



THE PARK

MFU International Newsletter

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Editor in Chief: **Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont**
Vice President

Editor: **Nuya Leewanich**
Head,
International Affairs Division

Co-Editors: **Gina Salonga**
Lecturer, School of Liberal Arts
Wannapha Thippayasak

Author: **Theresa Somsri**

Publication: **Supavij Vejpisitpakorn**

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Message from the President



MFU was established in the heart of ASEAN and the gateway of the Greater Mekong Sub-region to meet the needs of the people in the north of Thailand, and has since expanded to serve the entire GMS region and even further beyond. The continuing development of MFU has led to international recognition, not only for academics, research, and international collaborations but also for charitable giving and community service.

MFU commemorates the gracious contributions of the King's Mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Srinagarindra, lovingly known to her subjects as "Mae Fah Luang" (Mother from the Sky). Following in Her Royal Highness's footsteps, MFU has been increasingly involved in producing globally competent and socially responsible graduates ready to serve society and the world.

During their time of growth and education, MFU students have had the opportunity to support the community through both academic projects and direct community service, including the promotion of cultural and fine arts. Students are able to broaden their educational range to explore ASEAN and international cultures through fine arts, such as music and theatrical performances. Students are able to portray their creativity and artistic abilities integrated with cultural exploration through less conventional means, fulfilling MFU's motto of "New, Different, and Better".

While the university and the MFU community is fully equipped for ASEAN integration, MFU does not overlook the needs of local communities and neighbouring countries, and contributes full efforts to provide others with the same support and resources, aiming to enhance the quality of life and human development for the entire region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Sirichana'.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana
President

Preparing Students for Campus Life



On 1 November 2014, the Living and Learning Support Center, MFU, hosted “Live and Learn with Happiness in MFU” at Wanasawan Meeting Hall. First year university students go through many new encounters and challenges, experiencing changes in many aspects. The training session was organized to help teach first year students to become more familiar with maintaining goals, managing their time between social and academic life, responsibilities, and basic life skills for living happily on campus.

The main speaker for the session was Mr. Saharat Jetmanorom, a famous Thai psychologist and author of multiple self-help books. Attending students remarked that they were very impressed and appreciated the professional advice, which helped them to recognize differences between living at home and by themselves, preparing them to mature and adjust to university life.

Exploring Culture Through Music

On 20 November 2014, Hucky Eichelmann, a world renowned international artist specializing in classical guitar and celebrated as “a musical Ambassador between East and West”, performed his fourth concert at MFU, “The Music of ASEAN” at the Princess Mother Conference Hall (C4) based on the 10th anniversary of ASEAN in Thailand. The concert was greatly appreciated by faculty members, students, and the general population of Chiang Rai and nearby provinces.



Hucky Eichelmann showcased his guitar playing skills with ASEAN and Western classical music that enraptured and mesmerized the audience.

In accordance with the concert theme, “The Music of ASEAN”, the performance was a collection of musical pieces from ASEAN countries. MFU currently has 264 students from ASEAN countries, many of which attended the concert. The students left in awe and with a strong feeling of being delivered a “slice of home” at MFU, as stated by Tai Kim Truong, a fourth year Bioscience student from Vietnam. “This was one of my favourite songs from home. It was really nice to hear it again, especially here at my own university. It makes me feel closer to home and I can truly feel that MFU is becoming more international”.

It was not only the attending ASEAN students who felt at home at MFU on the performance night. “I love MFU, and I love Chiang Rai. Every time I walk into this auditorium, I feel like I’m coming back home” says Hucky. “When entering the university, it never fails to feel majestic and royal. Driving through the forest, you suddenly encounter the looming majesty of the university building, and it’s amazing.” However, though MFU always feels like home, Hucky does notice some changes in the university’s structure and growth:

“I can tell that the students are growing culturally and artistically. When I perform elsewhere, the audience is often distracted and on their smartphones. However, when I perform at MFU, the audience is always attentive and respectful. Our emotions are connected, and I feel that they truly comprehend the true meaning of my music. It is truly a pleasure to perform in this auditorium before such a wonderful audience.”

Caring and Sharing for Local Ethnic Groups



On Friday 28 November 2014, the School of Management, MFU in accordance with the "Management for University Social Responsibility" (MG-USR) Project hosted the "Blue Blood Charity" event at the E1 faculty building to promote social responsibility and benevolence among the Chiang Rai community and MFU students, staff, and faculty members. Students from the School of Management helped to arrange the event, preparing fun activities such as bingo, can knockdowns, theatrical performances, egg scooping competitions, and many other games and entertaining fundraisers. All profits from the event will be donated to the Mirror Foundation and to indigenous communities and ethnic minorities as development funds and scholarships. Chiang Rai Regional Hospital also set up a booth to receive blood donations during the event.

Dr. Piyatida Pianluphrasidh, Vice Dean of the School of Management, opened the ceremony, stating: "In the past, the School of Management and MFU have always thought about providing service to the community and playing a role in social development by instilling perspective and virtues in students. Not only do we educate our students to become intelligent, we also educate them to acknowledge their roles in the community." Dr. Piyatida Pianluphrasidh then thanked the participating public and private sectors for their roles and kind support in the event.

Promoting Social Responsibility and Saving Lives



On 27 December 2014, Dr. Sirirung Wongsakul, assistant to the president of MFU, led a team of students from the Bachelor of Law programme and medical volunteers from MFU hospital to donate blankets and coats to local Akha hilltribes of Doi Mae Salong in Mae Fah Luang District, Chiang Rai. T.C. Pharmaceutical Industries Co., Ltd. donated 1,000 blankets, and Singha Corporation Co., Ltd. donated coats and financial support towards the team. The MFU hospital medical team provided general and specific medical health checks to the villagers.

Though Thailand has a tropical climate, the temperature during cold season in Chiang Rai can drop to approximately 10 degrees Celsius and even less in the mountain areas. The steep drop in temperature negatively impacts the quality of life for hilltribe communities, and can cause suffering and illness, especially to young children and the elderly. The hilltribe villagers were extremely grateful, thanking the MFU team for their gifts. The project was organized by Ms. Wichuda Oonsing, a fourth year bachelor's degree student from the School of Law.

"Sihnsart Show 12: Ban Sai Thong" Fuses Thai and Chinese Charm

Credit: MFU Photo Club



Credit: MFU Photo Club



On 29 November, the School of Liberal Arts, MFU, arranged "Sihnsart Show Project 12" at the C4 Princess Mother Auditorium, MFU. The Sihnsart Show is a performance displaying an incredible fusion of Chinese and Thai culture and art arranged by faculty members and students from the School of Liberal Arts. Each year, the show receives anticipating audience members from throughout the region and is highly celebrated.

The Sihnsart Show presented a bounty of cultural performances, such as: beautiful musical pieces, with Thai students singing Chinese songs and international students singing Thai songs, including "Nawamin Maharacha" (which is about His Majesty the King's life and benevolence); lion dancing; and special shows from the Liberal Arts Cheerleading Team, instructors, and students. This year's main performance was a theatrical piece based on "Ban Sai Thong", a distinguished and highly loved Thai novel written by Kanha Kiangsiri, one of Thailand's most prominent novelists.

Credit photos: MFU Photo Club

Tea Trends, Trade, and Traditions Revealed



On 6 -7 November 2014, the Mae Fah Luang University Tea Institute hosted the Thailand International Conference on Tea 2014 (TiTea2014) under the theme of "Trend, Trade, and Tradition". The conference welcomed keynote speakers and presenters from India, the United States, Taiwan, China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia, Turkey, Singapore, and Thailand to discuss "Current Status and Future Development of Tea Production and Tea Products" in each speaker's country and "Tea Marketing, Logistics and Supply Chains".

Chiang Rai is known as the largest tea cultivation area in Thailand. Conference participants had the opportunity to observe the various aspects of natural tea culturing and factory processes as part of an excursion to two leading tea plantations in Chiang Rai, Singha Park Corporation Co., Ltd. and Doichang Tea Co., Ltd.

The conference received support from many generous sponsors: Singha Corporation Co., Ltd.; the National Food Institute; the Ministry of Industry; TC Pharmaceutical Industries Co., Ltd.; Bangkok Insurance; Doichang Tea Co., Ltd.; Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences; Central Laboratory (Thailand) Co., Ltd.; and the National Science and Technology Development Agency.

Students Challenged in Logical Thinking



On 14 November 2014, MFU and the Go Association of Thailand organized the 19th ASIAN University Go Tournament 2014 at the Police General Pao Sarasin Building (C5), MFU. Competitors came from 60 institutions in 10 countries.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, MFU President, formally opened the tournament, stating that “Go is a good game, a game of skill that challenges player’s analytical skills”, and thanked the Go Association of Thailand for their encouragement and support. Mr. Korsak Chairasmisak, Chair of the Go Association of Thailand (also serving as Vice Chairperson of CP All Public Co., Ltd.), mentioned that Go became a tertiary-education level competition in 1994 with annual tournaments beginning in 1995.

MFU is 1 of 23 universities in Thailand that teaches Go as an elective course for students. Thailand has approximately one million Go players (ranking 5th from 74 countries in the world). Next year’s “World Go Championship” will be held in Thailand, and will be the first time that it is hosted outside of China, Korea, or Japan. Phra Maha Wudhijaya Vajiramedhi, Chair of the ceremony, informed the audience and participants of Go’s background history, stating that the “Game was developed in China more than 3,000 years ago, then spread to Korea and Japan, and now worldwide. Go is not only entertaining, but also helps the player practice strategy, planning, and decision making using logic and analytical skills while also helping players control their emotions. Go requires the practice of a combination of strategy and focus, and changes with each move.” Phra Maha Wudhijaya



Vajiramedhi compared Go-playing to real life, in which we must think about every move and action, accept the results of our actions, and plan our next moves accordingly, remembering that “One person cannot win everything, but they can learn from their antagonists”.

Miss Tipanya Mothaniyachat, a fourth year student from the School of Cosmetic Science and a participating Go competitor, led the participants in giving their vows. Miss Tipanya Mothaniyachat has been playing Go since high school, and had enrolled in the Chinese-Go class available from the School of Liberal Arts while studying at MFU while also participating in many competitions. Recently, she received first place for the team category in the “41st National Sporting Games (Chiang Mai Games)”. She stated that Go helps her focus, pay attention, and plan her life with increased awareness.

Mr. Kimura Kiyonari, a professional Go player from Waseda University, Japan also participated in the competition. He has been playing Go since he was 9 years old, and also stated that Go has helped him think more carefully and have better focus in his education, work, and daily life.

Good Relations Between MFU and Laos Embraced



From 14 to 16 November 2014, Dr. Sirirung Wongsakul, Assistant to the President of MFU, with a delegation of 39 students and staff members travelled to the National University of Laos (NUOL), Vientiane, Lao PDR to participate in the 12th Lao – Thai Universities Friendship Event. The NUOL President, Prof. Dr. Suokkongseng Saignaleut, warmly welcomed the MFU delegation with a group of executives, staff, and students. In addition to NUOL and MFU, the event was also attended by Souphanouvong University in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, and 9 other Thai universities: Khon Kaen University, Ubon Ratchathani University, Mahasarakham University, Mae Jo University, Chiang Mai University, Naresuan University, Payap University, Chiang Mai Rajabhat University, and Phayao University.

The friendship project is a forum for collaboration, cultural exchange, and development of students, faculty members, and executives between the nations. During the event, MFU presented Thai culture by performing Thai traditional dances. NUOL also taught the participating institutions about Laotian culture through traditional dance, traditional sports, cooking lessons, and provided a tour of popular tourist sites such as Kaysone Museum, Prom Viharn Market, Haw Phra Kaew (the Temple of the Emerald Buddha), Patuxai, and Talat Sao (the Morning Market).

MFU's School of Management Joins the Association of Asia-Pacific Business Schools



On 19-21 November 2014, Dr. Chatrudee Jongsureyapart, Dean of the School of Management, MFU, travelled to Ritsumeikan APU in Beppu City, Japan, to register MFU as a member institution in the Association of Asia-Pacific Business Schools (AAPBS), becoming the seventh Thai university to join. AAPBS is an association of 143 worldwide universities aimed to help develop business and management education in the Asia-Pacific Region through partnerships and collaborations in both teaching and research, while also providing clear guides and examples to help educational institutes in Asia attain international quality.

Dr. Chatrudee Jongsureyapart stated that joining AAPBS “will help increase opportunities for exchanging knowledge and global business trends, and will update students on the ever-changing modern business world through international activities and experiences with other association universities”. AAPBS holds annual meetings and training workshops with leaders from around the world to discuss, share, and build strategies and relationships, providing extensive opportunities for international networking. Students will also have increased opportunities for participating in student exchanges with leading member universities around the world.

International Experts Welcomed to Discuss Agricultural Developments



On 20-21 November 2014, the School of Agro-Industry, MFU, arranged the 2nd International Conference on Agriculture and Agro-Industry (commonly abbreviated as ICAAI) at the Police General Pao Sarasin Building (C5), MFU. The conference was held on the topic of "Fresh Produce, Novel Process and Health Product" and received participants from all over the world, including national and international keynote speakers from New Zealand and the Sultanate of Oman, and invited speakers from the United Kingdom, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the United States. The programme included national and international keynote speakers, oral presentations, and poster sessions. Sessions were related to postharvest technology, food science, and food technology.

The conference was held with the objective of allowing experts, entrepreneurs, researchers, scientists, and students to meet and discuss the latest developments in science and relevant current issues, such as fresh agricultural produce and health products for safer and more sustainable commerce.

In 2010, MFU's School of Agro-Industry was highly successful in organizing the first ever International Conference on Agriculture and Agro-Industry, also at MFU. More than 300 participants attended the first conference, and over 430 participants attended the second. In addition to agricultural and agro-industry information, MFU also arranged a Lanna "Khantoke" style Welcoming Dinner for all participants with Thai cultural performances by MFU students.

Biotechnology Use Emphasized in Biotechnology International Conference



On 26 to 29 November 2014, the School of Science, MFU, in collaboration with the Thai Society for Biotechnology (TSB) jointly organized the "26th Annual Meeting of the Thai Society for Biotechnology and International Conference (TSB2014)" at MFU.

The conference was organized by a committee led by Assoc. Prof. Penjit Srinophakun, President of the Thai Society for Biotechnology, with an international organizing committee of members from Germany, Czech Republic, USA, Japan, UK, India, and Korea, and a local organizing committee led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chayaporn Wattanasiri, Vice President of MFU, and the School of Science, MFU. The event was attended by over 300 biotechnologists, researchers, lecturers, and students from various institutions and organizations around the world.

The conference focused on the theme of "3Bs: Biodiversity, Biotechnology, and Bioeconomy", emphasizing the use of biotechnology in all aspects to increase the quality of life and understanding of the earth. Popular topics included: Bio-energy and biomass; biomaterials and nanotechnology; molecular biology and bioinformatics; and medical and pharmaceutical biotechnology, among many more.

Since 1989, the Thai Society for Biotechnology annual conference has been one of the most prestigious international events for presenting novel and fundamental advances in the field of biotechnology. The conference provides opportunities for scientists to establish networks, share ideas, discuss breakthroughs and form partnerships with various sectors, associations, and institutions as well as individual networking with

other biotechnologists. MFU students also greatly benefit from the event: Mr. Tai Kim Truong, a fourth year scholarship student from Vietnam in the Bachelor of Science in Bioscience (Biotechnology) programme, School of Science, had the opportunity to exhibit his research on a medical and pharmaceutical biotechnology study of jewel orchids for use as traditional Chinese medicine, "The Comparison of Phytochemical Contexts and Antioxidant Activities of *Anoectochilus burmannicus* and *Anoectochilus roxburghii*", through a poster presentation.

Chinese Language and Culture Promoted in Chinese Cultural Knowledge Exhibition



On 12 December 2014, the MFU Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Centre and Confucius Institute, MFU, organized and hosted the "Chinese Cultural Knowledge Competition 2014" in honour of the 10th Anniversary of Confucius Institutes worldwide.

The competition was hosted for secondary school level students from northern Thailand, and aimed to promote the use of Chinese language and increase Chinese cultural awareness in the region. The students were divided into teams of three people. Teams passing the multiple choice quiz in the morning progressed to the oral quiz session in the afternoon. All participating students mentioned that the competition was "fun, exciting, and helped them to apply their knowledge of Chinese language and culture".

Awards Won at TSU-AFBE International Academic Conference 2014



On 5 - 6 November 2014, three graduate students from the School of Management, MFU received three awards (including "outstanding research") at TSU-AFBE International Academic Conference 2014 for their research, "An Empirical Study of the State of Performance Reality Reflected in the ABC (Antecedent, Behavioral, and Consequential) Theory of Service Innovation for the Myanmar Hotel Industry" organized by the Management for Development College, Thaksin University (TSU), with the Asian Forum on Business Education (AFBE) at the Emerald Hotel, Bangkok.

The students, Mr. Zaw Myo Latt and Ms. Quiyu Chen from the Master of Business Administration Programme in Entrepreneurial Management and Mr. Pattapong Valuvanarak from the Master of Business Administration Programme in Tourism Management, School of Management, attended the conference led by a delegation of faculty members. The delegation helped advised the team comprised of 11 students presenting 11 research projects.

MFU School of Science Lecturer Selected to Attend Workshop in China



From 11-16 December 2014, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surat Laphookhieo, researcher and lecturer from the School of Science, MFU, was selected as 1 of 15 researchers from Thailand to attend the "5th China-Thailand Joint Workshop for Natural Products and Drug Discovery" academic conference in Shanghai, the People's Republic of China. The conference is jointly organized by the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) office and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) with the objective of strengthening relationships and increasing collaborations between leading chemistry researchers from various institutions in Thailand and China.

Every year since the first joint workshop, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surat Laphookhieo has been selected as a leading Thai researcher to attend the conference due to his outstanding research, which have proved to be highly beneficial towards scientific progress in multiple areas. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surat Laphookhieo has continuously performed research in the area of natural product chemistry since 2007, focusing on chemical composition and biological activity of various plants in Northern and Northeastern Thailand. His research received grants from both internal and external organizations, such as the Thailand Research Fund (TRF), the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHE). Consequently, his research has also contributed to many collaborations between MFU's School of Science and both national and international organizations, such as University of British Columbia, Canada, and the University of Hawaii at Hilo, United States of America. Under his supervision, 70 scientific research articles have been published in 7 years (H-index = 13).

A Visitation of Taunggyi Technological University



On 18 November 2014, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chayaporn Wattanasiri and Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, Vice Presidents of MFU, and a group of MFU executives and lecturers received a visit from Prof. Dr. San San Yee, Rector of Taunggyi Technological University (TTU), Myanmar, and a delegation of 14 TTU faculty members at the Doitung Meeting Room, the Office of the President, MFU.

MFU executives warmly welcomed Dr. San San Yee, and both parties shared information on their universities, followed by discussion on possible academic collaboration between the two institutes, especially in the development of human resources and exchange of lecturers from MFU's School of IT (especially in the Engineering programmes) and School of Science.

TTU's visit to MFU is a part of the International Skill Development Management Workshop in Chiang Rai-Chiang Mai held from 17 to 21 November 2014 organised by the Chiang Sean International Institute for Skill Development, the Ministry of Labour.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Preecha Upayothin, a senior lecturer from the School of Liberal Arts, MFU, and also a consultant of the workshop has performed multiple research studies in Taunggyi, including researching training course requirements for the development of human resources in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

A Visitation and Generous Gifts from the Consulate General P.R. China in Chiang Mai



On 20 November 2014, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, President of MFU received a gracious visit from Mr. Chao Xiaoliang, Consul General of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Chiang Mai at the Doi Tung Meeting Room, Office of the President, MFU.

The consul general presented MFU with a heartfelt gift of 10 Lenovo C3 Series (All-in-one) computers (worth approximately 200,000 Baht) to show the consulate's support for the volunteers from Xiamen University, China, assisting at the MFU Confucius Institute and School of Sinology.

The president was very glad to welcome back the consul general to MFU, and was deeply touched by their contribution to the MFU Confucius Institute and School of Sinology.

Mr. Chao Xiaoliang said that the computers were a "small gift with deep meaning", and were presented as a token of appreciation for the strengthening relationship between Thailand and China.

Special Health Lecture to Helps Prepare for the AEC



On 28 November 2014, the School of Health Science, MFU arranged a special lecture on "Health Research of Immigrants Living in Europe" at the E3 Faculty Building, MFU. The lecture was presented by visiting professor Dr. David Urban, Head of the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Health and Social Studies, the University of South Bohemia, the Czech Republic. The lecture covered issues such as causes, factors, and social side effects revealed from health studies on immigrants living in Europe (migration).

The information from the lecture and the studies can be applied to immigrants moving into Thailand with the opening of the ASEAN Economic Community. The issue is especially important as work forces from different regions will be able to move and come together, resulting in widespread changes in society, economy, and education.

A Visitation of Australian National University



On 16 January 2015, Assoc. Prof. Pongdej Chaityakut, representative of the Committee for the School of Fine Arts Establishment, and instructors from the School of Liberal Arts, MFU, received a visit from instructors and distinguished artists Dr. Alison Munro, Mr. Paul Hay, Mr. Michael Hay, Mr. David Jensz, and Ms. Wendy Teakel from the School of Art, Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia to strengthen the relationship between the two institutions and discuss possible future collaborations and fine arts academic resources. In addition, art experts Mr. Richard Garst, Prof. Kazuhiro Abe, and Mr. Peerapong Duangkaew also accompanied the delegation to observe MFU's resources for future developments.

ANU's School of Art is a leading institution that prepares its students for professions in multiple art disciplines, including visual arts, media arts, sculpture, painting, and ceramics. Currently, MFU accommodates a high technology practical ceramic laboratory, including state-of-the-art materials. The laboratory is deeply integrated with the School of Science in the area of Materials Science and Engineering, and instructors from the School of Science have designed a low energy, environmentally friendly ceramic kiln from computer modeling with the ability to reuse energy. In addition, instructors and researchers from both fields are constantly working together to develop new and better resources from standard ceramics materials and biomaterials with discussion of future possible collaborations and academic development.

MFU Attends the 8th AIMS Review Meeting



On 2 to 3 December 2014, Dr. Nattaya Konsue, coordinator of the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) programme at MFU and lecturer from MFU's School of Agro-Industry and Ms. Warunee Kaewbunrueng, administrative officer from the International Affairs Division attended the 8th Review Meeting of the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The 8th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme was presided over by the Brunei Minister of Education, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Hj Awg Abu Bakar bin Hj Apong, and was hosted by UBD with support from the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED) and the Brunei Ministry of Education.

The meeting was attended by over 100 representatives, including representatives from various ministries and educational institutions in Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss challenges, propose improvements and suggestions, and to plan for future advancements and collaborations between AIMS partner universities. The meeting concluded with the goal of expanding to 10 member countries offering 10 fields of study by the end of 2015. Established in 2009 with the objective of cooperation on education and research in the region, the AIMS Programme has continuously expanded and now has 60 participating universities from ASEAN countries.

MFU Visits Chinese Medicine Clinics in China



On 7 December 2014, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, President of MFU, with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chayaporn Wattansiri, Vice President, and Dr. Sulakkana Noiprasert (MD), Head of the Traditional Chinese Medicine programme at MFU, visited Xiamen University, Xiamen University Hospital, Li He Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic and Yan Lai Fu Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic in China. The president was welcomed and received by Prof. Wang Yan Hui, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Xiamen University and Head of the Xiamen University Traditional Chinese Medicine department. During the meeting, future collaborations and joint teaching activities for MFU's Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine programme were discussed, in which Xiamen University expressed great interest in providing lecturers to participate in teaching at MFU. The Traditional Chinese Medicine programme at MFU is currently in its first year (launched in 2014) with an inaugural class of 82 students, and has displayed immense popularity and rapid growth.

MFU Attends the 9th Confucius Institute Conference



On 7 December 2014, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, President of MFU, with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chayaporn Wattansiri, Vice President; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ye Hu, Director of the Confucius Institute at MFU; Asst. Prof. Dr. Akara Akaranithi, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts; Asst. Prof. Pranee Chockajitsompun, Dean of the School of Sinology; and Dr. Sulakkana Noiprasert, lecturer from the School of Health Science attended the 9th Confucius Institute Conference in Xiamen, Fujian Province, the People's Republic of China.

The conference was conducted with the theme of "Embrace the New Decade of Confucius Institutes" and received over 2,000 participants, including host university executives and Confucius Institute directors from 126 countries, various Chinese enterprises, and representatives from Chinese embassies, different embassies in China, and education departments. The conference included thorough discussions on important issues and plans for the development of Confucius Institutes, in addition to providing a platform for partner universities to tighten relations and enrich exchange opportunities.

Madam Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of P. R. China and Chair of the Council of the Confucius Institute Headquarters delivered the keynote speech in the opening ceremony, stating the success of the Confucius Institute in its first decade and goals for the future as it approaches its second decade. Established in 2006, the Confucius Institute at MFU currently offers 30 courses for more than 800 students, as well as providing various lessons and organizing events (such as cultural exhibitions, language and art competitions, and performances) to help promote Chinese language skills and Chinese culture among MFU and the local community.

MFU Attends the gLink Project Meeting



On 14 to 18 December 2014, Asst. Prof. Dr. Punnarumol Temdee, lecturer from the School of Information Technology, MFU, attended the gLink: Sustainable Green Economies through Learning, Innovation, Networking and Knowledge Exchange Project Meeting held at Daffodil International University in Bangladesh. Mr. Md. Sabur Khan, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Daffodil International University, opened the meeting and welcomed all guests from over 40 universities from different countries, including the United Kingdom, Hungary, Portugal, Cambodia, and India among many others. The meeting provided a platform for discussions on future developments and sharing of experiences from past and continuing activities among partner universities, helping strengthen the project's future plans and relationships between partners.

The gLink project is an Erasmus Mundus exchange programme coordinated by Northumbria University (United Kingdom), a close partner of MFU. The project involves nine European partners from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, and West Scotland and targets exchange with nine Asian partners from Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand to promote multi-disciplinary advanced research, education and professional training on sustainable green solutions through mutual collaboration and knowledge exchange between the higher education institutions in Europe and Asia.

International Collaborations

MoU
Signed



**Osnabrück
University of Applied Sciences,
Germany**

21 November 2014

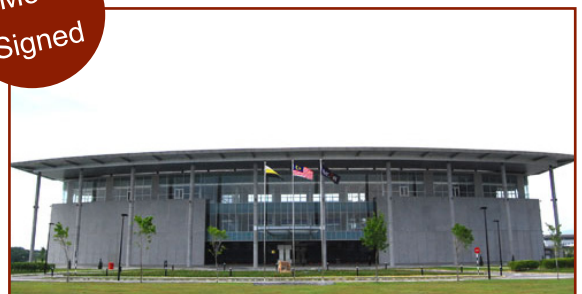
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**Duksung
Women's University,
Republic of Korea**

18 December 2014

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**Universiti
Tunku Abdul Rahman,
Malaysia**

20 January 2015

MAE FAH LUANG UNIVERSITY FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE REGION