

# The Legacy factor a Monarch

hailand is in mourning. After several years of failing health, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch, died on October 13, 2016. His unstinting devotion and innumerable contributions to Thailand and its people have been well-chronicled over the decades and recognized by the international community.

His Majesty was a remarkable monarch: An artist, musician, composer, linguist, writer and translator, a student of the law, a computer programmer and engineer, well-versed in fisheries and farming and the construction of irrigation systems, dedicating his efforts to environmental sustainability. His Majesty was as comfortable working in the villages and fields of Thailand as he was in the corridors of power, mastering the intricacies of international diplomacy. His Majesty was, in other words, a Renaissance man – the hallmark of a truly educated person – a rare phenomenon in this age of specialization.

This legacy of His Majesty's character should serve as a role model for every student in Thailand, for all people actually, citizen and non-citizen alike, so that all of us may rediscover the purpose and value of what constitutes an education, particularly in our increasingly problematic and challenging world.







A palpable sense of sadness pervaded the campus of Mahidol University International College (MUIC), named after Prince Mahidol, the late King's illustrious father.

Within hours of the news of His Majesty's demise, flags on the Salaya campus were flown at half-mast.



With classes suspended in the afternoon of the following day, the halls of the College became silent. At 1:00 pm, executives, faculty and staff dressed in mourning clothes—began to gather at the main lobby of Building 1. The Dean of the College, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phitaya Charupoonpol, presided over the somber ceremony. An altar featuring a portrait of His Majesty adorned with white flowers and black and white cloth was the center of attention. Dean Phitaya lighted some candles before the portrait, presented a garland of flowers, and led the attendees in observing a moment of silence. Afterwards, he read the College's official statement on the demise of the much-beloved monarch

expressing gratitude to His Majesty's royal grace. By this time, the College has also instituted a year-long mourning period marked by the mandatory wearing of either black or white dress.

On November 22, 300 faculty and staff members and students, joined by Salaya residents, gathered at the lobby of Building 1 for the "Our Great Loyalty to the Late King" event observing the late monarch's birth anniversary. After the ceremony, the MUIC community and the local residents joined hands in a cleanup drive of both the MUIC campus and part of the neighborhood as part of paying their respects to the late beloved King.







Three days later, Dean Phitaya led a contingent of lecturers, staff and students in performing a cleanup activity dubbed "Baan-Wat-Rongrean" at Suwannaram Temple and School in a CSR activity organized by MUIC's Social Engagement Unit.

MUIC students also took initiative to demonstrate their affection for His Majesty through several activities. The Student Association, in cooperation with the Student Affairs Office, offered a tutorial on how to make black ribbons. Almost 200 students participated. Meanwhile, an Event Management class composed of International Hospitality Management majors undertook a project that sought to make 9,999 black ribbons from October 31 to November 2. The students then distributed the black ribbons at the MU Friday market on November 4 and during the special event on November 7.

On November 17, the Music Club gave its own tribute to the late King by staging "Ma Fung for Dad Singing Contest" wherein contestants sang either one of the King's musical compositions or appropriate songs that have "father"





and "fatherly love" as their theme. Mr. Pobtawan Kunarangsi, a Social Science major, won the contest with his rendition of the song "Magic Beams," a composition of His Majesty.

#### EDITORIAL

# KaleidoScope is environment-friendly.



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Environmental standards for a sustainable world

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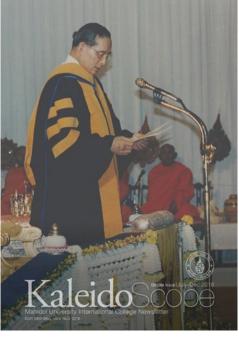
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#### This Issue's Cover

Kaleidoscope features on its double issue's cover a portrait of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej giving his royal speech during a Mahidol University graduation ceremony. (Photo source: Corporate Communications Section, Mahidol University)



he Mahidol University International College (MUIC) community deeply mourns the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, a great leader deeply loved and respected by his subjects and who has contributed tremendously to the development of the Thai nation during his 70-year reign. This Kaleidoscope double issue—which includes a brief recounting of the revered Monarch's achievements and contribution especially in the field of education, and a summary of activities recently undertaken by the MUIC community in honor of the King—is dedicated in remembrance of His Majesty.

# Ready<sub>for</sub> GRADUATE school, thanks to MUIC

s. Jihea "Sophie" Choi strongly believes that Mahidol University International College (MUIC) prepared her well for the rigorous academic work facing her as she started her Ph.D. studies this year at the National University of Singapore (NUS) under a scholarship grant.

Ms. Choi says she learned many valuable lessons from her professors in both her classes and laboratory sessions when she majored in Biological Sciences with a concentration on Biology. A South Korean who grew up in Thailand, she has always wanted to study biology in college. "I have always been into invertebrates, especially insects and arachnids, and studying their behavior always sounded so cool for me," she told Kaleidoscope in an interview. Her professors at MUIC definitely sparked her interest in biology. This led her to explore other venues of learning, including joining the Science Society Club where she eventually became its President.

The various jobs she did at MUIC—working at the Office of Academic Studies (OAS) and serving as



an English Course (EC) student tutor and research assistant—also prepared her for graduate school. "These jobs taught me lessons about working well with others and being professional at what I do," she says.

And what's her takeaway from all her experience in MUIC? "Good grades do matter, but to truly stand out, you need more than good grades. You need to build yourself as a person with skills."

After graduating in 2014, she went on to teach biology and health subjects at Mahidol University International Demonstration School (MUIDS). This year, Sophie received a grant from the Singapore International Graduate Award (SINGA) from Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), making it possible for her to pursue a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences. According to A\*STAR's website, SINGA is a scholarship grant given only to international students who have a strong passion for science or engineering, who have excellent academic records, highly skilled at research work, and fluent in English.



brand among job recruiters and what tips he can share to current students.

Mr. Mark Laothavornwong is a Tourism Industry Management alumnus (2005) who is also the founder

and CEO of AmMarkable Consulting. Recently he has started his second venture, an HR/Recruitment Tech startup called CareerBolt. It is a free, easy-to-use, exclusive job search and career management portal for mid-to-senior level professionals. Earlier this year, Mark and CareerBolt won an angel fund worth 1 million Baht in the Plan to Biz competition of the Thai Ministry of Industry sponsored by Delta Electonics (Thailand). He also writes a column entitled "Career Clinic" for Cosmopolitan Magazine and is also the author of the book The 8 Job Interview Weapons.

## : HOW DID MUIC JUMP-START YOUR CAREER?

I spent about one year in the Pre-College program, and that was when I realized I wasn't as bad an English speaker as I had thought. Loving an international environment plays a big part in my chosen field of career. And I can say that MUIC is well-known in the job market; its students can speak fluent English with a better accent. When I was a recruiter, I thought this was true, and MUIC students have an edge when it comes to speaking English.

Having strong communication and language skills are critical for career advancement, and in my professional opinion, what MUIC does that is quite outstanding, compared to other universities in Thailand, has to do with helping students develop their language skills.

# Q : YOUR ADVICE TO CURRENT MUIC STUDENTS?

MUIC students already have a good foundation to pursue their chosen career. The name of MUIC in the Thai job market will help you get your first job without too much difficulty. My advice:

- Know what you really want in your life.
   Friends can invite you to work with them at
  the same company. Parents can ask you to
  work for their family business; it's great to
  obey them, but ask yourself if that is what
  you really want for the rest of your life. It
  is your life, not anyone else's. Don't waste
  your time.
- Ask yourself what you are going to do in the next two years, five years, and 10 years. Will the job you choose support you to get the job in the 5th year and 10th year? If yes, then go for it!
- The best job doesn't always have to be at the big brand companies, and it doesn't have to pay you the most, but it is the one where you have work-life balance. It's the one that makes you enjoy waking up in the morning every day to go to work.



# OUR BEST

# Brightest

International College (MUIC) looks at its list of more than 3,000 alumni, seeking achievers and role models, celebrating their success and introducing them to the College's current crop of students as elders worth emulating. Kaleidoscope presents this year's five outstanding alumni.



"ISDP is MU's most prestigious educational program. I believe it could provide me with a great education considering its outstanding faculty," said Outstanding Alumni Assoc. Prof. Pattanaporn Chatjuthamard, explaining why she enrolled in MU's International Students Degree Program (ISDP) (forerunner of MUIC).

At ISDP, she was active in dance groups and drama classes, being a cheerleader for ISDO's football team, and joining cultural events like the "Loy Krathong" festival. More importantly, she had mentors "who inspired me to love studying finance and choose to continue my higher education in this field."

Thus, after graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in Finance in 1995, she went abroad to pursue her graduate degrees.

Returning to Thailand, she published articles in prestigious international journals. Dr. Pattanaporn then joined Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration of Chulalongkorn University where she now has the rank of associate professor.

She gives credit to ISDP where she acquired "a strong academic background in developing her problem-solving and creative thinking skills."



Enrolling in 1989, Mr. Isra Sunthornvut has fond memories of ISDP as a small, tight community. They organized a school band and joined university cultural events like "Loy Krathong." He even served as team captain of the basketball and golf teams. Long before there was a Student Association, Mr. Isra and his classmates participated in discussions with the ISDP administrators to seek support for students' projects.

He has come a long way since those days. Aside from producing and hosting an educational TV program, Mr. Isra has a notable career in politics, being a Democrat Party stalwart and former party-list lawmaker. He is currently the Secretary-General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

He said his years in ISDP greatly influenced his career. Having been born and raised in the US, it was only when he entered Mahidol University's ISDP program was he able to say that he learned more about the real Thailand.

"At ISDP, my borders expanded. It was a place where everyone with different backgrounds would develop a sense of unity. ISDP helped instill in me what it means to be a Thai."



Mr. Unnawut Leepaisalsuwanna is a keen follower of Prince Mahidol's exhortation to serve society. Thus, with a stable career in the IT industry, he uses both his computer and management skills to run TEDxBangkok, the local partner of the non-profit organization that sponsors online educational speeches.

His involvement with TEDxBangkok started when he decided to do translatations of the videos. "Since then I have produced over 100+ TED Talk subtitles, numerous reviews and approvals as a TED Language Coordinator, and eventually as License Holder of TEDxBangkok."

He earned a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. He was also a volunteer camp attendee for the yearly 10-day camps throughout his undergraduate years. "I was able to get to know people in our society who lived in more desperate conditions than us. This broadened my mind and made me see the world from a wider perspective," he added.

His advice for current MUIC students: "The world needs not only visionaries but also those who work hard on things that others would not do just because it is uninteresting or uncool to talk about."



After a series of field trips in his science classes, Mr. Sirachai Arunrugstichai decided to switch his major from Biomedical Science to Environmental Science, which he said is a turning point in his life.

This year, he was selected as the Marine Conservation Photography Grant winner of Save Our Seas Foundation, a non-profit organization which raises awareness about the beauty of marine ecosystems and their fundamental importance to human survival.

"I'm confident that my body of work (in this grant) could contribute to conservation efforts in the Bahamas," he told Kaleidoscope in an interview.

Since 2012, Mr. Sirachai has been garnering a harvest of national and international awards. This year alone, he won the IUCN GMPP Oceans Photographer of the Year Award, successfully competing against 47 candidates worldwide.

He also uses his photography to express his passion for marine conservation. "(My underwater photography) might not benefit humanity directly, but my goal is (to turn the spotlight on) ecosystems and conservation of nature, which in turn also affects humanity."



Just like any university student, Mr. Vitchapong Hutasuwan dreamed big dreams. He told Kaleidoscope in an interview how, during his third year in university, he would always find himself thinking about his future career after he earns his Marketing degree.

At the time, he came up with a business plan about customizable jeans. His first customers were his classmates and friends. "I'd show them my catalog, let them choose the design and then bring the specifications to a tailor to sew the jeans."

When he graduated in 2013, he established Selvedgework, a premium brand of custom handcrafted denim. In just three years' time, he has built a solid following among a diverse group of Thai clientele and has opened three branches in Siam Square, Siam Discovery and the posh Emquartier. Selvedgework has since received rave reviews.

Success has never been sweeter and Mr. Vitchapong fondly looks back to those years in MUIC where his dreams started. "It's in MUIC where I developed friendships and relationships and built a network. I still keep in touch with my college friends and former ajarns," he said.



rew & Bev Bistro is a landmark on the Mahidol University International College (MUIC) campus. It's the cafe students, faculty and staff go to for their caffeine fix in the morning, or the place to grab a bite for lunch, or the perfect spot to hang out before calling it a day.

Brew & Bev is also the in-house internship center of the Business Administration (BA) Division. It provides the interns with real work setting, giving them the opportunity to translate the theories they have learned in the classrooms into actual business practice.

Every term, a batch of interns is recruited from a pool of applicants. They then undergo 230 hours of training in order to learn the ins and outs of the food and beverage business. They put in two hours per shift as they pick up lessons from hands-on experience.

This well-rounded training develops the interns' skills in areas that include leadership, teamwork, entrepreneurship, food beverage preparation, accounting, supply chain, issue and crisis management, and use of technology in business operations.



They are assigned primary duties like marketing, finance, inventory and others which are based on the individual intern's strengths and interest. They are also given secondary tasks.

For instance, this batch's general manager, Mr. Poramat "Ton" Ruangkana, also has marketing duties. He has a flair for photography and Photoshop, so his tasks include taking photos of Brew & Bev's menu offerings and doing the layout design of the posters and other promotional collaterals. Performing tasks in the kitchen was also a welcome and pleasant experience for someone like him who hasn't even tried cooking before. "I learned how to cook here at Brew & Bev. But what I love most is making sandwiches.I'm getting better at it now."

His colleague in marketing, Mr. Wutthiphat "Bell" Pattanalertrattanachai, said his team maximizes the use of social media, particularly Facebook, in reaching their target audience. He added that they use whatever is currently in trend to promote Brew & Bev among the students.

Ms. Patcharaporn "Fern" Praewpraikul's primary duty is being a cashier, but she also does some cooking in the kitchen, which, she claims, brings her happiness.

Ms. Chanokphan "Poon" Sivapiriyawong shares her thoughts on their duties. "At the front bar. I have to work as a quality checker together with the cashier, take orders from customers, and send the orders to either the barista or the kitchen. When I'm assigned to the kitchen, I have to be able to cook and prepare whatever is on the Brew & Brev menu like spaghetti, sandwiches, salad, omu rice, and others."



During their internship, they also gain insights and learn values that will be vital for their future careers. In her duties as a cashier, Fern says she gets a lot of opportunities to interact with customers. "Some customers would suggest new ideas to us."

Sometimes they don't agree with these suggestions but Bell, who is assigned to marketing, takes it all in stride. "People have different opinions. We have to negotiate with them and try our best to persuade them to agree with us."

Working together for several months in a demanding work environment creates a bond among the interns. It's not easy putting together 20 or more students in one small workplace and develop a team. But the Brew & Bev interns are confident that friction is part of the dynamics in an organization, providing a chance for everyone to mature and bond with each other.

Though the human resources (HR) officer handles all personnel matters, Ton, as the general manager, ensures that the labor is evenly distributed. He looks at the brighter side of running an organization. "What I like about Brew & Bev is that we meet and work with the best people. We learn that the best thing to do is to cooperate with others," he explains.

According to Mr. Panupong "Golf" Wattaleela, a cashier, teamwork plays a crucial role in the success of their internship. "Whenever we face an unexpected situation or problem, we have to solve it together," he says.

On top of it all, each intern has to learn and demonstrate a certain degree of professionalism in order to run smoothly an establishment like Brew & Bev. And from this batch's HR officer, Mr. Parinya Khamiyam: "We treat internship like a real job. We perform our jobs using teamwork. We all agree to have one goal as a team."



What makes this place special is that we work together to create something good. All interns in this batch are good at our respective specializations. When we work together, we come up with the best product and service,"

> - Mr. Poramat "Ton" Ruangkana, **General Manager**





### Kaleidoscope asks two Thai exchange students:

What precious lessons have they learned?
What valuable experiences have they undergone?

# B CANDEPENDENT

s. Nipawan Pitakchinnapong, a Social Science major, learned how to be independent when she went to Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia in July 2015 and stayed there for one year.

Nipawan felt pangs of loneliness during her first weeks of stay. Eventually she adjusted and began to focus on her studies. She enrolled in Australian, Latin American and Chinese history classes, along with courses in Religion and Criminology, where she found her professors and classmates to be friendly and supportive.

Nipawan said working at a cafe near the university was one of her most memorable experience as an exchange student. "It was my first time to work. It was

one of the best things I have ever done. I learned so much from that job."

After a year abroad, what are the advantages of being an exchange student? "The best skill I have acquired throughout the year was how to survive on my own. Everyone was very independent in their work and studies. They can't be together and review for exams as everyone was busy working. I became more independent."



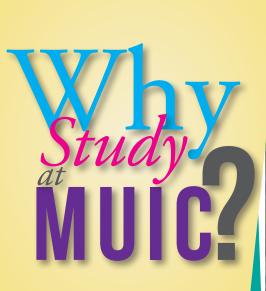


tsaree Khumtaveeporn, a 21-year-old International Hospitality Management major, visited 17 cities in the UK during her 10-month studies at the University College Birmingham. She also went to nine countries in Europe.

Itsaree discovered that thousands of students at the University College Birmingham are from abroad, "giving me a chance to meet a lot of people from around the world."

There were some hiccups for sure, like getting used to the weather and understanding the British accent, but Itsaree was able to adjust well, thanks in part to some of her classmates and professors. "They knew that English is not my native language and some European cultural practices were very new to me. They taught me British slang and how to pronounce words using their accent as well as advised me about their cultural do's and don't's," she said.

Her advice to students who want to join the exchange program? "Try to find more information about the city, university, and country that you plan to go to as much as possible. Learn more about their culture. Don't be afraid to make friends or talk with people."





#### Talei Christina Campbell BA Political Science & History Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

Talei said she fell in love with Thailand after a two-week holiday in Chumphon. Her studies at MUIC inspired her to continue her education in Thailand by applying for the master's program at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies of Mahidol University.

"I enjoy being an exchange student here in MUIC. My professors here support me in my studies. They have even encouraged me to pursue my master's and be a lecturer like them someday. I have met some amazing friends. We have this lasting relationship that was formed here in MUIC."

Colemn Jin C. Labrador and Alyssa Jane Boller BA International Business Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

Colemn and Alyssa are both foodies bitten by the travel bug. The prospect of exploring mainland Southeast Asia with newfound friends influenced their decision to come to Thailand for their exchange study. True enough, they found good food, awesome friends, and a warm welcome at MUIC.



Colemn: I will always look back to the conversations I shared with my new friends over meals as my most cherished moments in MUIC. The bond I made with them while in MUIC will last a lifetime. Studying here is the most transforming experience I had in my life.

Alyssa: I wanted to study in an institution that can equip me with excellent education while still providing me with the chance to travel and enrich my experience as an exchange student. My memorable experiences come from joining the various student activities offered by MUIC.





had my summer course at the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC). It is also the namesake of the city, which is the capital of northwest Spain's Galicia region. It is known as the final stop of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. The Spanish class I took was enjoyable and the students were all passionate about learning Spanish. I was amazed at how diverse and fun the atmosphere was. It was indeed a wonderful journey, one of the best months of my life.





t's a back-to-back achievement for Mahidol University International College's (MUIC) advocacy for saving energy. First off, MUIC won in this year's Thailand Energy Awards in the Energy Conservation in Building Control category on December 6, 2016. The award—sponsored by the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Energy Efficiency (DEDE) of the Ministry of Energy—was in recognition of the College's efforts promote energy efficiency in the workplace.

The following day, MUIC won the gold medal in the Green Office Award 2016. It was given by the Department of Environment Quality Promotion (DEQP) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in line with His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's advocacy in the field of natural resources and environmental preservation. The award also seeks to encourage office workers to contribute to environmental protection. In both ceremonies, Assoc. Prof. Phitaya Charupoonphol, MUIC Dean, accepted the awards in behalf of the College.

# **DOUBLE WHAMMY**

### for Debate Club

t was a back-to-back victory for the Debate Club—winning this year's prestigious EU-Thailand National Inter-Varsity Debate Championship and Youth Debate Training & AICHR Human Rights Debate 2016 in a row. This is the eighth time that Mahidol University International College (MUIC) has won the championship of the European Union Commission of Thailand-sponsored debate tournament.



Team 1 led by Ms. Thitaree Lapanaphan (who received the Best Speaker Award), including Mr. Chun-Heng Sae-Seah (2nd Best Speaker awardee) and Ms. Saranya Sachdev (5th Best Speaker awardee) won the championship round on August 5 to 9, 2016 at Thammasat University's Tha Prachan campus.

Meanwhile, Ms. Thitaree Lapanaphan, and Mr. Chun-Heng Sae-Seah again won in another debating competition, the Youth Debate Training and AICHR Human Rights Debate 2016 held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in Bangkok on August 17, 2016.



# FRESHMAN in Regional Student Summit

s. Suthida Chang, an Intercultural Studies student, participated in the 2nd Asian Undergraduate Summit ("Leadership in a Complex World: Smart Cities, Smart Citizens") organized by the National University of Singapore's (NUS) University Scholars Club with five overseas partner universities in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia during June 13-17 and July 11-16, 2016.

The summit, held in both Mahidol University and NUS Cinnamon College, was participated in by over 90 students. "My main takeaway is the personal experience with how smart technology is already being incorporated into our daily lives," Ms. Chang said.



# MUIC Retains

# THAILAND TRUST MARK 77

a a testament to Mahidol University International College's (MUIC) world-class quality, the Thai Ministry of Commerce's Department of International Trade Promotion has recently renewed MUIC's membership in the Thailand Trust Mark for another three years.

The Thailand Trust Mark signifies the high quality of Thai goods and services that conform to international standards. According to the Ministry, the logo provides a "distinctive value to Thai products and services that are made in Thailand."

Aside from food, lifestyle, fashion and other categories, the Thailand Trust Mark includes the services category which covers health, medical and international education services. MUIC is proud to be only one of two learning institutions to bear the Thailand Trust Mark.



t was a great honor for both Mahidol University International College's (MUIC) Media Communication program and the British Council of Thailand to organize a workshop by noted novelist, journalist and photographer Will Storr in Bangkok on July 23 to 24, 2016.

Entitled "Secrets of a Master Storyteller," the groundbreaking two-day workshop served as the award-winning writer's master class on the craft of writing. Mr. Storr presented an innovative way of using the scientific method in aiding the storywriter. He demonstrated to his audience how the scientific method can lead them to more productive creativity.

The British Ambassador to Thailand, His Excellency Brian Davidson, hosted for the award-winning writer a cocktail party at his residence, bringing together guests from the British Council (Thailand), lecturers from MUIC'S Media Com Program led by its Program Director, Asst. Prof. Dr. Wankwan Polachan, and local journalists. (Written by Ms. Nunnapan Puathanawat, Assistant Lecturer, Media and Communication Program)

# 

ahidol University International College (MUIC) has once again organized and hosted an international academic gathering, this time focusing on service management. With the theme, "Service Imperatives in the New Economy: Approaches to Service Management and Change," the 7th International Research Symposium in Service Management (IRSSM 7) attracted 80 participants from 29 countries when it was held on August 3–5, 2016 at MUIC's Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center.



Dr. Keith M. Anderton, to help shed light on the victory of Republican candidate Donald Trump at the polls. Together with Dr. Nigel Gould-Davies, a lecturer of the Social Science Division, Dr. Anderson shared his insights during a special talk held on November 17, 2016 on the possible reasons for President-elect Trump's victory over Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton. In related news, Dr. Gould-Davies' article, "King Bhumibol of Thailand's Real Legacy: Remarkable Political Legitimacy," was published in the Ocotber 22, 2016 issue of The Washington Post. He was also interviewed on the Thai news channel, TNN 24 in November.







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