Long Live His Majesty the King

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, the world’s longest-reigning current monarch, celebrated His Majesty’s 87th birthday on December 5, 2014. Millions of Thais around the country united in the celebration and presented to H.M. their best wishes and eternal love, jubilantly chanting “Long Live the King” and cheerfully holding lighted candles.

Joining in the festivities, Prince of Songkla University humbly organized a celebration for His Majesty on this day, which drew hundreds of people to the 60th Anniversary of H.M. the King’s Accession to the Throne International Convention Center, to express strong devotion and respect to their beloved King.

His Majesty the King has always been concerned for the progress and unity of the country, and performed royal duties for the happiness and wellbeing of the Thai people. Therefore, Thais hold an inestimable love and continued deep loyalty for His Majesty.
2nd ASEAN+3 Rectors’ Conference

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chusak Limseakul, PSU President, and his team comprised of Asst. Prof. Dr. Pattara Aukarak, Vice President for International Affairs, and Mrs. Salin Kosumphant, Head of the International Affairs Office, participated in the 2nd ASEAN+3 Rectors’ Conference hosted by Chiang Mai University from November 6-7, 2014. The event was attended by 78 representatives of all 30 AUN member universities plus five Chinese, three Japanese and two South Korean universities.

The ASEAN+3 University Network (ASEAN+3 UNet) was established during the 1st ASEAN+3 Rectors’ Conference held on November 1, 2012, in Beijing, P.R. China, in order to provide a cooperative framework on higher education between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries (P.R. China, Japan, South Korea).

The Opening Ceremony of the 2nd ASEAN+3 Rectors’ Conference was honored by Ms. Aporn Kanwong, Deputy Secretary- General of the Office of Higher Education Commission. Assoc. Prof. Nlwee Nantcharit, M.D., Chiang Mai University President, warmly welcomed all participants and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nantana Gajaseni, AUN Executive Director, gave an Introductory Presentation in the opening session. During the conference, the main discussions emphasized on mutual areas of interest that the member institutions agreed to collectively move towards in the future. Consequently, the cooperation regarding the students of member universities will focus on non-academic and cultural activities; concerning the academic staff, the collaboration will concentrate on academic exchange (fellowships, visiting professors, etc.), research collaboration and joint research supervision; and for the executives it will center on meetings and conferences such as university executive development programs.

Furthermore, six Japanese universities (Chiba University, Kanazawa University, Kumamoto University, Nagasaki University, Okayama University, and Niigata University) and two Korean universities (Korea Polytechnic University and Dongguk University) expressed their desire to join the ASEAN+3 UNet family to work together with the other members towards an enhanced higher education in the region. The ASEAN+3 UNet members approved their request, but the final approval of their membership applications will be considered during the next AUN Board of Trustees Meeting.

An impressive activity arranged by the host university was the celebration of the Loy Krathong Festival, where all participants enjoyed this amazing Thai tradition by launching beautifully illuminated lanterns into the night sky and floated down the river’s krathongs (a floating sculpture made of banana stalk adorned with flowers, candles and incense).
HONORABLE VISITS

US Chargé D’Affaires Visits PSU

Honorable Mr. W. Patrick Murphy, Chargé d’affaires, and distinguished delegates from the Embassy of the United States in Thailand visited PSU on November 28, 2014. The objective of their visit was to discuss the PSU present and future cooperation with US institutions. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chutamas Satasook, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Asst. Prof. Dr. Ram Yamsaengsung, Assistant President for International Affairs, and representatives from the Faculty of Liberal Arts and International Affairs Office welcomed the honorable guests.

During the meeting, Hon. Mr. Patrick Murphy encouraged PSU to continue its active cooperation with Fulbright Thailand, USEF and Global UGRAD Program, as well as he invited our staff and students to join other US educational activities, such as President Obama’s Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, which will bring 500 exceptional young leaders from ASEAN countries to the United States in 2015.

Vice President Chutamas expressed our university’s hope of strengthening the cooperation with US educational institutions and develop more mutually beneficial academic collaborations. At present, PSU has 27 Memoranda of Understanding with US universities and a strong collaboration with Fulbright Thailand, as well as with Ball State University for the annual PSU-BSU English Camp.

An informal discussion with PSU students marked the end of this auspicious visit.

UNISSA Rector and Team visit PSU

On December 8, 2014, five distinguished delegates from the Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Brunei Darussalam visited PSU Hat Yai Campus. Our prominent visitors, led by Dr. Haji Norafan bin Haji Zainal, Rector, were warmly welcomed by the PSU Vice President Mr. Phichit Rerngsangvatana together with Vice President for International Affairs, Asst. Prof. Dr. Pattara Aiyarak; Dean of the Faculty of Managements Sciences, Asst. Prof. Jongpid Sirirat; Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dr. Suphawatchara Malanond; and Deputy Director of the College of Islamic Studies, Dr. Asman Taeali.

The objective of their visit was to discuss the expansion of the cooperation between UNISSA and PSU. The collaborative activities discussed concern joint research, educational and training programs, joint workshops and seminars, as well as students and staff exchange. Moreover, students’ participation in community service programs at UNISSA and PSU was also considered.

On December 9, our distinguished guests visited PSU Pattani Campus and discussed the strengthening of the cooperation in the area of Islamic and Arabic Studies, including joint research and exchange of academic materials.
Academic Collaboration with UniMAP

On October 10, 2014, 32 delegates from the Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), Malaysia, visited PSU with the aim of discussing present and future cooperation between our universities. Asst. Prof. Dr. Yamsaengsung, PSU Assistant President for International Affairs, and a team from the Faculty of Engineering led by Assoc. Prof. Panyarak Ngamsiragul, Associate Dean for Administration, warmly welcomed our distinguished guests.

During the welcome meeting, Prof. Dr. Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Internationalization, appreciated the strong collaboration between UniMAP and PSU, and expressed their wish of strengthening even more this friendship by initiating new collaborative activities. One new and successful activity is the Dual Degree Program in Electrical Engineering, which will be open for applications in January 2015. Moreover, UniMAP and PSU representatives had the chance to discuss in small groups collaboration in various engineering-related fields, in terms of student and staff mobility, co-advisory and joint research.

Indonesian Delegates visit PSU

Four delegates from the Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY), Indonesia, visited PSU on October 16, 2014. The UMY delegation, led by Mr. Tony K. Hariadi, Director of International Relations Office, was accompanied by Mr. Yuyun Kamhyun, Consul at the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Songkhla, Thailand. All distinguished visitors were warmly received by Asst. Prof. Dr. Pattara Aijayak, PSU Vice President for International Affairs, Dr. Panida Sukseemuang, Assistant President for Student Affairs, and PSU team.

The main objective of their visit was to discuss the possibility to establish a joint community service program between UMY and PSU. This program will allow students from both universities to embrace an international atmosphere, be exposed to real problems in communities and try to find some innovative solutions, and have the chance to enhance their English and Bahasa Indonesia languages proficiency. Currently UMY has joint community service programs with Singapore Polytechnic, Singapore, and Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Japan.

During the meeting, all delegates agreed that this joint community service program could greatly benefit UMY and PSU students and, therefore, an official agreement to facilitate the implementation of this program will be established in the near future.
Syiah Kuala University at PSU

On December 16, 2014, four distinguished delegates from Syiah Kuala University (SKU), Indonesia, visited PSU in order to discuss the strengthening of our collaboration and to renew the Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities. Our Indonesian guests were warmly welcomed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chusak Limsakul, PSU President; Asst. Prof. Dr. Pattara Aiyarak, Vice President for International Affairs, and team.

Dr. Nazamuddin, SKU Vice Rector for External Relations and head of delegation, mentioned the strong and fruitful collaboration between SKU and PSU, which started in 2006. Since then, many SKU students and staff furthered their studies at PSU in areas such as nursing, medicine, natural resources, engineering etc. Moreover, SKU would like to expand this cooperation to other fields of mutual interest, such as Halal Products and Peace and Conflict Resolution.

During the same day, our distinguished guests had the chance to visit the Faculty of Natural Resources and related laboratories, as well as to discuss with faculty’s administrative team future collaborative activities between SKU and PSU.

Strengthening the Cooperation with UUM

Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahman Aziz, Director of the Institute of Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad’s Thoughts at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), led a delegation to visit PSU on December 17, 2014. The objectives of their visit were to invite PSU to be a co-organizer for the “Seminar on Local Wisdom” to be arranged in Hat Yai during this year, and to discuss possible cooperation in post graduate studies, research on Local Wisdom and Life Long Learning, as well as on student mobility programs.

Dr. Paphavee Van Dommelen, Assistant President for International Affairs and Foreign Students, together with Associate Deans from the PSU Graduate School and Faculty of Liberal Arts, welcomed our guests and shared information regarding the present collaboration between UUM and PSU, as well as possible future collaborative activities.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahman Aziz mentioned that his institute has a strong collaboration with PSU Pattani Campus on the topic “Changing Values in the Globalized World”. Therefore, on December 18, our guests also visited PSU Pattani Campus and discuss more details on the future collaboration, especially in co-organizing the “Seminar on Local Wisdom”.

www.psu.ac.th
Reaffirming the Friendship with University of Novi Sad

Nine PSU delegates led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Pattara Aiyarak, Vice President for International Affairs, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chutamas Satasook, Vice President for Academic Affairs, visited the University of Novi Sad (UNS), Serbia, from October 7-12, 2014. Prof. Dr. Miroslav Vesovic, UNS Rector, and team warmly welcomed them.

The cooperation between PSU and UNS started in 2002, when the first Memorandum of Understanding was signed. Today, PSU and UNS enjoy a great collaboration and a strong and sustainable network among both universities' scholars. Furthermore, PSU and UNS initiated three joint biennial conferences, namely The International Conference in Engineering and Technology, The BioScience Joint Conference, and The International Conference in Health Science and Biomedical Engineering.

The PSU objectives for the visit include strengthening the cooperation for our Faculty of Science, expand the collaboration to the faculties of Medicine and Liberal Arts, as well as initiating collaborative activities in the area of tourism for the faculties of Management Sciences, Hat Yai Campus, and Liberal Arts and Management Sciences, Surat Thani Campus. The constructive visit to UNS was an excellent opportunity for our respected representatives to exchange knowledge and identify new future collaborative activities.

The highlight of the visit was the celebration of the 45th Anniversary of the UNS Faculty of Science, during which the year’s awards were conferred upon Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chutamas Satasook, PSU Vice President for Academic Affairs, and upon the PSU Faculty of Science. This conferment, which values the most deserving collaborating institution and individual, represents a great honor for our university and acknowledged the important role of the Vice President Chutamas in the initiation and development of the cooperation between the faculties of Science of both institutions.
Double Degree with National Ilan University

A delegation from the PSU Faculty of Engineering, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Udomphon Puetpaiboon, Dean, visited National Ilan University (NIU), Taiwan, from October 13-15, 2014. The main objectives of the visit were to sign a new agreement for a Double Degree in Computer Engineering and participate in the 2014 Taiwan-Thailand Workshop on Innovation Computer Technologies. The key institutions for these events were the Department of Computer Engineering, PSU Faculty of Engineering, and Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering, NIU College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

The newly signed agreement concerns a Master's Degree in Computer Engineering at PSU and a Master's Degree in Engineering at NIU, which will be open for applications on the second semester of this academic year. During the meeting, both institutions agreed to offer some scholarships to students applying for this double degree program. Furthermore, both universities are discussing the possibility to also open a Ph.D. Double Degree in the same area of study.

In order to increase the research collaboration between PSU and NIU, our delegates invited NIU scholars to join The 7th PSU-UNS International Conference on Engineering and Technology (ICET-2015), to be organized in Phuket.

PSU at Yunnan International Education Exhibition

Asst. Prof. Dr. Ram Yamsangsung, Assistant President for International Affairs and Director of the PSU International College, along with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teerapol Sirichana, Dean of the PSU Graduate School, led a PSU delegation to participate in the Tenth Yunnan International Education Exhibition (2014). The exhibition, attended by educational institutions from the region, was organized at the AD Building of the Yunnan Education Department in Kunming, P.R. China from October 25-26, 2014.

PSU delegates, comprised of staff from the International Affairs Office, Graduate School and International College, participated in the Tenth Yunnan International Education Exhibition and met Chinese students and parents keen to learn about PSU, as the main objective of this participation was to promote PSU's programs of study at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The PSU's thrilling summer camp for foreign students and staff, the PSU 2015 Thai Cultural Camp, was also publicized during the exhibition.

A memorable moment during this trip was the meeting with some Chinese students who participated in the 2014 Thai Cultural Camp at PSU in July 2014. The students were excited to meet staff from PSU and recall the good memories during the PSU camp.
PSU International Affairs Office, Hat Yai Campus, organized the 2014 Holiday Dinner for foreign lecturers, staff and students and their families (the 5th Social Evening for PSU Hat Yai Campus Foreign Lecturers and Staff) on December 23, 2014. The event was arranged at Dollar Restaurant, conveniently located near PSU Campus.

This fifth convivial gathering was a great occasion for everyone to get to know new friends, reconnect with old ones, and engage in friendly discussions. The dinner was chaired by Asst. Prof. Dr. Pattara Ayarak, Vice President for International Affairs; Asst. Prof. Dr. Ram Yamsaengsung, Assistant President for International Affairs; and Dr. Paphavee Van Donmelen, Assistant President for International Affairs and Foreign Students. The event was attended by around 60 foreign and Thai lecturers, staff, family, and friends, representing countries such as Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, P.R. China, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, UK and USA. Also, as Christmas was around the corner, Santa handed out small gifts to participating children.

Spontaneous karaoke performances ended the 2014 event in high spirits, marking yet another successful social evening for PSU’s foreign lecturers, students and staff.
The World Conference and Halal Products Exhibition 2014 (HAPEX 2014) was organized at the 60th Anniversary of His Majesty the King’s Accession to the Throne International Convention Center, PSU Hat Yai Campus, from October 30-November 2, 2014. On this occasion, several workshops and seminars regarding Halal products were organized.

The Seminar titled “The trends of production, marketing and regulation of importing Halal food products in the Middle East”, arranged by the PSU Halal Institute on October 31, was attended by numerous Thai and foreign distinguished participants. Mr. Phichit Rerngsangvatana, PSU Vice President, officially opened the event. During the seminar, outstanding keynote speakers from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held talks and presentations on various aspects of the Halal food products. Asst. Prof. Reyad Shaker Obaid, Acting Dean of the College of Health Science of the University of Sharjah, gave an impressive presentation on “UAE: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations.” Dr. Ahmed Sebahi from the College of General Education of the American University in the Emirates, remarkably lectured about “Halal Food, Islamic Perspectives.” Prof. Dr. Anita Atlee from the College of Health Science of the University of Sharjah, offered valuable details on the “Islamic Perspective on Genetically Modified Foods (GMO-Food).” Furthermore, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wael Abdel-Rahman Hassan and Asst. Prof. Dr. Fatima Zohra Aouati from the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies of the University of Sharjah participated in the event.

In the afternoon of October 31, a Halal Collaboration Forum was organized in order to discuss the initiation of collaboration between the university and external organizations for the joint development of the Halal industry in Southern Thailand.
18 JUNE

Indonesian Ambassador Visits PSU Phuket Campus

H.E. Lutfi Rauf, the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Kingdom of Thailand, visited PSU Phuket Campus on June 18, 2014. During his visit, H.E. gave a very inspiring lecture to PSU staff and students about Indonesia and Thailand relations, as well as ASEAN, especially the role of young people in sustaining ASEAN’s progress and strengthening the friendships between ASEAN countries.

03 JULY

PSU Terminal Opening

PSU Terminal is a state of the art new facility at PSU Phuket to aid in training PSU students for becoming airline stewards and stewardesses.

28 JULY

French Ambassador visits PSU Phuket Campus

H.E. Mr. Thierry Viteau, the Ambassador of France, together with French delegates from the Embassy in Bangkok, Consulate in Phuket, and Phuket-based French Magazine, visited PSU Phuket to learn about key developments at PSU Phuket since the visit in November 2013 of the Hon. French Consul, and of course to discuss future collaborations. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sombat Khuathong, Associate Dean for Planning and Development of FIS, gave an intriguing and impressive presentation entirely in French, which was very much appreciated by H.E. PSU Phuket’s Deans also stressed the interest in collaborating with French universities, as for example in Culinary Studies within the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism. The Ambassador was very grateful that four French exchange students at PSU Phuket’s Department of Computer Engineering also attended the welcoming meeting and discussed with H.E.

04 JULY

ESSAND Opening

The Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Earth System Science and Andaman Natural Disaster Management (ESSAND) had its Grand Opening, attended by the Governor of Phuket and many other distinguished guests from government agencies, on July 4, 2014. ESSAND offers the Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy programs in Earth System Science. (www.essand.psu.ac.th)

01 AUGUST

PSU Staff Sport Day

This was a very spectacular day full of colors, elaborate costumes, music, dance, cheerleading, and of course sports. Each staff member was part of a team: blue, yellow, orange, or green. It was a truly fun-filled day starting at 8:30am and finishing at around 7pm.

04 AUGUST

ISPP Orientation at Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort

The International Study Program, Phuket (ISPP), ASEAN International Mobility for Students Program (AIMS), and new full-time Chinese students, attended their first orientation day organized by the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism (FHT) at the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort.

The ISPP and AIMS students studied at PSU Phuket for one semester. There were around 70 international students of 10 different nationalities. The students all mingled and enjoyed getting to know each other.
27 - 04 AUGUST SEPTEMBER
Thai-Chinese Cultural Camp
PSU Phuket’s First Thai-Chinese Cultural Camp was a great success! 10 Chinese students from Changzhou University, together with Mr. Du Zhifeng (Vice Dean, School of Education and Exchange, Changzhou University), Ms. Ranoppan Kapital (Deputy Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate Shanghai), and Ms. Pyarida Kittivorakan (Assistant of Education, Royal Thai Consulate Shanghai) stayed here at PSU Phuket and participated in seven full days of activities, trips, classes and cultural exchange, together with Thai PSU students and the IAC staff.

27 OCTOBER
Bunkyo University Professor Visits PSU Phuket
Professor Hidehiko Motohama, Chair of the International Exchange Committee and Lecturer at the Faculty of International Studies, Bunkyo University, Japan, visited PSU Phuket on October 27, 2014. Professor’s visit included a morning meeting to discuss further collaboration between PSU Phuket and Bunkyo University with PSU Phuket representatives: Dr. Tatiyaporn Jarumaneevat (Assistant to the President for International Affairs), Asst. Prof. Dr. Sontaya Ananasiri (Dean, FIS), Dr. Chantinee Boonchai (Assistant to the President for Organization and Collaboration Development) and Ajarn Kulisiri Chirayus (Associate Dean for International Affairs, FTE). PSU Phuket receives Japanese students from Bunkyo University on a yearly basis.

13-14 NOVEMBER
The 3rd Annual PSU Phuket International Conference
This year the conference was focused on “Multidisciplinary Studies on Sustainable Development” in research areas of Environmental Technology, and Management, Computer Science and Engineering, Hospitality and Tourism and Social Sciences and Humanities. Scholars, researchers, and graduates from various educational institutions from around the world were at PSU Phuket for two days to present their research and exchange knowledge and experiences. PSU Phuket was honored to welcome Thailand’s most famous doctor of Forensic Science to the Opening Ceremony: Khunying Pornthip Rojanasunand, M.D., Director-General of the Central Institute of Forensic Science, Ministry of Justice, Thailand, who gave the Keynote Speech on “Forensic Science for Sustainable Development of Thai Society”.

16-24 SEPTEMBER
Chinese-Thai Cultural Camp at Changzhou University
Nine Thai students from PSU Phuket, together with three PSU lecturers/staff members, traveled to Changzhou, P.R. China, where they were reunited with the same Chinese students that came to PSU Phuket a few weeks prior. The program at Changzhou included pottery making, Chinese culture, language and painting classes, a Chinese martial arts show, sightseeing around Changzhou and Shanghai, meeting with the Royal Thai Consul in Shanghai, and of course welcome and farewell parties with lots of fun, dancing, singing and a few tears while saying goodbye.

31 OCTOBER
Delegates from Hainan Province, P.R. China, visit PSU Phuket
Ms. Luo Yan, Director of Education and Training Division, Hainan Provincial Tourism Development Commission, visited PSU Phuket campus together with six delegates from the Tourism Development Commission of Hainan Province, P.R. China. The seminar included welcoming remarks by Dr. Tatiyaporn Jarumaneevat, Assistant to the President for International Affairs, PSU Phuket, remarks by Ms. Luo Yan, an introduction to PSU Phuket Campus by Dr. Tatiyaporn, general information about PSU Lodge by Ms. Amornrat Sahapatanawara, Room Division and Marketing Manager for PSU Lodge, and finally a tour of the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism.

14-23 NOVEMBER
Asian Beach Games in Phuket
It is said that this was one of the biggest events of the year in Phuket. It was a very busy time for PSU Phuket staff and students as many served as volunteers, liaisons, and hosts for this event. PSU Phuket Campus served as the main Volunteer and Liaison Center. There were 29 sports and 45 countries represented at the games. Many professional athletes competed at various locations in Phuket, and several VIP guests stayed on the island during this time.
On-campus Immigration Assistance

PSU Hat Yai Campus has the honor of receiving representatives from the Hat Yai City Immigration Office each month, in order to assist PSU's foreign staff and students with a variety of immigration affairs, including visa extensions, re-entry visas and advice on a range of issues.

In October, November and December 2014, more than 100 foreign staff and students benefited from the on-campus immigration service. The average score of the Immigration Assistance Satisfaction Survey shows that the foreign staff and students who came to seek assistance are very satisfied with the services provided.

Heartfelt appreciations are conveyed to the Hat Yai City Immigration Office, who allows our foreign staff and students to take care of important documents in a relaxing setting by offering their services in our campus. In recognition of the valuable assistance, Asst. Prof. Dr. Pattara Aiyarak, PSU Vice President for International Affairs presented a token of appreciation to the immigration officers on December 24.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Conference on “Islamic Values in a Changing World 2015” – from 23-27 March 2015 – at the College of Islamic Studies, Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Pattani, Thailand – organizer: PSU College of Islamic Studies – contact: colislam@bunga.pn.psu.ac.th, cispsu@gmail.com

7th International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences – 6 June 2015 - at BP Samila Beach Hotel and Resort, Songkhla, Thailand – organizers: Faculty of Liberal Arts, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand; Faculty of Defence Studies and Management, National Defence University of Malaysia, Malaysia; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University; Faculty of Liberal Arts, Mahidol University - contact: Research and Graduate Studies Section, Faculty of Liberal Arts, tel: 0-7428-6675; libarts.conference@gmail.com, http://iw.libarts.psu.ac.th/conference/

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