



THE PARK

MFU International Newsletter

Volume **11**
August - October 2015



Welcoming ASEAN to MFU



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Message from the President

Students, Parents, Faculty, Staff,

Welcome to the eleventh issue of *"The Park"* newsletter and welcome to ASEAN integration at MFU! As we enter our seventeenth year of establishment, we are overjoyed to see that MFU is not only developing as a university, but also with the surrounding community, nation, and the entire region. As we grow together to become increasingly globalised and multicultural, we move forward together to merge as one community.

This 1/2015 academic semester marks that first time that our student body of 13,813 students (with 531 international students from over 32 nations) includes students from all 10 ASEAN nations, demonstrating MFU's ability to provide an international learning atmosphere with high aptitude for educating everyone from everywhere, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, and background.

MFU is known as the *"University of Opportunity"*, and we are proud to provide that said opportunity to all. As we have approached ASEAN integration and warmly welcome the AEC, MFU will continue to provide education, experience, and excellent resources for all students and the entire community to develop their skills, constantly progressing and advancing the entire world to achieve global prosperity, peace, and positivity.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana
President

View from The Park



Helping Our
Neighbours in Need



On 8 August 2015, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, MFU President, presented a donation to H.E. Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Thai ambassador to Myanmar, as financial aid for flooding victims in Myanmar.

Since the beginning of August 2015, widespread flooding and landslides have been triggered, greatly affecting 12 out of 14 states, and causing devastation and damage throughout the country. The donation was presented at the Wanasawan Meeting Room, MFU, during a workshop for *"Preparing Staff to Understand Neighbouring ASEAN Cultures and Management Services"* for staff of MFU and external institutions from public and private sectors. The funds will be used to aid victims of natural disasters in Myanmar and for restoration and repair of community resources.

MFU Says No to Foam



Starting on 1 September 2015, MFU has said goodbye to foam boxes and has introduced environmentally friendly green bagasse boxes as replacements to polystyrene foam boxes to cafeterias as part of the *"MFU Goes Green"* Concept. MFU is already very well known for environmental conservation and protecting the environment; the switch from foam boxes to bagasse boxes takes MFU's environmental efforts one-step further, while also instilling a sense of awareness among students and our entire MFU Community to do the same.

When sugarcane is processed to extract sugar, a fibrous material remains called bagasse. This by-product is a valuable resource for a variety of products. Bagasse products are suitable for hot fill, and can also safely be used in microwave. With all these qualities, Bagasse products are the ideal environmental choice. Bagasse is a biodegradable and compostable by-product of sugarcane, and within 8 weeks, the bagasse box starts to decompose and when composted it turns back into soil.

The environment stays safe, and food stays delicious, as the bagasse does not trap the condensation in the boxes, allowing food to stay crisp and crunchy while also allowing the boxes to return to their natural states after use. The MFU Community is highly excited to be part of this conservation programme, and look forward to doing more to help protect the environment in every way possible.



Advancing Youth in Celebration of 40 Years of Thailand-China Diplomatic Relations



On occasion Thailand and China celebrated the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two Asian nations, strengthening friendship and familiarity. MFU hosted a special seminar titled *“Thailand and China: Not Far from Family”*, welcoming Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong, Consulate-General of the Royal Thai Consulate of Thailand in Kunming, Yunnan, China, with a group of 3 lecturers and 40 students from Kunming Medical University, the Kunming University of Science and Technology, and Yunnan Normal University. The group also attended the Thai-Chinese Youth Camp hosted at MFU from 2 - 4 September 2015 with students and youth from Chiang Rai and the entire region.

Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, vice president of MFU, opened the seminar with a welcoming speech highlighting important details of the seminar and stating Thailand and China as *“close strategic partners in development”*. Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong followed as special guest speaker, thanking MFU for recognizing the importance of youth in development and for constant support in international

relations and teaching of Chinese language and culture. The seminar focused on the close ties of China and Thailand, sharing many interconnected attributes in multiple sectors, especially in investment, education, and tourism. Many Chinese youths are attracted to Thailand, seeing Thailand as a close relative with shared heritage and vice versa, and both nations are committed to maintaining this sustainable and close friendship.

Attending youth and guests also had the opportunity to participate in a special question forum, which revealed that many Thai youths are interested in job opportunities in China and vice versa, in addition to internships and scholarships to further their educational prospects and international vision. The event received wonderful support from students and lecturers from the School of Sinology; Traditional Chinese Medicine programme, School of Health Science; and the MFU Sinology Club, signifying MFU’s commitment and success in rousing youth awareness to contribute to Thailand’s role in multidimensional international cooperations.



The Gift of Vision from OneSight



From 15 - 25 September 2015, a free eyesight clinic was hosted on the MFU campus at the Indoor Sports Complex in honour of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 60th birthday anniversary celebration, gifting the entire province with free sight checks, optical treatment, and preparing 4,500 free pairs of glasses for the visually impaired. The clinic was the collective effort of MFU with the Gift of Sight Foundation (Thailand); the Capital Market Academy (Thailand); the Chiang Rai Provincial Health Department; and the OneSight Foundation (United States of America), comprised of a team of volunteers from around the world, including Australia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United State. The clinic received mass acclaim and great appreciation from various local schools, the elderly, and the general public, especially among those from lower-income households or under-resourced families. An uncountable number of MFU lecturers, staff, and students were delighted to join as volunteer interpreters to help the OneSight Foundation in restoring sight to the Chiang Rai community.

For many people, eye care and optical treatment is unaffordable, and has become a terrible obstruction in the lives of too many. Vision obstructions have led to hindrances in working, learning, and daily life: However, with exceedingly generous help from the OneSight Foundation, an independent nonprofit foundation dedicated to eradicating global vision care problems worldwide, the number of people suffering from poor vision in Northern Thailand has now been greatly decreased. The clinic provided optical checks and treatment (including free glasses, reading glasses, and sunglasses) to a total number of 801 people in the clinic, many of whom were unable to contain or hold back their excitement and appreciation. Vision and sight was gained in more ways than one: Many members of the community saw the world and the faces of their loved ones for the first time. May even reported that they *"saw their futures clearly for their first time"* as they were having problems in school due the inability to see the board and educational media.

One More Year, Many More Developments



25 September 2015 was marked the date of MFU's 17th year of establishment, indicating a full 17 years of innovation, creativity, and excellence, following in the gracious footsteps of HRH Princess Srinagarindra, the Princess Mother. Since establishment in 1998, MFU has gained a highly notable reputation for rapid growth in academic, social, and environmental terms; however, progress has not only been contained within the university and Chiang Rai province, but has spread widely to the entire GMS and ASEAN regions.

In honor of the 17th year of excellence and outstanding achievements, MFU has been hosted celebrations on 25 September 2015 from 07.00 hrs. The event began with alms offerings to 160 monks at the Laan Dao Courtyard, followed by religious ceremonies

at the Princess Mother Auditorium (C4) and presentation of certificates to social benefactors of Chiang Rai province and presentation of awards and certificates for honorable faculty achievements of 2015. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, MFU President presented a public report on the university's development and productivity. In the afternoon, the anniversary celebrations included the Opening Ceremony of MFU Botanical Garden (Phase 1), which has been received participants and guests from private sectors, public sectors, and the media.

Also on 25 September 2015 from 09.00 – 15.00 hrs., MFU Hospital has been provided free oral cavity checkups and medical treatment for the local community, schools, and the general public on the first floor of MFU Hospital Inpatient Building.

Nature Thrives as MFU Blossoms



On 25 September 2015, MFU and the Botanical Garden Project Office hosted the Opening Ceremony for “MFU Botanical Garden Phase 1” on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the King’s 80th birthday anniversary. The event received the honour of former supreme commander General Sampao Choosri, Chairman of the Mae Fah Luang University Council, with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, MFU President, and members of the MFU Council presiding over the Opening Ceremony. Siamese Rosewood trees were ceremoniously planted to increase prosperity, as it is believed that Siamese Rosewood trees signify strength and stability. It is hoped that the gardens will become both an academic site for students to learn and provincial hotspot to attract tourists and boost local tourism, as well as increasing environmental awareness for the entire area.

On this occasion, Assoc. Prof. Gp. Capt. Yuthana Tragnarn, Vice President of MFU, reported on how MFU is thriving while following in the footsteps of the Princess Mother, “*Restoring the Forest to Improve Human Livelihoods*”, using this motto as the foundational guideline for university operations to form an excellent environment where MFU minds can thrive to their full potential. In addition to inspiring young minds, MFU also provides an environment for plants to vegetate and blossom, displaying their full beauty and natural potential. The garden has received support from departments both within (internal) the university and external institutions,

such as the Royal Irrigation Department, the Department of Royal Roads, Forest Resource Management Office 2, Protected Area Regional Office 15 (Chiang Rai), and Protected Area Regional Office 13 (Lampang). Financial support was also received from the both national budgets and university budgets, including from 2 prominent honorary members of the University Council, Mr. Songkram Cheevapravatdamrong and Mr. Prasert Poongkumarn, with Council Advisor, Mr. Reab Naradisorn, presiding over the project.

Currently, the project has a diverse collection of 499 various species of plants, consisting of a herb garden of 342 plants arranged according to their healing characteristics; a garden of 108 trees exhibiting their evolutionary patterns; and a flower garden in park form showing off 49 beautiful species of flowers displayed as in the Thai song “Flower Garden” composed in 1956.

In 2015, a special cherry project for blossom garden in honour of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn’s 60th birthday anniversary was also established in addition to the Botanical Gardens, marking a year of substantial advancement for the surrounding ecosystem. More than 10,000 cherry blossom trees were planted, consisting of 13 different species selected from Thailand, China, Japan, and Korea. A second project involved the planting of 99,999 trees all over the northern region of Thailand, consisting of 9 tree species that are popular and commonly appear in well-known stories of Lanna and northern Thai culture is currently also in process for this year.

Events and Activities



Preparing Staff of Thailand to Excel in the ASEAN Community



From 8 to 10 August 2015, MFU hosted the *“Workshop for Preparing Staff to Understand Neighbouring ASEAN Cultures and Management Services”* at the Wanasawan Meeting Room, MFU, for almost 200 staff members from public and private sector institutions to participate and prepare to become competent members of staff in the ASEAN community.

To initiate the programme, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, MFU President, presented an opening speech emphasizing the importance of *“understanding the cultures of our neighbouring nations for competence and flexibility to adapt to the changing community for the benefit of both Thai task forces and outside task forces entering Thailand.”* The MFU President also gave a special lecture on *“Preparation for Internationalization of State Officials with Global Roles in the ASEAN Community”* focusing on the importance of the roles of state officials and the significance of connectivity between staff members, institutions, and nations.

The session was followed by H.E. Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, presenting general advice on Myanmar and working with and in the Myanmar society. Myanmar was described as the *“Land of Opportunity”*,

and participants were advised not to overlook Myanmar. Investment growth curves were displayed as clear indicators for comparison of economic values since 2012, revealing the strengthening benefits of Thai and Myanmar relations, which includes the exemption of Thai citizens from needing to request visas to enter Myanmar starting from 11 August 2015.

The first day closed with a session explaining China, Chinese society, politics, cultures, traditions, and perspectives by Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong, the Thai Consul-General in Kunming. China was described as the *“Gateway to ASEAN”* with *“an abundance of business opportunities”*, and ended with a discussion of Thai stereotypes of Chinese tourists and vice versa.

On the second day, Ms. Putriga Ampaipan, Minister Counsellor of the Royal Thai Embassy in Laos, explained about the general details of Laotian culture and traditions; proper etiquette when interacting or negotiating in diplomatic affairs with Laos; and the various socioeconomic impacts in relation to Thailand. Ms. Sasarak Sasivanij, Counsellor from the Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Khun Ploypaatoon Chitsomnuk, Group Training Manager and Senior Department Head of Ocean Property Co., Ltd., also shared advice from their global experiences on topics such as proper etiquette and appearance; negotiation techniques and conversation tactics; multicultural awareness; and the importance of keeping an open mind and maintaining flexibility. Many details mentioned were applicable not only to work life, but also to daily life and general wellbeing regardless of social surroundings and culture.

The final day was a half-day practical workshop session held by H.E. Mr. Apirath Vienravi, former Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, and Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, MFU Vice President, allowing participants to be divided into groups for brainstorming and to devise methods of applying their new tactics to institutional proceedings. This workshop is the first workshop to concentrate on the skills and mindsets of officials and administrative workers, and participants responded with highly positive feedback, noting on the relevance and importance of the workshop and the increased understanding of other nation's cultures gained from these three days.

MFU Hosts Exchange and Short Programme for Students from Shinshu University



MFU and Shinshu University, Japan, have had a close relationship and have been helping each other develop and progress, especially in the field of agro-industry and agriculture. Recently, as part of the close collaboration between the two institutions, MFU hosted a 3-week exchange and short programme from 22 August to 12 September 2015 for 7 exchange students from Shinshu University accompanied by their lecturer, Asst. Prof. Dr. Shigeru Katayama (also participating as part of the MFU Visiting Scholar Programme).

The programme included a short course on multiple topics (Bakery Technology, Principles of Crop Produces, Thai Traditional Food Recipes, and ASEAN Foods), which also allowed students to learn more about Thai culture and rural life. Activities included Pork Rind-Making in local villages; visits to popular cultural tourist destinations in Chiang Rai; participation in the Thai "Wai Khru" Teacher Appreciation Ceremony; observation and practical experimentation of various agro-industrial procedures at agricultural sites, and vegetable production farms; visitations to well-known coffee plantations.

At the end of the programme period, the exchange students presented their new knowledge and experiences acquired from the programme to lecturers from the School of Agro-Industry at MFU, concluded by a special talk from accompanying professor Asst. Prof. Dr. Shigeru Katayama on "Traditional Japanese Foods and Their Health Effects." Feedback for the entire programme and experience were deemed excellent from all participants and involved persons.

MFU Caring for the Community in Education and Healthcare



On 2-3 September 2015, the School of Medicine, MFU, hosted the 2nd Annual Scientific Conference in celebration of Mahidol day entitled "Collaboration in Medical Education and Healthcare in the greater Mekong Subregion" at the Conference Room of General Pao Sarasin Building (C5). The conference was opened by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, president of MFU, and had the highest privilege of receiving honourable guest speakers Prof. Vicharn Panich, Chair of the Mahidol University Council, to present a special lecture on "21st Century Education for Health Professionals" followed by Prof. Khunying Sumonta Promboon, President of the Science Society of Thailand and Chair of the Higher Education Commission, to present a special lecture on the Future of Higher Education in Thailand.

MFU was declared an optimal location to host the conference due to "strategic location, plan, and action, and the potential to provide medical service to all GMS regions." Chiang Rai was also declared to be a potential caretaker of all other regions in the near future. The conference received great interest, with over 400 top-class honourable guests and guest speakers in various medical professions attending from the entire region, including all GMS countries, Australia, Japan, and Nepal. The conference is part of MFU's contribution to caring for the community through the integration of medical education. Since establishment, MFU Hospital, the School of Health Science, School of Medicine, and School of Dentistry have greatly boosted the health of the MFU Community and surrounding region, and continue to provide great benefit to the region in terms of education, healthcare, and medicine.

Warmly Welcoming New Members of MFU's International Family



On 7 September 2015, MFU warmly welcomed new international students of Semester 1, Academic Year 2015, at Wanasawan Conference Hall, MFU, hosting an International Student Orientation to help students become more familiar with MFU and each other. Staff members from important service centres and divisions delivered presentations on the various services of each department, and the MFU International Student Club helped organize fun icebreaking activities and as voluntary student staff. MFU is renowned for multidimensional global vision, including the unique ability to provide a modern yet home-like atmosphere for both Thai and international students to be part of a warm and resourceful family of global opportunity.

Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, MFU vice president, delivered the welcoming address to 228 new students from 26 countries, in which students were advised to *"seize the day"* and explore *"new skills and knowledge of other cultures, religions, and worldviews to prepare for imminent globalization and the closely integrated modern world."* This semester marks the first time that MFU has welcomed all 10 ASEAN nations to MFU's already highly diverse international student body, currently comprised of over 500 students from 32 countries.

Constructing Common Sense Common



On 9 September 2015, MFU and the Thailand-US Educational Foundation (TUSEF) arranged the Fulbright Talk Show 2015 entitled *"Common Sense is Not Common"* for the 5th successive year at E3 Building, room 101. Vice President Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont welcomed over 250 guests, faculty members, staff and students from various schools in Chiang Rai, Thailand, stating that *"Mae Fah Luang University is highly dedicated to the development of youth, not only in education, but also in their daily lives."*

One of MFU's main missions is to produce graduates with awareness and consistent commitment towards regional and international development of MFU, the MFU Community, and society. To prepare students for ASEAN integration and internationalization, MFU teaches most programmes and courses in English and arranges a wide range of activities for students to practice their skills for global competence in a multicultural environment. This Fulbright Talk Show is a great activity that helps promote understanding and adjustment in students' perspectives and worldviews for constant development in the future.

Seminar participants had the honour of listening to speeches, information, and advice from many experts and professionals, including Assoc. Prof. Benjawan Ubonsri, Director of Fulbright Thailand; Ms. Anne Lee Seshadri, Cultural and Educational Affairs Officer; and Mrs. Jane Chongchit Houston, Consular Section Chief at the U.S. Consulate General in Chiang Mai.

10 Years of French Friendship and Academic Bonds



On 17 September 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed between Alliance Française (represented by Mr. Chistian Mérier, Director of Alliance Française in Bangkok) and MFU (represented by Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, Vice President of MFU) at Wanasawan Meeting Room to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the French Upper Mekong Sub-region Academic Cooperation Centre at MFU.

During the ceremony, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, President of MFU, acknowledged that the MoU had strong potential for supporting the development of natural resources, health, and education for people in the Greater Mekong Sub-region area, and will provide mutual benefits to the community of the entire region.

The Centre was established in 2005 with the support from French Embassy in Bangkok, and has since led to multiple academic relations and activities, such as camps, classes, training sessions, academic seminars and workshops.

The ceremony was concluded with a seminar on *"France, Thailand and the GMS: Past-Present-Future"* conducted with the assistance of Dr. Louis Gabaude, Founding Director of the Library of the EFEO, Chiang Mai; Dr. Jane Baffie, Researcher at IRASEC, Bangkok; Dr. Jacques Berger, Director of the IRD (Institut de recherche pour le développement), Bangkok; Mr. Yasushi Negishi, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank Thailand Resident Mission, Bangkok; and Dr. Naritsada Thongklang, Researcher from the Centre of Excellence in Fungal Research, MFU.

ASEAN Students Join ASEAN Week



On 19 September 2015, MFU was invited by the Chiang Rai Provincial Office to attend the ASEAN Week Exhibition at Central Plaza Shopping Centre, Chiang Rai. The exhibition was hosted with the aim of increasing awareness and understanding of the ASEAN Community for youth and the general public, helping the integrated community learn more about their merging roles and cultures through fun and education activities, such as exhibition booths, presentations, and trivia competitions.

MFU students are highly involved in all international activities, and attend numerous public events to help those outside of MFU learn more about other nations too. From this, MFU continues to grow and develop not only as an institution but also as a highly diverse and knowledgeable community within itself. In academic year 2015, MFU's student body includes students from all 10 ASEAN nations: In this event, 17 international students from 3 ASEAN nations were delighted to volunteer, consisting of 3 students from Laos PDR, 4 students from Malaysia, and 10 students from Indonesia, all of whom also have excellent knowledge of other ASEAN nations and ASEAN integration. The students offering to present direct knowledge and experiences from life in their homeland, while also providing food for everyone to enjoy, such as spicy chicken mince and olive chili paste from Laos, Nasi Lemak from Malaysia, and Soto and Le Timon from Indonesia. The students received exceedingly high praise for their contributions to the exhibition from both officials and the attending general public.

Celebrating Confucius and Chinese Relations



On 26 September 2015, the MFU Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Centre, School of Sinology, and Confucius Institute at MFU hosted “Confucius Memorial Day 2015” in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Thai and Chinese Diplomatic Relations. Participants were immersed in Chinese art, culture, and language as exciting activities, contests, exhibitions, and amazing displays of performing arts were featured throughout the ceremony, with sword dances, fan dances, and thrilling kung fu performances among the many amazing feats. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana reported that the ceremony was extremely powerful, and was an outstanding display of MFU community’s excellence in all areas of Chinese language, arts, and culture. The ceremony also celebrated the MFU Confucius Institute’s eleventh year of establishment in addition to the many resulting fusions of Thai and Chinese relations.

MFU is currently the academic institution offering the highest number of sinology and Chinese-related programmes in Thailand, and has numerous collaborations and MoUs with Chinese institutions and organisations. The various events and presentations of the celebration received high acclaim from all participants, with many executives from MFU attending the opening ceremony.

Motivating International Scholarship Students and Strengthening Relations



On 30 September 2015 at the Mae Sai Meeting Room, Office of the President Building, a “Motivation Meeting” was held to strengthen relations with international scholarship students, allowing students to meet and speak with university executives, namely Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, President of MFU, and Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, Vice President. 26 students from varying programmes, schools, and levels of study attended the meeting, and remarked that the meeting greatly boosted their spirits, “helping them to understand and truly appreciate the opportunity that they had been given.”

Mae Fah Luang University is known worldwide as the “University of Opportunity”, and dedicates itself to living up to that title. Scholarships and financial aid are provided not only to students from Thailand and the nearby regions, but to students all over the world. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana has been quoted multiple times saying, “No student at MFU will ever have to drop out due to poverty or insufficient funds.”

MFU has made sure that this is true, and provides not only financial assistance, but also encouragement, inspiration, and assistance in every area of students’ lives, ensuring not only a first-rate educational experience but also a spectacular student life that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Know Your Duties and Rights



To assist the community in preparation of ASEAN integration, the School of Law, MFU, hosted a training session for students and the general public on “ASEAN Community: Duties and Rights” by Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, Vice President of MFU. The event aimed to assist the community in learning more about the similarities and differences of cultures, histories, and weaknesses and strengths of various ASEAN countries, as well as individual rights in the ASEAN Community while also raising awareness of duties to others. An open discussion also provided opportunities for participants to exchange opinions and views, helping to increase understanding through broadened perspectives.

Spotlights



MFU President Awarded “Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Management” from Walailak University

Congratulations to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, President of Mae Fah Luang University, on being awarded the “Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Management” from Walailak University! The President attended the Walailak University Commencement Ceremony for Academic Year 2014 amongst a total of 1,491 participants (consisting of 3 fellow honorary awardees) on 9 September 2015 at Walailak University, Nakhon Si Thammarat. The degree was awarded by Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Walailak.

Multi-Award Winning Invention Continues to Excel



On 2 October 2015, Mr. Surapol Vorapatraton, lecturer from the School of Information Technology received two prizes for their invention in the 2015 Taipei International Invention Show & Technomart Invention Contest (INST 2015) at the Taipei World Trade Center (TWTC), Taiwan hosted during 1 – 3 October 2015:

1. The International-level Silver Medal Award for iSonar, a miniaturized, high performance, and low cost obstacle warning device for the visually impaired presented by the Director of the Intellectual Property Office, Ms. Wang Mei-hua.

2. Special first place “Honor of Invention” Award presented by Mr. Hsieh and Hsin-Ming from the World Invention Intellectual Property Association.

iSonar, an obstacle-warning travelling device for the blind which has greatly helped increase the quality of life for Thailand’s blind community.

Over 980 inventors from 13 countries worldwide participated in the contests.

International Visitations

Visitation of the World Fellowship of Buddhists



On 1 September 2015, MFU received a visitation from the executive team "World Fellowship of Buddhists" (WFB) consisting of members from a multitude of countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the United States of America. The WFB was established in 1950 aiming to "Propagate the doctrine of the Buddha and promote among members strict observance and practice of his teachings; secure unity, solidarity and brotherhood amongst Buddhists; work in the field of social, educational, cultural and other humanitarian services; work to secure peace and harmony among men and happiness for all beings; collaborate with other organizations working for the same ends; promoting various exchanges and friendship among Buddhists in the world, to spread the noble teachings of Buddha, and to contribute to world peace."

During this visitation, MFU president, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, mentioned that, *"the teachings of Buddha can be used to solve all problems and help all people, regardless of different beliefs in Buddhism. MFU is happy to join and cooperate with your countries in fellowship, and to follow the Buddhism way."*

Creating Collaborations in Tea Research



On 14 and 15 September 2015, Dr. Panom Winyayong, Vice President of MFU and lecturer from the School of Science, and Dr. Piyaporn Chueamchaitrakun, Head of the MFU Tea Institute with a group of delegates travelled to China for discussions on academic collaborations and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tea Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (TRI, CAAS) in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China. Academic content for the MoU included Tea Breeding, Tea Cultivation, Tea pests and Disease Control, Tea Processing, Tea Biochemistry, Tea Quality Supervision and Inspection, and Tea Economics.

Activities under the MoU includes exchange of lecturers and faculty members; exchange of technology, information, and educational media; and joint organisation of international conferences and training sessions. The collaborations will be highly beneficial to Thailand by providing increased understanding and diversity of tea from other countries, which will also help in boosting plant immunity among the various species of tea plants and increasing biodiversity, while helping other countries understand more about Thai tea types, methods, and processing, while also increase networking among institutions.

MAE FAH LUANG UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY