

The Park



**MAE FAH LUANG
UNIVERSITY**

MFU International Newsletter

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GLOBAL CONNECTIONS MFU'S EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL NETWORK





Prof. Dr. Sujitra Wongkasemjit
MFU Vice President

Editor's note

Welcome to the Park 38, where we delve into the theme of **Global Connections: MFU's Expanding International Network.**

This issue highlights Mae Fah Luang University's efforts to foster new partnerships and deepen existing cooperation with government, private, and societal sectors at national, regional, and global levels. Our unwavering commitment lies in cultivating high-quality human resources and advancing academic excellence, research, and innovation in partnership with others.

In this edition, you will discover inspiring stories of valuable academic relations, achievements, collaborative projects, and community engagement initiatives. Additionally, this issue features articles spotlighting internationalization activities and student experiences, showcasing the university's continued commitment to fostering global-minded leaders.

Join us in discovering the benefits of global connections for our students, lecturers, staff members, and communities in terms of enhanced academic experiences, career opportunities, and cultural understanding. Sincerely,

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MFU Humbly Presents Honorary Doctorate Upon His Majesty The King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck



On 19 June 2024, a delegation from Mae Fah Luang University led by Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, Chairman of University Council of Mae Fah Luang University presented His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck with the Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Sciences. The ceremony was held at the Dungkar Dzong, Bhutan. In the ceremony, there were seven universities from Thailand that presented honorary doctorate degrees to His Majesty The King.

The citation read out by Asst. Prof. Dr. Matchima Naradisorn, President of Mae Fah Luang University at the ceremony stated:

"In heartfelt recognition of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's ingenuity, unwavering devotion, and tireless dedication to the principles of righteousness for the well-being of the Bhutanese populace, Mae Fah Luang University is honored to present His Majesty with the prestigious Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Sciences. This gesture epitomizes the university's profound admiration and gratitude for His Majesty's legacy of benevolence and enlightened leadership, which continues to enrich the lives of the people of the Kingdom of Bhutan."

Mae Fah Luang University has shared a close connection with Bhutan, and has educated many Bhutanese students. The honorary degrees presented to His Majesty further strengthens the ties of close cooperation between the education sectors of the two countries.





The Visit to Bhutan for Future Collaboration



Meet and discuss collaboration with Minister of Education and Skill Development (Her Excellency Yeezang De Thapa)



Visit and discuss collaboration with Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB)



Visit and discuss collaboration with Menjong Sorig Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd. (MSPLC)



Meet and discuss collaboration with Officiating Secretary for Ministry of Education and Skill Development (Dasho Tashi Nagyal, Director for Department of Education Programme)



Meet Bhutanese Alumni

During 16 - 19 June 2024, a delegation from Mae Fah Luang University met with Bhutanese alumni and visited educational organisations in Bhutan. **MFU has offered scholarships for Bhutanese students to study at MFU, aiming to support human resource development and deepen people to people relations. Since its inception, MFU has nurtured over 70 Bhutanese students, of whom 60 have graduated and are working in various sectors, contributing to Bhutan's development.**

The delegation paid courtesy visits to Her Excellency Yeezang De Thapa, Minister of Education and Skill Development; Dasho Tashi Nagyal, Director for Department of Education Programme and Officiating Secretary for Ministry of Education and Skill Development; and executives of Norbuling Rigter College to deepen partnerships and discuss potential collaborations between MFU and Bhutan.

Additionally, the MFU delegates visited the Bhutan Olympic Committee, Menjong Sorig Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd. (MSPLC), and Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB) to foster relations and discuss future academic cooperation, including training courses and staff exchange. Notably, discussions with KGUMSB representatives led to cooperation in training programme for KGUMSB medical students, contributing to regional health cooperation, improved quality of life, and sustainable development.

In conclusion, this visit to Bhutan not only **maintained strong relations between MFU and Bhutan but also strengthened alumni connections who are a source of pride for the university.**

SUCCESS STORIES

Mae Fah Luang University Reinforces Its Position as a Leading University in International Rankings



Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2024

MFU maintains its number one position in Thailand for the 5th consecutive year in the THE Young University Rankings 2024, released on 14 May 2024. This ranking listed the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger. Out of 673 universities from 79 territories (up from 605 in 2023), MFU ranked 1st in Thailand, joint 16th in ASEAN and within the 401 - 500 band globally.



Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2024

Out of 739 universities from 31 territories, MFU was ranked joint 5th in Thailand, ranked joint 26th in ASEAN and landed in 401-500 tier in Asia with an overall score of 28.1 – 31.4. MFU scored exceptionally high in the international outlook category, achieving the highest score in Thailand at 54.0. The 2024 edition of the rankings introduces significant updates to the original methodology, similar to the changes made to the World University Rankings methodology last year.



Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024

MFU was ranked in the 401-600 tier in the world and ranked joint 11th in Thailand for the overall score out of 2,152 universities across 125 countries/regions (77 of which were Thai universities) in the latest THE Impact Rankings 2024, released on 12 June 2024.

For **THE Impact Rankings 2024**, MFU submitted data on four SDGs including: SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing (Ranked Joint 17th in Thailand), SDG 5: Gender Equality (Ranked 5th in Thailand), SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (Ranked Joint 6th in Thailand) and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals (Ranked Joint 12th in Thailand)



Adjunct Prof. Dr. Kevin David Hyde Named an Inaugural Highly Ranked Scholar by ScholarGPS

Adjunct Prof. Dr. Kevin David Hyde, Director of the Center of Excellence in Fungal Research, has been named an inaugural Highly Ranked Scholar by ScholarGPS. The title is bestowed upon scholars whose research and scholarly contributions rank in the top 0.05% worldwide for celebrating their exceptional performance in various Fields, Disciplines, and Specialties. Dr. Hyde's extensive publication record, the high impact of his work, and the outstanding quality of his scholarly contributions have earned him this recognition. ScholarGPS™ algorithms categorise the entire universe of scholarly research into 14 Fields, which are subdivided into 177 distinct Disciplines.



Mae Fah Luang University Celebrates Students' Success at Thailand Ultimate Chef Challenge

Representatives from the Hospitality Business Management Major, Business Administration Programme, the School of Management showed outstanding performances at Thailand's largest international chef competition **"the Thailand Ultimate Chef Challenge 2024 (TUCC)"**. They received six silver medals, four bronze medals, and three honourable mentions in AEC Cuisine Culinary Challenge, Asian Curry Challenge, and Classic Thai Cuisine categories.



MFU Students Shine at ASEAN Interschool Youth Competition: Top Awards in Speech, Quiz, and Hackathon

Three students of the International Development programme, the School of Social Innovation received awards in the **ASEAN Interschool Youth Competition 2024: ASEAN Youth Volunteerism for SDGs**. The event, organised by Prince of Songkla University in collaboration with Universiti Utara Malaysia and Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia, took place on 5-9 June 2024, aiming to advocate volunteerism for SDGs and raise awareness and understanding of ASEAN issues through youth connectivity.

In the Speech Contest (Individual Category), Ms. Su Lwin Lwin Thaw won first place, receiving "Dr. Thanat Khoman Award" and a prize of 10,000 baht. In the ASEAN Quiz (Doubles Category), Mr. Treewut Khutthong and Mr. Rosalan Sankoh placed third, winning a prize of 2,000 baht. In the Hackathon (Team Category), MFU students participated in three different teams alongside students from other universities. MFU students swept the competition, winning first, second, and third place.



MFU Students Shine at the 2024 Ironman 70.3 Vietnam

On 12 May 2024, two students from the Sports and Health Science programme of the School of Health Science and members of MFU Triathlon Club, participated in the 2024 Ironman 70.3 Viet Nam. In the Male 18-24 age group category, Mr. Kenshin Mizushima, secured an impressive second, finishing the race in 4 hours, 12 minutes and 26 seconds. Mr. Karan Malhotra also performed exceptionally, achieving the sixth place in the same age group with a time of 5 hours, 35 minutes and 41 seconds. Both students' remarkable achievements earned them qualification for the Ironman 70.3 World Championship 2024 in New Zealand.



MFU Student Selected as Thai Youth Delegate to the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79)

Mr. Papangkorn Bunsophap, a fourth-year student of the International Development programme, the School of Social Innovation and a former Head of Mae Fah Luang University Model United Nation (MFU MUN), has been selected as one of two **Thai Youth Delegates to the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79)**. The event will take place from 10 to 24 September 2024 in New York, USA.

As a Thai Youth Delegate, Mr. Papangkorn Bunsophap will represent Thailand at international forums, sharing the country's progress, challenges, and recommendations. He will also have the opportunity to exchange perspectives on social development from Thailand's point of view with youth delegates from around the world.



MFU Seizes the Silver Award, Showcasing Meaningful Research Works in the Thailand Research Expo 2024

On 30 August 2024, Mae Fah Luang University's project titled **"Revitalizing Chiang Rai's Cultural Capital towards UNESCO Creative Cities Network"** triumphantly won the Silver Award at Thailand Research Expo 2024 among 139 participating institutions. Prof. Dr.Sujitra Wongkasemjit, MFU Vice President accepted the award, presented by Mr. Permsuk Saccato, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI). This is the fourth consecutive year that Mae Fah Luang University has received the award in the Thailand Research Expo, reinforcing the university's success in research and innovation driving well-being and a sustainable future.



The project **"Revitalizing Chiang Rai's Cultural Capital towards UNESCO Creative Cities Network"**, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr.Pollavat Praphattong, Head of Mekong Basin Civilization Museum and lecturer of the School of Liberal Arts, and his team, presented its success in revitalizing Chiang Rai's cultural capital through a research project that contributed to Chiang Rai's recognition by UNESCO as a **"Creative City of Design"**.



Chiang Rai province has faced economic and cultural crises due to large-scale development projects, cultural changes, and environmental issues. MFU's research project aimed to revitalize weakened cultural capital and create sustainability for communities in the Chiang Saen Basin. MFU has been driving this initiative with accumulated knowledge on cultural capital and research funding from the Program Management Unit for Area-Based Development (PMU-A) for three years through the following projects:

- 2021: **"Mae Kham Sop Poen Village"** project managing cultural capital to enhance community economy
- 2022: **"Creative Chiang Saen"** project developing local economy and identity
- 2023: **"Landscape of Legends"** project exploring cultural capital and local legends



The project's success is reflected in the collection of 280 items in the cultural map system, creating income for communities through 70 items, involving 40 cultural entrepreneurs, increasing entrepreneurs' income by 15% annually, and benefiting 1,500 people in the area. The Social Return On Investment (SROI) is 1:3.56 baht, with 12 intellectual properties and learning processes developed, enabling communities to sustainably drive cultural capital.

MFU Delegation Visits the University of Bonn and the University Hospital Bonn to Strengthen Research Cooperation



On 25 April - 4 May 2024, a delegation from Mae Fah Luang University, led by Asst. Prof. Dr.Matchima Naradisorn, President and Prof. Dr.Sujitra Wongkasemjit, Vice President visited the University of Bonn (UKB) and the University Hospital Bonn, Germany.

The visit aimed to further explore potential research collaborations, building on a MoU signed between Mae Fah Luang University and the University of Bonn in October 2023. The meetings resulted in promising developments to strengthen joint research efforts related to the modern use of medicinal plants and the development of natural products. An initial project has already been initiated under the leadership of PD Dr. Gudrun Ulrich-Merzenich from UKB and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rawiwan Charoensub, Head of the Medicinal Plant Innovation Center at MFU. The project focuses on translational phytomedicine and phytopharmacology, new processes for drying and extracting medicinal plants to improve their usability in medicine, pharmacology, dietary supplements and cosmetics, investigations to reduce heavy metal uptake in soil by medicinal plants and the further development of stem cell and CAR-T cell therapy.

These collaborative research efforts aim to elevate herbal research for global medical applications and foster academic cooperation with world-renowned researchers. This collaboration will undoubtedly contribute to advancing research and innovation success at MFU and its partner universities.



MFU Welcomes Exchange Students from Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine



The School of Integrative Medicine welcomed 37 students from Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CDUTCM) who participated in a three-month short-term training programme in the Applied Thai Traditional Medicine at the School of Integrative Medicine from June to August 2024. During the programme, CDUTCM students gained firsthand experience and insights into integrative medicine, applied Thai traditional medicine, Thai massages, Thai language class, and cultural activities. The exchange programme promoted students' academic learning, and developed their essential skills such as cross-cultural communication, multicultural understanding, international networking, and resilience skills. Additionally, the programme strengthened partnerships between MFU and Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and deepened relationships between Thailand and China, leading to growing and strong ties in the following years.

MFU and YUFE Renew MoU for Continued Collaboration



On 6 June 2024, Mae Fah Luang University led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Nathapornpan Uttama, Vice President and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics (YUFE) led by Mr. Yan Ming, Vice President signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for academic cooperation at Mae Fah Luang University.

This agreement renews the MoU signed in 2019, which expired in April 2024. MFU and YUFE have actively collaborated under the previous agreement, particularly in business Chinese. This renewal will undoubtedly strengthen the existing collaboration, including student exchange programmes, double degree programme, visiting scholar programmes, joint research, and short courses in trade and investment, as well as services.

Mae Fah Luang University Delegation Visits Yunnan to Discuss Educational Ties and Youth Exchanges



On 4 June 2024, a delegation from Mae Fah Luang University led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Darunee Wattanasiriwech, Vice President paid a courtesy visit to Madame Wang Yu, Vice President of Yunnan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries in Yunnan, China, to **discuss and exchange views on educational cooperation and youth exchange activities, aiming to build strong friendships between the younger generations of the Chiang Rai and Yunnan provinces to learn from one another.**

In addition, the delegation visited partner universities and top high schools in Yunnan Province from 31 May to 4 June 2024 to build long-term relationships and cooperation, and promote exchange projects and collaborations, especially in arts and culture, as well as education in professional fields such as medicine, healthcare, humanities, science and technology, and agriculture.

Emphasising Sustainability: UNC and MFU Team Up for Public Health, Entrepreneurship, and Food Systems Research in Thailand



The School of Management, the Sustainability and Entrepreneurship Research Center (SERC), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) organised **"A Partnership for a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Burch Field Research Seminar focused on Public Health, Entrepreneurship, and Food Systems"** project from 22 to 29 June 2024 at MFU and Chiang Rai province. There were 20 students and two professors from UNC joining the programme.

During the programme, participants from UNC visited local communities in Chiang Rai to learn from founders and business leaders about some of the successes and failures of existing social enterprises. The skills students have learned will be of benefit in a variety of future careers that require careful listening to identify the root causes of health/social/environmental problems and collective design and testing of solutions designed to have a sustainable beneficial impact.



The Nursing and Health in Thailand Training for Deakin Students 2024

The School of Nursing and the Center for Academic Services, organised the Nursing and Health in Thailand Training for Deakin Students 2024 from 22 to 29 June 2024 at Mae Fah Luang University. This training aimed to provide 12 bachelor's degree students from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Deakin University, Australia, with an opportunity to learn more about Thailand's nursing and healthcare system at MFU Medical Center Hospital, MFU Hospital, and hospitals in Chiang Rai province. Moreover, students had a chance to exchange ideas and delve into Thai cultures with Thai buddies through various activities and excursions.



Building Bridges for Better Health: Universities Partner on Cross-Border Health Programme

The School of Health Science organised the "Cross Border Health Programme 2/2024" in collaboration with the School of Population and Global Health, the University of Western Australia from 9 - 18 July 2024, at Mae Fah Luang University. This programme aimed to provide an opportunity for medical students from University of Western Australia to learn and exchange knowledge on Thailand's public health system and immerse themselves in Thai culture. Moreover, the programme will promote research networks between students, professors, and researchers from both universities.

During the programme, participants learned from MFU professors on various topics, including highland people and cultures, the border health system, and Thailand's healthcare system. They also visited Maesai Hospital, Chiang Khong Crown Prince Hospital, factories, as well as Thai-Myanmar and Thai-Laos border areas to gain firsthand knowledge about tropical diseases, health checkup for farmers, and factory workers.



MFU Offers Hands-on Agro-Industry Training to International Students

The School of Agro-Industry and the Center for Academic Services held the **6th International Agro-Industry Short Course Programme 2024 (AI short course)** from 21 July - 3 August 2024. The programme welcomed graduate students from Chiba University, Japan and University of Reading, United Kingdom. The short course emphasised hand-on learning alongside theoretical knowledge in agro-industry, encompassing postharvest technology and food science and technology through lectures, laboratories, workshops, and field trips.

Participants engaged in workshops on herbal product development and basic traditional Thai massage to alleviate muscle pain and office syndrome symptoms. Additionally, visits to local farms in Chiang Rai province provided firsthand experience in cultivating and processing Chiang Rai's primary agricultural products: pineapple, tea, coffee, chocolate, and craft beer.



Sustainability and Well-being

MFU Lecturer Participates in the Asia Peace Innovators Forum 2024

On 1 – 5 May 2024, Dr. Nichan Singhaputargun, Acting Director of the Asian Research Center for International Development and Acting Head of the Global Relations Division, participated in the **Asia Peace Innovators Forum 2024** in Salzburg, Austria. The Forum, a joint initiative of Salzburg Global Seminar with The Nippon Foundation, brought together mid-career professionals from various sectors to promote peace and reconciliation initiatives across Asia, by helping them build a transboundary network to share community-driven approaches and best practices.

Following online and in-person meetings, participants explored potential collaborations on projects of mutual interest. Dr. Singhaputargun's project, titled **"Bridging Peace"**, proposes Mae Fah Luang University, with its focus on internationalisation, global citizenship and education, as a "Safe Space" for fostering humanitarian, peace, and cultural corridors by building a youth peace network in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).



MFU Provides Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening to People in Chiang Rai Province and Bokeo Province, Laos



From May to August 2024, a team of healthcare professionals from Mae Fah Luang University, including the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, and MFU Medical Center Hospital, conducted an academic service project in several subdistricts of Chiang Rai province. **The team aimed to reduce breast and cervical cancer mortality rates by providing screening services to over 2,000 women.**

Additionally, the project extended to Bokeo Provincial Hospital in Laos, as part of MFU's academic service programme focused on the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries. The team also conducted lecture and workshops on adults and children CPR for healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and public health officers. Participants learned life-saving techniques during an emergency such as basic and advanced life support.

This collaborative effort not only improved the skills of healthcare professionals in Bokeo province but also facilitated knowledge exchange between Thailand and Laos. This exchange is expected to foster good relations and a strong healthcare and educational network between the two countries.



MFU Hosts International Training Course on Cross-Border Health

MFU's the Master of Public Health Programme in Border Health Management of the School of Health Science, Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), and the Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) co-organised the Annual International Training Courses (AITC) 2024 titled **"Bridging the Gap in Cross Border Health Populations"** from 13 – 31 August 2024, at Mae Fah Luang University. Participants from Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka joined the programme.

This training course focused on building cross-border health knowledge. Participants learned basic information about healthcare systems, analysed methods to support diverse groups, and applied the knowledge gained to develop healthcare systems in their home countries. The programme also provided an opportunity to exchange the latest information with experts and build valuable networks in the public health sector. This training course marks an important step for Mae Fah Luang University in promoting international public health cooperation and developing cross-border health knowledge, which will contribute to improving the quality of life for people in the region.



MFU and Consulate of India in Chiang Mai Partner for the International Day of Yoga

On 25 June 2024, Mae Fah Luang University's the Global Relations Division and the Wellness Center, in partnership with the Consulate of India in Chiang Mai, hosted the **10th International Day of Yoga** at Indoor Stadium. The event attracted over 200 participants including MFU faculty, staff, and students as well as representatives from organisations and yoga studios in Chiang Rai.

Celebrated worldwide and recognised by the United Nations in 2014, International Day of Yoga falls on June 21st of each year. **This event aimed to celebrate the ancient Indian practice of yoga on the occasion of the International Day of Yoga while strengthening relations between Thailand and India and promoting good health and well-being.** Renowned yoga instructors from Ananda Yoga Shala, the School of Integrative Medicine, the Division of Building and Ground, from the School of Health Science, and MFU Wellness Center led the event. Moreover, Mr. Ramji Ramaswamy, Vice Consul of India and Assoc. Prof. Dr.Darunee Wattanasiriwech, MFU Vice President lit an oil lamp to mark the beginning of the event. According to an Indian belief, light symbolizes the pursuit of wisdom, brightness, energy, and success.

MFU is honoured to have hosted this first-time event in celebrating yoga. With a strong commitment to promoting good health and well-being for people of all ages in Thailand and the GMS, MFU believes that yoga cultivates the qualities of discipline, focus, and mindfulness, empowering individuals to lead fulfilling lives with a path to inner and outer peace.



Embark on Your Academic Journey: MFU Welcomes New Students

In the first semester of academic year 2024, MFU has welcomed over 400 new international students from around the world. Additionally, 25 exchange students joined the MFU community from **Brunei, Cambodia, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, and Philippines**.

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 complete missions.



● 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.



● Get to Know MFU 360 Degree

Offering three workshops: Coffee Drip, Tea Blending, Thai Massage. Students were divided into groups and rotated to attend these workshops.



● Thai Cooking Workshop

Learning how to cook 'Thai green papaya salad (Som Yum)' and a dessert 'Steamed flower-shaped dumplings (Chor Muang)'. International students gained a deeper understanding of Thai culture and its unique flavors through the shared experience of creating delicious Thai dishes.





Ms. Kanooknipa Saramul

School of Social Innovation

Date: 27 May - 2 August 2024

Position: Assistant for International Student Services and Activities

Location: Global Relations Division, Mae Fah Luang University



My primary role is to support and encourage foreign students as they adjust to Thailand's educational and cultural environments. I ensure they have access to the necessary support by:

- Answering initial inquiries from international students regarding registration, accommodation, and visa extensions.
- Planning and organising orientation programmes for incoming international students that cover topics such as academic support, living in Thailand, and university regulations.

"Through this internship, I have gained valuable experience working in a multicultural environment and supporting the diverse needs of international students. I have realised the importance of patience, adaptability, and cultural understanding in this role. This internship has strengthened my communication and adaptability skills. I have observed that building friendships and maintaining an open mind can significantly facilitate the adjustment of international students. To provide even better services, I plan to further improve my time management and language skills, including learning a third language. By doing so, I can more effectively support international students and help them adjust to the new culture on campus more quickly and easily in the future.

My internship as an event assistant has opened my eyes to new perspectives and deepened my understanding of the various services required by international students. I recognise the importance of organising activities that cater to their needs and promote cross-cultural interaction."

- Ms. Kanooknipa Saramul



Study Abroad Opportunities: The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Academic Fellowship Project, USA



Mr. Papangkorn Bunsophap (Ficco)

School of Social Innovation

Date: 17 April - 22 May 2024

Location: University of Montana/East-west Center in Hawaii



The YSEALI, a signature initiative of the US government, aims to develop regional youth leadership, strengthen ties between the US and Southeast Asia, and foster an ASEAN community. Ficco participated in a Fall 2024 YSEALI Academic Fellowship Project focusing on environmental issues, particularly dust pollution.

"The staff provided excellent care for me and international friends. I appreciated the well-organised calendar with engaging activities throughout the programme. One of my highlights included field trips to local areas to observe how state senators manage state affairs. These trips showcased diverse management approaches, ranging from small-scale efforts to policy-driven solutions. Some experiences in Montana served as inspiration, while others offered valuable life lessons, creating a journey filled with meaningful stories. Learning about my place in the global society was also significant and motivated me to develop a variety of skills."

- Mr. Papangkorn Bunsophap



The OCA Summer Programme, Japan

Mr. Ken Morita

Mr. Teerapat Sukanan

School of Management

Date: 21 – 28 May 2024

Location: Japan

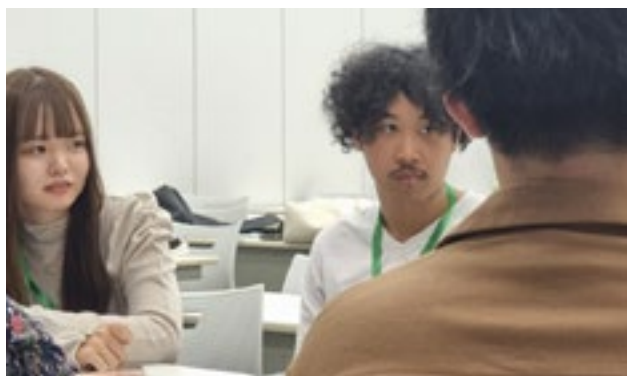
OCA Summer Programme engaged economics students from Chulalongkorn University, Mae Fah Luang University, and various universities in Japan to explore and exchange opinions on Japanese fireworks, covering history and culture, differences of fireworks, and economic effect of the fireworks industry. There were various activities allowing participants to share and experience both Japanese and Thai cultures.



"Through the OCA project, I met amazing new friends who I still keep in touch with today, even after the programme ended. The programme opened my eyes to new experiences that I would have never encountered if I had stayed solely within my comfort zone at the university. While some challenges may arise during these programmes, remember that with time, these experiences will become cherished stories and positive memories. I encourage everyone to embrace these opportunities and explore the world of exchange programmes!"

- Mr. Ken Morita

“ ”



"Participating in the OCA Summer Camp 2024 project was my first time abroad and it allowed me to immerse myself in Japanese culture through the diverse activities offered by the OCA. It made me notice how seriously students in Japanese universities approach their clubs. One of the highlights of the camp for me was making new Japanese friends. We enjoyed spending time together in various ways, from casual conversations to activities like cooking together. The true highlight for me was the rafting experience. It was both exciting and physically demanding, but ultimately very rewarding. It was a truly enriching and memorable experience."

- Mr. Teerapat Sukanan

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Internationalization at Home:

MFU's Approach to Cultural Diversity and Global Citizenship

Myanmar Film Tour to Raise Awareness on World Refugee Day

Co-organised by MFU and SEM (Spirit in Education Movement), the Myanmar Film Tour 2024 was held to commemorate the World Refugee Day 2024 by screening the movie 'A Broken Dream', an anthology film comprising nine short films that depict the impacts of the 2021 military coup in Myanmar. Participants gained diverse perspectives, developing understanding and awareness of the ongoing violence in Myanmar, and the plight of Myanmar refugees in Thailand.

MFU Pride 2024 Promotes Understanding of Gender Diversity and Celebrates Equal Marriage

"MFU Pride 2024" was organised to offer a unique opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding about gender diversity and celebrate Thailand's recent achievement as the first Southeast Asian country to legalise equal marriage, a significant step towards gender equality. The School of Law, MFU played a key role in advocating for this law by having a representative working closely with the Ad-Hoc commission. The event was supported by external organisations including the Bangkok Pride and Documentary Club, as well as MFU internal organisations.

Global Students Unite for X-Culture Global Business Week at Mae Fah Luang University

Co-organised by X-Culture and the School of Management from 8 – 12 July 2024, the X-Culture Global Business Week 2024 brought together over 200 top business students from around the world including 29 students from the School of Management to tackle real business problems. X-Culture involved students, professors, business, and research. Students worked with international members to develop market entry plans for leading companies in Chiang Rai province. They learned how to work and communicate with international teams, developed business solutions from diverse cultural perspectives, and gained necessary skills and experience for future leadership roles.

Exchange Maximization Expo & International Food and Cultural Festival 2024

On August 30, 2024, the Global Relations Division organised the Exchange Maximization Expo & International Food and Cultural Festival 2024 under the theme of Youth Empowerment. The expo featured an inspiring talk, 'From Passion to Action: Youth Leading the Way,' by a Youth Delegate to the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79). Additionally, a special talk titled 'The Secrets of Success: From an Activist to a Chevening Scholar' was held, followed by an information session on exchange opportunities available to MFU students.

Following the expo, participants immersed themselves in a diverse range of cultures through the International Food Festival, featuring cuisine from Thailand and international students representing Bhutan, Brunei, China, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Nepal. The festival also offered cultural performances, a lucky draw, cover dance performances, live music, and Youth Booth Workshops led by representatives of MFU student clubs.



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