

THE PARK

MFU International Newsletter

vol. 36 (Sep-Dec 2023)



MAE FAH LUANG
UNIVERSITY



**THE UNIVERSITY FOR WELL-BEING
AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

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Editor's note

Reaching a momentous milestone of our 25th anniversary is a remarkable accomplishment!

To celebrate and commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Mae Fah Luang University, we proudly present the Park 36 with the theme **"25 Years of Excellence: Moving Forward to Become the University for Well-being and Sustainable Future"**.

In this issue, we highlight our celebratory events, success stories and contributions to the society in Thailand, the GMS, and Asia as **"A Leading University in ASEAN with International Recognition Strives for Well-being and Sustainable Future"**.

In an attempt to co-create a sustainable future, you will find MFU's internationalised and collaborative activities with partners around the world focusing on improving people's well-being and promoting sustainability at local, national, regional and global levels.

This issue also features several articles on student activities designed to increase students' understanding of their role in the world as global citizens and to enhance the diversity and inclusion on campus.

We hope you enjoy this issue!



Prof. Dr. Sujitra Wongkasemjit
MFU Vice President

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MFU 25 YEARS

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Moving to Become the University for Well-being and Sustainable Future



On 24 - 25 September 2023, Mae Fah Luang University was filled with happiness and pride for the celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary. Since 1998, MFU, widely recognised as one of Thailand's premier educational institutions, has been serving both Thailand and the ASEAN community with increasing achievements.

MFU's celebration consisted of a series of exciting and meaningful events such as religious ceremony, meet the public event, scholarship awards ceremony, university benefactor award, the International Symposium on **"Advancing the Global Health Agenda: Transformation of Higher Education of Higher Education towards Regional Well-being"**, dinner reception, a ceremony to pay homage to the royal statue of HRH Princess Srinagarindra, and a parade of the flags of 45 countries representing the international students studying at MFU.

With respect to the great friendship between Mae Fah Luang University and

foreign organisations, MFU welcomed 40 honoured guests from 24 Embassies, Consulates, partner universities, and organisations from 17 countries. Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Kinzang Dorji, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the Kingdom of Thailand presented a royal gift from His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan to the Chairman of the University Council on the occasion of the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Mae Fah Luang University.

Additionally, there were congratulatory speeches from the Ambassadors, representatives of the embassies, Chiang Rai governor, and alumni delivered on the stage during the celebration ceremony.



9 – 11 September 2023



MFU Young Ambassadors 2023

To ensure that diplomats, officers and honourable guests of each country will be honoured and properly treated while they are visiting the university, the Global Relations Division held a special training programme **"MFU Young Ambassadors 2023"**. The intensive training programme provided an exceptional opportunity for Thai and international students from different Schools to develop knowledge and skills about international diplomacy, protocol, and etiquette as well as to increase their cross-cultural awareness and intercultural communication skills in order to welcome international guests who will join the 25th anniversary of Mae Fah Luang University and other occasions as the impressive and effective MFU ambassadors.

24 September 2023



International Symposium "Advancing the Global Health Agenda: Transformation of Higher Education towards Regional Well-being"

The symposium brought together over 200 higher education institution leaders; health-promotion-related governmental and private organisations; policy makers, diplomats, MFU students, alumni, and lecturers; and those interested in sustainable development from many countries to learn and discuss the challenges of regional well-being issues amidst multiple disruptions.

There was a keynote speech on **"Possibility of Accessible and Affordable Healthcare for Sustainable Regional Development"** presented by Prof. Dr. Krisana Kraisintu, Pharmaceutical chemist and President of Krisana Kraisintu Foundation

Moreover, in the Plenary Session on **"The Roles of Higher Education on Regional Health and Well-being"**, H.E. Mr. Khamphan Anlavan, Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Kingdom of Thailand; Lt. Sorawud Preededilok, Minister attached to Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA); Asst. Prof. Dr. Matchima Naradisornm, President of Mae Fah Luang University; Dr. Vipat Kuruchittham, Executive Director of Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN); Prof. Richard T. Maziarz, M.D., Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University; and Asst. Prof. Dr. Teeranee Techasrivichien, National Professional Officer (Public Health), WHO Thailand, discussed challenges of regional health and well-being issues.

Furthermore, all speakers shared their roles on how to advance regional health and well-being with their perspectives, experiences, and best practices for GMS and SEA. They also proposed approaches for international collaboration between higher education institutions and other sectors in promoting good health and well-being.



the Establishment of Mae Fah Luang University

16 – 17 November 2023



MFU Innovation Day 2023 and the 25th Years MFU Exhibition

All Schools and divisions jointly organised **MFU Innovation Day 2023** under a theme of herbs for health promotion, economic and social development and the 25th Years MFU Exhibition to showcase academic achievements, their research findings and knowledge in the fields of science and technology, health, economics, and society which can lead to the development of new innovations, products and the effective intellectual property management contributing to creating social and economic benefits.

The event also served as a stage for knowledge exchange and award presentation ceremony including Reinventing University System Awards 2022, World's Top 2% Scientists 2023, MFU INNO Prize 2023 for researchers, entrepreneurs, and divisions who have outstanding accomplishments in research and innovation development.

18 November 2023



Warmly Welcome Alumni Back on Campus with MFU Homecoming 2023

MFU alumni, staff members and current students were invited to join the MFU Homecoming 2023 event to celebrate the bond connecting the whole MFU community throughout the history of Mae Fah Luang University. Alumni also had a chance to bring back cherished memories, catch up with old friends, and build new connections.

MFU Homecoming 2023 provided participants with a campus tour to MFU facilities and MFU Fest & Fun 2023 which consisted of games, food and vendor booths as well as performances from various student clubs and a concert of Thai band 'Season Five'.

12-15 December 2023



The 12th Anniversary Annual Scientific Conference of School of Medicine and the 25th Anniversary of Mae Fah Luang University (MedSC2023)

The School of Medicine organised MedSC2023 under a theme of **"Collaboration Towards Medical Excellence"** to offer an opportunity for doctors, nurses, medical personnel, and students to update their medical knowledge, develop their expertise skills, exchange academic knowledge and experience in patient care, and enhance positive relationships among medical schools nationwide.

The conference featured oral and poster presentations, plenary sessions, the Cadaveric Hands-On Training "Operative techniques of Onco-plastic Breast Surgery", and the Hands-on Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) workshop. Furthermore, there was the opening ceremony of **MFU Cadaveric Surgical Training Center (MFU CaST Center)** which is the 6th training center in Thailand.



Mae Fah Luang University Remains on the Top Spots in Several International Rankings

World University Rankings 2024 by Times Higher Education (THE)

Out of 1,904 universities across 108 countries and regions, **Mae Fah Luang University was ranked 5th in Thailand, joint 22nd in ASEAN and ranked in the 1001 - 2000 group in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) 2024 World University Rankings**, released on 27 September 2023.

The overall score of MFU was 28.3 – 32.6. Specifically, **the University performed the strongest in Thailand in the international outlook (54.0) for the fifth consecutive year.** The higher scores indicate the strong effort and hard work of the university community in achieving our vision to become a leading university in ASEAN with international recognition.

World's Top 2% Scientists 2023 by Stanford University

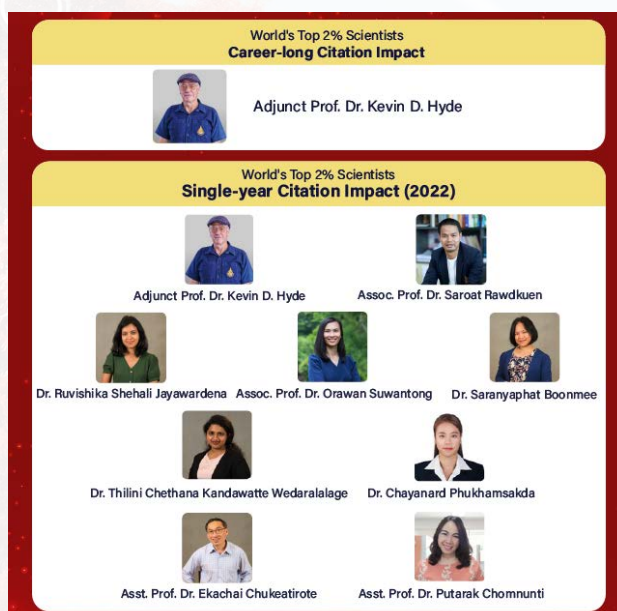
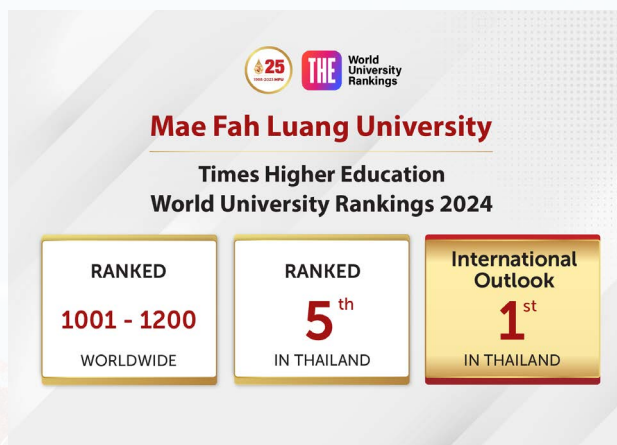
Nine lecturers have been named in the global list of the top 2% of scientists created by Stanford University released on 4 October 2023. The list identifies the top scholars in their own areas of specialty and whose publications are most frequently cited by other authors around the globe.

Stanford University scientists have created the database of over 100,000 top scientists of the world on the basis of standardized citation indicators such as information on citations, H-index, and co-authorship adjusted hm-index. The list selected the top 2% scientists worldwide in 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields according to the standard Science-Metrix classification by assessing their career-long impact until the end of 2022 and citation impact during the single calendar year 2022.

UI GreenMetric World University Ranking 2023

With a total score of 8,325, MFU has been ranked as the 103rd sustainable university in the world and the 8th in Thailand according to the University of Indonesia's GreenMetric World University Ranking 2023 released on 5 December 2023. This year, 1,183 higher education institutions from more than 80 countries including 55 Thai universities joined the rankings. The rankings evaluate higher education institutions in terms of sustainability based on six criteria: Setting and Infrastructure (15%); Energy and Climate Change (21%); Waste (18%); Water (10%); Transportation (18%); and Education and Research (18%).

In comparison to 2022, MFU scored higher in two key indicators including Energy and Climate Change as well as Education and Research. Despite the increasing number of competing universities in the previous year as well as changes to the methodology, the university maintained its scores and overall ranking. This achievement shows the strong commitment and hard work of the MFU community to consistently drive the university to become "A Leading University in ASEAN with International Recognition Strives for Well-being and Sustainable Future".



Applied Chemistry Lecturer Wins the APEC-Australia Women in Research Fellowship 2023



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Orawan Suwantong, a lecturer of the Applied Chemistry programme, the School of Science **won the APEC-Australia Women in Research Fellowship 2023**. This year (2023), 20 women from Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, China, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam have been selected for the 2023/24 APEC-Australia Women in Research Fellowship.

Under this fellowship programme, Dr. Suwantong conducted a research project on "the development of injectable self-healing hydrogels for wound management" at the University of Queensland for three months.

MFU Alumnus Appointed as the Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture of Balochistan, Pakistan



Mr. Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, a graduate from the International Development programme, the School of Social Innovation, has been appointed as the Caretaker Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture of Balochistan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. **He is the youngest minister in the history of Pakistan.**

Mr. Nawabzada Jamal Raisani earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Development and is currently studying a Master of Arts in International Development from the School of Social Innovation.



MFU Student Competes at the IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship 2023, Finland



On 27 August 2023, Mr. Kenshin Mizushima, the fourth-year student from the Sports and Health Science programme, the School of Health Science and a member of MFU Triathlon Club **won the first place in Asia, the 23rd place in men's 18-24 ages category and was ranked 141st among 3,322 contestants in IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship 2023 in Finland**. Mr. Kenshin Mizushima showed his outstanding performance by finishing all three challenges in 4 hours, 8 minutes and 47 seconds (1.9km swim, 90km bike, 21.1km run).

MFU Student Wins Prizes in the 22nd Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students



As the representative of Thailand, Ms. Sirikhwan Lijan, a third-year student of Business Chinese programme, the School of Sinology competed against 138 contestants from 5 continents (Asia, America, Africa, Europe and Australia and Oceania) and **won the first place in Asia and the third place for overall score in the global final round of the 22nd Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students** which was held on 9 September 2023 in China.



MFU Staff Attend the International Staff Mobility (ISM) 2023



On 2 - 6 October 2023, Ms. Nichuda Quioutai, an architect of the Building and Ground Division, and Ms. Thanyachanok Nhorwaen, an administrative officer of the Global Relations Division participated in the **Inbound Staff Mobility (ISM) 2023 (for non-academic staff)** as the representatives of Mae Fah Luang University at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya, Indonesia along with participants from 10 universities in Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam .

The International Staff Mobility (ISM) is initiated by Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember to provide a platform for non-academic staff from ITS' partner universities and ITS' prospective partner universities to build networking and enhance their skills in pursuing internationalisation. The ISM programme provided participants with knowledge about human resources, student affairs, documents and archives management, as well as Indonesian cultural activities.

Furthermore, MFU representatives had an opportunity to explore the possibility of academic collaboration with universities in Indonesia in areas of MoU signing, student exchange programme, visiting scholar programme, and short courses. Altogether, this programme was a valuable opportunity for MFU representatives to gain knowledge and skills that can be applied to their job, build network and promote the university's exchange programme to ITS students.

MFU Executives Attend the 2nd President/Dean's Forum of SSAMESA and the 90th Anniversary Celebration Ceremony of Kunming Medical University



On 16 - 19 October 2023, Lt. Gen. Emeritus Prof. Nopadol Wora-Urai, MD., Advisor to the President and Prof. Supakorn Rojananin, MD., Dean of the School of Medicine attended the **90th Anniversary Celebration Ceremony of Kunming Medical University and the 2nd President/Dean's Forum of the South and Southeast Asia Medical Education and Service Alliance (SSAMESA)** at Kunming Medical University, the People's Republic of China.

Moreover, MFU representatives participated in the 2023 South and Southeast Asia Medical Education and Service Alliance Work Meeting which invited the President/Dean/representatives from member universities in China and countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia. The universities in Thailand included Chiang Mai University, Chulalongkorn University, Mae Fah Luang University, Mahidol University, Prince of Songkla University, and Walailak University.

A workshop "Social Innovation in Southeast Asia: From Control of Change to Socio-Ecological Transformation"



On 1 - 2 November 2023, Mae Fah Luang University led by French-Upper Mekong Sub-region Academic Cooperation Centre and Asian Research Center for International Development, the School of Social Innovation in collaboration with Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC) organised a workshop on **"Social Innovation in Southeast Asia: From Control of Change to Socio-Ecological Transformation"** at Puang-chompoo and Phu-rahong Meeting room, M-Square Building, Mae Fah Luang University.

MFU Representatives Attend 17th AIMS Programme Annual Review Meeting and IRO Capacity Building Workshop in the Philippines

On 8 - 11 November 2023, Mae Fah Luang University representatives namely Asst. Prof. Dr. Somrudee Nilthong, lecturer from the School of Science and Ms. Warunee Kaewbunruang, administrative officer from the Global Relations Division were invited to participate in the **17th Annual Review Meeting of the Asian International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme and the IRO Capacity Building Workshop** in Tagaytay, Republic of the Philippines.

The Annual Review Meeting was co-organised by the Commission of Higher Education (CHED), the Philippines; Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU), Batangas; and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation, Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED) on 8 – 9 November 2023. There were 150 participants including government representatives, university leaders, international relations officers, and AIMS alumni network joining the event.

Furthermore, the event officially welcomed the Kingdom of Cambodia as the 10th Member of AIMS and its five leading universities to officially join the AIMS programme.

There were discussions on mutual exchange, setting mobility targets, internationalization at home, and best practices as well as AIMS Alumni talks. During the meeting, government representatives highlighted internationalization policies in their countries, addressing challenges such as low population growth and aging societies.

In addition, MFU representatives joined the IRO (International Relations Officers) Capacity



Building Workshop under the theme of **'Agile and Innovative International Relations Officers for Internationalisation in a New Context'** on 10 -11 November 2023. This workshop aimed at 1. enhancing capacity and cultivating new mindset and skills for IROs to support internationalisation activities and mobility in a new context; 2. strengthening the community of IROs through learning and sharing good practices, including exploring opportunities for future collaboration and collective intelligence; 3. expediting the harmonisation and internationalisation process of higher education in the SEAMEO region.

Moreover, Ms. Warunee Kaewbunruang was invited to be a panelist for Session 3: Networking to share her experience on the networking to facilitate exchange programmes with maximised outcomes. Then, Dr. Nilthong and Ms. Kaewbunruang held a meeting with AIMS alumni from the University of Santo Tomas, Philippines in order to strengthen relations and build a stronger AIMS alumni network.



MFU Hosts the 7th International Conference on Information Technology (InCIT2023) and the 15th National Conference on Information Technology (NCIT 2023)

On 15 – 17 November 2023, the School of Information Technology and the Center for Information Technology Services hosted the **7th International Conference on Information Technology (InCIT 2023)** and the **15th National Conference on Information Technology (NCIT 2023)** at E4 Building, Mae Fah Luang University.

This year, InCIT 2023 and NCIT 2023 were held under a theme **“Shaping a Greener Tomorrow: Integrating Sustainable Innovations and Transformations for a Resilient Society,”** aiming to explore the integration of green technology and sustainability in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Researchers and industry stakeholders were invited to discuss sustainable technologies and practices, assess their potential for fostering long-term resilience, and promote knowledge exchange and collaboration for a more environmentally conscious future.

The conferences, supported by the Council of IT Deans of Thailand (CITT), IEEE Computer Society Thailand Chapter, the IEEE Thailand Section, ECTI Association, Amazon Web Services, FACTORI 4.0 Erasmus+, and DigiHealth-Asia, served as a combined platform to share research findings related to information and communication technologies, including next-generation innovations.



The 5th ASLE-ASEAN Ecocritical Conference on Posthuman Southeast Asia

On 23 - 25 November 2023, the School of Liberal Arts, Mae Fah Luang University and Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment in ASEAN (ASLE-ASEAN) jointly organised the **5th ASLE-ASEAN Ecocritical Conference on Posthuman Southeast Asia** at Mae Fah Luang University.

Southeast Asia is a region where humans and nonhumans have always been deeply entangled, from the indigeneous and ancient traditions of animism to the variegated and blooming creativity of contemporary literature, art, music, drama, film, and other media. The conference aimed at bringing together scholars, authors, artists, activists, students, and researchers from all over ASEAN and beyond to discuss naturalcultural entanglements and explore more sustainable ways of living on this planet. The conference featured the presentations in both online platform and onsite, panels, discussions, debates, and social events.



MFU Executives Visit Balochistan, Pakistan to Attend the 1st Quetta Youth Festival and Develop Collaboration



On 29 November – 2 December 2023, MFU Executives including Assoc. Prof. Dr.Darunee Vattanasiriweach, Vice President; Dr.Nichan Singhaputargun, Acting Head of the Global Relations Division; and Dr.Phitsanuruk Kanthawee, lecturer in Public Health programme of the School of Health Science were invited by Mr. Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs & Culture of Balochistan to attend **the 1st Quetta Youth Festival in Balochistan, Pakistan.**

Mr. Narut Soontarodom, Consul General of Thailand in Karachi; Mr. Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture of Balochistan; and MFU executives paid a courtesy call on Mr. Malik Abdul Wali Kakar, Governor of Balochistan; and Mr. Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, Chief Minister of Balochistan on 30 November 2023. Both sides discussed ways to strengthen Thai-Balochistan and Pakistan relations through the existing bilateral cooperation framework especially in areas of trade and education.

Moreover, Mae Fah Luang University and the Ministry for Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture of Balochistan agreed to offer four full scholarships for Pakistani students to study postgraduate programmes at MFU. The Ministry and MFU are also planning to organise a training for Balochistan province in collaboration with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Karachi.

In addition, the delegation of Mae Fah Luang University visited not only the City School Quetta Campus A Level to promote MFU study programmes for international students, but also University of Balochistan, University of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, and Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences to discuss the possibilities of academic cooperation in terms of student mobility, visiting scholar programme, scholarship, and joint research or joint online lectures in the fields of social sciences; social innovation; peace and conflict studies; science; gender studies; energy planning; and water management.

During a participation in the 1st Quetta Youth Festival, Assoc. Prof. Dr.Darunee Vattanasiriweach, MFU Vice President shared her perspectives in a panel on Thailand & Pakistan Education while Dr.Nichan Singhaputargun, Acting Head of the Global Relations Division shared his insights in a panel on Peace & Conflict Studies. The university also set up the MFU Corner to display the university's information on facts and figures, study programmes, research and achievements.

Altogether, this visit is an invaluable opportunity for MFU to develop academic, research and training collaboration with educational institutions and government organisations in Balochistan. The future cooperation will indeed contribute to the mutual development and people's well-being in both Thailand and Pakistan.

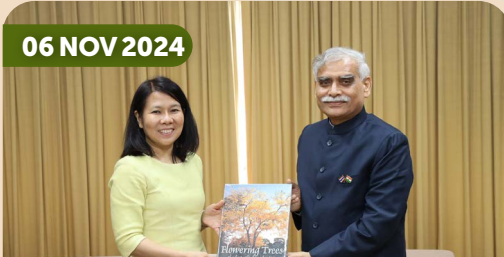


12 SEP 2024



A Visit of Delegation from the French Embassy, Bangkok

06 NOV 2024



A Visit of the Consul of India in Chiang Mai

30 NOV 2024



A Visit of Women Ambassadors

4 DEC 2024



A Visit of Delegation from Preah Sihamoniraja Buddhist University (PSBU), Cambodia

21 DEC 2024



A Visit of Consul General of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Thailand, Bangkok

26 OCT 2024



A Visit of Delegation from Griffith University, Australia

20 NOV 2024



A Visit of Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture of Balochistan, Pakistan

1 DEC 2024



A Visit of Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Thailand, Bangkok

14 DEC 2024



A Visit of Delegation from Xiamen University, China

STUDENT ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONALIZATION@HOME

● Discovering Chiang Rai While Making New Friends in One Day

On 16 September 2023, over **130 new international students including full-time and exchange students** joined the **Chiang Rai Discovery**, an exciting trip to discover the breathtaking scenery and historic landmarks in the Chiang Rai province, such as White temple, Black House Museum, Elephant Camp Karen Ruammit Village, and Huay Pla Kang Temple.

The one-day trip was held by the Global Relations Division to help international students learn more about Northern Thailand's way of life and immerse with Chiang Rai province's historical, economic, social, arts and cultural aspects. In addition, there were Thai and international volunteering tour guides from the International Students Club who provided informative insights for new international students. During the trip, students also had a chance to get to know new friends from different Schools.



● MFU Social Engagement Camp 2023

On 4 – 5 November 2023, the **ARSA Volunteer Club and International Student Club of Mae Fah Luang University** organised the **MFU social engagement camp 2023** at Baan Huay Mae Sai School, Mae Yao Sub-district, Chiang Rai province. During the camp, MFU students worked together to paint canteen walls and create English teaching materials for the school. All in all, this activity provided an opportunity for Thai and international students to exchange ideas and developed their teamwork and communication skills. Also, they experienced the Akha way of life and learned about their traditions and culture.



● Learn How to Prepare Ourselves for Global Citizenship Through the Exchange Maximization Expo & International Festival 2023

On 30 September 2023, the Global Relations Division organised the **Exchange Maximization Expo & International Festival 2023** under the theme of **"What's Next? How to Prepare Ourselves for Global Citizenship"** at Pradoo Daeng 1 room, E4 Building.

This event aimed to provide a stage for students, educators, and stakeholders to share international experiences and envision global citizenship. Also, all sub-activities were expected to raise awareness and promote global citizenship, as well as encourage the development of 21st century skills among MFU students.

The event started with the panel discussion on **"How to Prepare Ourselves for Global Citizenship"** presented by Dr. Faryal Khan, Programme Specialist for Education, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific; Police Sergeant Major Sathitporn Rathsathit, UN Police; Asst. Prof. Dr. Chanintorn Pensute, lecturer of Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University; Dr. Anuthep Sooksriwong, lecturer of the School of Law, Mae Fah Laung University; Mr. Fuadi Pitsuwan, President of Surin Pitsuwan Foundation; and Ms. Kornkanok Sanabud, Master's student of International Development programme, the School of Social Innovation (Thai youth delegate to the UNGA 77). The speakers shared their views on the term of global citizenship; how to empower learners to become global citizen; and the importance of being global citizen.

Moreover, there was the experience sharing session from MFU lecturers who graduated from overseas universities in Brunei Darussalam, France, Malaysia, Taiwan and UK. Apart from the talks, the event also featured an exhibition under the theme **"The Road to Global"** by MFU exchange alumni and a movie night on **"GAYBY BABY"**.

In addition, the International Festival brought together international lecturers from the School of Sinology, and School of Liberal Arts as well as students from 10 countries including Bhutan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand to share their traditional dishes and culture with friends. Altogether, the event was a great success in enhancing students' global citizenship awareness and fostering greater appreciation for diversity in the university.



● The 7th Sino Show: A Chinese Musical about Empress Wu Zetian

On 10 November 2023, the School of Sinology in collaboration with the Sinology Student Union organised the **7th Sino Show: A Chinese Musical about Empress Wu Zetian** at C4 Auditorium to showcase students' language competence, knowledge and understanding of China. The University Council members, MFU executives, staff members, lecturers, students and guests of honour from various organisations in Chinag Rai attended this event.

The Sino Show aimed at bringing together students from four programmes of the School of Sinology including Business Chinese, Chinese Language and Culture, Chinese Studies and Teaching Chinese Language to apply knowledge and skills to design and create their own musical. Students involved in each step of the production, from the Chinese script writing, costumes, musical directing and finally the stage performance. All cultural performances, such as traditional Chinese dance, martial arts as well as lion and dragon dances, were well-designed to promote Chinese culture and strengthen the long-standing Chinese-Thai relations.

The preparation of a musical has helped students not only improve their Chinese skills but also develop the 21st century

skills in accordance with the university's strategy on preparing students to become quality global citizens.



Mae Fah Luang University Hosts Mekong Academic Consortium (MAC) Supported by U.S. Embassy

To address emerging challenges in the Mekong River basin and promote the Thai-U.S. Academic Network to create sustainable solutions for the Mekong, Mae Fah Luang University, in collaboration with the Mekong Sub-region Social Research Center of Ubon Ratchathani University and Center for Peace and Conflict Studies of Chulalongkorn University, partnered with the U.S. Mission to Thailand to organise the **MAC 2023** from 2 – 5 November 2023.

More than 40 academics specialising in sustainable management of the Mekong River from educational institutions in Thailand and the United States attended the **“Advancing Scientific Capacity, Strengthening Thai-U.S. Academic Network, and Creating Solutions for a Sustainable Mekong River Basin”** seminar in Chiang Rai.



During the conference, Thai academics from various disciplines presented their research and exchange views about sustainable development, transboundary governance, as well as the sociological, cultural, political, and economic impact of human activities (agriculture and fisheries) on the livelihood of the Mekong communities, for developing joint Thai-U.S. research proposals that identify solutions for MAC to inform public policy.

Moreover, the conference included a field study to allow participants to talk and exchange views with local communities at Wiang Nong Lom and to hear local community members' recommendations and concerns, ensuring that natural resource management policies reflect the local needs and promote the community-driven development.

The Mekong Academic Consortium Conference 2023 was a part of the Thailand – U.S. Academic Training Course and Workshop program on **“Advancing Scientific Capacity, Strengthening Thai-U.S. Academic Network, and Creating Solutions for a Sustainable Mekong River Basin,”** which run from September 2022 – December 2023.

This project reflects the university's continued efforts to enhance cooperative activities with national and regional institutions in promoting the sustainability, resilience, and security of the Mekong sub-region.

"Tea Processing in Vietnam": the Project on Sustainable Community Development Model based on the Application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

On 22 – 25 November 2023, Tea and Coffee Institute at Mae Fah Luang University led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Piyaporn Chueamchaitrakun, Head of Tea and Coffee Institute in collaboration with Faculty of Engineering and Agro-Industry, Maejo University and Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the training programme **"Tea Processing in Vietnam"** under the Project on Sustainable Community Development Model based on the Application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Dong Bang village, Thai Nguyen province, Vietnam.

The purposes of the training programme were to develop the potential of community management as well as establish the farmers' group and community network for sustainable development through community participation and the application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. Also, the programme aimed to promote agroforestry for food security, environmental conservation, community forest management, tea cultivation in accordance with the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), and tea products development that respond to market demand (focusing on the domestic market).

The programme consisted of a visit to the Northern Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (NOMAFSI) and Tea Cooperative in Thai Nguyen province and the knowledge transfer sessions on tea blending workshop, tea testing, and how to improve the quality of tea quality and production by Asst. Prof. Dr. Piyaporn Chueamchaitrakun. Also, experts from Faculty of Engineering and Agro-Industry, Maejo University presented the quality control of ingredients and production complying with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Furthermore, the delegates from Thailand attended the tea festival in Phu Luong district where they met and exchanged best practices with farmers and government officers in Thai Nguyen province.

Altogether, this training programme is a part of University-Government-Industry-Community (UGIC) collaboration project of Mae Fah Luang University that shows MFU efforts in helping local people in Vietnam acquire new skills and gain knowledge required to upgrade their local products, and establish a network for scholars, entrepreneurs and farmers from Thailand and Vietnam.

