and Mr. Rachan Woramunee, President of the MUIC Alumni Association. Two students who garnered the highest GPA this year (3.95) were also honored: Mr. Patsak Treyutwatana (Information Systems) and Ms. Hathaichanok Wanichodom (International Business).

Mr. Adisorn Bandithsuwan, former President of the Student Association, delivered an address on behalf of the 2014 graduation class. The proceedings concluded with a performance of Mahidol University songs by the MUIC Choir Club and student representatives.

On July 10, 2014, the graduates participated in the official Mahidol University Commencement Ceremony at the new Prince Mahidol Building on the Salaya campus, presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. This was the first time that Mahidol University held its graduation rites at the Salaya campus.

















# he Valedictorian

Leading this year's graduating class is Mr. Adisorn Bandithsuwan, an International Business major.

Being President of the Student Association during school year 2012-13 served as a turning point for him. Though no stranger to extra-curricular activities as he experienced being both an officer and a member of several clubs (Volunteer Club and Inner Peace Club), it was only during his tenure as leader of the Student Association that he faced challenges that helped develop his character. These include managing his time more effectively, valuing the importance of diversity among his fellow officers, the need for fostering teamwork to obtain success, and generally to exercise his leadership skills.

He had finished his academic studies last year, and was an apprentice in a company in Singapore for the past five months. After graduation, he plans to join his family's firm. Asked what life lessons had he learned in MUIC, Adisorn says that there are lots but adds that the most important is that he has honed his people skills in the College. "MUIC is like a microcosm of the 'real world' which I will face after graduation. MUIC has prepared me well for it."

#### NEW

#### STUDENT OFFICERS ELECTED

Team 2 ("Life") won a landslide victory over Team 1 ("Lynx") for control of the Student Association for the next academic year. Out of a total number of 910 votes cast on June 3 and 4, 2014, 555 were credited to Team 2 while Team 1 got 236. There were 36 "No" votes and 83 invalid votes.

The next batch of Student Association officers is composed of: Mr. Punn Kuhataparuks (Biological Sciences), President; Mr. Nithi Tanglertpaibul (Finance), Internal Vice President; and Mr. Narat Hansirichai (Tourism and Hospitality Management), External Vice President; Ms. Woramon Katesermsuk (Tourism and Hospitality Management), Secretary; and Ms. Yajai Tantraport (Business Economics), Treasurer.

Notable major projects that the team proposed during the campaign included a "starter" fund-raising for worthwhile student projects, a petition for a stronger wifi signal with wider coverage on campus, a compilation of practice exercises for different courses, an expanded student tutorial program and charity events, among others.





#### **HEALTH DAYS**

2014

The Students Association, in cooperation with the Student Affairs Office, organized "Health Days 2014," a two-day event in the Seminar Room and the Atrium Canteen, from May 28 to 29, 2014.

A seminar on the ill effects of drugs and alcohol was held on the first day, with an alumnus, Mr. Lookpetch Nelson, as the guest speaker, while volunteers from the College of Sports Science and Technology conducted a fitness test at the Atrium Canteen open area.



The following day, there was a blood donation session and medical checkup in the Seminar Room, supervised by the Faculty of Medical Technology. Forty-six students and 15 staff members donated blood, which would be turned over to the blood bank of Siriraj Hospital.

#### WELCOMING CAMP

The MUIC Class Committee held a Welcoming Unity Camp for the 3rd Semester on May 17-18, 2014 at Ban Phu Warn in Nakhon Pathom Province. This is a regular student activity that aims to foster unity among freshmen and upperclassmen.



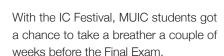












IC FESTIVAL





The festival, held on July 1-2, 2014, hosted stalls that sold food and drinks, clothing, accessories, and other items that catch a student's fancy. The Music Club also fielded its members who rendered song numbers while the Muay Thai Club and Cheer and Dance Club gave demonstrations of their members' talents and skills. Games, raffle draws and popularity contests also added to the carnival atmosphere.



#### **CLUB DAY**

Officers from the Student Association and various student clubs gathered together on the evening of June 23, 2014, at the Mahidol Learning Center for Club Day. This event, attended by some 200 students, was an opportunity for the outgoing officers to meet their successors and share with them valuable lessons learned from the previous years' activities.

#### **CLUB EXPO**

The Students Association held Club Expo on May 7, 2014. A regular event every semester, all clubs join the exhibition on the ground floor of Building 1 as their officers and members seek recruits. Several clubs also provided musical or sports performances to entertain the visitors.





#### **RAKKAEW**

#### **OUTREACH**

Ten members of Rakkaew Mahidol, along with their adviser, visited two communities on June 14-15, 2015, as part of their community outreach. They went first to Pho Rang Nok in Ang Thong Province where they met with the housewives participating in the Banara Project. Rakkaew supports these housewives as they use parts of the banana tree to make various products. At Bang Cha Ni, Ayutthaya, the Club





visited farmers who are part of the Parachute Rice Plantation (PRP) project which helps the farmers increase their rice productivity.

#### **SCUBA DIVING**

#### **LESSONS**

The Diving Club conducted an introductory course on scuba diving on May 31 and June 1, 2014, at the Mahidol University swimming pool. The Club also provided the trainees, composed of 27 students and six lecturers and staff, with diving equipment.

#### TRIP TO PATTAYA

Thirty members of the Inner Peace Club traveled to Pattaya to visit religious and tourist sites. First on the list was Wat Yan, a temple where the students also gave cash donations. Then they visited Khao Chi Chan in Chonburi Province, known for the 109-meter tall Buddha image sculpted on the face of a cliff. The final stop was at Silver Lake, a vineyard adjacent to Khao Chi Chan.





## PHOTO TRIP

Khao Yai, one of the most popular parks in Thailand, became the destination of the Photo and Multimedia Club. On June 21 and 22, 38 student-members and two lecturers went there to take pictures of the mountain's lush scenery.







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