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MEMBERS OF THE THAILAND  
STATE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

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# Thai Link

THAILAND STATE ALUMNI COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER

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## ANNOUNCEMENT ALERT



### Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund

Many of you may return home from your exchange program with good ideas, but lack either the funding or support to implement them. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce a new alumni initiative to help you – the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF). AEIF, which will have more details on the [State Alumni](http://StateAlumni) website soon, offers alumni of U.S. government-funded exchange programs the opportunity to partner with other alumni and U.S. missions abroad on innovative projects on specific themes. The themes for 2011 are climate change, mentoring and innovative alumni engagement. Winners in each category will receive up to \$50,000 to implement their projects! More details will both be sent to you by email and posted on [State Alumni](http://StateAlumni).

## STATE ALUMNI: YOUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY



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

Join [alumni.state.gov](http://alumni.state.gov) 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.



Please also 'Like' our community fan page on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC](http://www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC)



## A Cup of Life and the Pursuit of Happiness: Experience from Alumni Association Leadership

**Mr. Chaiwat Kaewphanngam**  
Fulbright (2005-2007)  
Columbia University &  
IVLP (2010) Alumnus

Assistant to the President for  
Academic and Research Affairs  
(International Affairs)  
Silpakorn University  
\*\*\*\*\*

I love travelling, and one thing I usually do is to collect mugs from all over the places I visit, especially from many fancy tourist places. I naively felt that it could make me feel good when drinking coffee and thinking of the famous places I was able to visit. For this trip to San Francisco, I had also planned to get a nice mug as I usually do whenever I travel. The **Glide Foundation** was

one of the places we were able to do a volunteer work. The task assigned to me was absolutely basic by just putting one mug on a tray. But this so easy

task almost made me cry later when I saw several hundreds homeless people standing in lines for receiving free food at 7 am

in the morning. This place was the biggest place in town providing three nutritious meals to the city's poor, hungry and homeless every single day of the year for every race, color, ethnicity, religious belief and economic or social standing. The cup they're having was totally simple made of plastic and plain color, no names of fancy places like what I usually have in the morning. *It was really remarkable that a simple act of voluntary work could stir so much insight in me.*

It was actually the place filmed in **the Pursuit of Happiness** when Chris Gardner (Will Smith) was standing in line to get a small space to sleep in with his kid. People from



different ethnicities, including many Chinese immigrants were picking up food from the tray and walking to the small dining rooms and I almost cried when I saw people at my grandparents' age were among them. To me, this was indeed a part of lifetime experience from International Visitor Leadership Program entitled "**Alumni Association Leadership Development**" during September-October, 2010 sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), the Department of State in which **32 young leaders from 32 different countries** from around the world were invited to attend.

Below: Mr. Chaiwat (Fourth from right) with his fellow IVLP participants

Above (Right): Mr. Chaiwat shares his thoughts during the program



These 32 young leaders working in many diverse fields, ranging from TV producer and presenter, expert in conflict negotiation, psychiatrist, book editor, expert in human rights, and university lecturer. *But they all shared one important thing in common which was helping their communities.* The major objectives of the three-week program we spent time together were intended to maximize networking within the organization and among similar organizations, nationally, regionally, and internationally, and to identify strategies to design, fund, and implement alumni activities and projects that benefit the community and the nation in which the organization exists. In addition to several workshops on non-profit management we did together, we visited *several international and national organizations from different cities, Washington, DC; San Francisco, California; Bozeman, Montana; Corpus Christi, Texas; Pensacola, Florida; and Salt Lake City, Utah.* There we had wonderful experience learning about organizational structure of non-profits, differing models of alumni associations, elements of leadership in starting an association, board recruitment,

membership development and sustainability, program development, and building partnerships to maximize results.

I was totally inspired by all of the organizations/institutions, but in addition to Glide Foundation, Utah Food Bank and the United States Peace Corps were indeed remarkable ones.

**Utah Food Bank** as the Salt Lake Charity Association has been the central hub for food collection and distribution in Utah committed to serving Utah's citizens in need. There, the Utah Food Bank's staff, volunteers, and agencies help working together to gather and distribute emergency food to individuals and families experiencing the pain of hunger. At the **United States Peace Corps** in Washington, DC found by the Senator John F. Kennedy, I was truly inspired by its mission of promoting world peace and friendship, to help other countries meet their needs for trained manpower, and to promote understanding between Americans and many countries around the world. As this year, the Peace Corps will celebrated its 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world which

nearly 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in over than 140 countries, ranging from AIDS education to in-



Above: Program participants visit Glide Foundation in San Francisco, California

formation technology and environmental preservation.

There I was lucky to be a representative of our 32 people from 32 countries in wholeheartedly thanked them for the wonderful services they have done for the world. I not only thanked them on behalf of myself, and our group, but also on behalf of over than 140 countries.

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# Alumni Visit the USS George Washington



Top: Alumni help to interpret for the ship's staff during the visit

Above: The USS George Washington Aircraft Carrier

CHONBURI, Thailand - YES-AFS alumni joined the Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the U.S. Embassy Bangkok and a group of Access Microscholarship Program students to visit and board the USS George Washington Aircraft Carrier at Laem Chabang, Chonburi on October 3, 2010. The USS George Washington (CVN 73) aircraft carrier arrived in Laem Chabang,

Thailand on Saturday, October 2, for a goodwill visit that would further enhance the strong relationship between the U.S. and Thailand.



Above & Left: Alumni with the Access Microscholarship Program students and the ship's crew.

Please visit [www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC](http://www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC) (Video) to see some video clips from this trip.



## Fun Time with Alumni



BANGKOK, Thailand - An active group of YES-AFS alumni put on a half-day extracurricular project "Let Them Grow" for disadvantaged students at Anubarn Pattanapanya School on October 6, 2010. Approximately 40 students took part in a series of entertaining and enlightening activities, including role playing, painting, a quiz contest and games. This program gave a rare opportunity for underprivileged students to open their minds and make

classroom learning more fun through interactions with the State Alumni.



Please visit [www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC](http://www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC) (Video) to see a video clip from this program.



# State Alum Keeping It Green



Left: Ms. Phonchan Kraiwatnutsorn conducts a workshop on youth environmental projects



Right: Mr. J.P. Schutte talks and takes a picture with the participants



BANGKOK, Thailand - Seven Youth Leadership Program with Southeast Asia (YLP) and two Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) alumni who returned earlier this year from their environment-themed programs in the United States, attended the “Youth Leadership Program with Southeast Asia Alumni Reunion & Workshop 2010” on October 28-29 at Bangkok’s AETAS Hotel. After U.S. Embassy

Cultural Affairs Officer J.P. Schutte welcomed the participants, Mr. Adisorn Laopiroon, the Embassy's Alumni Coordinator, gave an introduction to the benefits of the State Alumni website. He told the young people about the many U.S. Embassy activities for alumni and encouraged them to be part of the State Alumni family. The core of the program was the Youth Environmental Project Workshop presented by Ms. Phonchan Kraiwatnutsorn, Director of "Youth Venture Thailand," and "ASHOKA Innovators for the Public." Ms. Phonchan inspired the alumni with innovative ideas on conducting community service projects, using examples from her own experience. The alumni then worked with her on improving their own action plans for environmental community service projects and initiatives.

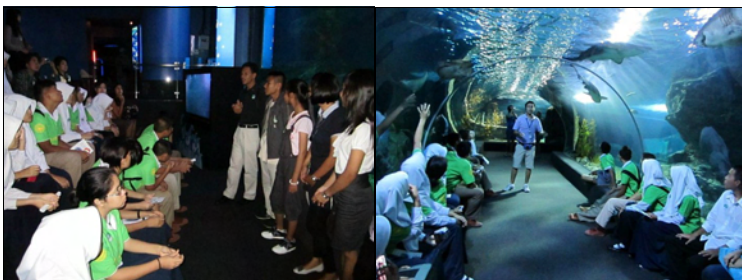


## Alumni Treasure Underwater Heritage

thirty English Access Microscholarship Program students to discover the underwater world in an educational field trip to raise environmental awareness among Thai youth at Siam Ocean World, the largest

BANGKOK, Thailand - On Thursday, October 28, 2010, Ten Youth Leadership Program with Southeast Asia (YLP) and Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) alumni led a group of

aquarium in Southeast Asia. As part of the two-day “Youth Leadership Program with Southeast Asia Alumni Reunion & Workshop 2010,” alumni and students alike learned about the world’s marine life, rivers, oceans, and their ecosystems through a dedicated education and conservation tour of the aquarium. It was the first time that many of the participants had seen some of the exotic aquatic animals like hammerhead sharks, lion fish, sturgeon, sea eels, otters, penguins, and jellyfish. At the end of the program, the YLP and SUSI alumni--whose programs in the U.S. were on environmental themes--took the stage and shared with Access students their experience of traveling to the U.S. and learning about American environmental studies.



## Alumni Join Effort to Save Mangrove Forest



Top: Alumni get a briefing from a local leader

Above: Alumni get ready for action

SAMUT PRAKARN, Thailand –To conclude the “Youth Leadership Program with Southeast Asia (YLP) Alumni Reunion & Workshop” on October 29, YLP alumni joined forces with Youth Exchange

and Study (YES) alumni to help a Thai community combat erosion by planting mangroves. A group of approximately 25 alumni and U.S. Embassy staff traveled by boat to Baan Khun Samut Jeen, a

coastal village in Samut Prakarn province, to meet with local leaders and to discuss some challenging environmental issues the community is facing. For the past several decades, the community has lost a substantial amount of land because of flooding and erosion. Several residents even lost their homes and were forced to move to other areas. The head of the village met with the alums and listed the measures the community has taken to avoid further crisis, including planting mangrove trees. The alumni

came to realize the importance of this activity and, together with U.S. Embassy staff, they enthusiastically pitched in. A mangrove forest ecosystem provides necessary nesting and nursery habitats for juvenile marine animals. More importantly for Baan Khun Samut Jeen Community, mangrove swamps act as a buffer zone to reduce storm impact and land erosion along coastlines.



## Meet the Former Prime Minister



Above: U.S. Embassy staff videotape a message from former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai

BANGKOK, Thailand - On November 15, 2010, H.E. Chuan Leekpai, former Prime Minister of Thailand (1992-1995, 1997-2000) and an IVLP alumnus (1971), kindly provided a message of greeting to be posted on State Alumni websites. It will also be played during the 70th anniversary of the

International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and the 50th anniversary celebrations of the partnership between the U.S. Department of State and the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) next year. H.E. Chuan Leekpai shared his impressions from his IVLP experience in 1971, thanked the U.S. Department of State and all those who have contri-

buted to the IVLP over the past 70 years, and wished all continued success in the years ahead. This video clip of H.E. Chuan Leekpai is available at the following link.



## Alumna Links Film to Real Life



CHIANG MAI, Thailand – On December 15, 2010, IVLP Alumna Ms. Duean Wongsu, Human Rights Activist, participated in and shared her experiences with audiences at the American Corner Mini Film Fest “Watch American Lives – Get Inspired by 2011.” The U.S. Consulate

General-Chiang Mai, CMU American Corner, CMU American Studies Club, CMLU ALSA (Law) Club and CMU Wannasilp Club co-organized this festival, in part to celebrate the U.S. Consulate General’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event began with the showing of the inspiring film “The Rosa Parks Story,” then Ms. Duean took the stage to talk about her social work, discussed the struggle Rosa

Parks undertook in the U.S. decades ago, and shared her U.S. experience. This program consists of a 5 film series that will be conducted bi-weekly until February 2011. Other fascinating movies that will be shown at the American Corner include “All the President’s Men”, “The Pursuit of Happyness”, which will be joined by



IVLP Alumna Numchai Oovanich, local editor and Arkom Supangphao, ATSMES Chairman.

## Fulbright Diamond Anniversary Travelling Forum

KHON KAEN & SONGKHLA, Thailand – The Thailand-United States Educational Foundation (TUSEF/Fulbright) and the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association (T.F.A.) organized the Fulbright Diamond Anniversary Travelling Forum in the northeastern and southern regions of Thailand, with collaboration from Fulbright hubs/networks in the key provinces of Khon Kaen on November 5, 2010, and Songkhla on December 17, 2010. The purposes of this project are to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fulbright Program in Thailand, and also to promote its mission in Thailand as an advocate of caring hearts and cross-cultural awareness.

The one-day programs consisted of three sub events, including best clip competitions by high school & university students from TUSEF’s network institutions, sharing forums led by Fulbright alumni, and the reunion receptions.

Caring Leaders Across Cultures: Best Clip Competition allowed students from TUSEF’s network of both high schools and universities in each province to compete and freely interpret Fulbright Thailand’s theme of “Caring Leaders Across Cultures” through short storytelling plus multimedia presentations.

Sharing Forum on Inspiring Stories was a session in which



Above: Fulbright Commission Members, TUSEF staff, and alumni in the Northeast get together at Khon Kaen University

T.F.A. members and local alumni were encouraged to share their exchange experiences in order to inspire the audiences to increase their sense of compassion and cross-cultural awareness.

Reunion receptions were the last part of the programs in which alumni, grantees, and TUSEF’s network partners got together at informal receptions for networking.



Below: Mr. Chaiwat Kaewphanngam, an alumnus/ Fulbright Alumni Association member, shares his experiences and inspiring stories in Songkhla.

## An Alumnus Gets Recognition for His Hard Work

Mr. Supagon Noja, an IVLP alumnus 2010 on Children in the U.S. Justice System, has been voted to be one of the four people to receive the Good People Throne 2010 Award from Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. The award is an initiative of Kantana Entertainment Co., Ltd., which requests TV viewers to vote for their favorite good person of the year. Watch a brief interview of Mr. Supagon at [www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC](http://www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC) (Video).



## Greetings from Ambassador Kristie Kenney



For the first time in history, Thais will soon be able to meet and welcome the first female American Ambassador to Thailand. Ambassador Kristie Kenney sends a special video message greeting the people of Thailand. Click on the following link to watch the video.

[www.youtube.com/AmbKristieKenney](http://www.youtube.com/AmbKristieKenney)



For more alumni news & photos, please visit [www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC](http://www.facebook.com/Thai.SAC)





## Global State Alumni Member of the Month

### October 2010



**Lina Hortensia Martinez Loredo**  
Honduras/IVLP 2008

Lina Hortensia Martinez Loredo had a vision for generating employment and income for Garifuna (Afro-Honduran) women in Honduras. This vision led the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumna and Central American Peace Scholarship (CAPS) recipient to establish seven women's associations that produce cassava (yucca) bread for local and international consumption. She also created her own business, Wabagari Distribution, which processes the cassava produced by one of the associations, the Honduran Association of Women Cassava Producers (AHPROCASABE).

### November 2010

Surgeon and health safety advocate Dr. Hua Jiang has made combating HIV/AIDS in southwest China a priority since participating in the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Through IVLP, Jiang focused on HIV/AIDS services in the United States as well as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) movement and its response to the health crisis. Jiang has become one of the foremost leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS through his development and community work.



**Dr. Hua Jiang**  
China/IVLP 2005

### December 2010



**Hala Galal El Sayed Mohamed**  
Egypt/IVLP 2007

An International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumna, Mohamed is a leading force in promoting independent films in Egypt and a pioneer in using the arts to promote social change. As an acclaimed documentary filmmaker in Egypt, she is helping to inspire the next generation of Egyptian artists to use film as a tool for social reform. By telling women's stories, often involving politically charged and highly sensitive topics, Mohamed gives voice to Egyptian women in a unique and innovative way.

Visit <https://alumni.state.gov> to read more State Alumni Member of the Month

Click on the link below to sign up for **State Alumni**



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

# Familiar Faces



**Ms. Anissa Naksewee**  
Student  
Thammasat University

*YES 2006-2007*  
*Mt. Anthony Union High School, Vermont*

“Being an exchange student in America is one of my best experiences. There, I could be a ‘new me’ and did a lot of fun stuffs that I had never done before. I got to ski, joined fencing club and performed in the high school’s play. I also learned new things that could be very helpful for developing my community in Pattani. You will be amazed to discover a ‘new you’ over there as well.”

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**Ms. Raweewon Khampol**  
American Corner Director  
Senior Librarian  
John F.Kennedy Library,  
Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus

*IVLP June-July 2004*

“I had a great experience from visiting the most modern and effective libraries in the world.

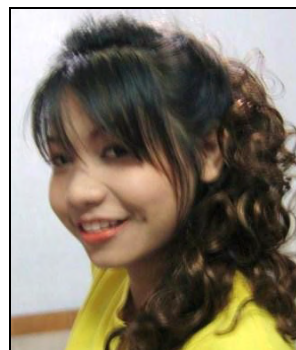
That includes buildings, interior designing, onsite services, outreach programs, summer reading programs, etc. I learned the usage of modern information technology and the libraries’ role in the communities and communities’ role for the libraries as well. I’m glad to be part of Friends of Libraries network.”



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**Ms. Natthariya Sulaiman**  
Student, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang

*YES 2007-2008*  
*Dayton High School, Washington*



“What I've got is just so much to describe just everything totally have changed:

my life, my opinion, etc. I have friends all over the world. Wonderful friendship. Understanding of the others. And Certainly I've seen bigger world. It's just unforgettable and valuable for me.”

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**Ms. Marina Mataree**  
Student  
Princess of Naradhiwas University

*YES 2006-2007*  
*Bodley High School, New York*



“It's wonderful experiences ever. It made me look at the world from many sides. Because the U.S. is like a melting pot, there's not only American culture that I have learned, but also other peoples from different parts of the world. It is an amazing experiences that I will never forget. I would like to thank AFS and the U.S. Embassy, Bangkok for their support!”

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# Info/Cultural Camp: A Camp Filled with Ghosts, Ghouls and Bees



latest camp, held at Khao Ply Dam Wildlife Refuge in Sichon District, focused on celebrating Halloween as well as information literacy and studying in the U.S. Participants completed a series of exciting activities designed to give them first-hand experience of how Halloween is celebrated in the

U.S. Embassy Bangkok's Info-Cultural Camp series is a unique, fun-filled, and activity-packed two-day camp for 25-35 high school students and teachers from 5-6 schools. The

U.S. Students had fun preparing for a Halloween costume show, trick-or-treating, a Halloween Haunted House, storytelling and singing competitions,



Your key to info about the U.S.

while enjoying favorite American snacks like Oreos and milk, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

The second day saw no ghosts and ghouls as students and teachers joined two informative activities designed to promote information literacy and studying in the U.S. The camp ended in style with a hard-fought Spelling Bee, in which students tried their best to overcome stage fright while spelling words like "Frankenstein", "cemetery", and "alligator." Camp participants all left Khao Ply Dam with a lot of newly-acquired knowledge and an appreciation of American society and culture, information search skills, and fond memories.

[View photo gallery.](#)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### Wanna have fun? Join our next camps!

IRC needs a few friendly State alumni (pre-college or college level) to join its future information/cultural camp in Songkhla (Mar), Rayong (May/Jun), Nakhon Ratchasima (Jul/Aug), and Pichit (Sep/Oct). In addition to being camp hands, the volunteers will have a session to recount their fun experience in the United States to the campers. A night at a camp site with limited facilities may be required.

Interested alumni should submit their resume and their choice of camp site(s) to [irc@state.gov](mailto:irc@state.gov), [CCing Adisorn@state.gov](mailto:CCing Adisorn@state.gov).

## Contact Us

### Information Resource Center (IRC)

95 Wireless Road, Bangkok Thailand 10330

Tel: +66-2-205-4000

Fax: +66-2-650-8918

E-mail: [irc@state.gov](mailto:irc@state.gov)

Hours of Operations: Monday – Friday, 7:00am-4:00pm, excluding official holidays.

What is IRC,  
by the way?



## IRC Is...

... a specialized reference and research facility. The goal of U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) is to provide you with free, comprehensive, and authoritative information on the United States, its people and its policies.

Learn more about the IRC, its products and services [here](#).



# Embassy Insiders

## Getting to Know:

# 'RELO'



'RELO' or the Regional English Language Office is part of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, located in the U.S. Embassy Bangkok. RELO seeks to improve English language learning and promote the effective use of English as a medium of global communication in Southeast Asia including Thailand. Its activities also help to foster mutual understanding between Americans and peoples of other nations.



### Some of the services provided by RELO

Above: English Language Specialist Program

Below: English Language Teaching through digital video conference (DVC)

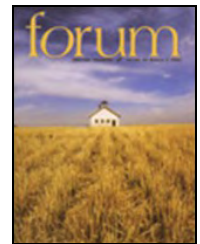


ment of State, located in the U.S. Embassy Bangkok. RELO seeks to improve English language learning and promote the effective use of English as a medium of global communication in Southeast Asia including Thailand. Its activities also help to foster mutual understanding between Americans and peoples of other nations.

### Selected RELO Programs and Services:

- *The English Language Fellow Program*: provides American professional expertise in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) by sending experts on ten-month fellowships to overseas academic institutions.
- *The English Language Specialist Program*: recruits American academics for short-term projects in the field of TESOL.

- *E-Teacher*: These scholarships provide access to American graduate courses in specific disciplines within TESOL to selected individuals worldwide, via distance education.
- *English Access Microscholarships*: The scholarships provide underprivileged and underserved youth (14-18 years old) with the opportunity to study English in high-quality after-school programs for two years.
- *Publications*: RELO is responsible for assisting those who would like to obtain books and other publications of the U.S. Government which focus on English teaching and learning. These include the widely-circulated English Teaching FORUM journal, one of the world's leading publications devoted to the TESOL field.



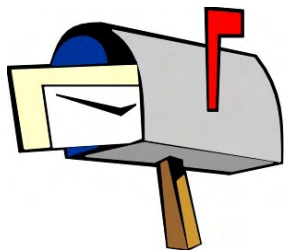
For more information on RELO's programs and how to get involved, please contact its representative through one of the following contact options:

Tel: 02-205-4492

Email: RELOBangkok@state.gov.

You can also visit RELO website at [here](http://www.relo.state.gov) and become friends of RELO

on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RELOThailand](http://www.facebook.com/RELOThailand).



## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT 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](http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni_signup.html)

You can also use other options to communicate with us:

Phone: 02-205-4849, Mobile: 081-813-0704

Fax: 02-650-8921

E-mail: Adisorn@state.gov

<http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni.html>



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