



Uthaithani Artist: Wanchai Saroj



THE PARK

MFU International Newsletter

Volume **19**
August - October 2017



Uthaithani Artist: Wanchai Saroj

THE ROYAL CREMATORIUM AND RELATED STRUCTURES

within Sanam Luang Ceremonial ground



For more information visit <http://kingrama9.net/EN>

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 Vejpisitpakorn

Contents

The Greatest King in Our Heart	3
19 Years of Excellence	6
A Warm Welcome to New Members of MFU's International Family	8
Leaders in the Global Arena	10
A Visit from the Minister of Information and Communications, Bhutan	13
The Confucius Institute Day Celebration	15



MFU Holds Merit-Making Ceremony on the Occasion of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej Memorial Day

On the occasion of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Memorial Day which marks the first anniversary of the passing of the late King Bhumibol, Mae Fah Luang University conducted a religious ceremony in the morning of 12 October 2017. MFU executives, staff and students joined the ceremony to pay their respects to the beloved late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

In the evening, MFU President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana, presided over the memorial ceremony dedicated to His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej in front of the Her Royal Highness Princess Mother Statue.



The ceremony was attended by MFU's executives, lecturers, staff members and students. After lighting a candle and incense for altar offerings, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai paid homage to His Majesty the late King Bhumibol in front of His Majesty's portrait and gave a speech in honour of the late King. Following the President's speech, all attendees united to light candles and sing the Thai Royal anthem in the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's memory and pay tribute to him.





“My place
in this world
is being
among my people,
that is,
all the Thai people.”





MFU Executives and Staff Members Attend the Sandalwood Flower Offering Ceremony

On 26 October 2017, the Royal Cremation Day, MFU executives, staff members and thousands of mourners in Chiang Rai province gathered to participate in the sandalwood flower laying ceremony paying a final tribute to His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

This crematorium at the Airport Squadron 416 (Chiang Rai Old Airport) is one of 85 replicas of the Royal Crematorium which have been constructed around the country so that people who are unable to travel to Bangkok for this event can mourn.

19 MFU

19 Years of Excellence:
Moving to Enhance
Region's Development





On 25 September 2017, Mae Fah Luang University was filled with joy and happiness for the celebration of the nineteen-year anniversary of the establishment. Since 1998, MFU has gained a highly notable reputation for rapid and outstanding growth in research, innovation, social, and environmental aspects that continue to transform and benefit the people in region. In honour of the 19th year of excellence achievements, MFU's celebration began with alms offerings to 160 monks, followed by religious ceremonies, presentation of certificates to social benefactors of the Chiang Rai province, presentation of awards and certificates for honourable faculty achievements, as well as scholarships to students of 2017 at the Main Auditorium.

In the ceremony, MFU President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana presented a public report remarking that MFU has implemented the strategies and plans align with its vision being the leading education institute in Greater Mekong Subregion area and this goal has been achieved successfully. During its 19 years of existence, MFU has welcomed students from 10 countries in ASEAN as well as every part of the world. Moreover, MFU had continuously helped to develop not only the Chiang Rai province, but has also spread widely to the entire GMS and ASEAN regions. Thus, the constant progress and the wide

range of accomplishments were moving MFU towards the next goal, becoming a premier University in Asia.

Moreover, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana also mentioned that the additional goal of MFU is being the medical hub for the region. MFU was greatly concerned with the quality of health care system in the country; therefore, MFU was putting strong effort to produce medical staff and improve health care service to meet the need of people. One of the important supporter is the Medical Centre which scheduled to be completed by 2018. This centre will offer international standard medical services both modern medicine and traditional treatments to all groups of people. Moreover, this centre will train medical professionals not only in the nation but also in nearby regions and become a GMS Medical Hub in both medical services and academic services.

With the strong intention in improving the quality of life and health care system in community, the University, executives, staff members and students were united to propel institution to be a world class university with high quality of academic, research, innovative and societal activities. MFU will also continue making the fruitful contributions to people around the world, starting from Chiang Rai province.



A Warm Welcome to New Members of MFU's International Family

On 25 August 2017, the International Affairs Division and International Students Club at MFU cooperated to organise the "International Students Orientation: Grooming you for the future".

The orientation was held for helping new international students become more familiar with MFU and each other. This semester, MFU welcomed 205 new international students including 144 undergraduates and 30 graduates from 22 countries in Asia, Europe, North America, Africa and Middle East. MFU also welcomed 34 exchange students from 9 countries including Brunei, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and Vietnam. Over the past 19 years, MFU has welcomed more than 800 students from around the globe.

This contribution shows MFU's effort to increase its diversity and also indicates the quality of international education at MFU. In addition, new international students got to know more about the offices 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, members from various service centres and

divisions at the university provided important information to new students about MFU's services and its rules and regulations.

In her welcoming address at the dinner party, MFU Vice President, Asst. Prof. Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont encouraged students to mingle themselves with friends as much as possible while they are studying at MFU. She also inspired students to seize the opportunity to have life-changing experience by exchanging their ideas and trying to understand and live happily with the differences of cultures, systems, and ways of living with friends.





Chiang Rai Province Tour: Exploring Chiang Rai's Way of Life

Over 90 new international students including full-time and exchange students learned about Northern Thailand's history and culture during an exciting one-day trip to local cultural attractions in the Chiang Rai province such as the Hall of Inspiration, Doi Tung Royal Villa, Mae Fah Luang Garden, Choui Fong Tea Plantation, Mae Sai Market and Wat Tham Pla (Monkey Temple) on 9 September 2017.

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, all 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 games and beautiful scenery.





26-30 June 2017 at Mae Fah Luang University and the Chiang Mai province

Leaders in the Global Arena

In response to the needs for human capacity development and to foster academic partnership between Myanmar and Thai higher education institutions, the “Myanmar-Thailand Higher Education Institutions Leadership and Networking Programme” was organised.

The “Myanmar-Thailand Higher Education Institutions Leadership and Networking 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. Moreover, according to the Director General of Department of Higher Education of Ministry of Education, Myanmar, His Excellency U Tin Win, this programme was organised as a government to government project and a flagship project for Myanmar Higher Education Institutes reform.

The main purpose of the programme was to enhance and deepen higher education networks between Myanmar and Thailand for future collaborative projects. Moreover, this programme emphasised enhancing the human capacity of higher education institutions leaders of Myanmar and Thailand through the exchanges of good practices.

The programme was divided into two parts; 5 days in Thailand which was held from 26-30 June 2017 at Mae Fah Luang University and the Chiang Mai province; and another 5 days in Myanmar which was held at the University of Mandalay and Tuanggyi University from 16-20 October 2017. There were 14 Rectors and executives from both Thailand’s and Myanmar’s higher education institutions participating in this leadership workshop which included Rectors of University of Mandalay, Myeik University, University of Sittway, Taunggyi University, Kyaing Tong University, Mawlamyine University, and Pro-rector of Yangon University and Executives from Chiang Mai University, Narasuan University, Kanchanaburi Rajabhat University, Chiang Rai Rajabhat University, North-Chiang Mai University, Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, and Mae Fah Luang University.

The training programme focused specifically on academic management, leadership, student development and management, and networking for collaborations. After completing the programme, participants were equipped with knowledge and skills in all processes from the process of strategically planning for university development, implementation of the plan, human resources development, financial management, and



16-20 October 2017 at the University of Mandalay and Tuanggyi University

internationalisation, to the monitoring and evaluation process.

To share and exchange insightful knowledge, the workshop brought in many experienced experts as keynote speakers including former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Prof. Dr. Yongyuth Yuthavong; Executive coach Mr. Itthipat Pattaramekanon; former Secretary-General of Higher Education Commission Dr. Sumate Yamnoon; Special advisor of SEAMEO-RIHED Ms. Pornthip Kanjananiyot; Specialist in Adult Learning and the President of Warwick Institute Mr. Apichai Chaiwinij; Associate Dean of Faculty of Medicine at Chiang Mai University and Assessor of Thailand's Institute for Medical Education Accreditation Assoc. Prof. Nuthapong Ukarapol, M.D.; Acting Vice President for International Relations and Alumni Affairs at Chiang Mai University Assoc. Prof. Rome Chiranukrom; Acting Vice President for Research at Chiang Mai University Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sampan Singharajwarapan; President of Rajamanagala University of Technology Lanna Assoc. Prof. Dr. Numyoot Songthanatipak; President of Payap University Asst. Prof. Dr. Sompan Wongdee; and President of Mae Fah Luang University Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana; Secretary of National Education Policy Commission at the Ministry of Education, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Dr. Khine Mye; State Councilor of the Myanmar

Government and Member of the Peace Commission Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet; and Director of Analysis Division of Macroeconomic Policy Bureau Fiscal Policy Office at the Ministry of Finance, Thailand, Dr. Soraphol Tulayasathien. With encouraging and intensive content, the programme advanced the participants' leadership skills, and enabled them to exchange perspectives on the higher education management systems that are suitable for their own institutional and fast changing global contexts. Additionally, participants had an abundance of opportunities to build up and strengthen the network of Myanmar-Thailand Higher Education Institutions.

On the whole, this programme has been successfully completed and has achieved fruitful outcomes. Moreover, academic collaboration in various activities and fields has been planned for meeting the needs of people in both countries through staff exchanges as well as joint research, training and researcher workshops.



**MYANMAR - THAILAND
Higher Education Institutions
Leadership and Networking
Programme**



Ms. Porntip Kanjananiyot,
Special Advisor
at SEAMEO
Regional Centre for
Higher Education
and Development
(SEAMEO-RIHED)

Speaking topics: “Leading in the internationalised arena” and “Future-proofed leadership skills”

1. Why are leadership and networking important to both Thai and Myanmar higher educations?

Leadership is the ability of a leader to see the bigger picture. Leaders are responsible for setting direction for their organisations, and in order to do that, leaders have to learn from others both inside and outside the organisation and from other organisations in Thailand or abroad. The process of learning and sharing with others is networking.

2. Apart from leadership skills, what is the significant quality the leader should have to lead institute in an international arena?

- **Vision**, the leader is required to think about the future at least for the next 10 years. The world is changing quickly and will continue to do so. Great leaders must have the ability to recognise those changes and adjust their plan to ensure graduates' careers and employability.

- **Having purpose larger than self**, for Millennials or Generation X professionals, leaders should make valuable contributions to the development of their own nation or regions.

- **Identifying team strengths**, when delegating work, leaders must know their team and their strengths inside and out to decide who gets assigned which tasks so that everything gets completed the right way.

- **Transparency**, the leader should have high professional ethics.

- **Caring**, leaders should lead with kindness, compassion, and equality.

3. As the level of global competition of higher education is growing all the time, what should university leaders do to improve their international standing in the next decade?

To compete with others, leaders have to know their current positions and evaluate themselves neutrally; that is to say, without underestimation or exaggeration. By doing self-evaluation, they will know their strengths and how they are going to compete, who their competition will be, and what the benefits the organisation will gain from this competition. In the next 10 years, advanced technologies will put education within the reach of many more individuals through online learning or distance education where students do not need to go to university. Moreover, since we live in an aging society, the number of older persons in Thailand has grown rapidly and will continue to do so in future decades. This means the number of students will decline. Universities need to reshape their operation to attract more prospective students and also create various courses to meet the needs of people, for example, offering short training courses on new issues/technology. As the leaders, they should set the flexible and up-to-date curriculum, and teaching methodologies. They also need to prepare academic staff to support the adoption of technology on campus.

4. In your opinion, did the workshop achieve its objectives?

I would say it exceeded our expectations. Normally, the establishment of a partnership takes time in creating trust but this group gets along very well. They have a heart to heart relationship with each other in every section. I think this is the delight of this partnership which is not easy to see.

Furthermore, the components that make this programme successful can be divided into two sides. In Myanmar side, senior administrations recognised this partnership. Additionally, all Myanmar participants are top-ranking executives being rectors or acting rectors and they participate actively with determination and the goal to do something for their institutes.

On the Thai side, Thai participants have a lot to share especially concerning creating a clear strategy to build cooperation. They also have the quality of thinking about the future.

5. What was your overall impression of the programme?

I am very impressed by the active participation of all participants. They were eager to engage in this workshop with the utmost seriousness. They showed a good commitment to making this programme successful.



A Visit from the Minister of Information and Communications

The Minister of the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Kingdom of Bhutan H.E. Mr. D.N. Dhungyel visited Mae Fah Luang University on 28 September 2017 to meet Bhutanese students and observed the facilities and academic resources of MFU.

Since the establishment, MFU has welcomed over 43 Bhutanese students, of which 14 students have successfully graduated and 29 students are now studying at MFU in various fields. In addition, MFU has provided scholarships for international students with intentions to promote human resource for developing the region and promote international atmosphere in MFU.

With the excellent academic quality and appropriate environment for learning, H.E. Mr. D.N. Dhungyel expressed that he was very impressed and also had confidence in MFU's academic capability. H.E. Mr. D.N. Dhungyel also stated that MFU was not only an education institute that produces students who become the important human resource for the region's development but also a bridge connecting Thailand and Bhutan together.

Apart from scholarships, MFU also supported international students to be united through their national cultural activities. Therefore, Bhutanese students and

alumni were inspired to initiate the Bhutanese students association as well as the national day celebrations at MFU, and these activities will be supported by both MFU and the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Thailand.

Overall, this visit from the Minister of Information and Communications of the Kingdom of Bhutan will lead to further academic collaboration and sustain the friendship and understanding between Thailand and Bhutan as well.





Moving the Region to Peace and Prosperity

With the aim of moving forward to the mutual goals, the international conference on the Belt and Road & Greater Mekong Sub-region Cooperation under the theme “Lancang Jiang-Mekong River: Rising Smart Corridor” was held on 1 September 2017 at the Empress Hotel in Chiang Mai province. This international conference was jointly organised by the Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China in Chiang Mai; The Greater Mekong Sub-Region Studies Center (GMSS) in the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration at Chiang Mai University; and Mae Fah Luang University.

The purpose of this conference was to provide the venue for scholars, researchers, governmental officers and private sectors in Thailand, China and the GMS region to showcase and discuss academic

research, accumulated knowledge covering significant issues including logistics and transportation; economics and investments; information technology and smart city; culture and heritage; and tourism.

In addition, this conference also lent itself to be a venue for communication that would foster the relationships and network amongst entrepreneurs, investors and practitioners and lead to future joint business and region’s prosperity sustainably.

All in all, this conference was a great success as all the participants shared and exchanged insightful views on B&R, LMC and GMS cooperation, and also put forward a lot of valuable suggestions to promote the cooperation and understanding on the benefits and how to move forward to achieve the mutual goals together.



The Confucius Institute Day Celebration

MFU Celebrates the Confucius Institute Day: Emphasizing the Role of Centre for Learning Chinese Language and Culture, the Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Centre, the Confucius Institute at MFU and Xiamen University cooperated to celebrate the Confucius Institute Day on 1 October 2017 at the Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Centre.

The celebration was held to commemorate the establishment of the Confucius Institute and its active role in promoting Chinese language and culture in Thailand. There were various activities provided for students to showcase their Chinese skills including Chinese drawing competition, Chinese calligraphy, and speech contest. Also, there were special traditional music performances from the Music Art Troupe of Kunming Conservatory Performances prepared for the general public and those who are studying the Chinese language.

On the occasion of the Confucius Institute Day celebration, the opening ceremony for the Alumni Association of the Confucius Institute at MFU was held. There were many distinguished participants which included MFU President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanchai Sirichana; Vice President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chayaporn Wattanasiri; Acting Dean of the School of Sinology and Acting

Director of the Sirindhorn Chinese Language and Culture Centre Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kanjana Watanasuntorn; Director of the Confucius Institute, Assoc. Prof. Huang Jianjun; the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Chiang Mai Mr. Ren Yisheng; Deputy Secretary of Party Committee of Xiamen University Mr. Lai Hongkai; President of Thai Alumni Association of China's Universities Ms. Luo Tiejing; Permanent Honourary President of the Xiamen University Thailand Alumni Association Mr. Chen Hantao and President of the Xiamen University Thailand Alumni Association Mr. Chen Wuqing.

Moreover, the Confucius Institute Headquarters (HANBAN) also sent a congratulatory letter, extending warm congratulations on the opening of the alumni association. Overall, it is hoped that the celebration of the Confucius Institute Day could provide an opportunity for educational and cultural exchanges and cooperation between Thailand and China as well as enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.



