



MFU Commencement Ceremony for Academic Year 2017

- MFU Ranked 10th as Green University in Thailand
- The 2nd Myanmar-Thailand Higher Education Institutions Leadership and Networking Programme

THE PARK
MFU International Newsletter

Volume **25**
February - April 2019



MFU Ranked 10th as Green University in Thailand

The University of Indonesia's GreenMetric World University Ranking 2018 has ranked Mae Fah Luang University as the 206th green university out of 719 universities worldwide and the 10th out of 32 Thai universities.

The ranking was based on six criteria: Setting and Infrastructure; Energy and Climate Change; Waste Management; Water Management; Transportation, and Education.

UI GreenMetric World University Ranking was established by Universitas Indonesia in 2010 for the purpose of promoting awareness of sustainability in higher education institutions.

The Ranking focuses on setting policies and introducing activities that create a positive impact on global climate change, energy and water conservation, waste recycling, and green transportation.

Editor in Chief: **Asst. Prof. Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont**
MFU Vice President

Editor: **Sriprai Pundach**
Acting Head,
International Affairs Division

Co-Editor: **Richard Albertson**
Lecturer in School of Liberal Arts

Author: **Piraya Buddhasri**

Publication: **Supavij Vejpsitpakorn**



MFU Commencement Ceremony for Academic Year 2017

On 12 February 2019, 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 2017 at the C4 Princess Mother Auditorium.

This year's commencement marked the graduation of MFU's 16th class of students. In total, 3,314 Thai and 64 international graduates attended the degree presentation ceremony. This year, MFU presented an Honorary Doctorate in Applied Chemistry to Professor Dr. Yodhathai Thebtaranonth.

On this occasion, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn delivered a royal address, stating that graduates have to apply the knowledge, ability and experience acquired through study in each programme to their works as well as using what they have learned to solve problems.

However, sometimes they cannot use only one field of knowledge or one specific skill or one person's experience in working and solving problems. To handle a big project or solve a difficult problem, graduates need

to take advantage of the knowledge, skills and experience of experts in different subject areas. Graduates who are now preparing to work, therefore, should determine to apply their knowledge to support and cooperate with each other as much as they can. This cooperation will enable a successful outcome for the nation's greatest benefit.

Furthermore, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn wished success and prosperity to every graduate and all the people who attended the ceremony. After conferring the degrees, HRH Princess Sirindhorn visited and presided over the opening ceremony of Mae Fah Luang University Medical Center Hospital.







Moreover, HRH Princess Sirindhorn was given a special tour of the exhibition of the Hospital's operation, the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the School of Nursing, the School of Health Science, MFU Wellness Center, and a medical volunteer project. HRH Princess also visited the Cardiology Center and Eye Clinic. Mae Fah Luang University Medical Center Hospital was established to be a hospital of high standard serving people in Chiang Rai and the neighboring countries.

Furthermore, the hospital aims to be a center for education producing medical personnel and research excellence in medical and health science for the Greater Mekong Sub-region.





The 2nd Myanmar-Thailand Higher Education Institutions Leadership and Networking Programme

To deepen academic collaboration between Thailand and Myanmar, Mae Fah Luang University held the second part of the 2nd Myanmar-Thailand Higher Education Institutions Leadership and Networking Programme at Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, and Mawlamyine University from 17-23 February 2019.

The programme was initiated as a pilot project in accordance with the International Academic Cooperation Strategy with the Neighboring Countries of the Office of Higher Education Commission, the Ministry of Education of Thailand. The main purpose of the programme was to enhance and deepen higher education networks between Myanmar and Thailand for collaborative projects. Moreover, this programme emphasised developing the administration of higher education in areas of international affairs and research through the exchange of good practices.

This programme was divided into two parts; a 5-day session in Thailand from 12-18 November 2018 was followed by another 5 days in Myanmar. This leadership workshop was attended by 22 executives from both Thailand's and Myanmar's higher education institutions including 10 executives from Myanmar universities: Kyaing Tong University, Mawlamyine University, Myeik University, Sittway University, Taunggyi

University, University of Mandalay, University of Yangon, 9 executives from Thai universities: Chiang Mai University, Chiang Rai Rajabhat University, Kanchanaburi Rajabhat University, Mae Fah Luang University, Naresuan University, North-Chiang Mai University, Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna and 3 observers from Patheingyi University, West Yangon University and the Department of Higher Education, Myanmar.

The training programme provided a series of lectures and workshops by many experienced experts including Higher Education Reform by Director General of the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Dr. Aye Myint; Myanmar-Thailand Relations by Minister at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, Mr. Narong Boonsatheanwong; Good Governance by Vice President for Quality Assurance of King Mongkut's University of Technology, Dr. Nandh Thavarungkul; Leadership Skills and the Internationalization by former Fulbright Thailand Executive Director, Ms. Porntip Kanjananiyot; and Vice President of Mae Fah Luang University, Asst. Prof. Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont.

The programme also provided a visit to University of Yangon and a case study for participants to share their experiences, exchange ideas as well as discuss challenges and opportunities of education reform.



On the whole, this programme has been successfully completed and has achieved fruitful outcomes in advancing participants' knowledge and skills in leadership for the 21st century, internationalization, management systems that are suitable for their own institutional and global. Additionally, academic collaboration between Myanmar and Thai higher education institutions especially in joint research has been planned for meeting the needs of people in both countries.



Exploring & Experiencing Chiang Rai's Way of Life

On 9 February 2019, 100 international students including full-time and exchange students learned about Northern Thailand's history and culture with their Thai buddies during Chiang Rai City Tour, an exciting one-day trip to local cultural attractions in the Chiang Rai province including Black House, White Temple, Blue Temple, Huay Pla Kang Temple (Big Buddha), elephant camp at Karen Ruammit Village and walking street.

The trip was held to help new international students learn more Thai culture and understand the way of life as well as livelihoods of local people in the Chiang Rai province. With this trip, both Thai and international students could meet, share experiences and spend time with friends from other schools and countries.

In addition, this activity also served as the bridge connecting new students to get to know each other more through the journey and beautiful scenery.





MFU's New International Student Orientation

On 15 February 2019, the International Affairs Division organised the International Student Orientation for helping new international students become more familiar with MFU and each other. In this second semester of academic year 2018, MFU welcomed 38 new international students including 18 undergraduates and 20 graduates from Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. MFU also welcomed 10 exchange students from 5 countries including Austria, France, Korea, Malaysia, and Philippines.

Over the past 20 years, MFU has welcomed more than 1,000 students from around the globe. This contribution shows MFU's effort to increase its diversity for promoting mutual understanding and cross-cultural awareness. It also indicates the quality of international education at MFU. In addition, new international students got to know more about the offices, facilities and important resource centres at MFU through the campus tour activity. During the campus tour, the seniors also intimately explained and provided a few tips to new international students about how to adjust to university life. Following the campus tour,

there were presentations from the international student club, the Muslim club and staff members from various service divisions at the university providing important information to new students about MFU's services and its rules and regulations.

In the welcoming address, MFU Vice President, Asst. Prof. Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont expressed congratulations to the new students for their bravely deciding to study at MFU because studying abroad, especially in a country where English is not used as the first language, is very challenging. Dr. Romyen added that new students might experience some culture shock or cultural differences, however, the international student club will help them to have enjoyable student life.

Furthermore, Dr. Romyen told students one of Chinese tales about a man who drew water from the stream and carried it back to house everyday with his two large buckets. One of those buckets had a crack in it and the other bucket was perfect. After telling a story, she highlighted a lesson from the tale that if students can realise the university's potential, they will gain so many things by making the best of the resources provided.



Promoting a Multicultural Awareness: Exploring the Islamic World

Recognising the importance of happily living in the multicultural society, the Muslim Student Society of Mae Fah Luang University organised the activity “Exploring the Islamic World” on 24 February 2019 at M-square building.

The purpose of this activity was to provide an opportunity for participants to create a better understanding and deeper knowledge of Islam. This activity aimed to strengthen friendly relations between Muslims and followers of other religions to maintain harmony and peace in a multicultural society. Another purpose of this event, as stated by Asst. Prof. Sugul Kritalukvong, Assistant to the President of Mae Fah Luang University, at the opening ceremony, was to offer MFU students a stage to showcase their creativity and help them build their identity in a constructive manner. This activity featured a series of interesting activities.

In addition to an exhibition, the highlight of this event was a lecture and a seminar on Islam Religion and Civilization, conducted by Mr. Banjong Binkason; Prof. Dr. Jaran Maluleem from the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University; and Dr. Anas Amatayakul from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mahidol University. Mr. Banjong Binkason said

in his lecture that each religion has its own beliefs and practices. However, all religions share similar principles, namely, faith, charity and good conduct. Therefore, learning and understanding each other’s religion would contribute to building a harmonious and peaceful world.

For twenty years, MFU has not only developed students’ academic competence, but has, through a wide array of activities, also enabled its students to develop a virtuous identity, as reflected through numerous companies’ and organisations’ acceptance of its graduates. Not only do these graduates excel at their work, but they also possess praiseworthy characteristics, including politeness, modesty, generosity, discipline, as well as a sense of teamwork.

The “Exploring the Islamic World” activity was a part of the university’s effort to develop its culture among its students, and to enhance their ability to live in harmony amidst cultural diversity.



MFU Innovation Day 2019

On 26 February 2019, Mae Fah Luang Intellectual Property Management and Innovation Development Office (MFii) held the MFU Innovation Day 2019 and the opening ceremony of MEDI Co-working Space & Maker Space. This event featured an award presentation and over 30 booths selling products and innovation including the three products from the School of Health Science: Poon-daang gel for muscle relaxant, Colchi' pain spray and shoulder massage wheel.

Moreover, there were a startup talk on "craft soda made from coffee cherries" by co-founder of Castown, Mr. Pananchai Klumklomchit, a special lecture on "Cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Technology and universities for moving towards Thailand 4.0" by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soranit Silatham and a sharing session of ideas and experiences among researchers, SMEs and startup entrepreneurs.

Altogether, the event attracted a mass of people including students, lecturers, entrepreneurs and the general public. This definitely was one of the great stages for experts and entrepreneurs to share their experience and showcase their products as well as inspire creativity and innovation in MFU students.





CPR and Its Linkage to ASEAN

On 6 March 2019, Mae Fah Luang University and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN jointly held a special lecture on “CPR and Its Linkage to ASEAN” at M-square Building, MFU. This year, 2019, Thailand has an important role as the Chair of ASEAN under the theme of “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability.” Moreover, it marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN.

The purpose of this lecture was to raise awareness of the mission of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and Thailand as the ASEAN Chairman and to strengthen ASEAN’s various partnerships for creating sustainability for ASEAN in all dimensions. The special lecture was given by distinguished keynote speakers which included the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to ASEAN, H.E. Mr. Ade Padmo Sarwono; the Permanent Representative of Lao PDR to ASEAN, H.E. Mr. Ekkaphab Phanthavong; the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to ASEAN, H.E. Mr. Min Lwin; the Permanent Representative of Philippines to ASEAN, H.E. Ms. Elizabeth P. Buensuceso; and the Permanent Representative of Thailand to ASEAN, H.E. Ms. Phasporn Sangasubana. In this session, the speakers highlighted ASEAN’s principles, mechanism,

transformation, the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, and the role of Thailand as the ASEAN Chairman in advancing sustainability in three pillars covering political security, economy, and socio-cultural community. For the political security pillar, Thailand has put priority in reinforcing cybersecurity, combating transnational crime, enhancing maritime cooperation and increasing the role of the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine in Thailand which focuses on disaster management especially on the military side.

Moreover, the uniqueness of ASEAN is unity in diversity. Although, ASEAN is a region of diversity and differences, all member states are united and equal based on the fundamental principles of non-interference, equality, and consensus. The member states merge their national interests into regional interests and arrive at a conclusion in order to move ASEAN toward sustainable growth in the entire region. By focusing on narrowing gap among ASEAN states and promoting collaboration with its dialogue partners, ASEAN has initiated and developed important cooperation mechanisms such as ASEAN+3 and the formation of forums such as the East Asia Summit (EAS). These mechanisms provide a platform for all the great powers to meet and resolve outstanding issues together.



Understanding U.S. Free & Open Indo-Pacific Strategy

On 28 March 2019, the Embassy the United States of America in Bangkok and MFU held a special lecture entitled “U.S. Free & Open Indo-Pacific Strategy” presented by Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, H.E. Mr. Peter Haymond.

This event was held to establish better understanding of the Free & Open Indo-Pacific Strategy (FOIP)’s key pillars and its engagement with the ASEAN and Thailand among MFU students, staff and lecturers. Among MFU’s guests of honor to the event were: Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, H.E. Mr. Peter Haymond, Mrs. Dusadee Haymond, Consul General of the United States of America, Mrs. Jennifer A. Harhigh, and Chief of Politics and Economics from the Consulate General in Chiang Mai, Mrs. Vi Jacobs-Nhan. In a lecture, H.E. Mr. Peter Haymond explained that the term ‘free’ in the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy means the region are free to express opinions and freely choose the policies.

Also, the term “open” includes fair and reciprocal trade, open investment environments, transparent agreements between nations, open access to seas and airways and peaceful resolution

of territorial disputes. Realising the important change in Indo-Pacific region including the fast economic growth of India and the rise of China, the US highlighted expanded cooperation with all countries in this region.

Moreover, according to Vice President of the United States, Mike Pence, ASEAN is central to this free and open vision as it is the US’s indispensable and irreplaceable strategic partner. ASEAN often acts as a neutral area for other countries to talk about various issues together. The Chargé d’Affaires added that in the US’s perspective, Thailand has a close relationship with the US and it is a founding member of ASEAN located at the centre of the region. With the initiative of FOIP, the US will continue to work closely with Thailand in various issues especially public health and law enforcement.

Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Peter Haymond highlighted three pillars of the Indo-Pacific Strategy which are security, economic and governance. All useful information will help participants to be able to appropriately engage with the FOIP.



Students Win Honorable Mention Award in Research to Market

Mae Fah Luang University would like to congratulate all students who smashed their way to win Honorable Mention Award and a prize of 5,000 baht in the Research to Market (R2M) Thailand 2019 which was held by Ubon Ratchathani University in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology during 16-17 February 2019 at Ubon Ratchathani University. Research to Market (R2M) Thailand is the business plan competition which was aimed at promoting the application of research outcomes and innovations to a viable business model in business. Completing against 20 teams from 14 universities, MFU students won the Honorable Mention Award with their outstanding project on protection material for alleviating chilling injury in postharvest green Cavendish banana. The alleviation of chilling injury will help improve the quality of banana for exportation.

The "Sparkle Dew" team members received the award are as follows: 1. Ms. Chantisa Jameekorntiti, a fourth year student from the Business Administration programme 2. Ms. Sunisa Surattikunchai, a fourth year student from the Business Administration programme 3. Mr. Rattapon Sariphan, a fourth year student from the Economics Programme 4. Mr. MYEONG CHEOL KIM, a fourth year student from the Business Administration programme 5. Ms. Parandrat Hiranyanwong, a third year student from the Information Technology programme.



MFU Lecturer Win First Prize for International Oral Presentation

Mae Fah Luang University would like to congratulate a lecturer from the School of Liberal Arts, Ms. Palden who won the first prize for the international oral presentation award in the 5th National & International Conference on Curriculum and Instruction (NICCI2019) which was held by Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University at Sima Thani Hotel on 4 March 2019.

This year, the National & International Conference on Curriculum and Instruction was held under a theme of "Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction in the 21st century." The Conference was held to provide a venue for students and academics both in Thailand and abroad to present their academic works in curriculum and instruction and exchange their knowledge and research experience.

Furthermore, this forum sought to encourage collaborative learning and strengthen academic networks among participants.



Student Exchange Activity with Rikkyo University

On 25 February 2019, an international atmosphere was promoted at MFU by an exciting one-day student exchange activity between MFU and Rikkyo University from Japan. MFU and IC Net Asia Company Limited held a student exchange activity for 22 MFU students and 14 Rikkyo University students to learn and enhance a better understanding of Japan's and Thailand's cultural and economic aspects. All students actively exchanged and shared their ideas on cultural differences, career opportunity, and business establishment through a brainstorming session, business plan presentations and cultural performances. Altogether, this exchange activity provided a great opportunity for both universities' students to learn and exchange their cultures and perspectives.

Cooperation between MFU and Incheon International Airport

On 26 February 2019, MFU Vice President, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chayaporn Wattanasiri and Director of Global Training Team, Mr. Dong-hwa Shin signed a MoU for Cooperation between MFU and Incheon International Airport, the Republic of Korea at MFU. Realising the importance of human resources development for the aviation industry, MFU first offered an aviation programme 10 years ago. With this agreement, MFU and Incheon International Airport aim to strengthen their relations as well as fruitful collaborations in developing MFU students' aviation professional skills. MFU students are able to observe the operations and practices in real working situations by participating in an internship programme at Incheon Airport.

Signing of Agreement between MFU and Tamana Central Hospital

On 21 March 2019, Dean of the School of Medicine at MFU, Lt. Gen Emeritus Prof. Nopadol Wora-Urai, M.D. and the Director of Tamana Central Hospital, Kumamoto, Japan, Dr. Masato Ushijima, M.D. signed an agreement for comprehensive exchange between two institutions. The agreement was aimed at promoting education, collaboration, friendship and greater academic exchange in various areas including students, residents, administrative and professional personnel between MFU and Tamada Central Hospital.



