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THE PARK

MFU International Newsletter

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Message from the President

MFU has recently celebrated its 16th anniversary, entering the second half of the second decade of unique innovation and exceptional accomplishments. During this time, MFU has gained a highly prominent reputation for incredibly rapid growth, internationalization, and diverse cultural and linguistic strengths.

Originally, all language arts programmes were under the administration of the School of Liberal Arts. However, as MFU's population and reputation continues to grow regionally and internationally, and with the new Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Studies programme, the School of Sinology was launched.

In preparation of ASEAN integration, MFU has equipped all students from all schools with the ability to communicate in Chinese and the languages of other neighbouring countries, in addition to other related skills through various workshops, camps, and courses. MFU has full confidence and is ready to welcome the incoming ASEAN integration, looking forward to welcoming new members to the university community from throughout the world.

In a short time, MFU has greatly expanded opportunities for increasing the mutual understanding of China and China's roles in international relations, politics, business, liberal arts, fine arts, and society for both the MFU community and local communities. MFU fosters close relationships with the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Embassy and Consulates in Thailand, Hanban Institute, and multiple academic institutes in

China, allowing students to participate in many beneficial activities to learn more about the language, art, and culture of China, and to submerge themselves into a Chinese environment at the Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Center and Confucius Institute on campus.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana
President

Research Products Amaze Participants at Thailand Research Expo 2014

From 7 to 11 August 2014, MFU participated in the Thailand Research Expo 2014 themed "Research for Quality of Life, a Sustainable Economy and Society" hosted by the Thai Research Council on the occasion of National Research Day at the Bangkok Convention Centre, Central World, Bangkok. The exhibition was divided into an academic conference and an exhibition of over 100 research products from various universities, centres, and institutions.

MFU submitted 2 projects to the exhibition: "iSonar", a small, high-quality, inexpensive invention that helps notify blind people of eye to waist-level obstacles or obstructions by Mr. Surapol Vorapatratorn, lecturer from the School of Information Technology. The technology was directly designed and analyzed from the needs of the blind Thai community. The second project was "ECO-Roof Tile", made from the by-product of a clay ball by Asst. Prof. Dr. Suthee Wattanasiriwech, lecturer from the School of Science. This project conveyed the use of MFU's concrete tile production technology by using the by-product of clay ball mining as the main component, which is a material that has yet to have been used beneficially and has more than 100,000 metric tons of reserve material. MFU's technology has allowed the material to be used for the benefit of the society and the local community by making use of the by-product to create concrete tiles, resulting in sustainable income and recycled use of materials.

The projects attracted many interested participants and onlookers, with many people testing the use of iSonar and ECO-Roof Tile, which both showed strength, endurance, and unique innovation.

How to Live and Learn on Campus 2014

On Sunday 10 August 2014, Mae Fah Luang University (MFU) arranged the opening ceremony of the "How to Live and Learn on Campus" programme. The programme is arranged each year by the all MFU schools and the MFU Teaching and Learning Development Centre for student development aiming to help first year students adjust to university life, their new responsibilities, and MFU's international and multicultural atmosphere. This year, the programme was held from 10 to 21 August 2014.

This opening ceremony was held at the MFU Sports Complex and entertained over 4,000 first year attendees. The ceremony opened first with a talent show arranged by students, "MFU's Got Talent", which allowed students to display their talents. Talents ranged from musical masterpieces and elaborate dances to hilarious laughter-inducing comedy plays, with participants consisting of both Thai and international students. Other activities within the programme also included a walk rally; activities promoting safe driving and safe practices; activities promoting cultural awareness and social responsibility; and activities preparing new students for further education, all of which were both educational and entertaining.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, MFU President officially opened with an informative speech, advising new students that "MFU has a very diverse culture within itself, and students will have the opportunity to directly experience living in an international atmosphere".

MFU Introduces Health Science Programmes at 5th MFU Open House

On 6 September 2014, MFU Hospital with MFU's Public Relations Division, School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, School of Nursing, School of Health Science, and School of Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine organized the 5th MFU Open House in celebration of Mahidol Day at Central Plaza Chiang Rai. The activity received great interest from potential students, health professionals, and the general public.

Dr. Panom Winyayong, MFU Vice President, revealed that the activity was hosted in honour of the "Father of Thai Medicine", Prince Mahidol Adulyadej of Songkhla. The main objective of the event was to introduce the public of MFU's many outstanding medical and health science related programmes that are severely lacking in many other Thai institutions. These programmes range from medicine, dentistry, and nursing to public healthcare and environmental health, meeting the needs and requirements of regional Thai and international patients. Modern and alternative medical practitioners from MFU also offered on-site medical advice, dental checks, and physical health checks to participants and observers, while Dr. Apiwat Jengcharoen (MD) discussed public health trends.

MFU Prepares the Chiang Rai Medical Community for the Upcoming AC

On 22 – 23 September 2014, the School of Medicine, MFU, organised an academic conference on "Medical Preparedness for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)" and a special lecture on "Thai Medicine Stepping towards ASEAN" in celebration of Mahidol Day at the Police General Pao Sarasin Building (C5). The conference discussed the upcoming changes to occur with the incoming AEC, including health and medical issues such as: public healthcare, public health hazards, accidents, and alternative medicine. Chiang Rai is connected to both Myanmar and Laos PDR and has a wide public health care range consisting of 1.3 million people. However, as a popular tourist site, it is also necessary to account for tourists and businessmen travelling through the region.

"Thailand has many advantages in the medical world, as it is a centre of both alternative and modern medicine with good services through well-mannered medical personnel and modern technology, leading to patient confidence and discretion. However, language skills are a great weakness in the Thai medical community, and a solution must be found," stated Prof. Dr. Somsak Lohlekha (MD), Director of the Medical Council of Thailand. MFU is actively combating this issue through the teaching of medicine using English as a main medium of instruction and emphasizing the international environment provided by the university, grooming students to become globally competent medical professionals. The upcoming MFU medical hub will help greatly enhance health services to meet the needs of the community and nearby, while also strengthening and forming border relations to create long-lasting friendships through health and medicine.

MFU had the honour of receiving many important health officials from Chiang Rai and nearby regions, including Dr. Awutt Sirsukree (MD), secretary of the Consortium of Thai Medical Schools; the National Medical Practitioner Standards Administrator; the Chiang Rai Provincial Public Health Doctor; and the Director of Chiang Rai Regional Hospital. The conference was opened to all public health professionals; students studying in fields related to medicine, health, and nursing; and the general public.

Reaching 16 Years of Excellence

On 25 September 2014, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, MFU President led all executives, faculty members, staff and students celebrating the auspicious 16th anniversary of MFU, marking over a decade and a half of "developing people and developing the nation". Since its inaugural year in 1998, MFU has advanced at an exceedingly quick pace, gaining an excellent reputation as the fastest growing university in Thailand, and continues to thrive in the education and instillation of quality in students.

The celebration began on a religious note by giving alms to monks and paying homage to the Princess Mother's Statue at the Lan Dao Courtyard, followed by further religious proceedings at the Princess Mother Auditorium (C4). Awards and scholarships were presented to outstanding faculty members and students.

During the public report, the president stated that MFU has continuously been successful at all advances, and has helped to develop not only university students but also the community. MFU has helped restore the region environmentally and economically, vastly improving the quality of life for the nation, and especially for people of Northern Thailand. Constant progress and the wide range of accomplishments are quickly directing MFU to become a premier university, with exceptional students and producing outstanding graduates.

In 16 years, MFU has produced 12 batches of skilled and fully equipped graduates to serve the community and the region, and will continue to do so, while also creating collaborative relationships with international institutions. MFU's emphasis on internationalization helps students overcome language boundaries through teaching primarily in English and arranging mandatory Chinese lessons for all students, allowing students and graduates to attain a lifelong learning ability regardless of their location. MFU students and graduates have dispersed throughout the entire world, becoming professionals and forming careers in all areas of expertise.

The Exchange Experience You Make Meaningful

On 6 October 2014, the MFU International Affairs Division organized "The Exchange Experience You Make Meaningful" workshop facilitated by Ms. Porntip Kanjananiyot, Executive Director of Fulbright Thailand. One of the main goals of participating in an exchange programme is to learn to become a globally competent citizen: The exchange programmes provide great opportunities to experience various cultural perspectives, learn from diverse backgrounds and gain knowledge of how to learn and how to live with pride of one's cultural roots and respect for others.

Ms. Porntip Kanjananiyot discussed two topics: "Optimizing Exchange for Benefit" and "Objectives of Exchange for Finding Experience in a Foreign Country" to introduce students to the numerous advantages of participating in an exchange programme and to help students gain the most from their exchange. "For successful exchange participation, you need to be prepared and be more confident," said Ms. Kanjananiyot. MFU provides all students with an extensive range of courses for studying other cultures and countries, and special pre-programme workshops and talks for students preparing to participate in exchange programmes can greatly strengthen the students' knowledge of the cultures of both their host and home country.

MFU organizes 29 exchange programmes each year with partner universities in Asia, New Zealand, Europe, Canada, and the United States of America. The exchange programmes are a part of the international strategy of MFU to equip graduates as global citizens. Countless students have expressed great interest and eagerness in attending the workshop and participating in exchange programmes, paying close attention to the details of the related exchange programmes and displaying enthusiasm at the opportunity to participate in overseas exchange programmes.

MFU Helps Find Solutions to Equitable Hydropower Development Planning in the Lower Mekong Basin

On 28 to 31 August 2014, the Institute for the Study of Natural Resources and Environmental Management (NREM), MFU and the Stimson Center, Washington DC, United States of America, held a workshop and conference on "Finding Solutions to Equitable Hydropower Development Planning in the Lower Mekong Basin" at the Wanasawan Meeting Room, MFU. The discussions were held aiming to increase academic strength in the water management and environment between Lower Mekong Basin countries.

The results of the workshop and conference led to increased development relating to current issues involving water-powered dams in the Mekong River, the effects on society and GMS lifestyles, and to increased benefits and further suggestions for the Mekong River Commission and international organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank. Relationships between participating organizations were also strengthened, and potential for collaborative scholarships in the future between related institutions was greatly increased.

39 Years of Thai-Chinese Relations

On 12 September 2014, the School of Liberal Arts, MFU, hosted a special lecture and academic discussions in Sinology on occasion of "39 Years of Thai-Chinese Relations" at the Police General Pao Sarasin Building (C5) with the objective of increasing comprehension of Chinese Culture and Language for the general public and students studying in related fields of studies. Knowledge and ability for application of the Chinese culture and language is essential for social, economic, cultural, political, and legal matters, especially as China is coming up as one of the dominant world powers and becoming increasingly stronger.

On this occasion, Dr. Siripetch Threusanawadee, a lecturer from the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, an expert in international relations and politics, presented a lecture on "Politics and Thai-Chinese Relations", and Mr. Arm Tungnirun, a lecturer from the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, an expert in Chinese Law and International Economic Law presented a lecture on "Law and Economic Development: Thoughts from China".

The lectures analyzed China's powerful advancements, helping participants recognise the importance of Thai-Chinese relations for application in further national and economic advancements. MFU places a strong emphasis on Sinology and provides top-quality facilities and resources on campus such as the Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Centre and the MFU Confucius Institute. MFU students have a great advantage in Chinese studies and relations, with outstanding opportunities and a head start for the future.

Tourism Trade between Chiang Rai and Bokeo

On 12 September 2014, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, MFU President, welcomed the Thai-Laos Friendship Association during the 2014 Annual General Meeting before hosting a seminar on "Tourism Trade between Chiang Rai and Bokeo" at the Chiang Saen Meeting Room, Office of the President Building, MFU. Keynote speakers of the seminar included: Mr. Sukha Rienthongkham, Deputy Director General of the Golden Triangle Specific Economic Zone Management Secretariat Office, Ton Pheung District, Bokeo province, Lao PDR; Mr. Prasert Siakhakhane, Head of the Planning and Analysis Division of the Agriculture and Marketing Department, Bokeo province, Lao PDR; and Mr. Narong Thananawat, Director of View Mall Co., Ltd., operating in the Laos PDR.

During the seminar, directions of development in various areas in the Lao PDR, especially in the Golden Triangle Specific Economic Zone, Ton Pheung district, and Bokeo province, were discussed. The area is to be sectioned into 4 zones: tourist areas; commerce, entertainment, and casinos; Mekhong River port business operations; and historical locations and business operations. In addition, there are plans for the construction of an airport and a 36-hole golf course among many other developments.

Speakers also mentioned the rules and regulations for investments in the area and interesting marketing opportunities, including academic, public health, and hospitality industry opportunities. The seminar received interest from both public and private sectors in Chiang Rai and nearby provinces. Many guests expressed their wish to explore investment opportunities in both Thailand and the Lao PDR.

MFU Prepares Staff for the Upcoming AEC

On 26 September 2014, the 2nd MFU-ASEAN Camp for Staff was held at the Chiang Sean Meeting Room, the Office of the President, MFU. The camp was co-organized by MFU's International Affairs Division and the Personnel Division, led by camp director Mr. Jakraphun Thanateeranon, Vice President of Administrative Board of Association of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth of Thailand, and with the assistance from the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon. The Ministry of Education in Myanmar gave their approval to arrange the camp in Kyaing Tong, Shan State, Myanmar, in which MFU had the honour of welcoming Dr. May Yee Thein, Rector of Kyaing Tong University (KTU) and a delegation of KTU staff members to participate in the camp.

Keynote speakers included Ms. Porntip Kanjananiyot, Executive Director of Fulbright Thailand; Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, Vice President of MFU; Dr. Pollavat Prapatthong, lecturer from the School of Liberal Arts, MFU; and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Prapat Thepchatree, Director of the Center for ASEAN Studies, Thammasat University. The camp ended on 29 September 2014 at KTU. After the lectures, participants travelled to Kyaing Tung to attend brainstorming activities and a city walk rally.

During the closing ceremony, the KTU Rector, Dr. May Yee Thein, mentioned that everyone had fun and was delighted for the opportunity to welcome MFU into their family. The camp provided an opportunity for participants to visit neighbouring countries and learn more about them in all aspects of social, economic, cultural and educational settings, while also allowing MFU staff to work collaboratively with international friends from KTU. Afterwards, participants from both universities were able to share their knowledge and experiences from the camp among their friends and family, indicating that the camp was highly successful.

"The Silk Road" Chinese Performance Excites and Educates the Community

On 2 October 2014, the MFU Confucius Institute with Beijing International Studies University, Beijing, the People's Republic of China, displayed an exciting famous traditional Chinese performance known as "The Silk Road" in celebration of the 10 year-anniversary of the Confucius Institute. The performance was hosted in the Princess Mother Auditorium (C4), which was quickly filled. The audience was compelled with an educational and thrilling display of Chinese culture and arts.

"The Silk Road" describes the mysterious and romantic Chinese legend of the discovery of silk, dating back to the 30th Century BC. The performance itself is highly entertaining, displaying the multiple alluring aspects and feats of Chinese Arts: The performance was composed of 15 sets of exquisite dances and displays, including traditional dances, traditional music, harmonizing, mask dances, fan dances, kung-fu and martial arts. Asst. Prof. Dr. Akara Akaranithi, Acting Director of the MFU Confucius Institute and the Dean of School of Liberal Arts, described the performance as "A performance of great value to the promotion of teaching and learning Chinese language and culture" and a crucial joint effort in preserving the traditions and cultures of the world.

A representative from the Confucius Institute introduced to the audience that the main objectives of "The Silk Road" were to provide Thai learners of Chinese with superior learning conditions, promote Sino-Thai cultural exchange, and to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and Thai people.

Beijing International Studies University is one of China's leading universities, and is also one of the founders of the Confucius Institute. The university has produced over 90,000 alumni, of which over 400 alumni have become ambassadors in consulates all over the world, which has caused Beijing International Studies University to become especially famous for its ability to produce outstanding alumni of high-ranking positions in international relations fields.

MFU Hosts Chinese-Thai Interpretation Contest to Promote Chinese Language and Culture Among Community

On 31 October 2014, the Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Centre and the MFU Confucius Institute hosted the 1st Chinese – Thai Interpretation Contest 2014 for students and the general public in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Confucius Institute. The contest aims to promote understanding of Chinese language and culture among the community, in addition to allowing students from the region to practice their interpretation skills and become involved with international relations.

The use of the Chinese language is becoming increasingly prevalent in education, tourism, and marketing. As a leading university in the field of Chinese studies offering the most diverse selection of sinology-related programmes in Thailand, MFU greatly supports promotion of the Chinese language and its use for optimum benefit. The contest also helped strengthen the close relationship between Thailand and the People's Republic of China.

Currently, MFU has strong relationships with five universities in China: Beijing Language and Culture University, Fudan University, Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, Guizhou Academy of Agriculture, and Xiamen University, and has received an award for "Outstanding Confucius Institute" 2013. In 2014, MFU organized over 30 cultural activities with a total of 32,000 participants.

MFU IT Lecturer Receives Award for Device for the Blind

From 7 – 11 August 2014, Mr. Surapol Vorapatratorn, lecturer from the School of Information Technology, MFU, attended the Thai Research Expo 2014 at the Bangkok Convention Centre to present his innovative development, "iSonar", an obstacle-warning travelling device for the blind. The invention has been selected to receive an award of excellence in medical science from the National Research Council, receiving first place out of a total of 37 inventions. The award will be presented at the Thai Research Expo 2015.

The iSonar device is a miniature-sized portable aid that uses an ultrasonic transducer to detect obstacles, emitting different vibration frequencies as feedback to indicate the obstacle level: The transmitter releases ultrasonic sound waves, receiving a corresponding echo and calculates the distance of the obstacle from that echo, warning the user. The device's small size allows it to be worn with a strap instead of held or carried, allowing increased mobility for users. It is also easy to use, rechargeable, and inexpensive, successfully fulfilling the specific requirements of Thailand's visually impaired community.

MFU Student Wins Award in 11th International University-Level Chinese Diamond Crown Competition

On 24 August 2014, Mr. Witaya Suwannakornrat, a fourth year student majoring in Business Chinese from the School of Sinology, MFU, participated in the 11th International University-Level Chinese Diamond Crown Competition hosted at Dhurakij Pundit University, winning the third prize from a total of nine prizes out of 239 competitors spanning across Thailand. Phra Phrommangkhlajarn, President of the Romchatra Organization, presided over the competition.

A total of six students from MFU's School of Liberal Arts participated in the event (including Mr. Witaya Suwannakornrat): Ms. Arpaporn Cheamchamroensakun, a fourth year student majoring in Business Chinese; Ms. Niphon Prangsaengwilai, a third year student majoring in Business Chinese; Ms. Prakaykaew Aebkireeseemon, a second year student majoring in Teaching Chinese Language; Ms. Kanwadee Pakpoom, a second year student majoring in Teaching Chinese Language; and Ms. Usani Dechasapchirakun, a second year student majoring in Chinese Language and Culture.

MFU gladly supports students in extending their learning methods to actively participate in contests and competitions, helping peers and students from other institutions become involved and motivated to learn more for academic achievement. The competition win sets another benchmark indicating the excellence and success of MFU's School of Sinology.

MFU Students Win Prize at "Research to Market Thailand: R2M2014"

On 31 October 2014, the MFU Intellectual Property Management and Innovation Development Office sent three teams of students to compete in the "Research to Market Thailand: R2M2014" event at the Imperial Hotel, Chiang Mai. Each team presented their own research projects, consisting of: (1) Mushi Rice; (2) Tile de Lanna; and (3) La Moudai Foam Powder. The Tile de Lanna was selected as one out of five regional representative teams to progress on to the next competition at national level out of a total of 21 teams, with the Mushi Rice team and La Moudai Foam Powder team receiving honourable mention and consolidation prizes.

In addition to progressing to national-level competition, the Tile de Lanna team also won a 20,000 Baht scholarship for their tile products, D-Tiles and L-Tiles. The tiles were developed for consumer needs from a research project by third year students from the Bachelor of Science in Applied Chemistry programme in the School of Science, Ms. Nutida Bunsoong, Ms. Nichapa Prayoonthanasarn, Ms. Wilaiwan Supap, and Ms. Apinya Tianmon under the supervision of Dr. Suthee Wattanasiriwech, a lecturer from the School of Science, supervised the project. Students from all teams remarked that participating in the competition allowed them to receive direct innovative creativity and perspective of marketable development for future projects.

International Visitors

A Visitation of the Royal Thai Consulate in Xi'an

On 9 August 2014, MFU President, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, and MFU executives received the honour of a visit from Mr. Monchai Patchanee, the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Xi'an with delegates from the People's Republic of China at the Reception Room of the Office of the President Building, MFU. The delegation included: Ms. Song Yuxia, Deputy Dean and Associate Professor of the School of International Education; Ms. Li Rui, Director of Admission, School of International Education, Xi'an Jaiotong University (XJTU); and Mr. Liu Peijin, Professor from the School of Astronautics, Northwestern Polytechnical University (NWPU). The discussions revealed great enthusiasm and mutual plans from all three institutions for exchange of master's degree and doctorate degree students, as well as possibilities for collaborative internships and short courses for students in science, economics, management, medicine, and sinology-related fields of study.

XJTU is one of China's oldest learning institutions, and was established over 100 years ago. MFU can benefit greatly from its long history and many years of experience, while also offering new and fresh concepts for XJTU to further expand its already innovative and wide-ranged educational horizons. For NWPU has exceptional strengths in research on engineering, which can be integrated to provide mutual benefit to MFU and NWPU, especially in collaboration with MFU's material science programme. All institutions are looking forward to opportunities to cooperate and work together in the near future.

A Visitation of the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon

On 28 August 2014, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, MFU President, had the honour of welcoming: H.E. Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Ambassador of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Mrs. Thipayasuda Suvanajata, his spouse; a delegation of the Staff of the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon; and representatives from private sectors on the occasion of the Mobile Consular Service Unit's visit to MFU for a brief presentation on "MFU's Quality of Education and Educational Opportunities for Students from Myanmar" by MFU President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana and a discussion on the development of Myanmar and a future possibility to strengthen collaborations with several Higher Education Institutes in Myanmar. MFU provides several advantages, namely its proximity to Myanmar, safe environment, reasonable tuition fees, quality of education, English-speaking atmosphere, and ability to produce well-groomed graduates with life-long learning ability and critical thinking skills. During the discussions, H.E. Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata stated that "All MFU graduates seeking employment in Yangon have a 100 percent guarantee of finding a suitable position".

For this academic year 2014, MFU has welcomed 49 new students from Myanmar, consisting of 40 new Bachelor's Degree students and 9 Master's Degree students. MFU currently has a total of 185 students from Myanmar. MFU and Myanmar have always had a very close relationship, which is now growing increasingly closer as internationalisation approaches with the strengthening ASEAN relations.

A Visitation of the DAAD German Academic Exchange Service

DAAD
Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

On 23 September 2014, MFU warmly welcomed Dr. Johannes Gorbert, Director of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Information Centre, Bangkok, to discuss academic collaborations with MFU deans and representatives. After the discussion, Dr. Johannes Gorbert and Mr. Christian Korner, DAAD representative at Chiang Mai University, delivered an informative presentation on the "DAAD and Funding Opportunities for Institutions" while Ms. Prakaikaew Thongtawepol, study counsellor from the DAAD Information Centre, Bangkok, informed students of "DAAD Scholarships for Individuals, Study and Research Opportunities in the Federal Republic of Germany".

The DAAD has provided many scholarships for both MFU undergraduate and graduate students to continue their studies in Germany. The DAAD also supports MFU staff exchanges to Germany and research in medicine and logistics and supply chain management with German institutions. The DAAD has a global network of branch offices and information centres, providing information for anyone wishing to study in Germany. Thailand has had over 150 co-operations with higher education institutions in Germany, the most in the entire Southeast Asian region. MFU, as part of its internationalisation strategy, uses these co-operations to attain optimal benefit for both its students and the involved parties.

MFU has had close partnerships with several institutions in Germany, and currently has active partnerships with the Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation (IFF); Ingoldstadt University of Applied Sciences; and the Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Universitat Hohenheim. Research scholarships have provided opportunities for students to study in highly esteemed German partner institutions. On this particular occasion, the "DAAD Scholarships 2015/2016 for Doctoral Candidates Academics and Scientists" and "Scholarships for Postgraduate Courses for Professionals with Relevance to Developing Countries for the Academic Year 2014/2015" received particular interest.

A Visitation of the Universiti Putra Malaysia

On 22 October 2014, Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, MFU Vice President and Dr. Matchima Naradisorn, Acting Dean of School of Agro-Industry, and lecturers from the School of Agro-Industry received a visit from the Deputy Dean of the Postgraduate, Research, and Innovation Division of the Faculty of Food Science and Technology, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to discuss dual degree programmes and other related academic collaborations in science and agro-industry.

UPM is a public university focusing on research, especially in agricultural concentrations. UPM has over 2,000 academic staff and over 2,500 international students from over 50 countries worldwide. MFU and UPM have had a prosperous long-term relationship since 2010, consisting of student exchanges, administrative visitations, and international conferences.

MFU has received 14 inbound students from UPM and set 6 outbound students to UPM (a total of 20 exchange students). UPM also showed support for the MFU-ASEAN Youth Ambassador 2012 programme by allowing the camp participants to observe a real class at UPM and learn more about educational environments in neighboring ASEAN countries.

International Travels

MFU Road Show in Kyaing Tong 2014

On 29 August 2014, Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, MFU Vice President, led a delegation of lecturers from various schools to meet Dr. May Yee Thein, the Rector of Kyaing Tong University (KTU) and lecturers to discuss possible academic collaborations between KTU and MFU. The close proximity of the Chiang Rai and Kyaing Tong and the similarity of their society and cultures are important factors that help the two provinces to bond and provides many advantages for multiple collaborative opportunities between the two universities.

On 30 August 2014, the International Affairs Division, MFU, arranged the MFU Education Exhibition 2014 at No. 2 Basic Education High School in Kyaing Tong, Myanmar. The exhibition received great interest from all participants, including students, parents, and news reporters. Information and answers to questions were provided directly by course lecturers.

In the afternoon, Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont and the MFU delegation received the great honour of paying a courtesy call on U Tin Maung Swe, Sub-state Administrator of the State Administration Department and government officers from Kyaing Tong. The meeting was arranged by the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon on occasion of the Mobile Consular Service Unit travelling around Tachilek-Kyaing Tong led by H. E. Mr. Pitsanu Suvanajata, the Ambassador, and helped strengthen MFU's foundation and educational bonds to extend future academic collaborations in Kyiang Tong.

MFU currently has 185 students from Myanmar, mostly from the Shan State, especially Tachileik and Kyaing Tong. Many students have participated in exchange programmes and international activities during their studies at MFU, and all graduates have been employed by leading companies after graduation. The exhibition and visit provided a great opportunity for both students and parents to get to know more about Mae Fah Luang University.

MFU Joins Thai Culture Festival 2014 in Kunming

On 14-24 September 2014, the International Affairs Division and student representatives from MFU were invited by the Consul-General of the Royal Thai Consulate General Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong to participate in the "Thai Cultural Festival 2014" in Kunming, Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China. Mr. Guan Qinghua, Deputy Mayor of Kunming; Mr. Mohamad Nasri Abdul Rahman, the Consul-General of Malaysia; Mr. Ayauf Bachi, Consul-General of Cambodia; and Mr. U Hau Do Suan, Consul-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Kunming, also joined the festival.

In Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong's speech, he stated, "The Thai government selected the most delicious traditional cuisine, the most entertaining performances, and the most valuable items to exhibit in the festival this year." The festival included performances, product sales, and exhibitions on education and tourism. MFU's cultural characteristics were distinctly displayed by various performances, notably Thai Boxing and Thai Dancing performances from Thai MFU student representatives. Over 150,000 people participated in the festival, showing their interest and appreciation.

THE UNIVERSITY IN THE PARK IN THE HEART OF ASEAN

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