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# KaleidoScope

October 2013  
Mahidol University International College Newsletter



ON  
OUR  
WAY  
TO  
THE  
OPEN  
HOUSE

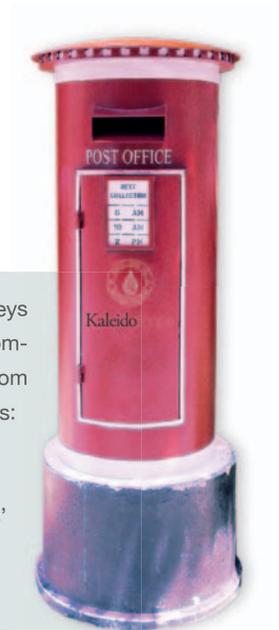


Life @ MUIC  
Delight can be plainly seen in the faces of high school students who attended the opening ceremony of MUIC Live Open House and the alumni forum.



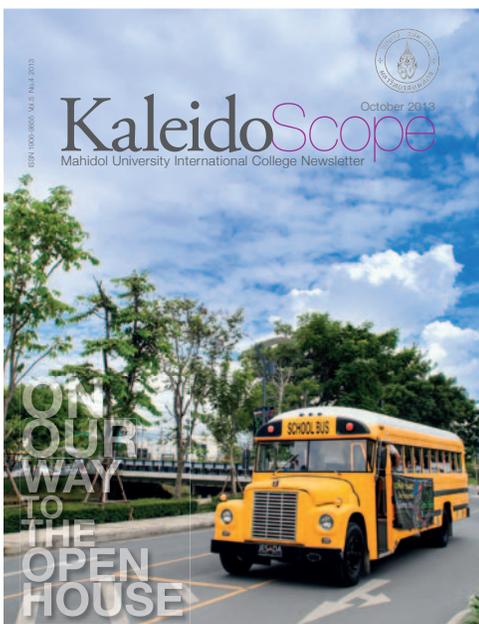
## EDITOR'S Note

**K**aleidoScope's summer issue is supposed to be a slim one as only a few events usually happen during the break. Apparently, the Mahidol community isn't taking it easy. The university received the top spot in Thailand in the latest Asian University Rankings. The Salaya Pavilion Hotel brought home silver and bronze medals from a recent Food and Hotelier Expo. One of our students was tapped to join the prestigious Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative. At the same time, MUIC students attended to their social obligations with several fund-raising and environmental-themed activities. Foreign language students, meanwhile, took study trips abroad to sharpen their linguistic (and cultural) skills.



Got something to say? Tap those keyboard keys and share your thoughts with us. We welcome comments, questions, requests, and suggestions from our readers. Just send your emails to this address: [icpr@mahidol.ac.th](mailto:icpr@mahidol.ac.th)

**KaleidoScope** reserves the right to edit readers' mail for legal, ethical, brevity and clarity purposes.



### Cover Photo

A vintage US school bus, with its distinctive yellow color, was one of the attractions at this year's open house. The bus toured the visiting students around the Salaya campus.



## MU RANKED NO. 1 IN THAILAND

Mahidol University has been recently ranked as the top university in Thailand and 42<sup>nd</sup> in Asia in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asian University Rankings 2013. “These results demonstrate that Mahidol University is a leading Thai university that offers international standard teaching and learning, conducts world class research and exhibits global competitiveness,” according to Prof. Rajata Rajatanavin, President of Mahidol University.

In terms of fields of study, the QS Asian University Rankings also showed that MU placed 12<sup>th</sup> in Asia (Medicine), 7<sup>th</sup> (Pharmacy) and 30<sup>th</sup> (Biological Science). The survey is based on the following criteria: Research Quality (60%), Teaching Quality (20%), Employer Reputation (10%), and Internationalization (10%). Two other Thai universities made it to the QS list: Chulalongkorn University (48<sup>th</sup>) and Chiang Mai University (98<sup>th</sup>).



## HM THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Members of the MUIC community paid homage to Her Majesty the Queen on her 81st birthday. With executives, faculty and staff members all dressed in various shades of blue (HM the Queen's birthday color), Prof. Maleeya Krutrachue, MUIC Dean, presided over the ceremony on August 8, 2013, in the lobby of Building 1, paying her respects before the royal shrine, reading the College's official greetings to the Queen and signing the Homage Book. The group then sang “Hymn to the Great King” and the Royal Anthem, after which executives led the others in viewing an exhibition which ran until August 17.

## CONTRACT FOR KITIMAS BUILDING SIGNED

MUIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with construction firm Christiani & Nielsen Thai Public Co. Ltd. on August 26, 2013, for the construction of the Kitimas Building. Having taken effect on September 1 of this year, the MOU stipulates that the THB 1.3-billion building should be finished in 900 days. The six-storey Kitimas Building, to be constructed on a site adjacent to Gate 2 on the Salaya campus, is expected to accommodate 2,000 MUIC students. It will have a total area of 60, 187 sq. m., of which 19, 177 sq. m. will comprise a three-level underground parking area. The new building will have 70 classrooms, including laboratories, a large multi-purpose and dining area, a gallery and exhibition area, 77 faculty offices, and 13 meeting rooms. Done in the Thai Modern style, Kitimas was designed by Mr. Chatree Ladalalitsakun of Tonsilp Studio Co., Ltd.





# GERMAN COURSE AT MUNICH

In the quest for improving their German language skills and experience German culture first-hand, nine students traveled this summer to the southern German metropolis of Munich. Four of the nine students had scholarships provided by MUIC while the other five financed their trip by themselves.

They took part in an intensive German course at the University for Applied Languages (SDI) where they studied three hours a day for four weeks while spending their leisure time exploring Munich and its beautiful surroundings. As part of the special activities, the students visited places of historical and cultural significance and also got a taste of the famous Bavarian beer. Many students also made the short trip to the Alps and surrounding German-speaking countries such as Austria and Switzerland.



# SUMMER STUDY IN CHINA

A total of 73 students enrolled in Chinese and two of their teachers made a study trip to Beijing, the People's Republic of China, during this year's summer vacation. Ajarns Zhang Bo and Prateep Wongverayut accompanied their wards who participated in summer classes at the Capital Normal University in Beijing. They were enrolled in several of MUIC's Chinese courses, namely, ICML 133 Elementary Chinese, ICLC 330 Written Skills and ICLC 320 Oral Skills.

In between classes, the two teachers and their students also visited several land-

marks like the Great Wall of China and the Olympic National Park in Beijing. They also travelled to Hong Kong and Macau.

One of the students, Mr. Apakorn Changaival wrote that not only did he and his classmates improve their knowledge and skills in Mandarin Chinese but also learned a lot about Chinese culture. "I think it was an excellent opportunity to learn and respond in efficient ways, discover your true abilities, and conquer and solve challenges and problems. These skills are very useful for us in our studies and future careers," he said.

# VISITING ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE

A group of nine French Minor students enrolled in the Pre-Intermediate French III course visited Alliance Française de Bangkok and its media library recently. Mr. Fabien Reymondon, Media Library Director, gave tips on searching for documents and books.

The students also attended a short presentation of Campus France which is a project of the National Agency for the Promotion of French Higher Education. They also enjoyed participating in a French quiz in order to win a T-shirt printed with "Oui, je parle français" and watching excerpts of

a short French movie, "Paris je t'aime" before having lunch at Aubergine, a French restaurant in Silom. It was a day full of French language and culture which the students greatly appreciated because they could fully practice and improve their skills in communicating in French.



# PORTUGAL CONFERENCE

Three faculty members from the Social Science Division and another from the Tourism and Hospitality Management (THM) Division presented their research papers at the 7th EuroSEAS Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal on July 3-5, 2013.

Asst. Prof. Marja-Leena Heikkila-Horn presented two papers, entitled, "Justification of Political Intervention and the Concept of Dharma in Santi Asoke" and "The Symbolism of Cross and the Diversity of Chin Christian Identities in Myanmar." Ajarn Ruchi Agarwal's paper, on the other hand, was entitled "Commodification of Hinduism in Contemporary Thailand: Evidence from a Hindu Shrine in Bangkok." Ajarn Christian Oesterheld read his paper on "Intermarriage and the Dynamics of Belonging and Identity in East Kalimantan." Dr. Roberto B. Gozzoli of THM presented a research paper, "Visions of the Past from the Past: The Ayutthaya Master Plan 25 Years Later."

The conference, organized by the School of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lisbon, featured more than 130 research papers presented by scholars from numerous countries.

## KYUSHU CLASSES

From 8th of August to 7th of September 2013, we, a group of six Japanese minor students, attended the summer study program at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan, to complete our minor courses: intermediate level in oral and written skills.

Not only did we get to learn in class with Japanese native speakers, we also had the chance to have field trips to several places. For example, we visited the Fukuoka Disaster Prevention Center, where we "experienced" a typhoon and an earthquake in simulation rooms. At this place, we also learned how to use a fire extinguisher to control a fire properly. Since Fukuoka is famous for its Hakata Doll, a unique Japanese craft where Japanese artists delicately express their feelings through the doll's face, we were able to get first-hand experience by painting our own dolls. Surprisingly, each doll looks exactly like its painter, meaning that our feelings were somehow expressed through our arts, which was amazing and funny at the same time.



In between studying and official field trips, we also went to places in and around Fukuoka City, for example, we watched Hanabi (firework festival) at a place called Oho, 30 minutes from Tenjin (where we stayed). We also went to the Dazaifu Shrine, the famous place of wishing for better performance in school; and Canal City, the beautiful shopping mall in Nakasu that is well-known for its amazing fountain show and popular ramen stadium. *The author, Ms. Nuttha Janesiripanich is a Food Science major.*

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## SILVER AND BRONZE FOR SALAYA PAVILION HOTEL

The Salaya Pavilion Hotel (SPH) won silver and bronze medals at the Food and Hotelier Expo (7<sup>th</sup> Edition) at Pattaya on August 8-10, 2013.

Mr. Surakarn Totunmuenwai, Demi Chef de Partie of SPH's Kitchen Team, won the silver medal in the Food Carving (Individual) category while his team, composed of himself, Mr. Akarapong Wongphothon, Chef de Partie; and Mr. Pramote Pankeaow, Commis Cook, won the bronze medal in the Food Carving (Team) category. The expo, held at the Royal Cliff Hotel, saw 40 participating teams and 20 individual contestants. It was the first time that SPH joined the competition; the team had to prepare for several months.



## ANIMATORS BAG TOP PRIZE

A team composed of FAA alumni and current students won 1st prize in the animation category of Digimedia Contest 2013. Their entry, entitled, "Dek Oei Dek Dee ('The Good Child'), Rocking Dolls Version," was awarded the 100,000 Baht prize. The winners were announced on July 4, 2013. Poe Sriwatanathamma, Ormthong Sermisirimanont, Chaiyalap Chanyam, Supakrit Thirawongpaisal, Asama Sumakul, Narueporn Winiyakul and Paradol Kitcharoen comprised the team.

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FEST

Ten films by senior Fine and Applied Arts (FAA) Division students were selected for the showcase category in the Bangkok International Student Film Festival 2013. Another film, "Black Bete" by Robin Gorman, was included in the main competition category, facing entries from 14 other countries.

The film festival was held on July 23-28, 2013, at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center. The 10 films were: "Orbital Love" by Supaset Leewairoj, "Orb" by Yossha-chai Pornsmith, "VDO Log" by Chumpoon Chanrathai, "Blink" by Rujaya Wannaratt, "Granted" by Supakit Boonanegpat, "Blue Print" by Korchakorn Viravaidhaya, "Love Sick" by Ornvera Assawaterakiat, "Sweet Passion" by Pakaporn Sudasna, "Life" by Apicha Tantivasin, and "Journey" by Hyeon Suk Go.

## OUTSTANDING PC STUDENTS

The Preparation Center (PC) for English and Mathematics handed out awards to eight exceptional students during the PC Orientation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter held on June 28, 2013 in the college auditorium.

For posting the highest recorded average grade in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, four students received the "Outstanding Academic Achievement" award. They are Ms. Papassorn Fongsmut (PC 1), Mr. Nat Nunpanichpong (PC 2), Ms. Soracha Nirutnapaphan (PC 3), and Mr. Krittanun Tatraporn (PC 4).

Meanwhile, four other students were given Outstanding Contribution awards for acting as "a role model for other students because of their maturity, cooperation, and efforts to achieve academic and personal goals." They are Ms. Nidtanid Suttisomboon (PC 1), Ms. Maprang Monseu (PC 2), Ms. Itsaree Khumtaveeporn (PC 3), and Ms. Tasneem Ngophaiwan (PC 4).



## A GATHERING OF THE REGION'S FUTURE LEADERS

Electric fans, batteries, high-speed trains, air-cons, LCDs, washing machines, projectors, refrigerators, elevators and escalators are all synonymous with Japanese manufacturer Hitachi. However, this company also cares for today's young leaders. The Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) has been gathering university students in the region for the past 12 years who have the potential to become future Asian leaders. This year, 28 such students from seven different countries were brought together on July 1-5, 2013, at the Plaza Athénée Hotel in Bangkok.

This year's theme was "The Road Ahead: ASEAN's Role in Asia and the Global Economy." For five days, I and 27 other student participants listened with rapt attention to the messages of each of the event's guest speakers, who included Deputy Thai PM and Finance Minister Kittiratt Na-Ranong, Ambassador Shigekazu Sato of Japan, Bangkok Governor MR Sukhumbhand Paribatra, and former ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan. There were also many other session speakers who are experts in their respective fields. They spoke on topics such as "The Role of ASEAN: Leadership in the Global Economy" and "Optimization of Regional Energy Resources through Enhanced Connectivity." The speakers also provided detailed insight into the ASEAN Economic Community—its goals, challenges, opportunities and the direction of ASEAN beyond 2015.

There was also a workshop where we were divided into four groups of seven members each. We constantly criticized and challenged everything that was said, written or discussed. Our pre-forum papers served as valuable resources in guiding us in our discussions on how to help in achieving the goals of AEC 2015. It was incredible to see that every group member had extraordinary points to share and the amazing part was how we all finally managed to

agree on something so tangible, inclusive and relevant.

The five-day event also included field trips to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) and the Hitachi Metals factory in Thailand.

We also had a chance to have dinner with Mr. Yukio Toyoshima, Managing Director of Hitachi Asia Ltd., who shared with us memories of his younger days when he also participated in a similar youth program and how that had made a huge difference in his life. His talk made us appreciate HYLI's impact even more because, who knows, many of us can go on and be a leader someday, too.

The last night was cultural night, with each participant performing his or her country's national dance. Though it was also a night for farewells, we know that our paths were bound to cross in the near future, with Hitachi successfully helping us on our way to reach our dreams of becoming future leaders of the region someday. *The author, Mr. Aekarak Sethi, is a senior Environmental Science major.*



## GUITAR CONTEST FINALIST

Animation Production student Mr. Chanodom Nakalagshana was selected as a finalist among 200 contestants in the Overdrive Guitar Contest 8. The competition was held last August 6 at Central World where Mr. Chanodom played one of his own compositions.

# USR

## IC FESTIVAL FUND-RAISING

The Office of Student Affairs and the Student Association (SY 2012-13) turned over 85,900 Baht to the CFF Foundation on August 13, 2013. The said amount had been raised during the annual charity event held during the IC Festival. The fund-raising activity received strong support from MUIC students, faculty and staff. The CCF Foundation, under the patronage of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, aims to help children gain better health, education and life skills.



## FOOTBALL FOR CHARITY

Brew and Bev Café and the Student Association organized a football competition to foster camaraderie among MUIC students and raise funds for charity. Dubbed the "BB-SMO Cup," 135 players grouped into 16 teams held a series of matches during Trimester 3 at The Corner F.C.Co. Ltd. on Sala Thammasop Road. Team Virgin won 1<sup>st</sup> Place, with Teams Smurf and Bad Romance coming in at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, respectively. The organizers were able to raise THB 55,000 for the benefit of the Home for Handicapped Animals Foundation.

## DONATION FROM THM

Dr. Pisut Yuwanond, Chairman of the Tourism and Hospitality Management (THM) Division, together with THM lecturers and students from the THM Club, donated cash amounting to 20,000 Baht to the Saengsawang Institute Foundation which helps young children with physical and mental disabilities. Representatives of the Foundation received the donation during a turnover ceremony at MUIC on August 15, 2013. The amount was collected from the THM Club Lucky Draw Activity during the MUIC Live! Open House 2013 on August 2-3, 2013.



## SAVING MARINE ECOLOGY

Members of the Volunteer and Diving Clubs went to the Marine Science and Conservation Camp at Samaesan-Sattahip, ChonBuri, on July 23-25, 2013. Fifty-seven students participated—20 members of the Diving Club and 35 students from the Volunteer Club, accompanied by two MUIC Alumni. The students conducted a beach cleanup and learned how to protect coral reefs and marine life. The Diving Club planted Stag horn corals while the Volunteer Club built a protective barrier for the mountainside. The students also released 28 sharks back to the sea.



## OPEN HOUSE

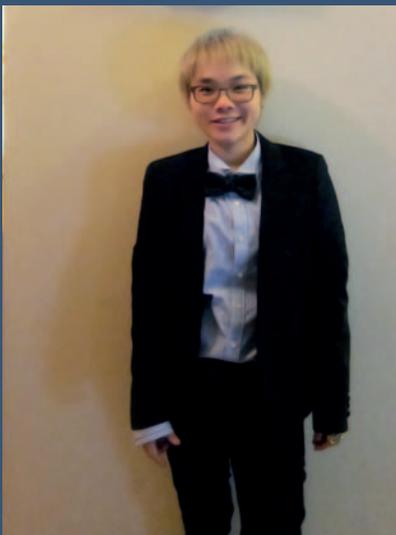
The Graduate Center held an Open House on July 13, 2013, at Sathorn City Tower on Sathorn Road, Bangkok. The event attracted 67 attendees who were interested in the two graduate degree programs offered: Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Business Modeling and Development and the Master of Management (MM) in International Hospitality Management. Several MUIC executives welcomed the guests and also discussed the academic student services offered by the College.



## OUR GRADUATE SAYS...

Miss Jirapat ("Bigga") Charoenpojvajana  
29 years old

Creative Director, Dance Me Up School of Dance and Performance  
BA Industrial Design, University of Technology (Sydney, Australia)  
Year Graduated from the MUIC Graduate Center: 2012



“ MBA classes provided me an opportunity to learn from other entrepreneurs’ hands-on experience through the analysis of case studies and business scenarios that are either real or hypothetical. Above all, everyone in the class learned the value of teamwork.

My MBA studies helped my career because now I can apply both the lessons I have learned from my own experience and those I have learned from my MBA classes.

The MBA program at MUIC can help your career because experienced professionals are the ones teaching the courses. The courses provide invaluable information that would take you years to acquire from your own experience. Students will learn a wide variety of information at a highly advanced level from such areas as international business, accounting, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, organizational behavior, operations management, marketing, real estate and strategy. ”

# Live

This year MUIC once again opened its doors to senior high school students, their teachers and parents to allow them to see what the College can offer in terms of academic degrees, quality of teaching, facilities and support services. Held almost every other year for the past decade, the MUIC Open House has been instrumental in convincing students that they have a better chance of reaching their career goals by studying at MUIC, the first international college in a public university in Thailand.

This year, the Open House, with the theme, “MUIC Live,” attracted more than 3,000 visitors during its two-day run. The campus took on a festive atmosphere as the organizers made sure the visitors learned about MUIC’s academic offerings and administrative services—but with that Thai touch of “sanuk,” or “fun.” Each booth had educational games and hands-on activities to go along with opportunities for visitors to talk to faculty members and staff; trinkets were given away along with informative brochures and flyers. Song and dance numbers coincided with sessions on the College’s admission procedures.

## Alumni

By their fruits you shall know them, as the Good Book says, and this quote is very apt for MUIC, which in this year’s Open House turned on the spotlight on its own fruits—its alumni. Over the past 27 years, MUIC has produced thousands of graduates, many of them finding success in their respective fields. The guest speakers in the Alumni Talk segment did not disappoint.

The emcee himself, Mr. Napassakorn Mitaim, is a popular actor in Thai movies and soap operas. He graduated with a degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management (THM). Three of the panelists comprised the young yet already successful products of the College: Ms. Jilamiga Chalermasuk from the THM Division, who is the Managing Director of the To The Nine Co. Ltd., a cosmetic firm; Mr. Thosaphol Suppametheekulwat, also from the THM Division, who is the General Manager of New Arriva Co. Ltd.,

a company that produces and exports novelty items; and Mr. Panyarak Roque, from the Social Science Division, who, though he graduated only this year, has already accomplished much as a debater who competed abroad and was one of Thailand’s representative at the United Nation’s Youth Delegate Program. Each of them reminisced about their student days, gave advice to the high school students on how to maximize their stay in college and be successful in their future careers.





Completing the panel was Mrs. Pimpaka Siangsomboon, an actress and entrepreneur whose son is currently enrolled in the FAA Division. She explained that even though she preferred another public university, she nonetheless supported her son's decision to enroll in the FAA Program, knowing that the Film, TV, and Animation Production Programs have a strong curriculum with capable teachers and offer a wealth of opportunities outside the College, including participation in national and international contests.

At the BBA Booth, four alumni sat down as a panel to share their insights with the young audience eager to hear about studying business courses and eventually starting their own enterprises. Three of the panelists are engaged in graduate studies: Ms. Chayanis Nimvachirasoonthorn and Ms. Nattha Ulit are pursuing their Master's degree in Marketing in the United Kingdom while Miss Pornphan Chanwerawong is enrolled at the Business Economics Program at Thammasat University. Mr. Takashi Iwata, on the other hand, talked about how he manages his business, an advertising agency called About Advertisement.



The THM Division invited an interesting mix of its alumni. There was Mr. Kornkrit Kitisin, Managing Director & Chief Operation Officer, ProAcomage (Thailand), which offers hospitality management services; two management trainees from the Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit, Ms. Athitaya Bhusry and Mr. Nuttapol Areechom, and two actresses and models, Ms. Kannarun Wongkhajornkai and Ms. Hataipat Smathvithayavech.

## Main Attraction

The major draw of the Open House is of course the various exhibition booths by both the academic divisions and administrative offices.

**Social Science** At the Social Science Division Booth, selected students entertained visitors by discussing topics on Southeast Asia, international relations and world history, the three areas in which the division specializes. Colorful posters full of information served as attractive visual tools. The Division also linked up with the ASEAN University Network which set up an information booth to assist students who want to learn more about the regional organization.



## Business Administration

The Business Administration Division offers five majors: Business Economics, Finance, International Business, Information Systems and Marketing. Each one had a separate booth where high school students were able to get more information about their academic programs from both lecturers and senior students. At the same time, the visitors had a chance to engage in educational games that emphasized the skills needed for each major. Several alumni were also featured in a forum (see above).



**Science** The Science Division is one of the largest divisions in the College in terms of number of majors offered. Each of the major programs had booths where they showcased their specialties. The attractions ran from demonstrations of a 3D printer to laser applications, food manufacturing, biology and chemistry laboratories, and environmental conservation, among others. Lecturers and staff were also on hand to answer queries from the students who wanted to know more about the various science, math and engineering programs of the Division.



**Humanities and Language** Aside from handling the English language, Humanities, and Philosophy classes for all freshmen and sophomores, the Humanities and Language Division also offers minor programs in six languages, namely, Spanish, Thai, French, German, Chinese, and Japanese. During the two-day Open House, Japanese lecturers held sessions in Japanese calligraphy for interested students.

**Tourism and Hospitality Management**

The THM also attracted numerous visitors, helped in no small part by its activities that included a demonstration of hotel operations, free hand spa services, and free food and drinks among others. It also had a fund-raising activity and a forum that featured its alumni (see related articles).



**Fine and Applied Arts** FAA showcased the works of its current students and alumni—TV programs, documentaries, short films, animated films, design layouts for print media and other creative outputs. These attracted visitors interested in the arts and both lecturers and staff were on hand to answer their questions.



**Student Clubs** Under the supervision of the Student Affairs Office, all student clubs erected booths at the ground floor of Building 1 to enable visiting high school students an opportunity to learn more about the clubs' activities. Each booth had club members who entertained queries from the visitors and in some instances also gave demonstrations of their clubs specialties.

**Admin Booths** Administrative offices also set up booths to help visiting high school students get information about the various services offered by MUIC. The Admissions booth briefed students and parents alike on the requirements and procedures in order to enter the College.

The Study Abroad and Exchange Program gave students details on how they can go to any of MUIC's more than 60 partner universities around the world as an exchange student. The Housing Unit booth introduced visitors to accommodations near the campus that MUIC manages. The ECO Project booth, meanwhile, showed students the measures adopted and projects launched by MUIC to protect the environment. The Salaya Pavilion Hotel, on the other hand, offered an orientation and performed several activities for the visitors that highlighted the hotel's services and also gave training sessions on skills such as fruit carving.





Preparation Center PC also had a booth that showed students how special classes in English and Math can help improve their skills and be able to pass the MUIC admission examinations. The highlight of the booth's activities was a mock interview conducted by a panel of PC teachers on the morning of August 3. Many students participated in order to get a first-hand experience of a panel interview where their English skills would be assessed. In addition, the booth had many current PC students and alumni who proudly shared their experiences with the visitors.



Tour of the Salaya Campus What better way to tour the sprawling Mahidol University Salaya campus than on a vintage American school bus similar to those seen in countless Hollywood movies? With the cooperation of the Jesada Technic Museum, which boasts scores of vintage vehicles located in Nakhon Pathom Province, MUIC offered visitors a chance to go around and see for themselves the tree-lined roads, fountains, ponds and lush greenery of the Salaya campus aboard the yellow school bus. There were three such trips for each day of the Open House and, as expected, all trips were fully booked by the excited students.

MUIC- PC Quiz 2013 One of the highlights of the Open House was the MUIC Quiz Day, which was organized by the Preparation Center for English and Mathematics. This year, 32 schools sent their respective teams to the competition. The questions were composed of general information, geography, history, science and mathematics. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final round set in, Mahidol Wittayanusorn School was neck-and-neck with Chulalongkorn University Demonstration School until the hometown team surged ahead and won by just a point. Interestingly, three teams from Suankularbwitayalai Rangsit School, Triam Udom Suksa



School and Saint Gabriel's College had to answer a tie-breaking question in order to capture 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Triam Udom Suksa School won this round to bag the THB 5,000 cash prize. First-placer Mahidol Wittayanusorn School won a THB 10,000 cash prize while Chulalongkorn University Demonstration School took home THB 7,000. All three winning teams also received trophies and scholarships.



Concert Of course, the Open House wouldn't be complete without musical numbers. This year, popular crooner Pongsak "Aof" Rattanaphong performed several of his ballads before his young, star-struck audience on the first day of the Open House.



Several acts followed his song, including, Feung Fah Band from Benjamachanusorn School Nonthaburi; Danny Strain and Canvas from Eden Record; and Ling Chud Chud from BB Record. The MUIC Music Club capped off the afternoon with several performances of its own.

Dance Contest Meanwhile, several high school teams showed their moves in the Dance Contest which was held on the second day of the Open House. St. Gabriel's College's Sumduey Crew was adjudged 1<sup>st</sup> Prize winner and took home the THB 8,000 cash prize. Wattana Wittaya Academy's Hardihood came in second place and received the THB 6,000 cash prize while the team from Star Dance Studio and Potisorn Pittayakarn School's XOXO tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize and were given a cash prize of THB 4,000.

# Taking the Plunge

Hitting the books by day and diving off tropical islands to study marine ecology on weekends. Now that's the life. And Mr. Sirachai "Shin" Arunrugstichai is living it. Having obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environment Studies (Ecology Concentration) at MUIC in 2010, Shin is currently taking up a Master's in Ecology at the Prince of Songkla University in Hat Yai. He is also Co-Program Director for the New Heaven Reef Conservation Program, Koh Tao, Surat Thani Province, an organization that offers courses in marine ecology and research and conservation, and which also conducts coral reef restoration activities for schools and corporations.

Shin wanted to take up Biomedical Science when he entered MUIC. However, after joining field trips in the classes of Dr. Wayne Phillips, Dr. Ramesh Boonratana and Ajarn Laird Allan, he switched his major to environment science.

"Dr. Phillips' field trips were what led me to rediscover my passion for nature. Working as his assistant, I was able to develop my expertise in the field and develop the will to conserve nature. During a trip to Koh Chang in Ranong, I realized how insignificant we are in nature after a long contemplation while lying on the black sand under a starry sky. It was definitely one of my life-changing experiences."

While waiting for his chance to further his studies in Australia, he worked at New Heaven Reef Conservation Program in Koh Tao and other NGOs as a SCUBA instructor. He met a professor at Prince of Songkla University who encouraged him to enroll at the university's Master's Program in Ecology.

Even as he juggles his time in the field and in the classroom, he discovered another passion: photography. What started as a way to document his underwater work has turned into a hobby. Before he knew it, he was winning photography contests left and right.

**He says:** *"Winning in photography competitions is my way of reaching out to people and telling them about the beauty of underwater marine resources and why we should conserve these natural wonders."*



## List of Grand Prize-winning Entries of Mr. Sirachai "Shin" Arunrugstichai

- Koh Tao Annual Photo Competition (2012)  
(Underwater Photo)
- Thailand Dive Expo Photo Competition (2013)  
(Compact Category)
- at Koh Tao Annual Photo Competition (2013)  
(Land Photo)
- La Mer Love the Sea Photo Competition (2013)



*Shin*

© Sirachai (Shin) Arunrugstichai

Winning Entry in La Mer Love the Sea Photo Competition (2013)



## PRESENCE IN SG EDUCATION SECTOR

MUIC is building up its presence in Singapore's education sector. On July 24-28, 2013, Prof. Maleeya Kruatrachue, MUIC Dean, led a delegation to the Thailand Week Exhibition 2013 held at Suntec Convention Centre, Singapore. There she met with Mr. Arthur Poh Heo Tat, Deputy Director of the Higher Education Division of Singapore's Ministry of Education. H.E. Marut Jitpatima, Ambassador of Thailand to Singapore, and Ms. Buniga Chamsai, Director of the Thai Trade Center in the city state. Joining the Dean at the exhibition were Aj. Nutthaboon Pornrattanacharoen, Assistant Dean for Marketing and Public Communications, Ms. Supida Wangrattanakorn, Head of the Admissions Unit and Ms. Pharuchaa Aketanapokin, a PR staff member. Aj. Nutthaboon's team manned a booth that promoted the College's academic offerings.

Earlier, on July 12, delegates from Singapore's Ministry of Education visited MUIC to learn more about the College's International Hospitality Management Program. The guests, all executives from the Ministry of Education's Division of Higher Education, were welcomed by Ajarn Nutthaboon. Aside from a briefing



about MUIC, the visitors were also given a guided tour of the Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center where they were able to observe its day-to-day operations.

## STUDENT LEADER FORUM

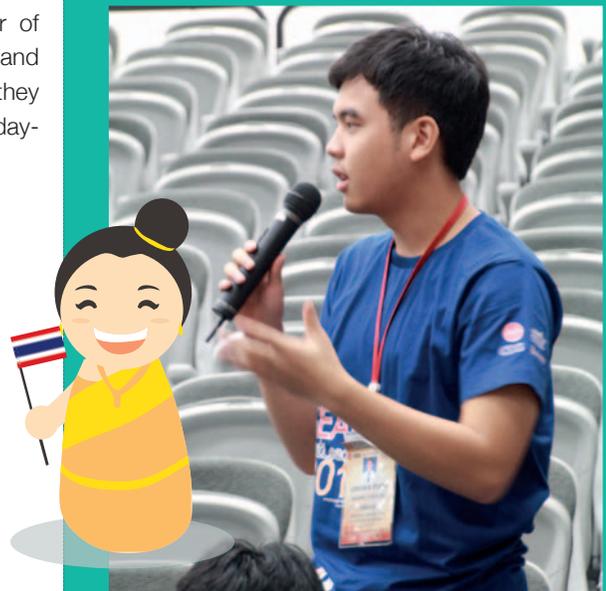
The former president of the Student Association (2012-13) participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Student Leader Forum which was held on June 21-25, 2013 at Chulalongkorn University.

Mr. Adisorn Bandithsuwan, an International Business major, and more than 80 students from the region participated in the gathering of campus leaders meant to support ASEAN's regional efforts.

MP Abhisit Vejjajiva, former Prime Minister of Thailand, was the keynote speaker on the first day of the event which had the theme, "Toward the ASEAN Dream." He said that ASEAN needs connectivity, especially among its younger generation in order to build a better community.

Prof. Vitit Muntarbhorn of the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, spoke on the need for ASEAN's youth to be more involved in activities that would benefit their less-privileged counterparts in the region.

For the rest of the five-day event, the student leaders had workshops where they thought of ways to identify challenges facing student organizations in their respective countries and collaborate on joint projects that would serve as their contribution toward ASEAN's regional aims.



## TRAINING NEW STUDENT LEADERS

The incoming batch of Student Association and Student Club officers underwent the annual Training and Evaluation Camp on July 15-17, 2013, at the Imperial Beach Resort in Hua Hin.

Organized by the previous school year's Student Association officers, the two-day camp saw the new student leaders being taught the core values of Mahidol University, the procedures for preparing and submitting proposals for activities, team building and leadership skills. Asst. Prof. Chotechuang Panasoponkul, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, and Ajarn Michael Naglis, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, served as guest speakers and resource persons. On the last day, the outgoing officers turned over their duties to the new leaders in an official ceremony.



STUDENT  
LEADERS



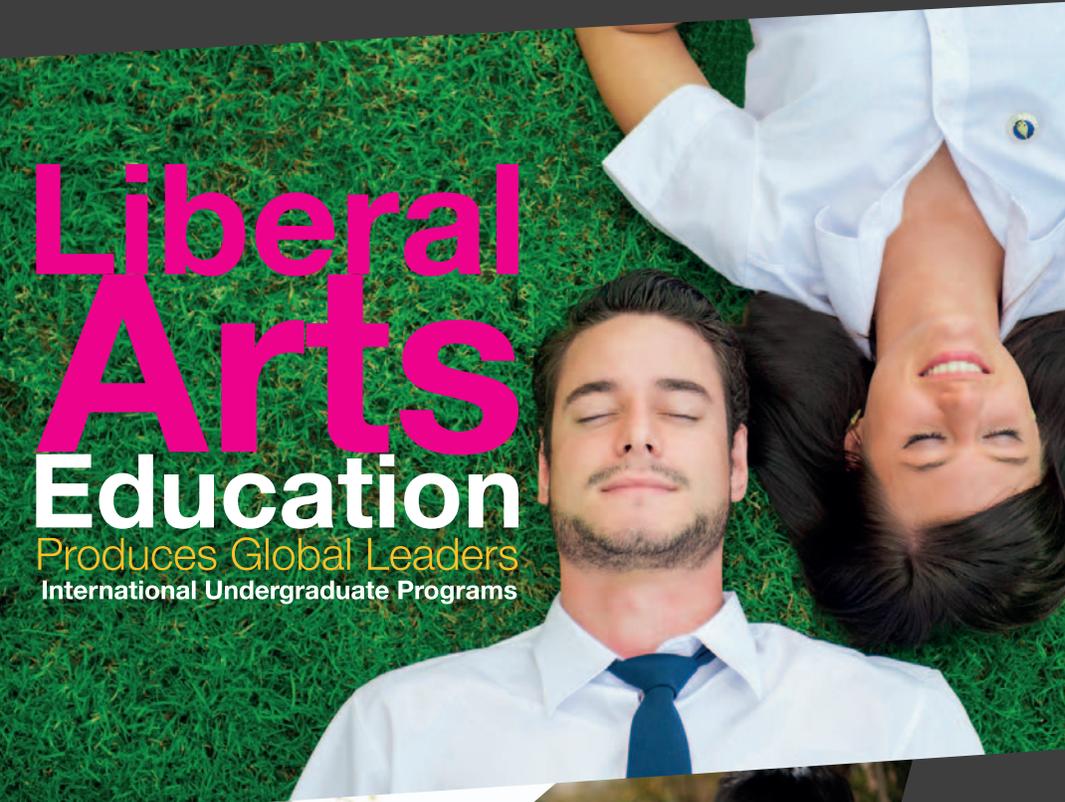
## FORUM ON STOCK INVESTMENT

MUIC alumnus Mr. Phee Boonchanawit was the guest speaker in a forum organized by the Value Investment Club on June 13, 2013. Mr. Phee, who has several years' experience working in the proprietary trading field at the Stock Exchange of Thailand and who also has a Facebook page known as "Wizard Kid" with over 30,000 followers, shared with the audience his knowledge about investing in the stock market. In his presentation, he discussed not only the meaning of investment but also the strategies in order to earn profits in the stock market.



# Liberal Arts Education

Produces Global Leaders  
International Undergraduate Programs



Mahidol University International College

ENHANCING  
LIVES THROUGH  
A LIBERAL ARTS  
EDUCATION

## LEARN<sub>more!</sub>

**MUIC** offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the sciences, arts and management, designed to instill not only analytical and critical thinking skills but also creativity, problem-solving and research skills.

## LIVE<sub>more!</sub>

**MUIC** students, being exposed in the liberal arts tradition, have good English skills. They are also given an opportunity to learn other languages, namely, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, French, German, and Thai. With MUIC's international profile, our students meet fellow students from abroad and learn from both Asian and Western professors.

## LEAD<sub>more!</sub>

Through a combination of liberal arts education and extra-curricular activities, our students develop a strong sense of social responsibility, civic duty and leadership skills. **MUIC** students are well-rounded individuals who are culturally sensitive, technologically adept and are trained to be leaders.

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

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