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Thai Link

THAILAND STATE ALUMNI COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER

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Happy 4th of July!

Celebrating America's 234th Year of Independence



Who are **State Alumni**?

State Alumni are current and former participants of U.S. government-sponsored exchange, teaching or professional programs.

This includes, but is not limited to, participants of the following programs: Fulbright, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), Humphrey Fellowship, East-West Center, Youth Exchange and Study (YES),

Global Undergraduate Exchange Program, USBT, etc. As part of the U.S. Department of State's commitment to this "global community," alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs are invited to join the exclusive global network State Alumni, at alumni.state.gov/th. Sign in to stay in touch with fellow alumni, and with the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and U.S. Consulate in Chiang Mai, so that your exchange experience does

not stop when you return home, but continues to result in productive professional, societal, cultural, and community engagements.



Fully Bright at the Age of 60



Khun Porntip Kanjananiyot
Executive Director
Thailand-United States Educational Foundation
(TUSEF)

That's (b)right! Fulbright Thailand is 60 years old this year!

The Thailand-U.S. Educational Foundation team is delighted to organize a series of activities to signify this longstanding existence since July 1, 1950 that has contributed to the mutual understanding of the Thais and Americans. We started with a preamble

project to interact actively with street cleaners through street cleaning and a discussion session. We have held and will hold get-together opportunities, both in the US and in 4 provinces of Thailand for our alumni, grantees and partners to reconnect and celebrate this special time together.

Since I came on board as Executive Director, my team and I have learned

so much from managing the 17 Fulbright programs and 4 other as requested by the State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. We feel so blessed to gain from the wealth of cross-cultural issues, the closely-knitted networking, and warm spirit of our members. We continue to do our best to retain the prestige of the Program and enhance the strong sense of our Fulbright family.

We always emphasize to our grantees, 'forget us not', requesting that they stay in touch through all channels we have to offer,

from visiting us at the office, sending snail or electronic messages, or even or facebooking! Alumni are also encouraged to sign up at

<https://alumni.state.gov/th> in order to link up with others who have benefited from other programs besides Fulbright.

As this is our 60th Anniversary, we not only assess our past achievements with pride, but also look into the brighter future with hope and happiness!





**Alumni's
Journal**



Khun Clare Patchimanon, IVLP alumna who attended the Special Regional Project on American Policy: Trends of the New Administration, September 12-October 3, 2009, came to the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok on May 6, 2010 to discuss her IV experience with the Embassy staff.

Khun Clare enjoyed the program very much. She found that the program has en-

hanced her understanding of U.S. Foreign Policy in a broader context. Additionally, she appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity in the U.S., and how different ethnicities and strong civil society contribute to the U.S. political system. She also enjoyed learning about the culture of the American workplace. One of her

best meetings was when she learned about the East-West Center's work on "How Asia Matters for America." She also enjoyed talking with U.S. government officials and meeting with a senator whose work involved Asia and Pacific matters. As a news anchor, the alumna highly appreciated the meeting at the Voice of America (VOA) which gave her a different view on news reporting. She found in the

area of independent news reporting that the U.S. was not as adaptable as Thailand.

During her free time, Khun Clare saw the Broadway play, *Mama Mia*, in New York City. She also enjoyed a home hospitality (where she had dinner hosted by an American family, in their home) which was very worthwhile. The family shared their stories about America, and Khun Clare, in turn, shared her insights of Thailand and Asia with them.

She appreciated seeing so many diverse cities and geographic locations on her trip. Her exchange program included visits to Washington D.C., New York City, Madison, Wisconsin, and San Diego, California. She felt the networking yielded from the program was invaluable to her personally and professionally as a news reporter, and she would like to attend future programs in the U.S.



Khun Clare with her fellow IVLP participants from other countries.



State Alumnus Helps Launch Muslim Youth Camp



Youth enjoy reading a Thai version of "Muslims in America" provided by the U.S. Embassy.

BANGKOK, Thailand - On April 12-16, 2010, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Alumnus Mr. Chariyawat Charoenchang, together with local Muslim youth leaders in Min Buri District, organized a camp for local Muslim youth to increase environmental awareness and promote social and religious values, as well as to encourage the students to become advocates against drug use in community.

The camp, which was held at Islam Pattana Wittaya

School during the Songkran holiday, brought together more than 80 students from the school and neighboring Muslim communities to participate in the four-day program. The camp not only sought to strengthen social and religious values among youth, but was also designed to promote peace and understanding in the community, as well as to increase awareness about environmental issues and the dangers of drug use.

The camp kicked off with an opening ceremony attended

by several VIPs, including MP Samai Charoenchang, a Muslim member of parliament from the Democrat Party; Mr. Wasan Mee-wong, Advisor to the Governor of Bangkok; Mr. Chakri Premsmith, representative from Office of the Narcotics Control Board; and Ms. Natalia Petroni, Public Affairs Program Specialist from the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, all of whom had uplifting and encouraging words for the youth at the camp.

Alumna and Embassy Speaker Join Harrow School's Amnesty Week



IVLP Alumna Ms. Sunee Srisangatrakullert (Center) joins Mr. Lawrence Petroni (Right) for a presentation on human trafficking.

BANGKOK, Thailand - On April 27, Harrow International School welcomed U.S. Embassy Economic Officer Lawrence Petroni and Ms. Sunee

Srisangatrakullert, Chief of the National Operation Center for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking at the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) to speak on the issue of human trafficking as part of the school's Amnesty Week events.

Mr. Petroni, who over the years has worked closely with the Thai government and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to promote labor rights in Thailand, was joined by Ms. Sunee for an informative and insightful discussion on the human trafficking situation in Thailand and around the globe with a group of Harrow International School 10th graders. Together with Ms. Sunee, the two also presented an overview of how the U.S. and Thai governments are working to address the issue of human trafficking in Thailand and the region. Ms. Sunee, an alumna from the Depart-

ment of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and active human rights advocate in Thailand, later took time to inform the students about the sources of human trafficking and ways in which people often unknowingly contribute to the vicious cycle.

The two experts sought to help the students understand the issues behind human trafficking -- including ways to identify the various tools and tricks that human traffickers use in trapping their victims -- and also looked to encourage the group of youth to become active advocates for the protection of human rights.

USBT Alumni Advise at the Pre-Departure Orientation

BANGKOK, Thailand - On Friday, June 4, 2010, the U.S. Embassy and EducationUSA advisors organized a Pre-Departure Orientation at Bangkok Bank's headquarters. United States Based Training Program (USBT) alumni and professional education advisors, Ms. Daranee Limpa-Amara, Ms. Vatcharaporn Ratanayanont, and Ms. Indira Areepaphat, were invited to give presentations on various U.S. education-related topics. These included: how to prepare before departure, what to bring and what not to bring, admission processes, university life, and scholar-



ships. At the end of the session, the alumni did one-on-one educational advising sessions for students who had specific inquiries.

The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and EducationUSA advisors hold the Pre-Departure Orientations 3 times each year for interested students. USBT alumni from Thailand have been a major force in promoting study in the U.S. in recent years. For more information about USBT, please visit <http://www.osvita.org/usbtaa>.



Alumni take turn to give students some tips before departure to study in the U.S. In the photos (clockwise): Ms. Daranee Limpa-Amara, Ms. Vatcharaporn Ratanayanont, and Ms. Indira Areepaphat

Global UGRAD Alumna Tells Her Story

Khon Kaen, Thailand - On June 28, Public Diplomacy Officer Rebecca Landis visited Khon Kaen University to give a presentation on the topic of the 'American Work Culture'. After that, Ms. Landis was joined by Ms. Jitsuda Jinati, a Global Undergraduate Exchange Program alumna (Global UGRAD) and also a current

student at Khon Kaen University, who shared her experiences studying at Shenandoah University in Virginia and living in the United States. She also introduced her fellow students of the Global UGRAD Program as well as shared some tips how to apply and get into the program.

This special presentation was hosted by the [American Corner](#) at Khon Kaen University, and approximately 50 students and faculty members attended the event. Visit <http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/guep.html>

for more information about Global UGRAD.



While studying in the U.S., Ms. Jitsuda Jinati joins the Shenandoah University's Lacrosse Team.



Prominent Alumni Update

Nipit Intarasombat, IVLP alumnus, was appointed as Minister of Culture in Thailand.



Kamla Persad Bissesar, IVLP and Fulbright alumna, was elected as Prime Minister in Trinidad and Tobago. [Visit State Alumni for more information of Kamla Persad Bissesar.](#)

Naoto Kan, IVLP alumnus, was elected as Prime Minister in Japan.

[Visit State Alumni for more information of Naoto Kan.](#)



Jean-Paul Adam, IVLP alumnus, was appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs in Seychelles. [Visit State Alumni for more information of Jean-Paul Adam.](#)



May 2010



Nargis Ziyavatdinova (Uzbekistan)
IVLP Alumna 2002

Helping children with disabilities is a personal mission for Nargis Ziyavatdinova. As a mother of five in a country with limited means to help children with special needs, Ziyavatdinova used her International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) experience to open a non-governmental organization (NGO) to promote awareness and inspire volunteerism on behalf of disabled children in Uzbekistan. She has significantly increased the public's knowledge of disabilities and community service.

Log in to State Alumni to read more about Nargis Ziyavatdinova.

June 2010

Fulbright and Boren Scholarship alumnus Philip Lyon, a public policy scholar at the Wilson Center, is devoted to the advancement of cross-cultural understanding and language study. As an active volunteer and a member of the Fulbright and Boren alumni communities, Lyon has promoted opportunities for international exchange, forged partnerships with academic institutions, and organized events that bring Fulbrighters together. Lyon is also currently expanding Boren Forum chapters across the United States.



Philip Lyon (U.S.A.)
Fulbright and Boren Scholarship
Alumnus 2004-2005

Log in to State Alumni to read more about Philip Lyon.

Familiar Faces

Asst. Prof. Dr. Songthama Intachakra

Lecturer
Thammasat University

International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)
March - April 2007

“The three weeks I spent on the IVLP program was a really exciting experience. I managed to meet many interesting people in different institutions across the USA. My thanks go to the people and the volunteers for doing an excellent job with all the arrangements.”



Ms. Pairoh Kokyai
Student
Princess Chulabhorn’s College, Trang

Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES)
Fossil Ridge High School, TX
2007-2008



“I got to do a lot of new things, learned new stuffs and met new friends.

Those experiences taught me to think about other people around me, to care for people

who care for me, to give to other people who don’t have, to help a person who needs help, to do good things and to choose my own path.”

Ms. Chotima Chaitiamwong
Outreach Officer
Thailand-United States Educational Foundation (Fulbright)
East-West Center Fellowship (EWC)
University of Hawai’i at Manoa, HI
September 2004 - May 2006

“As a person, I became more 'global citizen' through the exposure of diverse multicultural communities, expanded network of



friendships, stories shared, and extra-curricular activities. As a professional, I benefit from

the knowledge and skills gained through the academic programs.”

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ariya Aruninta
Faculty of Architecture
Chulalongkorn University
Fulbright Junior Research Scholarship Program
University of Illinois at Chicago/ Great Cities Institute, IL
August-December 2003

“I have gained experiences from cross disciplines areas of study including public administration, urban design and planning, environmental management, and pol-

icy study with the intensive information on relate issues of public land management. The experiences under Fulbright JRS Program fulfilled my



search for professional advancement and intellectual challenges, and also benefit my future as an instructor in faculty of architecture.”

Mr. Narongchai Rungwichitsin
Student
Khon Kaen University
Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD)
Maryville College, TN
July 2009 - May 2010

“This scholarship is one of the best opportunities for Thai students to gain invaluable ex-



periences from being an exchange student supported by American government. I had a

chance to meet students from all around the world. Thanks to this scholarship, my world was opened and it helped me turn to a global citizen and understand cultural differences.”

Click on the link below to sign up for State Alumni



Stay in touch with your fellow alumni and make new friends!

IRC: Your Key to Information About the U.S.



Your key to info about the U.S.

The Information Resource Center (IRC) of the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok is a specialized reference and research

facility. Our goal is to provide you with free, comprehensive, and authoritative information on the United States, its people and its policies. Our subjects of expertise ranges from American politics and government; foreign affairs and defense; economics and trade; education and culture; to global

issues (such as narcotics, human rights and the environment, etc.)

Staffed by information professionals and reference specialists and equipped with modern information technologies, we can help retrieve information for you efficiently and effectively. [Learn more about the IRC, its products and services here.](#)

NEW!! "SAM" e-Zine for Thai Youth

Bangkok IRC just released its brand-new product "SAM", an e-magazine targeting Thai youth. This "So Awesome Magazine" is bilingual and offers readers a fun and colorful way to learn about the United States, its people and culture.



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Just click here and choose "subscribe to SAM", and the latest issue of this awesome magazine will be delivered right to your e-mail box. Read the first issue (May 2010) [here](#).

Interested in the IRC's products?



"SAM is very useful. I would like to refer to my son's school library to subscribe."

-- Document Specialist,
UN ESCAP Library,
June 1, 2010 (by phone)

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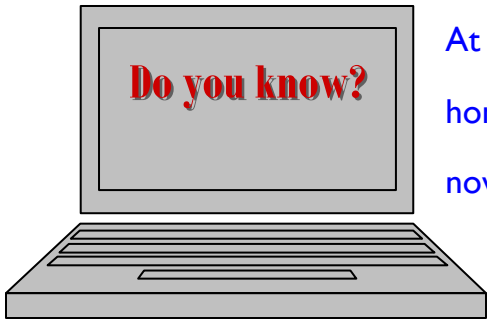
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At <https://alumni.state.gov/th>, you can find alumni in your hometown or around the world to meet and engage. Register now to start connecting with friends!

Profile My Contributions (5) My Photo Gallery (8)

Mr Brandon Marc Takashi Higa edit my profile

From: United States of America
 Email me at [higataকাশิ@gmail.com](mailto:higataকাশi@gmail.com)
 Visit my website at <http://>

Program

Name: Critical Language Scholarships for Intensive Summer Institutes
 Year: 2007/06 - 2007/08
 Field of Study: International Relations/Area Studies
Impact Statement:
 I participated in the CLS - Korea program two years after graduation. CLS gave me a second chance to study U.S.-Asia regional security issues through first hand experience. I was able to visit parts of Seoul that are directly affected by the U.S. military presence that I researched at the EWC and during graduate school. Through my CLS experience, I was able to gain a broader perspective of U.S.-Asia security conditions and extrapolate on my experiences living and studying in Japan.

Program

Name: NSEP Boren Fellows
 Year: 2004/09 - 2005/06
 Field of Study: Language & Literature
Impact Statement:
 As a recipient of the NSEP David L. Boren Graduate Fellowship, I participated in Stanford University's ten-month advanced, intensive Japanese language training program in Yokohama, Japan. I received funding to continue my graduate research on the impacts of U.S. military bases in Japan and how this affects the bilateral security relationship between the U.S. and Japan. Upon the completion of my language training, I interned at the National Diet of Japan Upper House and the U.S. Embassy at Tokyo, focusing on Japan's free trade agreement policies and food security policies.

Program

Name: East-West Center
 Year: 2004/06 - 2004/08
 Field of Study: International Relations/Area Studies
Impact Statement:
 The second research internship I completed at the EWC was completely different than the first in that in addition to analyzing U.S.-Japan security issues, I worked closely with a web development team to launch the public and private websites for Dr. Sheila Smith's "Shifting Terrain" project.
 I frequently attended brown bag lectures and other events, which sparked my curiosity to learn



 Haseo Shan Typical night fireworks at Haseo Shan, China, on July 8, 2008. Borealis Lorenzstein @BorealisL	 Haseo Shan 682 Typical dance and song karaoke at Haseo Shan, China, on July 9, 2008. Borealis Lorenzstein @BorealisL	 Borealis Lorenzstein My first from-behind province visit after early morning rush to a kindergarten in Beijing, China, on August 21, 2008. Borealis Lorenzstein @BorealisL
 Borealis Lorenzstein Grandfather's table for grandfather at the entrance of their home in Beijing, China, on August 11, 2008. Borealis Lorenzstein @BorealisL	 Borealis Lorenzstein Man passes through his son's boy's cage in Beijing, China, on August 22, 2008. Borealis Lorenzstein @BorealisL	 Borealis Lorenzstein Woman from Hubei province visits hospital for her husband and son at their television repair shop in Beijing, China, on August 21, 2008. Borealis Lorenzstein @BorealisL



Update your personal information

For State Alumni who have new contact information, please kindly fill out details on the following link.

http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni_signup.html



If you have articles you wrote, activities you did, or anything you would like to do or share with the Embassy and your fellow alumni, please let us know.

Contact Information: **United States Embassy Bangkok**

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