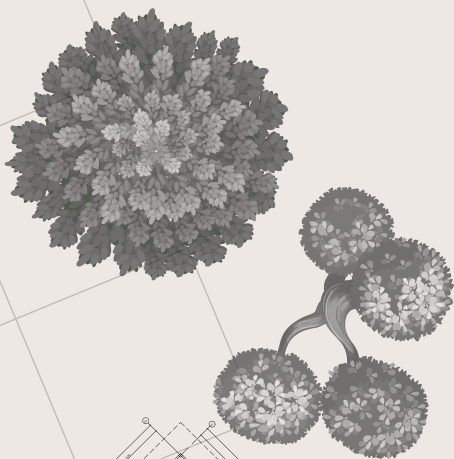


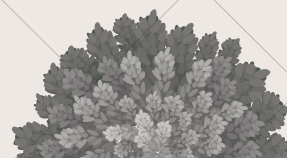
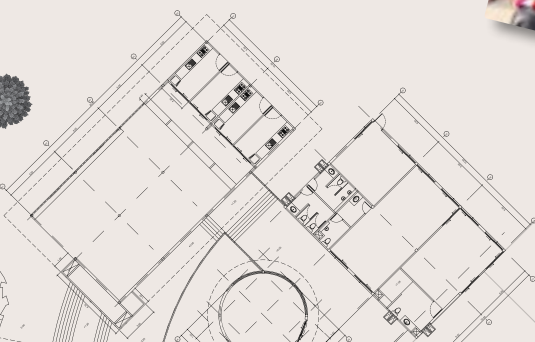
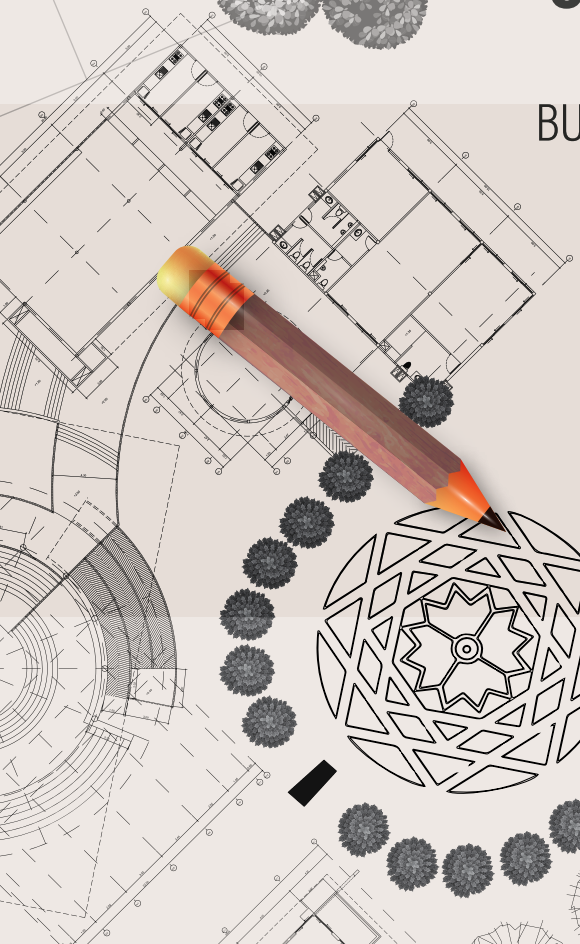
The Park

MFU International Newsletter
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COLLABORATION FOR CHANGE:

UNIVERSITIES, PARTNERS, AND COMMUNITIES
BUILDING FOR WELL-BEING & SUSTAINABLE FUTURE





Prof. Dr. Sujitra Wongkasemjit
MFU Vice President

Editor's note

Welcome to the Park 37, where we explore the powerful theme of **Collaboration for Change: Universities, Partners, and Communities Building for Well-being and Sustainable Future.**

This issue emphasises the power of collaboration in shaping a better tomorrow. We, as a university, are uniquely positioned to drive positive change with our knowledge, innovation, resources, and research. However, lasting impact requires collaboration from the expertise of universities, the experience of partner organisations, and the wisdom of local communities.

In this edition, we delve into inspiring stories of such collaborations, highlighting the incredible potential that emerges when we join forces. You'll encounter examples of academic services, joint research projects, and community development efforts.

In addition to these collaborative efforts, this issue features articles spotlighting student activities that aim to cultivate students' understanding of their role as global citizens as well as enhance diversity and inclusion within our campus community.

Together, we can weave a tapestry of positive change, thread by thread, for a brighter and more sustainable future.

Sincerely,

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MFU Commencement Ceremony for Academic Year 2022

TOP STORIES



On 27 February 2024, Mae Fah Luang University had the great honour of receiving Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who on behalf of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, presided over MFU's commencement ceremony for the Academic Year 2022 at the C4 Princess Mother Auditorium. This commencement marked the graduation of MFU's 21st class of students.

This year, MFU presented an Honorary Doctorate in Cosmetic Science to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Panvipa Krisdaphong in recognition of her outstanding expertise in cosmetic science and her contributions to the establishment of the School of Cosmetic Science, MFU as the first Dean. The University also presented an Honorary Doctorate in Social Science to Assoc. Prof. Napalai Suwannathada in recognition of her expertise in Thai language and contributions to the advancement of Thai language instruction. Moreover, MFU presented the Golden Tung awards to Mr. Sirichai Manoch to recognize his invaluable support in the implementation of MFU Medical

Centre and to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suriyapong Wattanasak to recognise his significant contributions to the establishment of Mae Fah Luang University.

In the academic year 2022, 2,927 graduates including 2,827 Thai graduates and 100 international graduates were eligible to participate in the commencement ceremony. In total, 2,169 Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and Doctoral degree graduates (including 60 international graduates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Japan, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, UK, USA, and Yemen) from the School of Agro-Industry, the School of Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine, the School of Cosmetic Science, the School of Dentistry, the School of Health Science, the School of Information Technology, the School of Integrative Medicine, the School of Law, the School of Liberal Arts, the School of Management, the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, the School of Sinology, the School of Science, and the School of Social Innovation attended the degree presentation ceremony.



Australian Governor-General Visits Chiang Rai to Observe a Joint Research Project under the Mekong-Australia Partnership

On 16 February 2024, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Her Excellency Mrs. Linda Hurley visited a research project titled **"Citizen Science and Local Engagement on Climate and Water Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation: A Case Study of Ing River Basin"** at the Som Saeng Forest area, Ban Pa Kha village, Pa Tan sub-district, Khun Tan district, Chiang Rai Province.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Matchima Naradisorn, President of MFU; Prof. Dr. Sujitra Wongkasemjit and, Vice President; Asst. Prof. Dr. Apisom Inthalawan, lecturer of the School of Management and the project's research team; as well as community villagers warmly welcomed the Governor-General and delegates from the Australian Embassy in Bangkok.

During the visit, Dr. Inthalawan reported progress on research projects and presented how the community, in collaboration with Oxfam and Mae Fah Luang University, is reproducing native fish species which helps the local region adapt to climate change and create new economic opportunities. In addition, the Governor-General and Her Excellency Mrs. Hurley participated in the release of fish into the Ing River.

This three-year project, implemented in partnership with Oxfam and research teams from four universities, aims to enhance community resilience to climate challenges and empower communities to better cope with water flow challenges.



CHALLENGES

The Ing River in Northern Thailand, stretching 260 kilometers and rich in biodiversity, faces significant challenges from climate change and human activities. These challenges include rising temperatures, more frequent heavy rainfall, increased occurrences of wildfires, and water scarcity, all of which negatively impact agriculture and fisheries. Despite these issues, effective climate risk mitigation strategies and real-time information access for communities are lacking.



“

Local participation is crucial for achieving sustainable development. Therefore, our research prioritises co-designing adaptation and mitigation plans with communities.

”

Interview with Asst. Prof. Dr. Apisom Inthalawan,
head of MFU research team



“My project focuses on raising awareness about climate change and its potential impacts on communities. We’ve approached this from multiple dimensions. For example, we’ve examined future hydrological scenarios – how changes in temperature might affect the flow of the Ing River. We’ve also looked at potential impacts on fisheries: how a rise in temperature could affect fish populations. Additionally, we’ve explored the effects on agriculture and livelihoods, aiming to build community resilience against extreme events like floods, droughts, and wildfires (which are exacerbated by rising temperatures).”

Local participation is crucial for achieving sustainable development. Therefore, our research prioritises co-designing adaptation and mitigation plans with communities. Recognising the issue’s complexity, we engage both local and national officials, fostering integration from the local level all the way to top ministries. We also employ a multidisciplinary approach, as climate change encompasses climatology, hydrology, livelihoods, and economic concerns. This is why we’ve assembled a team of experts from four universities, each specializing in different areas.”

■ Sub-working Groups:

1. Hydrology and Climate Change Impacts Assessment

(Kasetsart University Team, led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Sitang Pilailar)

2. Participatory Research in Better Climate Resilience in Fisheries and Fish Food Security in the Ing River

(Ubon Ratchathani University Team, led by Prof. Dr. Tuanthong Jutagate).

3. Water Security, Community Resilience and Ecosystem Services Assessment

(Mae Fah Luang University Team, led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Apisom Inthalawan)

4. Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Vulnerability Adaptation and Mitigation

(Mahasarakham University Team, led by Asst. Prof. Dr.Chainarong Settachua)

■ Research approach

This project utilises Participatory Action Research (PAR) to empower communities facing water challenges due to climate change.

Eight Programmes of Mae Fah Luang University Successfully Accredited in accordance with the AUN-QA Standard

After the process of the 328th and the 349th AUN-QA Programme Assessment (during 9 – 11 May 2023 and 26 – 28 September 2023 respectively), the ASEAN University Network – Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) has announced that **eight programmes of Mae Fah Luang University have been successfully accredited in accordance with the AUN-QA standards.**

The accredited programmes include:

- Bachelor of Science Programme in Cosmetic Science
- Bachelor of Public Health Programme
- Bachelor of Science Programme in Environmental Health
- Bachelor of Science Programme in Occupational Health and Safety
- Bachelor of Science Programme in Applied Chemistry
- Bachelor of Applied Thai Traditional Medicine Programme
- Master of Public Health Programme in Border Health Management
- Master of Science Programme in Cosmetic Science



All assessed programmes received an overall rating of 4 - “Adequate as Expected”. Altogether, the assessment of study programmes according to AUN-QA standards indicates the University’s efforts in enhancing and improving the quality and standards of teaching, research and services.

MFU Students Win Awards in the 28th Braille Reading and Writing Contest

On 19 January 2024, the Disability Support Services of Mae Fah Luang University (DSS) led three Mae Fah Luang University students with visual impairments to compete in the 28th Braille Reading and Writing Contest organised by the Thailand Association of the Blind in collaboration with Ratchasuda College of Mahidol University and several partners in the field of blindness in Thailand.



For the Chinese Braille category (as an individual):

- The First Place and a trophy from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn belonged to Ms. Sawanya Seema, a 4th-year student of Business Chinese programme, School of Sinology (score: 98 points)
- The Second Place was awarded to Ms. Jiraporn Woranut, a 4th-year student of Business Chinese programme, School of Sinology (score: 97 points)
- The Third Place went to Mr. Jirawat Pornputimaetee, a 3rd-year student of Teaching Chinese Language programme, School of Sinology (score: 95 points)

For the Thai Braille category (as a team), the First Place belonged to Ms. Sawanya Seema, a 4th-year student of Business Chinese programme, School of Sinology (score: 94.5 points).

Mae Fah Luang University's School of Management Achieves UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization).TedQual Certification

On 4 March 2024, the School of Management at Mae Fah Luang University received positive affirmation through the UNWTO.TedQual First Certification process for three esteemed programmes including:

- 1.) Bachelor of Business Administration programmes in Tourism Business and Events (TBE)
- 2.) Bachelor of Business Administration programmes in Hospitality Business Management (HBM)
- 3.) Bachelor of Business Administration programmes in Aviation Business Management (ABM)

The School of Management attained a 94 percent degree of accomplishment, and the three programmes have been certified for a four-year period, from March 2024 to March 2028. The UNWTO.TedQual certification serves as a testament to the School's commitment to delivering high-quality education in the field of tourism, hospitality, aviation, and related industries, with efforts in academia now being recognized on an international scale.

With the UNWTO.TedQual certification, Mae Fah Luang University's School of Management gains access to exclusive privileges offered by UNWTO, including collaborations with leading universities in tourism education worldwide and UNWTO Academy Partnerships.



Mae Fah Luang University Receives the 2023 Outstanding Award in Developing Human Resources in Research for the Country

On 27 March 2024, Mae Fah Luang University was granted the 2023 outstanding award for the global and frontier research universities in developing human resources in research for the country category from the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation. In the award ceremony, Prof. Dr.Sujitra Wongkasemjit, Vice President of Mae Fah Luang University received the award from Ms. Supamas Isarabhakdi, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI) at Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel, Bangkok.

The awards for Global and Frontier Research Universities 2023 were presented to universities in recognition of their meaningful and invaluable contributions in three categories: developing human resources in research for the country, producing globally high-quality and competitive research, and cultivating and developing a research ecosystem.



Cultural Exchange Activities between MFU and MRA Foundation (Japan) under the CocoWA Project



On 31 December 2023 – 4 January 2024, Mae Fah Luang University students and staff members of the Global Relations Division joined **the CocoWA Project** together with 22 Japanese participants from various groups covering students, employees and families who were interested in Thai culture at Mae Kok Foundation and other places in Chiang Rai province.

During the project, all participants visited tourist attractions in Chiang Rai province to learn more about culture and way of life of people in Northern Thailand. Furthermore, participants had a chance to engage in games and cultural activities such as Japanese food cooking and natural dyeing workshops with children at Mae Kok Foundation. In addition, they visited Ban Ruammit School to interact with local students. The CocoWA Project, held by MRA Foundation Off Campus International Exchange (OCA), Japan is one of the cultural activities under the collaboration between Mae Fah Luang University and MRA Foundation.

MFU Hosts the Fifth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Aerodrome Design and Operations Task Force (AP-ADO/TF/5)



On 30 January – 2 February 2024, Mae Fah Luang University hosted **the Fifth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Aerodrome Design and Operations Task Force (AP-ADO/TF)** which was organised by Mae Fah Luang Chiang Rai International Airport (CEI) on behalf of the Airports of Thailand Public Company Limited (AOT) at Wanasawan meeting room.

After the welcoming speech by Asst. Prof. Dr. Nathapornpan Uttama, Vice President of Mae Fah Luang University, Sqn. Ldr. Dr. Somchanok Tiamtiabrat, General Manager of Mae Fah Luang Chiang Rai International Airport presided over the meeting with a participation of over 60 participants from 14 member states of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Asia and Pacific (APAC). Sqn. Ldr. Dr. Somchanok Tiamtiabrat stated that the objective of this meeting was to discuss aerodrome operations in accordance with international standards and to review guidelines to enhance the safety and efficiency of operations at airports.

The 14th Multi-GNSS Asia Annual Conference



On 30 January – 2 February 2024, the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) in collaboration with Multi-GNSS Asia and partners organised **the 14th Multi-GNSS Asia Annual Conference** under a theme of **“Enhancing Resilience in the Greater Mekong Subregion”** at Mae Fah Luang University.

The purpose of this conference was to bring together system providers, government agencies, academia and industries in Asia and Oceania regions and other parts of the globe to present and exchange ideas, latest trends on Global Positioning System and Navigation technologies as well as the utilisation of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technology.

A Visit to Cambodia to Deepen Academic Cooperation and Attend Thailand Education and Jobs Fair 2024



On 15 – 17 February 2024, delegates from Mae Fah Luang University led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Darunee Wattanasiriwech, Vice President and Mrs. Kittima Santi, Head of Placement and Co-operative Education Division visited Cambodia to further strengthen academic cooperation with Cambodian universities and participate in Thailand Education and Jobs Fair 2024.

The delegation visited the Royal Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh to meet members of the Cambodia Higher Education Association (CHEA) and discuss collaboration with representatives from private high schools and higher education institutions in Cambodia.

MFUI representatives also attended the unfair event at several high schools and the Thailand Education and Jobs Fair 2024 at Phnom Penh University (RUPP) to promote the university's study programmes, admission requirements, scholarship opportunities, and exchange programmes to Cambodian students. **Over 1,300 attendees, especially aspiring students, participated in the Fair.**

The opening ceremony featured speeches given by H.E. Mr. Cherdkiat Atthakor, Ambassador of Thailand to Cambodia; H.E. Mr. Oung Borat, Secretary of State and Head of the Cabinet of Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; H.E. POK Pann, Secretary of State Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. The Fair also offered three special panel sessions on scholarship opportunities, orientation to studying in Thailand, and jobs and career opportunities. **The Thailand Education and Jobs Fair 2024 Fair marks Thailand's grand fair in Cambodia for three consecutive years, organised by the Thai Embassy of Cambodia in cooperation with the Thai Alumni Network and Go Study Thailand. It aimed to connect students and the public in Cambodia with representatives from leading Thai companies and universities.**



ASEA-UNINET Votes to Admit Mae Fah Luang University as Full Member



ASEAN-European
Academic
University Network

founded by Austria, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam in 1994

On 26 February – 1 March 2024, Dr. Nihan Singhaputargun, Acting Head of the Global Relations Division and Ms. Warunee Kaewbunruang, Administrative Officer, attended **the 19th ASEAN-European Academic University Network (ASEA-UNINET)** hosted by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Malaysia. This plenary meeting brought together over 100 participants from more than 90 universities across 16 countries. The event was a testament to the commitment of these institutions to global collaboration and academic excellence.

During the meeting, Dr. Singhaputargun presented MFU's readiness to become a full member of the network, focusing on the well-being and sustainable future framework. MFU was subsequently elected as a full member of ASEA-UNINET, marking a significant milestone towards fostering innovation and facilitating knowledge exchange through collaboration.

The ASEAN – European Academic University Network (ASEA-UNINET) is a network of universities, consisting of European and South-East Asian universities with the goal of promoting the continuous internationalization of education and research.

Attending this ASEA-UNINET plenary meeting proved to be a valuable opportunity for MFU representatives to exchange best practices and discuss concrete academic cooperation with member universities, ultimately enhancing the University's academic and research excellence.



The School of Sinology Visits Partner Universities in China for Deepening Academic Cooperation

On 3 – 9 March 2024, Dr. Teeraparp Predeepoch, Dean of the School of Sinology and lecturers of Business Chinese programme and Chinese Studies programme visited partner universities in China namely Huaqiao University, Xiamen University, and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics for deepening academic cooperation.

During a visit to Huaqiao University, the School of Sinology delegates attended the signing ceremony for renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for academic cooperation and exchange between Mae Fah Luang University and Huaqiao University.

Furthermore, the School of Sinology delegates visited Xiamen University and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics. These visits focused on meeting with representatives from relevant departments to discuss ongoing student short courses and explore possibilities for further cooperation in student exchange programmes and research. Altogether, the visit to these Chinese partner universities provided a valuable opportunity for MFU to not only strengthen existing relationships but also unlock new avenues for academic cooperation. This will undoubtedly promote academic exchange and development between Thailand and China.



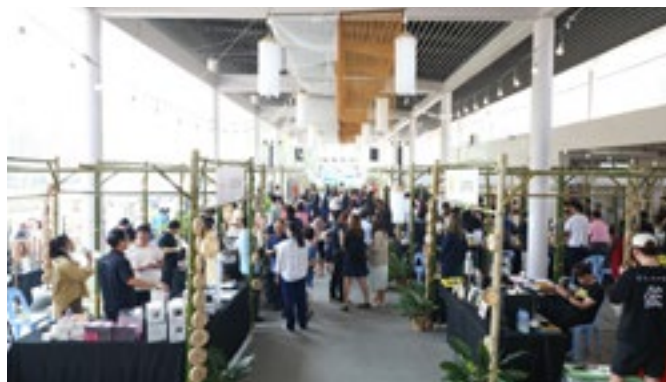


Under the support from Chiang Rai province, the university has organised various projects and activities to help local entrepreneurs, farmers, and communities enhance knowledge and skills, leading to increased coffee processing quality and improved product management practices. The overall goal is to develop Chiang Rai's unique coffee products, expand these practices throughout Northern Thailand, connect these products to the wider Thai coffee industry, and ultimately build global collaborative networks.

On 15 March 2024, Mae Fah Luang University organised **"MFU Coffee Fest 2024: Coffee Path, Happy Path"** at the General Sampao Choosri (E4) Building. This event attracted more than 300 participants from various groups such as farmers, entrepreneurs, academics, and the private sector.

The festival aimed to establish collaborative links between experts, coffee farmers, government and private sector organisations. It also showcased project results to coffee entrepreneurs and those interested in coffee business through presentations of coffee beans from participating farmers.

The wide range of activities were offered at the festival, including MFU Best Coffee Farmer award presentation, seminars, competitions, exhibitions, business matching sessions, and workshops. There was also a dedicated zone showcasing crafted products, food and beverage. Furthermore, the event featured a conference on the Sustainable Development for Thailand's Coffee Industry under the Hub of Knowledge in Thailand's Coffee Technology and Value Chain Management at Mae Fah Luang University, which is funded by the National Research Council of Thailand. The Hub of Knowledge aims to generate and collect knowledge of coffee processing, connect coffee processing specialists, establish a network group, and provide one-stop supporting services for coffee processing.



MFU President Attends the 2024 ASEAN-Australia CEO Forum in Australia

On 4 - 6 March 2024, Asst. Prof. Dr.Matchima Naradisorn, President of Mae Fah Luang University and Asst. Prof. Dr.Nathapornpan Uttama, Vice President of Mae Fah Luang University attended **the 2024 ASEAN-Australia CEO Forum held in Melbourne, Australia**. The forum was a part of 2024 ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, which commemorated the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations and aimed to enhance cooperation under the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The Special Summit served as a platform for leaders from government and private sectors from ASEAN Member States and Australia to share visions and discuss approaches to strengthen practical cooperation in various areas.

Asst. Prof. Dr.Matchima Naradisorn participated in the 2024 ASEAN-Australia CEO Forum, which highlighted research collaboration and education partnerships between ASEAN countries and Australia. The forum brought together over 100 Australian and ASEAN CEOs and business leaders. Discussions were held in six CEO Roundtables covering agriculture and food supply chains, digital economy, education and skills, green energy transition, financial services, and infrastructure, connectivity, and resources.

Furthermore, Dr. Naradisorn was invited to co-chair the CEO Education and Skills Roundtable alongside Professor Alec Cameron, Vice-Chancellor and President of RMIT University. The discussion reflected that the private sector still needs the education sector to produce a capable workforce in health sciences, nursing, and engineering, which are considered crucial for driving business and the economy. All in all, MFU always prioritizes cultivating impactful educational collaborations worldwide to develop a skilled workforce and promote the well-being and sustainable future of people in the region.





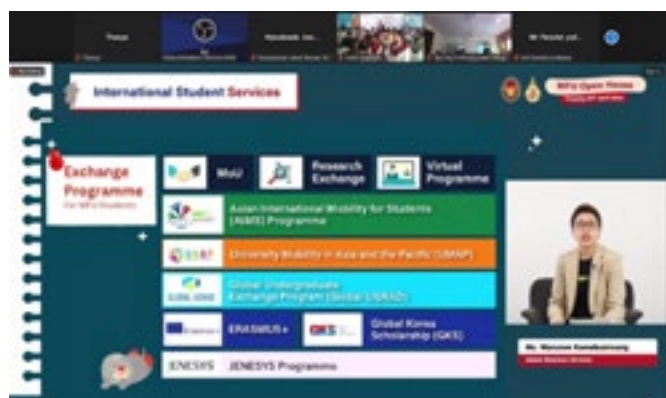
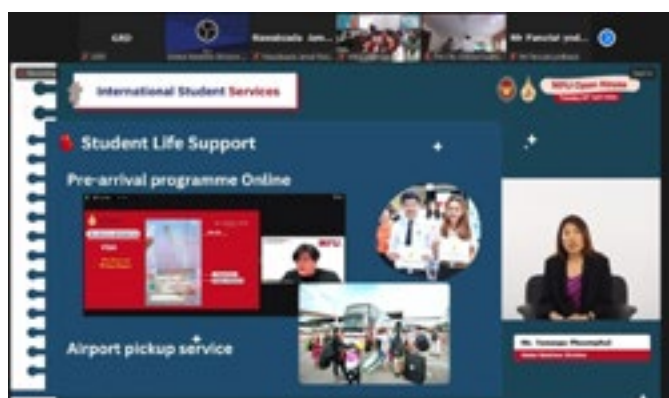
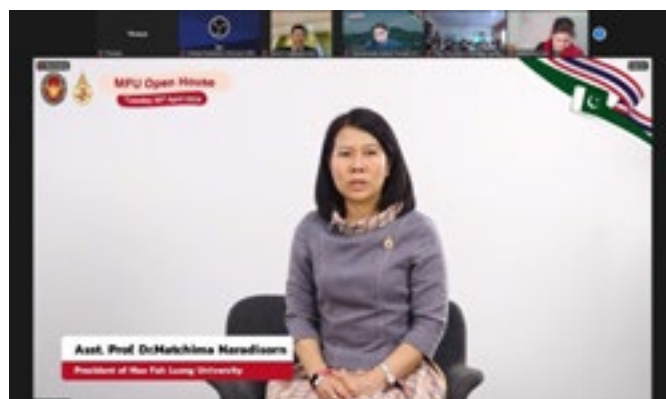
MFU Virtual Open House for Students in Pakistan



On 30 April 2024, Mae Fah Luang University and the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Karachi jointly organised an **"MFU Virtual Open House"** for high school students in Karachi city and Balochistan province, Pakistan. The event aimed to provide prospective international students with an opportunity to explore the university's academic programmes, facilities, services, and admission process, presented by representatives from the Global Relations Division and various schools

The opening session featured remarks given by Mr. Narut Soontarodom, Consul General of Thailand in Karachi and Asst. Prof. Dr. Matchima Naradisorn, President of Mae Fah Luang University. Additionally, there was a special talk on **"Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: How Thai & Pakistan Youth Can Change the World"** by H.E. Mr. Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Former Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs & Culture of Balochistan, and an MFU alumnus. H.E. Mr. Nawabzada Jamal Raisani's talk emphasised the importance of youth engagement in regional collaboration in various fields such as environmental issues, cultural exchange, tourism, sports, and healthcare to address regional challenges and promote sustainable development.

This open house event is a direct result of a fruitful visit by MFU executives to Pakistan in December 2023. It serves not only to benefit students interested in pursuing higher education in Thailand but also to strengthen the ties and collaborative relations between Thailand and Pakistan.





Sustainability and Well-being

MFU Wellness Center Visits Communities to Promote How to Prevent Health Related Conditions Caused by PM2.5

On 17 March 2024, Mae Fah Luang University Wellness Center led by Assoc. Prof. Dr.Rawiwan Charoensup, Acting Director visited districts in Chiang Rai experiencing unhealthy levels of PM2.5 air pollution, specifically Mae Sai, Chiang Saen, Chiang Khong and Mueang. The main purpose of this visit was to raise public awareness about promoting health and preventing PM2.5-related issues among local residents.

Exposure to PM2.5 can reduce average life expectancy and increase hospital admissions for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Recognising these health risks, MFU Wellness Center prioritises health promotion and disease prevention. Consequently, the staff visited communities and provided information on effectively managing their health to prevent severe air pollution symptoms and proper face mask usage.



MFU Joins Hands with Partners to Provide Knowledge and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Test for Migrant Workers



The Safe City Innovation Research Group led by Assoc. Prof. Dr.Kowit Nambunmee from the School of Health Science, Mae Fah Luang University in collaboration with Asst. Prof. Dr.Ariya Svetamra from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University; Prof. Dr.Laura Rozek from Georgetown University, USA; Assoc. Prof. Dr.Jin-Ha Yoon from Yonsei University, Korea; Dr.Pallop Siewchaisakul from the Faculty of Public Health, Chiang Mai University; and the women's rights network organised a workshop on women's health for over 20 women migrant workers in Chiang Mai province.

The workshop aimed to build understanding and raise awareness among women migrant workers about the importance of health, while also providing them with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) screening tests to detect potential risk factors for cervical cancer. This project, funded by Georgetown University, not only helped reduce inequality in access to healthcare but also built a research network that contributes to fostering women's empowerment and health.

MFU and Chan Chwa Subdistrict Municipality Hold the "Faithfully Restoring Wiang Nong Lom Wetland and Prolonging Local An Tree's life" to Preserve and Protect Cultural Rights of Wiang Nong Lom Wetland



On 5 March 2024, the Global Relations Division brought international students from Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, Myanmar, Nepal, and Togo to participate in the "Faithfully Restoring Wiang Nong Lom Wetland and Prolonging Local An Tree's life" event along with local people at the forest conservation area in Chan Chwa sub-district, Mae Chan district, Chiang Rai province.

The event focused on restoring the Wiang Nong Lom wetland, a highly productive ecosystem crucial to the local communities as a habitat for buffaloes and the breeding ground of countless freshwater species. Moreover, Mayor of Chan Chwa Subdistrict Municipality declared an intention to encourage communities and academics to work together to preserve and protect cultural rights of Wiang Nong Lom wetland. He also informed that the Wiang Nong Lom wetland is now the plant genetic conservation area as a part of the plant genetic conservation project under the royal initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Chan Chwa Subdistrict Municipality would work with MFU to conduct further research in the future.

The Mekong Media Field Trip 2024: Sharing Voices and Stories of the Mekong with the world



On 29 February – 2 March 2024, Mae Fah Luang University co-hosted **the Mekong Media Field Trip 2024** in Chiang Saen and Chiang Khong districts, Chiang Rai province. This Field Trip, funded by the British Embassy in Hanoi under UK FCDO's Funding, was organised by Research Institute for Climate change (DRAGON-Mekong), Can Tho University and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to offer field trips in Chiang Rai, Thailand and Can Tho, Vietnam from 29 February to 6 March 2024 to journalists and communicators from Vietnam and Thailand.

The project brought together journalists and communicators who are highly interested in and knowledgeable about the Mekong River's transboundary issues and sustainable development under climate change impacts. Mr. Nawin Worawek, a student in the Accounting programme at the School of Management, was selected to participate in this field trip as one of the Thai communicators.

The field trip aimed to strengthen public awareness of the shared climate challenges in the Lower Mekong region, highlight existing and potential solutions to address these challenges, and facilitate information-sharing among journalists and scientists.

Participants are expected to become communicators who connect diverse perspectives and foster a shared understanding of the Mekong by sharing voices and stories with the world.

During the trip in Chiang Rai, participants observed and learned from perspectives of the business sector (Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort), government sector (Chiang Saen Commercial Port), and local communities (Ban Had Bai village, Mekong School, Ban Pa Kha village). The discussions focused on the challenges faced in the Golden Triangle area, as well as the impacts of climate change and dams on people's livelihoods and the environment along the Mekong River.

To sustainably solve climate change problems and reduce impacts on livelihoods, it is crucial to engage people from all fields - researchers, students, journalists, and policymakers, especially youth. By understanding the causes and effects of global issues, these groups can broaden their perspectives, raise greater awareness, and be part of creating solutions to these challenges. Universities and communities can play vital roles as hubs for generating knowledge, transferring lessons learned, training human resources, establishing networks with all stakeholders and creating innovation.



WELCOME TO MFU!

Your Second Semester Adventure Begins!

In the second semester of academic year 2023, MFU has welcomed more than 80 new full-time and exchange students from a diverse range of countries, including Austria, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Slovakia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, USA, and Vietnam.

The university organised various activities to help new students smoothly adjust to the new learning and living environment, as well as make new friends. These activities included:

● New International Student Orientation

Providing important information about teaching systems, student services, immigration rules and regulations, student activities and facilities, health insurance, internship programme, exchange programme, and scholarships through the presentations from relevant divisions and senior students.



● MFU Campus Tour

Bringing students to MFU landmarks and facilities around campus through a fun walk rally activity. Students were divided into groups and visited different locations to collect stamps.



● Chiang Rai Discovery Activity

An exciting one-day trip for students to visit historic and fascinating landmarks in Chiang Rai province. During the trip, Thai and international volunteering tour guides from the International Students Club provided informative insights for the new international students.



● A Special lecture "Introduction to Thai Language and Culture"

Providing a special lecture for exchange students to learn basic Thai language and culture, such as essential phrases they can use in daily life. The lecture was taught by lecturers of the Thai language and Culture for foreigners programme, the School of Liberal Arts.



Internationalization at Home:

MFU's Approach to Cultural Diversity and Global Citizenship

The Francophonie Day

This event, organised by the French-Upper Mekong Sub-region Academic Cooperation Centre and Alliance Française Chiang Rai, promoted French language learning for over 40 high school students interested in the language. Students participated in interactive activities at different stations, allowing them to learn French culture and communicate with instructors. The event was supported by the French Embassy and the Embassy of Belgium in Bangkok, with special gifts provided by the Embassy of Luxembourg and the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok.

The Chinese and Thai Traditional Music Performance

The School of Sinology at MFU joined forces with the Hong Kong Ling Nan Orchestra, China, to present a captivating performance of traditional Chinese and Thai music. Featuring talented musicians from both institutions, the event promoted cultural exchange between China and Thailand, while creating a vibrant international atmosphere on campus. This event encouraged students, staff members, and the wider community to appreciate cultural differences and diversity.

MFU Model United Nations Conference

MFU Model United Nations led by students of the School of Social Innovation hosted its inaugural MUN conference. The conference simulated the workings of the General Assembly and three branches (Economic, Social, and Environment branches) under the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Student delegates, representing 21 countries, researched, engaged in debate and presented position papers according to their assigned countries. This conference provided a valuable experience for students to learn more about the principles of the UN in dealing with global issues, as well as gain all essential qualities for future global citizens who can make a positive impact on the world.

The Multicultural Day

The School of Liberal Arts and the Global Relations Division co-hosted 'Multicultural Day' to provide an opportunity for international students and lecturers to showcase their culture and exchange knowledge, traditions, and cultures with each other through food and performances. The event included a showcase of Japanese dance, an Angklung workshop and cuisine booths representing nine different countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Myanmar.



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