

THE PARK

MFU International **Newsletter**

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I would like to begin by congratulating the entire class of 2009, all 1392 students should be proud of their outstanding achievement. I would like to extend special congratulations to the 25 international students who graduated this year; your achievement is even more notable, as it happened while you were acclimating to a totally different culture and country. This issue of *The Park*, provides a lot of information about different events that occurred over the past few months at MFU, and gives a small taste of the life at Mae Fah Luang University. Enjoy.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear 2011 Graduates, Parents, Friends, and Faculty,

This year marks Mae Fah Luang University's 7th commencement ceremony, and it is with great pleasure that I join the University in paying tribute to the new community of scholars being added to Mae Fah Luang University's burgeoning legacy. I would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate the Class of 2011 for their perseverance and success.

Graduation from this University marks the personal achievement of what is for many, a lifelong dream; not only for the students, but also for the parents and loved ones who supported the students on this arduous journey. The University would like to thank you for entrusting your education to us. We have been able to build upon strong foundations to prepare students for their futures.

I am confident that MFU has equipped every single graduate with the critical skills needed to embody and champion the University's mission to "develop people, cultivate knowledge, instill quality, and uphold virtues." Being that our campus is one of a wide range of experiences, cultures, and opportunities, our graduates have been thoroughly tested and subsequently found qualified to become leaders in the global community.

While expressing congratulations to the students, I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge the significant contribution the faculty and staff played in the success of not only the students they supported, but also for the institution as a whole. In addition to the student body, our outstanding faculty members and dedicated staff are the true heart of the University's success.

The commencement services were a great success, especially due to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's gracious generosity, in agreeing to attend the ceremony and confer degrees to the Class of 2011



graduates. I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed the festivities prepared by the University. They were organized to honor the University's traditions and acknowledge that hard work of the graduating students.

I know that the 1,392 graduates of Mae Fah Luang University will continue to add to the prestigious reputation of the University, and the growth and prosperity of the nation. I wish them all luck, and encourage them to take a short time to revel in their successes, not only as scholars, but also as upstanding women and men and global citizens.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Ted Tesprateep
Acting President of
Mae Fah Luang University

MFU Commencement Ceremony



Her Excellency Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn addresses MFU students, faculty and staff

February 15, 2011, Mae Fah Luang University was honored to welcome HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to present the 1,392 graduates of the Class formal graduation ceremony. degrees, 1,230 were undergraduate students, and 6 doctoral students. The honorary Doctor of Philosophy Phramaha Vudhijaya Vajiramedhi, Mr. Phan Wannamethe, Mr. Santi Bhirompakdee and Mr. Suchai Veerametheekul.



H.E. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn bestows 4 honorary degrees on behalf of MFU



H.E. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn awards degrees to MFU students

After conferring degrees, HRH Princess Sirindhorn continued to the Office of the President Building to inspect some academic exhibitions, which served to demonstrate MFU's efforts to strengthen the community through career development in tourism and agriculture. Projects included upgrading the Thai Tea by standardizing production to increase market value, production of organic goods, vermicomposting, and vermiculture.

Following the commencement ceremony, by the royal command of His Majesty the King, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn represented His Majesty the King in granting permission to Police General Pow Sarasin, Chairperson, the University Council, Mae Fah Luang University and colleagues to present the income derived from selling the cosmetic with the extract of longan seed in the "Thai Cosmetic Development" project to His Majesty the King for charity at the discretion of His Majesty the King on the occasion of His Majesty the King's 80th Birthday Anniversary 5 December 2007, at the President's Office Building, Mae Fah Luang University.



Dr. Ratna Thapa from the School of Science presents his research on vermiculture.

Madame Chen Zhili accepting honorary doctoral degree

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously granted permission to Police General Pow Sarasin, Chairman of the Mae Fah Luang University Council, to call upon H.E. Madame Chen Zhili, President of the All-China Women's Federation and Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. On behalf of the University, Police General Sarasin conferred an honorary doctoral degree in Public Administration to Madame Chan Zhili on January 8, 2011 at Dusidalai Hall, Chitralada Villa.

H.E. Madame Chen Zhili is a senior politician in the People's Republic of China, and the former State Councilor and Minister of Education of China. Madame Chen has continuously supported and encouraged a strong

relationship between MFU and China, and her vision has benefitted the University greatly. Madame Chen contributed to the education of MFU students about Chinese language and culture by supporting the construction of the Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Center and the Confucius Center, providing yet another link between the People's Republic of China and Mae Fah Luang University.



Courtesy Call from the U.S. Consul General

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ted Tesprateep, Acting President of Mae Fah Luang University met Ms. Susan Stevenson, U.S. Consul General of Chiang Mai on January 25, 2010 at MFU.

In an initiative titled the “Lower Mekong Initiative,” the U.S. is looking closely to develop relations among 5 countries - Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and the U.S., in order to promote the necessity of a healthy environment, a quality education, good health, and solid infrastructure. Participants of the “Lower Mekong Initiative” will work closely with the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Management (NREM Center), an independent unit within Mae Fah Luang University.

The NREM Center explicitly fosters MFU’s primary mission, as advocated by the Princess Mother, to conserve and rehabilitate nature and the environment, and to sustain and improve the beautiful natural resources of northern Thailand and its neighboring countries, including the GMS (Greater Mekong Sub-region). The NREM Center will respond proactively to the region’s urgent need for improved environmental and natural resources management and will coordinate closely with the U.S.



Acting President Dr. Ted Tesprateep welcomes Ms. Susan Stevenson, U.S. Consul General

M-I-T Mobility Program Meeting



M-I-T Pilot Program students with H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ted Tesprateep, Acting President of Mae Fah Luang University; Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, Acting Assistant to the President; and lecturer from the School of Agro-Industry, recently accompanied student participants of the Pilot Project “Malaysia-Indonesia-Thailand Mobility Programme (M-I-T),” to pay a courtesy call to His Excellency Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, on January 31st January, 2011 at the Government House.

Eight students from MFU are currently participating in the M-I-T exchange program. Five students are studying in Malaysia (at University Putra Malaysia, Universiti Tekonigi MARA, and Universiti Sains Malaysia) and three students are studying in Indonesia (at Bogor Agricultural University). At MFU, there are two students from Universiti Sains

Malaysia studying Food Technology in the School of Agro-Industry for one semester.

Mr. Chaiyos Chirametakorn, the Deputy Minister of Education, revealed that the Pilot Project “Malaysia-Indonesia-Thailand Mobility Programme (M-I-T)” was initiated in 2010 in order to stimulate assimilation in the region, as well as to decrease the divides of languages, religions and cultures amongst ASEAN member countries. This is a move that will facilitate the mobility of various professions in the future. In addition, the program will enhance the sustainable development of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

The Deputy Minister went on to inform everyone present that 72 students from 23 universities from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand participated in this program. It is expected that there will be another 500 participants that will take part from 10 other ASEAN member or partner countries such as Japan and Korea. Though some challenging issues have arisen as a result of the program, including increasing the number of participants in proportion to the subject areas of activities, tuition fees for exchange students, and differing academic calendars, University administrators will work to overcome such obstacles for the benefit of the students.

The exchange program will cover the following 5 areas: agriculture, languages and culture, tourism and services, international business and food science and technology. It will take 1 semester to transfer at least 9-12 credits to participating universities.

International Culture Festival



Students dress in their home countries traditional costumes for MFU's 1st Annual International Culture Festival

Over 800 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended Mae Fah Luang University's 1st Annual International Culture Festival on January 20, 2011. Many different cultures across multiple continents were represented at this event, with performances including singing, dancing and presentations of traditional costumes. The festival, arranged by the International Affairs Division and the Student Development Division, showcased the cultures and customs of Thailand, Myanmar, the People's Republic of China, the Democratic Republic of South Korea, Bhutan, India, France, the United States of America, as well as cultures in Africa and South America.



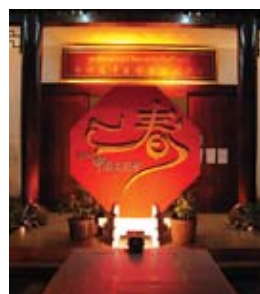
Students enjoy the activities available during the Festival

Chinese Culture Day

The Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Center, the Confucius Centre and the School of Liberal Arts organized activities for Mae Fah Luang University's Chinese Culture Day 2011 on January 28 at the Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Centre. Activities that day included a drawing competition, a Chinese calligraphy contest, a Chinese information quiz and a singing contest. In addition, cultural performances and exhibitions were held throughout the day. The Chinese Culture Day provided an excellent opportunity for students and the public to learn about Chinese language and culture.



Tea-tasting and other activities at Chinese Culture Day



'Path of Perseverance' Photo Exhibition

January 24, 2011 to February 24, 2011, Mae Fah Luang University hosted an exhibition featuring an array of prolific British photojournalist's works on the sufferings and struggles of the Chin people in Myanmar. The exhibition, entitled *Path of Perseverance: Chin People from Burma*, was officially opened by Dr. Phanintra Teeranon, Associate Dean of the School of Liberal Arts.

The exhibition showcased 49 different photos, taken over the course of 16 months between 2008 and 2009, portraying the struggles of the ethnic Chin people, who are spread across three countries- Myanmar, India and Malaysia.

The exhibition featured an exceptional portfolio of photographic images by the photographer, artist and writer *Benny Manser*. Manser's travels and photographs have created a potent mixture of awe and awareness, which spotlight with startling intensity, the horrendous plight the people of Myanmar face and encourage us all to remember our obligations to humankind.

The photographs are compelling, emotional and sublime. Manser's exhibition is a journey of conscience as well as artistic resonance. It is even more enlightening that Manser has captured 'real' un-staged images, without manipulation or persuasion. The effect created by Manser is arresting, haunting, and has absolute authority.



Photograph of a Chin woman featured at the Exhibition



Path of Perseverance Exhibition

Grand Opening of the Police General Pow Sarasin Building

Mae Fah Luang University officially opened the new Police General Pow Sarasin Building, or C5 Building on January 12, 2011 at Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand. On this occasion, Police General Pow Sarasin, the Chairman of the University Council, formally opened the building during the grand opening ceremony.

The Police General Pow Sarasin Building has been in progress since August 30, 2008. When funds of THB 96,070,000 became available in October of 2009, MFU was ready to break ground. The concrete building has 4 floors, 7,900 square meters, and is fully equipped with all modern convenience facilities. It



Left: Police General Pow Sarasin, Chairman of the University Council, admires the building



Right: Opening ceremony of the Police General Pow Sarasin Building

will be used for academic conferences, lectures and symposia. The building honors and bears the name of Police General Pow Sarasin, who faithfully served the University for many years.

International Student Chosen to Participate in Singha Biz Course

Mauingsam, a 4th year Tourism Management major from Myanmar, was one of four Mae Fah Luang University students chosen to participate in the “Singha Biz Course 3,” as a “SBC3 Management Intern.” The 9-week course provides students with administrative and “real-world” experience through wide-ranging, authentic tasks aimed at preparing students for careers in a global, fast-paced economy. Mauingsam will be given assignments

from diverse fields of knowledge, including sales, marketing, business administration and management, public relations and advertising, and human resources.

Mauingsam is particularly excited to gain more experience in marketing and hopes the internship will provide him with more business opportunities in the future.



IT Students Win CAT Datacom Animation 2010 Contest

Two student teams from Mae Fah Luang University’s School of Information and Technology won the CAT Datacom Animation 2010 Contest, organized by the CAT Telecom Public Company Limited on January 14, 2011 at CAT Tower. The contest provided an opportunity for the major multimedia and animation majors to develop and exhibit their techniques for animation.

The ESC team received first prize with their project entitled “Dreamer Land” (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miiBe_7118A) and Tok-Tol in the Blanket team created “The Communication” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZFd5nMfG7E&NR=1>) receive second prize.



IT Students win CAT Datacom Animation Contest 2010



A sample of “Dreamer Land” from ESC team

Thailand Education Fair in Myanmar 2011

His Excellency Mr. Apirath Vienravi, Ambassador of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, welcomed Acting Assistant to the President, Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont and other Mae Fah Luang University delegates during their visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on March 25, 2011 at the Ambassador's Residence in Yangon. During the visit, the topics discussed included: strategies for promoting MFU to Myanmar students, education as a tool for aiding the people in Myanmar, and the need for public health and agricultural science education and instruction.

The following day the ambassador attended the Opening Ceremony of the "Thailand Educational Fair in Myanmar 2011" at Royal Park Hotel, where he recommended Mae Fah Luang University as an excellent option for post-secondary education for students from Myanmar, given its excellent location at the center of the Greater Mekhong Sub-region. The fair was organized by the Department of Export and the 13 participating universities. Nearly 400 students attended the Fair, and MFU received a number of applicants to both undergraduate and graduate programs. A scholarship was available for students who visited the MFU booth. Additionally, the MFU English proficiency test was available on-site to encourage more applicants.



H.E. Apirath Vienravi, Ambassador of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar welcomes MFU delegates



Thailand Education Fair in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Science on Tour

From January to March 2011, the Mae Fah Luang University School of Science completed the "Science on Tour" project, with the support of Mae Fah Luang University Foundation for Rural Teacher Development and Academic Services. The objective of the project was to improve the teaching skills and techniques for science teachers, as well as the learning skills of students in rural schools throughout Chiang Rai. Participants of the project tried to present scientific concepts and experiments in a new, exciting manner to inspire students' interest in science. 16 schools participated in the Tour, with a total of 1,000 students attending. All the activities on the Tour were designed and coordinated by MFU students under the supervision of lecturers from the School of Science.

The most popular activities among the high school students were the "Behavior of Standing Waves" and the "Creation of Images by Different Frequencies." Other activities included the "Demonstration of the Structure and Behavior of DNA," "How 3-D Images are Created," "Simple and Fun Tricks with Chemistry," and "Mathematics and Measurements."

This project proved to not only be beneficial to the high school students who attended and gained more interest in science, but also the university students running the camp, who gained valuable hands-on experience in science and teamwork.



Students from the School of Science teach high school students about the joys of science.

Ajou University

Since Mae Fah Luang University's 2009 entrance into the UMAP Student Connections Online Exchange Program (USCO), there have been a steadily increasing number of MFU students expressing interest in studying at Ajou University. In turn, many Ajou students have taken advantage of the educational opportunities available at MFU. Thus, in late January, the 2 universities decided to formally encourage student exchange by signing a MoU, agreeing to facilitate student and staff exchange.

Group T International College University Leuven

March 09, 2011, Mae Fah Luang University extended its existing agreement with Group T International College University Leuven (Group T). The agreement provides an opportunity for master's degree students studying Logistics and Supply Chain Management to gain a more international experience by studying abroad. Since the initial exchange of students in 2009, 7 students from Group T have studied at MFU; and 7 students from MFU have studied at Group T.

Guangxi University

After attending the China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, the People's Republic of China, Mae Fah Luang University sought an academic partner in Guangxi University. March 21, 2011, signed a MoU to formally begin academic cooperation, in the form of student and staff exchange.

Eastern Finland University

In late March, Mae Fah Luang University and Eastern Finland University agreed to continue their current agreement of academic exchange and cooperation. Eastern Finland's School of Forest Science and MFU's Center for Natural Resource Environmental Management (NREM) have had successful collaborations in the past, and hope to continue to do so in the future.

Upcoming Events

28-29 April 2011

The Sports and Health Science Program in Mae Fah Luang University's School of Health Science will be arranging a seminar entitled "Sports and Health Science." This seminar will be held at Mae Fah Luang University. The participants will include coaches, athletic trainers, PE teachers, and persons interested in the field of sports and health science. The purpose of this seminar is to inform people of and promote the benefits and importance of sports and exercise science to improve athletic performance.

May 2011

Mae Fah Luang University will formally welcome representatives from Bogor University for an official signing ceremony, cementing the upcoming collaboration between the two universities.



**International Affairs Division
Mae Fah Luang University**

Muang, Chiang Rai, Thailand 57100
Tel: (+66) 53 916 026 Fax: (+66) 53 916 023
Email: inter@mfu.ac.th
Website: www.mfu.ac.th