



IIAS

**THE INSTITUTE OF
ASIAN STUDIES
CHULALONGKORN
UNIVERSITY**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Message from the Director



Throughout the year 2020, activities of the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) corresponded to several events in Asia in order to provide the public with a deeper and wider understanding of Asia

“When there is an issue in Asia, IAS has an answer” has been the motto of our institution. In recent years, we have expanded our research activity to cover a wider variety of research areas and to encompass almost every corner of the continent. We have also extended our partnership with many leading academic institutions, government agencies, and civil society groups to work on projects that will resolve long-standing problems in the region.

We aim to broaden our service not only to serve the Thai public but also to serve the regional and international community.

Nonetheless, our effort could not be achieved without support from our colleagues and partners that include granting agencies, government agencies, and international research institutions. On behalf of the Institute of Asian Studies, I would like to express our appreciation to all our supporters and pledge that we will continue to find an answer for Asia.

Assoc. Prof. Nualnoi Treerat, Ph.D.
Director of the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS)

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About IAS

The Institute of Asian Studies (IAS)

is an interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service organization. IAS was established in 1967 as a research center within the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. With a wide range of academic activities, we have been well recognized both at the national and international levels.

Consequently, on May 10th, 1985, the Royal Decree established the IAS as an independent academic institution under Chulalongkorn University.

Today, the IAS continues to serve the Thai community and the Asian region. We are proud to be a source of knowledge and expertise for a broad range of subject areas in the region including economic, social, political, and security concerns. This has been accomplished through the diligence and cooperation of a team of highly qualified researchers with specialized knowledge about each country and sub-region within Asia.



Missions

- To develop a body of knowledge in order to maintain excellence in Asian Studies.
- To disseminate the knowledge as the source of reference of the nation and abroad
- To support teaching and learning in Asian Studies.
- To promote research and academic networks within and outside the country.

Vision

The Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) is committed to excel in research and academic services for the sustainable development of Asian Studies as well as acting as a reference for both national and international society.



Researchers and Staffs

The total number of researchers and staff who worked in the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) in 2020 was 75 people.

Projects

The total number of projects which all research centers under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) have accomplished in 2020 was 37 projects.

Budget

The total amount of budget which all research centers under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) have spent in 2020 was 39,333,640 THB.

Interns

The total number of interns who worked in the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) in 2020 was 13 people.

Lectures and Seminars

Community Outreach

The Institute of Asian Studies encourages its members to engage in a wide variety of community outreach programs to ensure widespread knowledge about Asia. Our research clusters have been active in social media and regularly publish updated information and analysis of current issues in the area of their expertise. Most of which will be re-published on the IAS website (www.ias.chula.ac.th).

Members of our institute also regularly write analysis pieces for Thai and English language publications, for example, Matchon Weekly, Thai Post, the Bangkok Post, or Manager Online, etc. Often, our members will be asked to give interviews and to contribute their perspectives to both local and international media outlets whenever there is an issue in the Asia.

Overall, the total number of community outreaches which all research centers under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) have accomplished in 2020 was 117 times.



Publications

IAS publishes 2 refereed journals dedicated to Asian Studies-Asian Review which is the English language journal and Asia Paridarsana which is a Thai language journal. Our journals seek to publish original research articles from a wide range of academic disciplines in the humanities and social sciences to promote an understanding of contemporary Asia. Areas of special concern include cultural studies, ethnicity, development, language, economics, foreign affairs, literature, migration, politics, and religion.

Asian Review and Asia Paridarsana welcome the submission of articles dealing with various aspects of Asia including political, economic, social, cultural, and foreign affairs.

All contributions are subject to a fully anonymous reviewing process. We accept manuscripts for review all year round.

To read and to submit an article, please log on to the portals to the journals' homepage at the Thai Journal Index below:

- Asian Review: <https://so01.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/arv/about>
- Asia Paridarsana: <https://so01.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/asianreview/about>

Furthermore, throughout the year 2020, all research center under the IAS also published articles in the differences level as follows:

National level

The total amount of articles that all research centers under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) have published at the national level in 2020 was 19 articles.

International level

The total amount of articles that all research centers under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) have published at the international level in 2020 was 9 articles.

Online media

The total amount of articles that all research centers under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) have published in online media in 2020 was 98 articles.

Printing media

The total amount of articles that all research centers under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) have published on print media in 2020 was 15 articles.



Awards and Recognitions



The total number of awards and recognitions that all research centers under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) have received in 2020 was 2 awards and recognitions.

Firstly, from Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), **Pyone Myat Thu, Ph.D.** has received the Q1 Publication Award from Chulalongkorn University (Research Office Tier 1).

Secondly, from Multicultural Studies & Social Innovation, **Prof. Sunait Chutintarnond Ph.D.** has received the National Research Award, in the branch of Philosophy.



RESEARCH



Asia Research Center for Migration

The Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM) is an internationally recognized center of excellence in social science research. Initially founded in 1987 as the Indochinese Refugee Information Center, the Center was established with the mission of conducting research on the flows of refugees from Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and other Southeast Asian countries seeking asylum in Thailand. After the Indochinese refugee crisis had abated in Thailand and the refugee camps were closed under the Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Center began to conduct research on new refugee situations that had begun to emerge in Southeast Asia. In recognition of this newly broadened research focus, the Center was reconstituted as the Asian Research Center for Migration in 1995. Since then, we have significantly expanded our thematic areas and now include projects on all forms of international migration in Southeast Asia, with a particular emphasis on Thailand as a sending, receiving and transit country.

ARCM was recognized as a Chulalongkorn University Center of Excellence in 2007. Our core team is drawn from the University's academic community, including both Thai and non-Thai experts with experience and technical back-up in various relevant fields, including sociology and anthropology, political science, economics, human geography, and law.

Researchers/Staffs

Asst. Prof. Naruemon Thabchumpon, Ph.D.

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Waranya Jitpong

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Intern

Asia Research Center for Migration (ARCM) had 1 intern in 2020.

Budget

Asia Research Center for Migration (ARCM) has spent 398,800 THB in 2020



Projects

Asia Research Center for Migration (ARCM) has accomplished 4 projects in 2020.

Assessment of Covid-19 impacts on Migrant Workers' Rights and Livelihoods The research examines COVID-19 situations and impacts on migrant workers in Thailand since these migrant workers are tied with other conditions that them more vulnerable, such as migration status, working and employment conditions, living conditions, lack of rights accessibility, language barrier, and access to healthcare. The research applies index of multiple deprivations (IMD) and an inclusive policy framework. It aims to observe migrant worker's livelihoods and the possibility to set new conditions which migrant workers can get more access to economic and social rights as well as better livelihoods during the COVID-19 pandemic period. It also aims to develop recommendations for the administration of migrant workers in the country.

Academic Services

Lectures & Seminars

Asia Research Center for Migration (ARCM) has accomplished 16 lectures and seminars in 2020.

International Migrants' Day Conference

According to the spread of Covid-19 that has adversely impacted people's movement, including migrant populations, the Asia Research Center for Migration (ARCM) has launched the International Migrants' Day Conference on December 17th, 2020 at the Social Innovations Hub, Chulalongkorn University by collaborating with the presenters from the Thai Royal Government, academics, multilateral organizations (e.g., ILO, IOM, and UNICEF), international and national non-government organizations (e.g., Help without Frontiers, GAATW, Community Partners International), civil society (migrant networks). This event aims to examine the impacts of Covid-19 on migrant populations. The conference also seeks to promote a network with academics and external partners.

Sustainable Sea Fisheries and Labour Protection Seminar

In order to foster better labour standards and protect migrant workers in Thai Fisheries through dialogue between multiple stakeholders, the Asia Research Center for Migration (ARCM) has launched the Sustainable Sea Fisheries and Labour Protection Seminar on December 16th, 2020 at the Social Innovations Hub, Chulalongkorn University. This round-table discussion aims to improve labour standards and the protection of migrant workers in Thai Fisheries.



Community Outreaches

Asia Research Center for Migration (ARCM) has accomplished 20 community outreaches in 2020.

The most outstanding community outreaches of the ARCM was the project which is examined Myanmar migrant workers and surrounding communities at Mahachai Villa, 9 Ally of Samutsakorn during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Publications

Asia Research Center for Migration (ARCM) has published 1 journal article at the national level, 2 journal articles at the international level, 5 articles on online media; both domestic and international online media, and one article on printing media.

The example of outstanding publications of the ARCM in 2020 includes:

"I am very proud and honored to be a member of the Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM) at the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, where I can always strengthen my professionalism through learning, researching, as well as sharing knowledge with sub-national, national, regional and global levels. The organization is always very supportive in building partnerships with all stakeholders. Our work aims to support society by keeping track of the current situation on migrants and migration-related issues, including both opportunities and challenges achieving durable solutions".

**Dr. Ratchada Jayagupta,
Senior Researcher of the ARCM.**

Awards and Recognitions

Pyone Myat Thu, Ph.D. has received the Q1 Publication Award from Chulalongkorn University (Research Office Tier 1)





Chinese Studies Center

Prior to the establishment of **the Chinese Studies Center (CSC)**, research on Chinese studies and knowledge dissemination was initiated at the Faculty of Political Science of Chulalongkorn University. At the same time, Asian studies were promoted worldwide by the West as a consequence of the change in China's political regime to communism, the Korean War, and the Indochina War, while the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) was founded in 1967. Later on May 10, 1985, IAS was recognized as an official institute.

On the first of July 1995, with the regard to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic Thailand - China relations and the rapid expansion of Chinese studies, a number of scholars have founded the Chinese Studies Center, as a research and academic organization under IAS, replacing the former Chinese studies program of the faculty of Political Science. Mr. Umphon Phanachet, Chair Professor of Chulalongkorn University took the position of the first director.

Researchers/Staffs

Arm Tungnirun, Ph.D

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Kulnaree Nukitrangsan, Ph.D.

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Krongchan Chantaraphaha, Ph.D.

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Kittipos Phuttivanuch, Ph.D.

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Budget

Chinese Studies Center (CSC) had spent 581,934.19 THB in 2020

Projects

Chinese Studies Center (CSC) has accomplished 3 projects in 2020.

New Chinese Immigrants in Thailand

The "New Chinese Immigrants in Thailand" project has received a research fund from the Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI) for the objective of estimating the number of new Chinese immigrants in Thailand as well as their settlement patterns, including positive and negative impacts of the settlement. The geographic areas of the study are Northern, Southern, Northeastern, and Central Thailand. This research project is conducted by a team of five researchers led by Associate Professor Vorasakdi Mahatdhanobol with a research period of two years and eight months, from November 2018 to July 2021.

Academic Services

Lectures & Seminars

Chinese Studies Center (CSC) has accomplished 6 lectures and seminars in 2020.

Look into China's Direction 2021

On December 18, 2020, at 13.00 – 15.30 p.m., the Chinese Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University held an online talk on the topic of “Look into China's Direction 2021”. The academic exchange about China in 2020 carried out by two experts in the field of Chinese studies, which are 1) Assoc.Prof.Vorasakdi Mahatdhanobol, an expert in Chinese Studies and special lecturer at Faculty of Political Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, and 2) Assoc.Prof.Sitthiphon Kruarattikan, Ph.D., the director of Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University. This academic talk hosted by Arm Tungnirun, Ph.D., the director of the Chinese Studies Center, though held online, still drew much attention from the public.



Community Outreaches

Chinese Studies Center (CSC) has accomplished 2 community outreaches in 2020 including:

1. During February-January, 2020, researchers of the Chinese Studies Center conducted research fieldwork for the “New Chinese Migrants” project in Phuket and Nakhon Ratchasima province.
2. In March 2020, researchers of the Chinese Studies Center conducted research fieldwork for the “Creative Tourism Management for Foreign Traveller in Nan Province” project in Nan.

Publications

Chinese Studies Center (CSC) has published 1 journal article at the national level, 3 journal articles at the international level, 10 articles on online media; both domestic and international online media, and 8 articles on printing media. The example of outstanding publications of the ARCM in 2020 includes:

National level

Kittipos Phuttivanuch, “People’s Liberation Army: implication on Xi Jinping’s leadership

International level

Krongchan Chantaraphaha, “The Development of Thai and Chinese Automotive Industrial Technologies”. PSAKU International Journal of Interdisciplinary Research. Vol. 9, No. 1, in June 2020



Japan-ASEAN Studies Center

At Chulalongkorn University, **Japanese Studies** was founded twenty years ago with the support of the Embassy of Japan. Initially, it has continuously been offering workshops on Japanese studies for secondary school teachers countrywide. The workshop was to offer updated information on Japanese society to school teachers who were the source of knowledge in their communities. Until recently does IAS promote a research function of Japanese Studies and seek cooperation among academic departments, research centres at Chulalongkorn University, and other universities, including partnerships from the private sector and government organizations.

Due to current regional development in terms of international relations, the ASEAN community inserted a strong impact on Japanese studies in the region. In order to establish a comprehensive knowledge about Japan, Thailand, and the region, it means a more comprehensive understanding of ASEAN countries being integrated into that of Japan. Therefore, this year the former Japanese studies program extends its activities to cover Japan and ASEAN studies. The program continues to educate people, conducting research, and organize academic events. This includes promoting coordination both within the university's research environment and between research institutions elsewhere. These coordination efforts involve researchers on Japanese issues both in Thailand and throughout the Asian region in order to promote greater harmony and understanding between the various parties involved.



Intern



Japan-ASEAN Studies Center had 2 interns in 2020.

Projects



Japan-ASEAN Studies Center has accomplished 1 project in 2020. The project of Japan town in Thailand: Japan's cultural capital in Thailand was funded by the National Research Council of Thailand. This project aims to study the impact of cultural exchange between Thai and Japanese people.

Researchers/Staffs



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Chandhit Sawangnate

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- Expertise: International Economics, Environment, Development and Sustainability, Ageing Population and Climate Change

Academic Services

Lectures & Seminars

Japan - ASEAN Studies Center has accomplished 2 lectures and seminars in 2020.

1. Webinar on COVID-19: Common Threat, Unequal Solution. This event launched on July 17th, 2020, and funded by the Japan Foundation. The participant of the webinar consist of scholars from Thailand, Japan, and Indonesia.

2. Webinar on Kata-Corona crisis: value, social, and Japanese Politics. This event launched in August 2020 and funded by the Japanese Foundation. This webinar aims to provide knowledge for Thais who interest in this issue.

Community Outreaches

Japan - ASEAN Studies Center has accomplished 2 lectures and seminars in 2020.

1. The Japan - ASEAN Studies Center has participated in 3rd ASEAN - Japan Roundtable: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, organized by the Asia Center on November 18th, 2020.

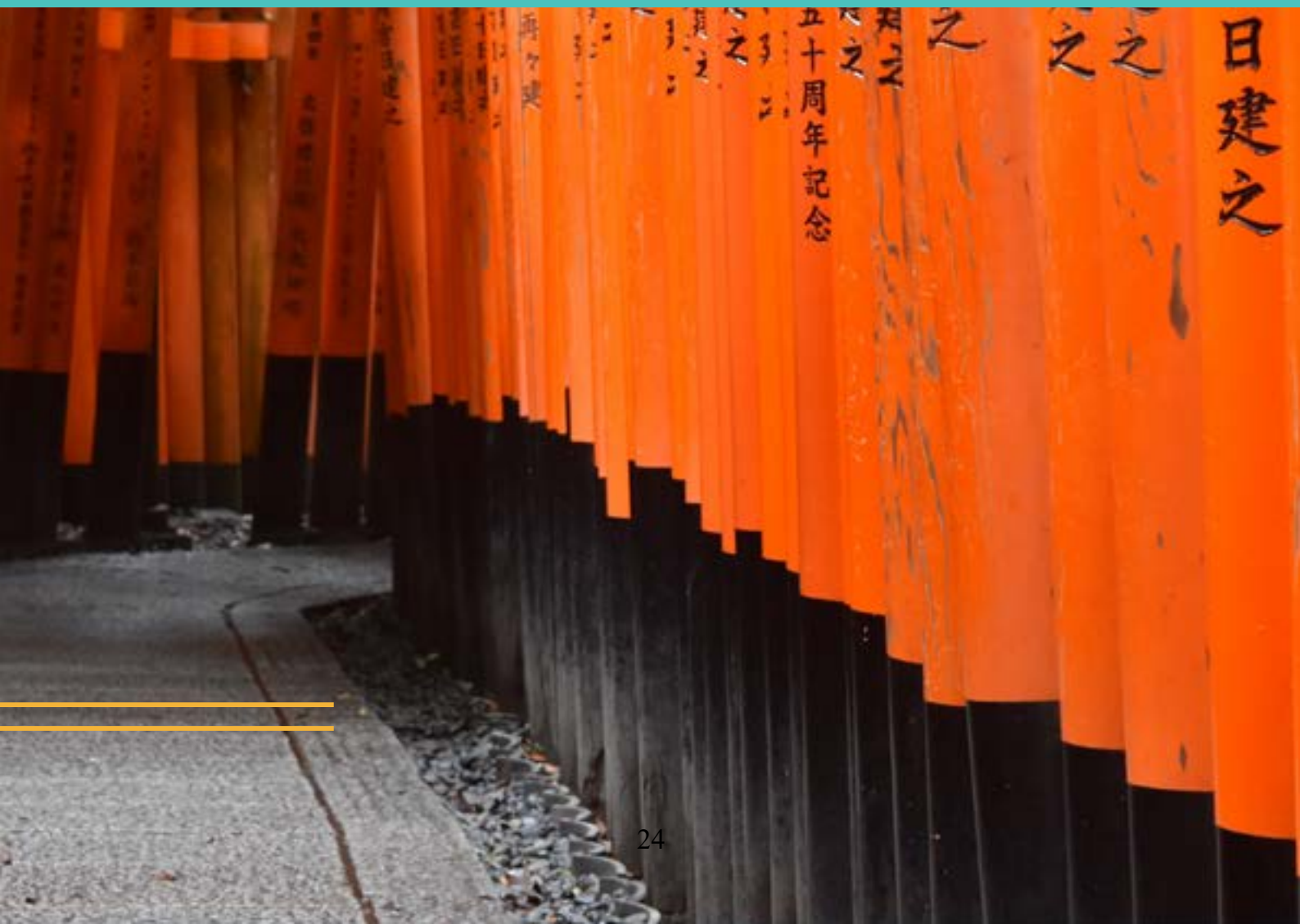
2. The Japan - ASEAN Studies Center has participated in the book launching session of the University of Michigan on “The Courteous Power: Japan and Southeast Asia in the Indo - Pacific Era” on December 2nd, 2020.





“The Japan-ASEAN Studies Center is proud to be a part of the Institute of Asian Studies whose effort is to use knowledge to foster better understanding and friendship among Asian people and the world”

Saikaew Thipakorn, Ph.D.
Director of Japan-ASEAN Studies Center





Mekhong Studies Center

Mekhong Studies Center was established under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) of Chulalongkorn University with a grant from the Ratchadapisek Sompoch fund in 2002 in order to conduct research on the countries of the Mekhong sub-region and to disseminate the acquired knowledge to the public. In the early period, Mekhong Studies Center was research until of IAS and was established as a Center of Excellence in December 2009. Mekhong Studies Center aims to be a leading research centre in Greater Mekhong Subregion to conduct researches and studies and disseminate knowledge about countries in the Greater Mekhong Sub-region (GMS), namely Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Southern China.

Mekong Studies Center is committed to providing academic services and knowledge transfer. Researchers have been invited to deliver lectures, organized seminars in order to raise awareness and increase stakeholders' understanding of issues related to the Greater Mekhong Sub-region. The Center also applies knowledge through organizing research forums, giving consultation to the public and private sectors as well as the public, and participating in the establishment of key national policies in order to utilize the acquired knowledge and engage with diversified stakeholders.

Intern

Mekhong Studies Center had 4 interns in 2020.

Budget

Mekhong Studies Center has spent 7,810,190.68 THB in 2020.

Researchers/Staffs

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Ukrist Pathmanand

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Mukda Pratheepwatanawong, Ph.D.

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Akkanut Wantanasombut

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Anuk Pitukthanin

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- Expertise: Myanmar in the issue of inequality and Myanmar's City of education and public policy.



Projects

Mekhong Studies Center has accomplished 4 projects in 2020.

“The China-Laos Railway: Impacts Opportunities and Challenges for Thailand” is research as part of the project of **“70th Thai-Laos Diplomatic Relations: A Strategic Partner for Growth and Sustainable Development”** in collaboration with the Thai-Laos Association for Friendship and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The China - Laos Railway (CLR) or the Kunming-Vientiane (K-V) railway is a symbolic project of the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The line will link Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province, and Vientiane.

The project began in December 2016, and is planned to be completed in late 2021. The CLR is also a part of the planned Kunming-Singapore multi-country rail network (or “Pan-Asia Railway”). The cost of the project is estimated at approximately 6 billion USD. The railway would use China technical standards and equipment over a 260-mile route through

Laos with an operating speed of 160 km/h. The CLR is regarded as a strategic docking project between the China-proposed initiative and Laos strategy to transition from landlocked to land-linked.

The CLR would have little benefit to China if it could not expand its route to Thailand, where China would like to link with the ASEAN economy, while the Thai-China High-Speed Railway (HSR) links between Bangkok-Nong Khai is expected to be completed in 2025.

Therefore, while the Thai-China HSR has not yet been completed, the CLR is a key route that could benefit Thailand's economy. After the CLR starts operating, it has the potential to facilitate Thai's shipment to China, which will reduce time and transportation costs, which will be lower than the transportation through road such as R3A route. This will help increase Thailand's competitiveness and boost Northeast regional economic development and benefit the local people.

Academic Services

Lectures & Seminars

Mekhong Studies Center has accomplished 47 projects in 2020.

Seminar “The China-Laos Railway: Impacts, Opportunities and Challenges on Thailand after opens”

by Adisorn Semyaem

Mukda Pratheepwatanawong PhD.

Siripat Puengkwamsuk

Kittika Luecha

Phanurak Tangchit

organized in collaboration with the Thai-Laos Association for Friendship and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13 November 2020 at Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok. This was a Round Table Discussion (RTDs) for information sharing between academics from various educational institutions, experts, representatives of government agencies and private sectors about opportunities, challenges, problems and impacts on Thailand and what must be prepared before the China-Laos Railway starts operating in late 2021.

International Seminar “70th Thai-Laos Diplomatic Relations: A Strategic Partnership for Growth and Sustainable Development”

by Adisorn Semyaem

Mukda Pratheepwatanawong PhD.,

Anuk Pitukthani

Siripat Puengkwamsuk

Kittika Luecha

Phanurak Tangchit

organized in collaboration with the Thai-Laos Association for Friendship and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on December 16th, 2020, at Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok, to review the situation and understand the past that inform the present and to forecast the future of the Thai-Laos relations through experiences sharing from the Thai-Laos responsible persons, which will lead to the consensus and recommendations for a desirable future that will foster strong relations between the two countries.

Community Outreaches



Mekhong Studies Center has accomplished 52 projects in 2020.

International seminar “70th Thai-Laos Diplomatic Relations: A Strategic Partnership for Growth and Sustainable Development”

by Adisorn Semyaem, Mukda Pratheepwatanawong PhD., Anuk Pitukthanin, Siripat Puengkwamsuk, Kittika Luecha, Phanurak Tangchit

On the occasion of the 70th Thai-Laos establishment of diplomatic relations, The Mekong Studies Center, the Thai-Laos Association for Friendship and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized an international seminar on 16 December 2020 at Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok, as sharing of information and experiences by the Thai-Laos responsible persons from government agencies and private sectors, including international development cooperation and royal project, economic cooperation in trade and investment, social and cultural cooperation, which will lead to the consensus and recommendations for a desirable future that will pave the way in the move towards a strategic partnership for growth and sustainable development between Thai - Laos.





Publications

Mekhong Studies Center has published 1 journal article at the national level, 1 journal article at the international level, and 23 articles on online media; both domestic and international online media.

Finding a Balance between Comfort Zone and a “New Normal” Way of Teaching Online

by Mukda Pratheepwatanawong, Ph.D

in Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia, Issue 29-Pandemic Pedagogy: Teaching Continuity in Times of Global Disruption, The Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on everyone's lifestyle regardless of occupation. As cases accumulate worldwide, the abrupt global disruption has brought about a “new normal” lifestyle. The education sector is no exception. Educational institutions, including Chulalongkorn University, strive for ways to proceed with classes under the challenge of this new normal lifestyle. Online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic is the start of a new normal education ecosystem. Conducting classes online should not feel like the end of the world, as teachers have choices in such teaching and the extent to which they want their courses to be online. The best option for teachers is to determine what feels comfortable for themselves and optimal for students

Monograph “The China-Laos Railway: Impacts, Opportunities and Challenges on Thailand after opens”

by Siripat Puengkwamsuk

Kittika Luecha

Phanurak Tangchit

The publication of this Monograph is a collaboration with the Thai-Laos Association for Friendship and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The China-Laos Railway (CLR) or the Kunming-Vientiane (K-V) railway is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or the 21st Century Silk Road Project. The cost of the project is estimated at approximately 6 billion USD, starting with Kunming in Yunnan Province by Yuxi-Mohan line and connects Mohan checkpoint to the Laos border at Boten checkpoint in Luang Namtha province to the Vientiane capital, a 260-mile route through Laos with an operating speed of

160 km/h., expected to open in late 2021 and to link with the Thai railway system on the Nong Khai–Thanaleng line. The CLR is therefore crucial to Thailand in terms of the economy, while the Thai-Chinese high-speed railway to connect the Bangkok–Nong Khai is expected to be completed in 2025. After the CLR opens, it will benefit in transport which will reduce time and costs from Thailand to China with lower costs than road transport such as transport through the R3A route. The Northeast of Thailand will be the region that will benefit the most from the CLR. Therefore, to create competitive advantages and embrace the opportunities for Thailand, it's necessary to develop “infrastructure links” and build skills for local people, including improving trade regulations, particularly customs procedures, to facilitate the inspection and transportation of goods.



“The perspectives and directions to study and understand neighboring countries in the current Mekong sub-region are challenging and are always changing based on external factors such as a political, economic, epidemic, and technological advancements that affect the way of life of society. As a research centre, there is a need to serve our local and international community through research, find answers and disseminate new knowledge that will benefit our local and international community as much as possible. We would like to thank the working group within the Mekong Studies Center and Institute of Asian Studies for their support and collaboration, including the funders and various sectors who have co-operated with us in the past years”.



Siripat Puengkwamsuk
Research Assistant



Muslim Studies Center

The Muslim Studies Center has been established to encourage academic research and public understanding of Muslim society and culture both at the domestic (Thailand) and international level. It is an interdisciplinary research unit that was established in 2005 as a center under the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) Chulalongkorn University. The Muslim Studies Center has been set up to cope with current situations and changes in Asia and the world.

At present, Muslim studies have increasingly received public and academic attention, although most of the discussion has centred narrowly on the contemporary issues of security and terrorism due to the events of 9/11. The variability and flexibility of Muslim practices and perspectives have not featured in this discourse. It leaves the public largely unaware of the complexities, achievements and challenges of the Muslim World. The Center is working to fulfill this imbalance by broadening the studies and discussion to introduce more comparison and complexity in the study of Muslim affairs from the Middle East, through the South Asia, East Asia and Malay world. By focusing on Muslim (not Islamic) studies, the Center encourages the shift in analysis from the notion of a single unitary religious matter defined by Islam to a more complex view of Muslims as agents in the construction of their own experience and history.

Researchers/Staffs

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Sarehan Sulong

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- Expertise: Malaysia and southern border women

Intern

Muslim Studies Center had 2 interns in 2020.

Budget

Muslim Studies Center has spent 4,520,000 THB in 2020.



Projects

Muslim Studies Center has accomplished 3 projects in 2020.

Muslim Studies Center has 1 outstanding research project during 2020, titled “**Muslim World and The Management of Hajj Affairs: A Study of Hajj Management in Thailand and Hajj Management in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore.**”

Leading by Dr. Sawut Aree.

The operation period of the project is from 1 October 2019 until 30 April 2021. As the COVID-19 interrupted the project, causing a delay in conducting research. The Center is therefore required to extend for field works. The objective of the research project was to investigate the Hajj Management Model in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. And give direction to reform Hajj Management in Thailand.



Academic Services

Lectures & Seminars

Muslim Studies Center has accomplished 1 international seminar in 2020.

The International seminar on “The Contributions of Al-Farabi to the Modern World” was organized by Muslim Studies Center, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, and Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in The Kingdom of Thailand on December 24th, 2020 at Saranitet Conference Room, Main Auditorium, Chulalongkorn University. The Objectives of the International seminar are to fill the gaps discernible in the scholarly corpus which we have referred to as Muslim Studies and familiarize the Muslim Thinker, Abu Nasr Muhammad Al-Farabi, particularly in political philosophy and logic. Such interest explains why he is known as “the second master” (the first one, of course, being Aristotle)

Community Outreaches

Muslim Studies Center has accomplished 30 community outreaches in 2020.

Srawut Aree, Ph.D., Director of Muslim Studies Center was written articles published on the website, titled ‘The Standard.com’. The article that has the highest reading rate on the website is an article on The Conflict of Israel and Iran (published in Thai), titled “The Conflict between Israel and Iran: The Secret War in the Borderless Battlefield, How Concerned Should Thailand be about this Issue?”. This article was published on 2 December 2020 and had been read more than 1400 times.



Publications

Muslim Studies Center has published 4 journal articles at the international level, 34 articles on online media; both domestic and international online media, and 4 publications on printing media.

“Images of Makkah and the Hajj in South Thailand: An Ethnographic and Theological Exploration.”

by Dr. Christopher Mark Joll and Dr. Srawut Aree

This article explores the historical and contemporary importance of Makkah and the hajj for Malays in South Thailand. Our multi-disciplinary approach examines relevant historiographies, the insights of Islamic Studies scholars, and ethnographic data collected in Pattani’s provincial capital. We point out that in the outputs produced by literary networks located in Sumatra and the portion of Thai/Malay Peninsula once referred to as the Malay Sultanate of Pattani, references to Makkah were early to appear. Malays from Pattani may have primarily travelled to Makkah to perform the hajj, but following Pattani’s subjugation by Bangkok in the late 18th century, Makkah functioned as a refuge. Following a description of the prerequisites, preparations, and performances of the hajj in present-day Pattani, we identify and discuss motivations of fulfilment, forgiveness, and merit-making. We argue through our exploration of these historical, ethnographic, and theological factors that Makkah is much more than a site of pilgrimage, and that the performance of hajj is multi-faceted.

Publications

“The Religious Geography of Thailand’s Malay Southern Provinces: Revisiting the Impact of South Asian and Middle Eastern Transnational Islamic Movements.”

by Dr. Srawut Aree and
Dr. Christopher Mark Joll

This article describes changes in the ‘religious geography’ of Thailand’s Malay-dominated southern provinces of Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat since the 1960s. These have been led by a range of religious entrepreneurs returning to these parts of southern Thailand from the Middle East and South Asia. We begin by conceptualizing local Islamic diversity in ways that move beyond binaries such as the new and old schools (kaum muda–kaum tua) and accept that the vast majority of Malays in southern Thailand remain conservative, rural traditionalists.

We provide relevant details about the background, overseas educational influences and the forms of religious activism pursued by leaders of local modernist, reformist and revivalist religious franchises. Furthermore, we also point out the different strategies pursued by these religious entrepreneurs and that the operational centres for many of these movements are located in Yala. This article argues that Middle Eastern influences in southern Thailand have been exaggerated, while South Asian influences have been overlooked, and that the Malaysian State of Kelantan has played an important role in diversifying the religious geography of these southern provinces.

“ I have been working at IAS as an AR-5 researcher since 2019, where I have learned and gained a lot of research experience. I have seen the development of the Muslim Studies Center in the right direction. I have a good colleague with whom I can get along. Most of all, I have a wonderful director, Dr. Srawut Aree, who gives me the advice to improve academically. ”

Arifeen Yama, Ph.D.

Researcher, Muslim Center Studies





Multicultural Studies & Social Innovation Center

The Multicultural Studies and Social Innovation Center grew out of the Muslim Studies Center to be a new research body under the supervision of the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University and takes responsibility for the above-mentioned tasks. Although the center is destined to lay emphasis on comprehensive research and scholarly works, it will never limit its operation within the traditional extent such as research projects, published scholarship, or cooperation with the state, academic, and public sector. The center will go further by bringing all the findings into play to generate real benefits. An array of modern technologies will be incorporated where necessary to ensure that such benefit is delivered to the end-user who could be domestic and international alike.

Researchers/Staffs

Prof. Sunait Chutindaranon, Ph.D.

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Akkharakit Sinthuwongsri

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Intern

Multicultural Studies and Social Innovation Center had 2 interns in 2020.

Budget

Multicultural Studies and Social Innovation Center has spent 7,700,000 in 2020.



Projects

The research project “Strengthening Our Unity in Diversities: Step to the Next Step of the Southern part of Thailand” (2019 -2021)

Director of Project: Prof. Sunait Chutintaranond, Ph.D., Head of Project Dollaya Tiantong, Ph.D., A Research Team: Thanayod Lopattananont, Ph.D., Supaphan Tangtrongpaioj, Ph.D., Nuttapot Yuenyong, Jittima Kimsuksri and Akkharakit Sinthuwongsri (supported by Thai Media Fund).

This project contributes to academic issues of cultural diversity in the southern provinces. It aims to study various media on the basis of research and synthesize the knowledge to promote multicultural learning in the southern border area. Moreover, researchers work harmoniously with the locals to build a learning and developing community in the Southern region of Thailand by using media as an instrument. The project also has given an opportunity for local youth to participate in professional research with experienced researchers. A variety of academic issues have been raised by locals due to the various lifestyles of their families or communities through many creative media activities. Overall, this project has promoted common happiness and cultural diversity in the Southern provinces in the aspects of comprehensiveness and sustainability.

Academic Services



Lectures & Seminars



Multicultural Studies and Social Innovation Center has accomplished 6 lectures and seminars in 2020.

Seminar on “Unveil the Mystic Myth: The Story of Thailand’s axe tip”.

This seminar launched on August 26th, 2020, it aims to present academic work in the form of a documentary of the southern border provinces in several aspects including historical issues, multicultural society, education, customs, traditions, and the way of life of the locals.

The content of documentary has made It is presented through a video clip of the interesting documentary, easy to understand ,colourful, beautiful, suitable for use in both governmental organizations, especially the office of the security council and private sector cover individual level, such as academics, students, and interested people And it is also a product that is easy to publish. Because there are presentations through the website.

Seminar on “Padthai: the Secret Recipe for Dreaming”. On November 23th, 2020,

the Grand Opening seminar of project Thailand's cultural industry promotes TV drama innovation 4.0 on the project 'Pad Thai', the secret recipe of dreaming from research to drama innovation. This research is one of the four projects that is developed into a drama. The best 1 for produce organized by the Center for Multicultural Education and Social Innovation. In the past I talked about the importance of the fight.

Top research results are beneficial through driving research into innovative TV dramas for the promotion of Thai Culture Industry 4.0, which is not just one of the tools to drive the economy through technology and creativity. But also to create a good image for the country through the drama of multicultural food as well.

Awards and Recognitions

Pyone Myat Thu, Ph.D. has received the Q1 Publication Award from Chulalongkorn University (Research Office Tier 1).

Community Outreaches

Multicultural Studies and Social Innovation Center has accomplished 6 community outreaches in 2020.

“Strengthening Our Unity in Diversities: Step to the Next Step of the Southern Part of Thailand” (2019 -2021)

The prominence of working with communities in the southern border provinces is to create a project related to the production of creative media. This project was organized at Mu Ko Phetra National Park, Satun Province, by collaborating with the young generation group, the crucial mechanism of the project, by presenting and conveying both emotional styles through online media.

This project aims to bring the identity of the southern border provinces to be reflected through writing, photography, and video which conducted by researchers from the Multicultural Studies and Social Innovation Center (MSSIC), together with the locals, civil society, and media. As a result, with their collaboration, they can help to drive the ideas of the youth groups to be more productive and recognizable to the public.



Publications

Multicultural Studies and Social Innovation Center has published 3 journals at the national level, and 3 articles on online media; both domestic and international online media.

Thai Action Cinema in a Socio-Cultural Context

The memory of Thai action cinema is limited to entertainment and projection of Muay Thai as the national heritage. This article aims to discuss some philosophy and socio-cultural values having been looked over via the early works comprising Ong Bak and Tom Yum Kung which passed on concepts and spiritual messages about Thainess through the image of ancient Muay Thai.

In brief, each film tells the story of the character who practices Muay Thai to the degree that he becomes a supreme human being. He achieves strength in terms of mind, body, and intelligence and will only perform Muay Thai as ruled by the ancient tradition. It is to protect the weak, the nation, including righteousness. This reflects Thainess from the civilized perspective as well as suggesting the superiority of Thai culture amidst the stream of Westernization whose theme lends weight to the external development other than the internal one.



The critical success factors from Phook-Rak crispy wisdom to connect relationships in Jebilang multicultural community, Satun province.

The purpose of this study is to analyse the critical success factors from Phook-Rak wisdom to connect relationships of multicultural communities in Satun Province. According to the concept of managing local wisdom, the economic positive impact of bringing wisdom to the current application. This research employs quantitative research methods and the size of a total sample of 390 people. Data were analysed using multiple regression analysis.

It was found that five factors, as follows:

- (1) recognizes the historical value of local knowledge.
- (2) The creation of local knowledge for the development of the community.
- (3) Promoting innovation through local wisdom in the economy
- (4) The support from the relevant authorities
- (5) Promoting and developing the Phook-Rak wisdom to the international level.

The feedback from the management and promotion of traditional knowledge to preserve and extend the value is economically viable. Creating Engaging with young people or youth groups in the community. Raise awareness and recognize the value of local knowledge. The availability of resources The creativity of the community.

To develop organizational knowledge and wisdom to create a steady income steadily. And to create a good relationship between the community and embrace harmony and cooperation. Munificent and was placed among the different races, religions and cultures seamlessly.



South Asian Studies Center

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The South Asian Studies Center is a research unit for South Asian Studies and funded by Ratchadaphisek Somphot Endowment Fund, Chulalongkorn University. The Center was established in June 2017 under the Institute of Asian Studies. The Center conducts research on South Asian Studies Countries related to social, economic, cultural, and political issues. South Asian Countries are diverse in terms of cultures, religions, languages. The main purpose of the center is developing, initiating, and disseminating knowledge in South Asia to the public, creating quality of Thai researchers and expanding the academic network within Thailand and globally.

Therefore, for developing the relationship between Thailand and the South Asian countries it is necessary to understand the context of the region through conducting research in deep analysis and systematic research as the main mission of the South Asian Studies Center of Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University.



Researchers/Staffs

Asst. Prof. Jirayudh Sinthuphan, Ph.D.

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Intern

South Asian Studies Center had 2 interns in 2020.

Budget

South Asian Studies Center has spent 10,079,600 THB in 2020.

Projects

South Asian Studies Center has accomplished 5 projects in 2020.

The “Developing Expertise in South Asian Studies” is a two years research project which is funded by the National Research Council of Thailand about 3,999,600 Baht. The project aimed to produce the expert of South Asian Scholar, to collect the database of South Asian Country, to analyst the important issues of politics, economic, security, social and culture of South Asian Countries, to study the opportunity of Thai and BIMSTEC cooperation and also to suggest the approach of cooperation between Thai and South Asian Countries.

Academic Services

Lectures & Seminars

South Asian Studies Center has accomplished 9 lectures and seminars in 2020.

The Seminar for Knowledge Development on the Promotion of Interfaith Space.

This seminar was organized on 20 – 21 August 2020, Bangkok, Thailand, by the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, the Office of National Security Council of Thailand, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand for developing knowledge and understanding amongst public officers whose duties can contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) especially in light of the misinterpretation of religious teachings to propagate prejudice or hatred conducive to violence against different religious communities and threaten the diversity of beliefs in the society. The seminar also attempts to introduce experiences and knowledge from foreign countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the Philippines applicable to the Thai context, especially best practices in dealing with challenges that resemble those facing Thai communities. Moreover, to explore and identify conditions, impediments, and supporting factors for creating social interactive space which embrace the values of moderation and peaceful coexistence.

International Conference on 'BIMSTEC & Sub-Regional Politics in Post-Covid Era: Relevance & Emerging Trends.

This international conference is organized by the Tillotoma Foundation and Nepal Institute of International Cooperation and Engagement on 16 September 2020. The international conference was talking about the effect of Covid-19 and the reaction to counter the pandemic situation. The world has the opportunity to have a new way of digital platform for education, market, etc. in daily life. The situation lets we reposition ourselves in terms of economy and relation in the world.



Maulana Tariq Jameel
photo credit : myislamicworld.com

Publications



South Asian Studies Center has published 9 articles at the national level, 3 articles at an international level, 23 articles in online media; both domestic and international online media, and 2 articles in printing media.

Wisdom of South Asian Scholar: Maulana Tariq Jameel, Preacher of Islamic inner Peace Ideas.

This Academic Article of Abdunrohman Mukem is talking about Maulana Tariq Jameel's 'preaching approach' 'living idea in plural society' and 'inner peace ideas' which are based on Islamic doctrine within many centuries of conflict and violent situations.

Maulana Tariq Jameel is not only the renowned Islamic peace preacher and spiritual leader of South Asia, but also one of the world's 500 most Influential Muslim. The main purpose of this article is opening the gateway of people's mind to know his beautiful inner peace idea. It was published in Panidhana Journal 15 (2) pp. 295-342.

Violence and Effects of Media on Anti-LGBT extremism in South Asia

This Research Article of Luxsnai Songsiengchai is talking about the media exposure of the South Asian community in the midst of gender violence. The case study focused on the group of hijra or male to female transgender (MtF). The study included the level of violence toward lesbian gay bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people which occurs under socialization in a patriarchal society

The effects of media in two dimensions: firstly, media is being used as a tool for cultivating prejudice and provoking gender-based violence and secondly, media has an influence on reducing bias and understanding concepts of gender diversity.





“South Asian Studies Center is the gateway to understand many issues of South Asian regions such as international relation, public policy, politics, economics, cultures, religions, society, movies, tourism, diaspora, education, Peace culture, current situation, etc. We can open both our minds and spirits when reading the story from South Asia. South Asian countries are the most multicultural places in the world. If we understand the South Asian region, it is very easy to understand the rest of the world.”

Abdunrohman Mukem, Ph.D.
Researcher

Community Outreaches

South Asian Studies Center has accomplished 1 community outreach in 2020.

‘Thai Strategy and New World Order’ at Suthichai Live on September 30, 2020.

The Suthichai Live is very famous in Thai Society, where they were talking about ‘Thai Strategy and New World Order’ with many experts from research centers such as the South Asian Studies Center, ASEAN center and Indian Studies Center of Chulalongkorn University.

This community outreach is presenting on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. In this conversation, they talked about Thai policy in world politics and how to adapt to the new world order.



Development of Creative Tourism

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Apart from research located in individual research clusters, IAS also hosts a number of research projects that involve researchers from different aspects within the institute, include:

Development of Creative Tourism is an interdisciplinary research project that seeks to apply the concept of creative tourism in social development. The project comprises two main projects. The first project will study the development of tourism in Nan province in the north of Thailand in the context of nature, health, and culture for making new goods and services by using wisdom and cultural asset as driving forces. The second project aims to improve the potentials of creative tourism by managing tourism linkage on the Andaman coast of Thailand and Myanmar. It focuses on participatory action research within the communities of Chao Lay (the sea nomads), displaced Thais, and different ethnic groups in Myeik (city in Myanmar).



Researchers/Staffs

Prof. Chantana Wankaew, Ph.D.

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Manutchanok Surachaikulwatana, Ph.D.

- Position: Project Manager
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- Expertise: Production of television programs for the disabled, Development communication

Budget

Development of Creative Tourism
has spent 8,243,115.52 THB in 2020.

Projects

Development of Creative Tourism has accomplished 13 projects in 2020.

Sub-project 1.1

Industrial Innovation Project, Lifestyle Products from Nan Province to International for Creative Tourism. This project wants to study and find ways to develop new lifestyle products for Nan Province, with an emphasis on the development of local industries to international level. It is a combination of knowledge in fashion, textiles and art to develop lifestyle products with identity from the cultural capital of Nan and further develop creative tourism from lifestyle products.

To obtain a development approach that is suitable for the nature of the Nan Province Cultural Capital. Currently, the project has worked with the community to design 8 clusters of prototype textile products in order to build on being an entrepreneur in the community. The project is about to provide exhibitions and knowledge transfer to the community and the project will be closed soon.





Academic Services

Lectures & Seminars

Development of Creative Tourism has accomplished 2 seminars in 2020.

- On September 9th, 2020, the Development of Creative Tourism has launched online seminars called “The Issue of Opportunities and Advances in Creative Tourism in Thailand” in order to respond with the COVID-19 crisis in Thailand. This event consists of two objective:

- 1) assessed the opportunities and potential of creative tourism in Thailand, through of The stakeholders, operators, travel managers, social enterprises, Policy and Research Department.
- 2) Gathered suggestions for investment directions to promote creative tourism.

- On November 16th, 2021, the Development of Creative Tourism has launched online seminars called “The Issue of New Direction for New Creative Tourism in the New Normal Era”, at the Social Innovation Hub room, Visid Prachuabmoh Building, Chulalongkorn University. This event consists of three objectives:

- 1) Guidelines for adaptation of tourism operators
- 2) How will the new creative tourism approach be in the future?
- 3) Government perspectives on supporting tourism after COVID-19.

Community Outreaches

Development of Creative Tourism has accomplished 4 community outreaches in 4 provinces of Thailand, including Nan Krabi, Ranong and Prachuap Khiri Khan in 2020.

The project works with the communities in Nan province. It aims to develop and design textile products that are cultural capital and unique characteristics of Nan Province. Moreover, this project aims to develop and educate about herbal development business plan and homestay to raise the standard of joint creative tourism with the community, including proposing a development plan for a basic building project, in order to facilitate travel for tourism to the province.



“Currently, the project has been running for two years now, the results of their work help build and expand partnerships from many organizations outside the university. As well as helping develop innovative product designs to preserve the environment and develop new creative tourism routes, which will create new entrepreneurs in the province. The operation received good cooperation from the community and provincial administrators”.

**Manutchanok Surachaikulwatana,
Ph.D.
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