



## Message from the Chairman of the Ramkhamhaeng University Council



**Mr. Wirat Chinwinigkul**

In my capacity as Chairman of the University Council, I would like to congratulate Ramkhamhaeng University on the launching of the very first edition of the Ramkhamhaeng Newsletter, of which it is to be hoped there will be many more to come in the ensuing years.

Ramkhamhaeng University is a huge institution, one that has seen untold millions of students pass through its portals – both at the undergraduate and graduate levels – since its inception as Thailand's first open-admission university in 1971. In addition, during the past four decades, the university has played host -- and continues to play host to -- a vast array of sporting events, academic conventions and cultural functions – both for the university's students, lecturers and for members of the public at large.

In this respect, the Newsletter will provide an invaluable service in the form of a source of detailed information to the student body and other interested parties regarding the university's many activities. So all that remains is for me to congratulate the Newsletter and wish its creators well in the years to come.

## Message from the President

In my capacity as university president, I am both pleased and honored by being afforded the opportunity to extend an invitation to all of you to examine the first issue of our university newsletter. In my view, it is at a most auspicious moment that our first issue appears. At our most recent commencement in March, we were deeply honored by the fact that Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously conferred degrees on our graduates. In another vein, allow me to remind you that the enjoyable and memorable Songkran festivities have been completed, while, as it were, leaving us with a lingering afterglow of relish recalled and commitments confirmed.

I would furthermore bring your kind attention to the fact that this newsletter is not conceived as a purely internal, intramural channel of communication. To the contrary, we are most desirous of sharing its contents with a much wider extramural community of interested parties. Especially would we like to use our newsletter as a channel for communicating information and data concerning our university to foreign embassies in our midst, as well as to other university communities. We are also cognizant of the likelihood that any number of other groups—notably, business, banking and professional groups finding internationally significant educational and training matters falling well within their purview—would very likely find our newsletter of some considerable interest.

Therefore, with modest pride in our recent accomplishments, we hereby optimistically launch the first issue of our newsletter in the confident expectation that it shall not fall stillborn from the press.



**Asst. Prof. Wutisak Lapcharoensap**



## Commemorating the Establishment of Ramkhamhaeng University

November 26th, 1975 was a truly momentous occasion for Ramkhamhaeng, as it was on this day that their Majesties, the King and Queen of Thailand, graciously visited the Ramkhamhaeng University campus (the Main Campus at Hua Mak) to unveil the statue of King Ramkhamhaeng the Great and to confer bachelor's degrees on the university's very first batch of graduates.

In honor of that auspicious occasion, the 26th of November has been designated as the day on which the establishment of Ramkhamhaeng University is officially commemorated.

## The Supannikar Tree: The Proud Symbol of Ramkhamhaeng University

January 15th, 1999 was an auspicious day in the history of Ramkhamhaeng in that it was on that day that Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, graciously conferred upon Ramkhamhaeng University this most beautiful and meaningful symbol – the “Supannikar” flowering tree (Northern Thai: Fai Kham).

And it is to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn that we at Ramkhamhaeng owe an eternal debt of gratitude for choosing such an exquisite -- and at the same time apt -- symbol, one that we will cherish in our hearts and minds.



## Ramkhamhaeng University President and Members of the University Council Extend Congratulations to the New University Council Chairman

His Majesty the King has graciously appointed Mr. Wirat Chinwinigkul, Secretary-General of the Office of the Judiciary, as the new University Council Chairman as of May 8th.

The Ramkhamhaeng University Council held meeting 6/2555 on June 17th with Mr. Wirat presiding. On this occasion, the new Chairman told the members of the Council that he felt very honored to have received the royal appointment as the Chairman of the University Council.

He said that he had once been a lecturer at the Faculty of Law at Ramkhamhaeng University in the period between 1974 and 1979. Although he had since this time worked at the Ministry of Justice, he had always thought of how he could repay his debt to Ramkhamhaeng University in view of the fact that it was the institution which was responsible for launching his career in the civil service.

Thus, upon being appointed University Council Chairman, he felt honored and pleased, believing as he did that this would afford him the opportunity to repay the university. He said he believed that he could efficiently work with university administrators and personnel to the end of developing the university in response to



the needs of society. He also stated that he would be wholly supportive of whatever would conduce to the growth and progress of the university. Finally, he entertained the hope that all at the university would extend their cooperation for the sake of the university's future such that it would receive continuing trust from society.

*RU's Identity: To produce graduates who are both knowledgeable and imbued with moral values*



## The 38th Commencement Ceremony at Ramkhamhaeng University



In Her capacity as representative of His Majesty the King, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over Ramkhamhaeng University's commencement ceremonies for the academic year 2011-2012. These ceremonies were held from the fourth to the eighth days of the month of March 2013 at King Ramkhamhaeng the Great auditorium, Ramkhamhaeng University.

Welcoming Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn were the Chairman of the Ramkhamhaeng University Council, Mr. Prachuap Chaiyasarn, and the President of Ramkhamhaeng University, Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, as well as members of university committees, lecturers, university officers, graduate student representatives, undergraduate representatives, and students enrolled at the Ramkhamhaeng University Demonstration School.

## RU Participation in the 8th APAIE 2013 Held at Hong Kong

Ramkhamhaeng University participated in the 8th Asia Pacific Association for International Education Conference and Exhibition (APAIE) held this past March 11th to 14th in Hong Kong Special Administrative District.

Hosting this event was the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) with the conference serving as part of the celebratory activities for the 50th Anniversary of CUHK's founding in 1963. More than 3,000 international educators from throughout the world participated in the conference and viewed the exhibitions.

During this event, representatives of Ramkhamhaeng University were afforded the opportunity to meet with representatives

from many universities and to explore the possibilities of forging new partnerships and initiating new programs with other institutions from across the globe. Accordingly, this event allowed the university to become more visible as an actor on the world stage. In addition, university representatives were able to discuss good educational practices with representatives of other educational institutions in a spirit of mutual learning and sharing. Opportunities such as this allow the university to measure itself against the benchmark provided by other universities from around the world, as well as being conducive to constructing regional and global networks.



## RU Collaboration with Universities/Institutes Overseas

The French Republic (2), the Federal Republic of Germany (2), the Russian Federation (1), the Kingdom of Spain (2), the Swiss Confederation (1), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1), the United State of America (2), Japan (1), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (1), the People's Republic of China (3), the Republic of China (Taiwan) (1), the Republic of Korea (2), and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (1)





## RU Hosts the Seventh Botanical Conference of Thailand

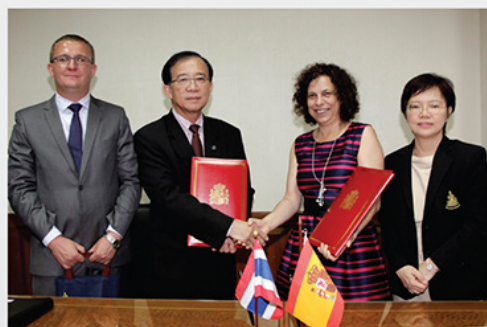
Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, Ramkhamhaeng University president, presided over the opening of the Seventh Botanical Conference of Thailand.

This conference was hosted by the Faculty of Science, Ramkhamhaeng University. Professor Dr. Theera Sutabutr, Chairman of the Botanical Society under the Royal Patronage

of Her Majesty the Queen, Dr. Weerachai Nanakorn, Supervisor on Botany and Environment to the Crown Property Bureau, and researchers in the field of botany attended this event on April 3rd, at King Ramkhamhaeng the Great Auditorium.



## RU President Signs MoU with an Agency from the Kingdom of Spain



Ramkhamhaeng University president, Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, recently welcomed Her Excellency Ms. Carmen Moreno Raymundo, the Ambassador of the

Kingdom of Spain to Thailand on April 9th on a visit to our main campus.

On the occasion of this visit, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ramkhamhaeng University and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional Para el Desarrollo, or A.E.C.I.D.) was signed.

Vice-President for International Relations, Associate Professor Rampai Sirimanakul, and Assistant Professor Dr. Swangwan Tricharoenwiwat of the Spanish Section of the Department of Western Languages, Faculty of Humanities, as well as others from the Spanish Section

and the Office of the President, joined in welcoming the Ambassador.

A.E.C.I.D. has sent specialists and professionals in the teaching and study of the Spanish language to provide assistance to the Spanish Section in fostering the full development of the academic curriculum in the Spanish Program. It has also given valuable assistance through granting both long- and short-term scholarships for study in Spain in addition to providing Spanish language teaching materials for Ramkhamhaeng University students.

## Songkran Day Ceremonies at Ramkhamhaeng University



As part of its continuing strong commitment to the preservation of Thai culture and the upholding of traditional practices, the Ramkhamhaeng University community collectively participated in this year's Songkran Day ceremonies held at King Ramkhamhaeng the Great Auditorium on April 18th. Ramkhamhaeng University president, Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, joined with two former presidents, administrators,



members of the faculty, other personnel, and students in collectively and severally making merit by offering food to a group of assembled monks. In hushed tones, they followed the numinous Buddha image as it was carried to the ceremonial site. Upon arrival at the auspicious site, they then sprinkled water on the revered image with fervent expectation of merit gained. On this memorable occasion, regardless of station



and duties, members of the university community also engaged in the time-honored water-pouring ceremony so as to ask for blessings from Mr. Prachuab Chaiyasan, Chairman of the University Council, as well as Associate Professor Rangsan Saengsook and Associate Professor Kim Chaisansook, former university presidents.

## The Institute of International Studies (IIS)

Established in 1999, the Institute of International Studies (IIS) at Ramkhamhaeng University offers various English and Chinese programs, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including the Ph.D. level, for

Thai and international students. All courses are taught by experienced visiting professors and lecturers from leading universities abroad. The Institute of International Studies is well-known in international academic circles; and, as such,

nearly 2,000 students are currently enrolled. These students are both Thais (53%) and foreign (47%). The foreign students are from forty countries worldwide.

[www.iis.ru.ac.th](http://www.iis.ru.ac.th)



## Delegation from the Lao People's Democratic Republic on Official Visit to RU



Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, Ramkhamhaeng University president, welcomed Professor Dr. Khamluecha Nuansawan, Head of the Department of Student Affairs and accompanying officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on an official visit to Ramkhamhaeng University. The members of

this delegation visited the university in order to study and observe how student affairs are organized and conducted at different levels and sectors by concerned members of the university community. The members of the delegation were welcomed by administrators, faculty members and students on April 24th, at King Ramkhamhaeng the Great Auditorium.

## Ramkhamhaeng University Roadshow



In its Road Show 2013, Ramkhamhaeng University presented information concerning its programs of study at Central Plaza Department



Store, Lat Phrao from April 22nd to 24th and at the Rama 2 Branch of Central Plaza Department Store from April 26th to April 28th. In addition,



university representatives assisted prospective new students in applying for admission.

## Ramkhamhaeng University Drug and Health Campaign Launched

On April 30th, in front of King Ramkhamhaeng the Great Auditorium, Ramkhamhaeng University held an activity, "The United Ramkhamhaeng University Community Combats Drugs and Fosters Health." This activity launched a campaign in which Ramkhamhaeng University students and personnel join forces with surrounding communities to ensure all concerned become fully cognizant of the problems and dangers inherent to the use of illegal drugs. As an integral part of the campaign, associated public relations strongly promoted the need to engage in exercise for

the sake of enhancing personal and overall community health. All sectors of the university endorsed an announcement stating community that as members of the university they fully intend to take a firm stand against illicit drug use.

Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, Ramkhamhaeng University president, presided over the ceremony at which the campaign was officially launched. In attendance were more than 3,000 administrators, members of the faculty, personnel, students, and representatives of surrounding communities.



## Study World 2013, Berlin, Germany



Representatives of Ramkhamhaeng University participated in Study World 2013: The 8th International Fair for Higher and Continuing Education. This event was held between May 3rd and 4th in Berlin, the Federal

Republic of Germany in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), this event was organized by the International Conferences, Workshops and Exhibitions Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (ICWE GmbH).

This annual event is considered Germany's premier venue for the promotion of national and international higher education and direct student recruitment. The Institute of International Studies, Ramkhamhaeng University was accordingly afforded the opportunity to present information concerning its course offerings and full program to all interested students. In attendance at the fair were highly motivated secondary school

students considering how best to proceed to the tertiary educational level, graduate and undergraduate students, younger professionals interested in furthering their education in addition to education professionals, notably, student advisors and academic staff members.

Making a presentation during the seminar phase of the exhibition, the Director of the Institute of International Studies addressed the topic of "Study at Ramkhamhaeng University, Study in Thailand," in the course of which he provided information to student attendees who may have harbored interest in pursuing degree programs in the Kingdom of Thailand.



## Admission Ceremony for New Undergraduates



On May 4th, at King Ramkhamhaeng the Great Auditorium, Assistant Professor Wutisak



Lapcharoensap, Ramkhamhaeng University president, presided over the admission ceremony conducted



for new undergraduates enrolling for the first semester of the academic year 2013.

## International Research Training Conference in Mathematics on “Graphs, Codes, and Designs” (GCD) Held at Ramkhamhaeng University

The Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Ramkhamhaeng University in cooperation with the Centre International de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées (CIMPA) and associated researcher networks held an international research training conference in mathematics on “Graphs, Codes, and Designs” (GCD) for university academics, researchers, faculty members, and graduate students, as

well as for other interested parties, both Thai and foreign, held between May 20th and May 31st. Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, Ramkhamhaeng University president, presided over the opening of the conference and declared it open on May 20th, at the Faculty of Science Conference Room on the First Floor of the Science Laboratory Building (SLB).



## RU Dean Serving on a Dissertation Examination Committee at Pacific States University, USA

Associate Professor Dr. Suradej Samranjit, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Ramkhamhaeng University, was invited by Pacific States University in Los Angeles, California, USA to serve as a member of the dissertation examination committee examining the dissertation of Mr. Vuntana Mongkolkanjanasiri, a graduate student in the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program at Pacific States University with a concentration in International Business, on May 24th.



The title of Mr. Vuntana's dissertation is “A Study of Impacts of Environment-Friendly Waste



Treatment on Businesses in Thailand”.

## NAFSA 2013, St. Louis, Missouri, USA



Ramkhamhaeng University participated in the 2013 National Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA): Association of International Educators Annual Conference and Exposition. This event was held between May 26th and 31st in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.



The theme of this year's conference was Ideals and Impact in International Education. More than 7,500 educators from the USA and more than 90 other countries participated in this conference.

At this event, representatives of Ramkhamhaeng University were able to meet with representatives of

many other universities around the world. Exploratory discussions were held in regard to the possibilities of cooperation and collaboration in a number of respects, including faculty and student exchanges, invitations extended to faculty members, joint programs, among other possibilities.

Most saliently, representatives of Ramkhamhaeng University were able to meet with representatives of other universities with a view to recruiting students from other countries, not least with the aim in view of augmenting student enrollment at the Institute of International Studies.



## RU President Welcomes New Students at Bang Na Campus for Orientation



On June 7th, Assitant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, Ramkhamhaeng University president, welcomed and provided orientation for new students for the Academic Year

2013 at Ramkhamhaeng University's Bang Na Campus. This activity was broadcast by satellite to all of the regional campuses.

The senior members of Ramkhamhaeng University student clubs have participated in an event in the course of which were shared information concerning techniques conducive to receiving "A" grades. First year students were also invited to participate in recreational activities geared towards strengthening their relationships with fellow students.



## RU Participates in an Education Conference and Exhibition in Myanmar

Representatives of Ramkhamhaeng University participated in an education exhibition and conference, "Myanmar-Thailand Cooperation in Higher Education: Strengthening Links," held on this past June 13th and 14th at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The exhibition and conference were organized by the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education, the Kingdom of Thailand for the purpose of promoting Thailand-Myanmar collaboration in tertiary education and to present an exhibition showcasing the Thai educational system. The opening ceremony was jointly presided over by the Thai Minister of Education, the Deputy Ministers of Education of Myanmar, and the

Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of the Higher Education Commission of Thailand.

On this occasion, Vice-President for International Relations, Associate Professor Rampai Sirimanakul, and other representatives of Ramkhamhaeng University were able to meet with Thailand's Minister of Education, Mr. Pongthep Thepkanchana, Myanmar's Deputy Ministers of Education, Dr. Myo Myint, and Dr. Ba Shew, and Thailand's Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of Higher Education Commission, Miss Aporn Kanvong, at the Ramkhamhaeng University booth. During this event, Ramkhamhaeng University was commended for being a progressive university with an international perspective.



## Representatives of South American Universities Visit RU



On this past June 19th, the president of Ramkhamhaeng University, Associate Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, Vice-President for International Relations, Associate Professor Rampai Sirimanakul, and Director of the Institute of International Studies, Mr. Satin Soonthornpan welcomed representatives of South American universities on a visit to the university. The visitors were Rector Felipe Portocarrero Suarez of the University of the Pacific (Universidad del Pacifico) in Lima, Republic of Peru; Vice-Rector for International Affairs Ramiro Salas Bravo of St.

Ignacio de Loyola (Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola) in Lima, Republic of Peru; Professor Renaud W. Neubauer of San Francisco de Quito University (Universidad San Francisco de Quito) in Quito, Republic of Ecuador; and Associate Professor Francisco Noguera, an education consultant from the Republic of Columbia. The visitors came to Ramkhamhaeng University in order to discuss university instruction and study, academic collaboration, and student and staff exchange, among other topics.

## First Secretary (Education) of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Thailand Visits Ramkhamhaeng University

On June 24th, Mr. Qiu Ning, First Secretary (Education) of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Thailand and members of his staff honored Ramkhamhaeng University by paying a visit to the university. During his visit, Mr. Qiu exchanged ideas on instruction and study at the university, especially with members of the

Institute of International Studies. Mr. Qiu and his staff were welcomed by the Vice-President for International Relations, Associate Professor Rampai Sirimanakul, and Director of the Institute of International Studies, Mr. Satin Soonthornpan, staff members and Chinese students studying at Ramkhamhaeng University.





## RU Welcomes Visitors from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macau Special Administrative Region

On this past June 24th, the Vice-President for International Relations, Associate Professor Rampai Sirimanakul, the Vice President of Student Affairs, Mr. Sommai Surachai, and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Associate Professor Taweesak Pinthong in addition to lecturers from the Section of the Chinese Language, the Faculty of Humanities welcomed LCDR Witawas Kooprasert of the Labour Section, Consulate-General, Hong Kong and a representative from Wynn Macau Hotel and Casino on their visit to Ramkhamhaeng University.

The purpose of their visit was to discuss the preparation of those, especially students, desirous of employment in Hong Kong or Macao. Also present in the meeting were representatives of the Thailand Overseas Employment Administration (TOEA), Bureau of Thai Labour Management Abroad, Department of Employment, who provided information regarding labor requirements and qualifications for employees. The visitors also observed instruction and study methods employed at Ramkhamhaeng Institute of Languages (RIL).



## Visit of Associate Dean of the School of Optometry, Indiana University to RU

Ramkhamhaeng University's Optometry program at the Institute of Health Science was established in 2002 on the basis of academic cooperation with Indiana University in the USA.



The Doctor of Optometry Program at Ramkhamhaeng University adopted its curriculum for both theoretical and clinical courses from the School of Optometry at Indiana University. After a decade of development, in 2012, the University Council elevated the program such that it became the nucleus of an emergent Faculty of Optometry offering a fully-fledged program of research and study at the doctoral level. The program at the Faculty of Optometry has provided the nation with highly trained optometrists who are well equipped to provide quality eye and vision care for the Thai people

while meeting international standards.

Dr. Richard E. Meetz, Associate Dean of the School of Optometry at Indiana University, has now come to teach at the Faculty of Optometry. He is teaching fifth-year students in the Doctor of Optometry Program from June 12th to July 4th.

On June 25th, Dr. Meetz is scheduled to meet university president, Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap, to discuss ongoing cooperation between the two universities in the field of optometry.

## ASEAN Literature Conference

On behalf of the Faculty of Humanities, Ramkhamhaeng University invites academics, writers of prose and poetry, students and interested persons in the ASEAN region to participate in an international conference

devoted to the topic "ASEAN Literature: Its Development, Identity and Role in Contemporary Society." Participants will be afforded the opportunity to present papers on ASEAN literary themes at the conference. The conference

will be held from August 22nd to 23rd, at King Ramkhamhaeng the Great Auditorium.

(Additional information can be obtained at [www.human.ru.ac.th](http://www.human.ru.ac.th), Tel 66-02-310-8262.)

## The 4th Human Resource Development Workshop 2013

On this coming July 28th, the Faculty of Human Resource Development, Ramkhamhaeng University will hold the 4th Human Resource Development Workshop Project 2013, on the topic "Intercultural Management—Cultural Intelligence (CI) for Leadership Across Borders: Use CI on the Road to Intra-ASEAN Success." Participating

in this workshop will be lecturers, staff members and students at Ramkhamhaeng University, as well as others from outside the university community. The workshop will be held at King Ramkhamhaeng the Great Auditorium, Ramkhamhaeng University, Hua Mak, Bangkok. Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap,

Ramkhamhaeng University president, will preside over the opening ceremony. Professor Dr. Claus Schreier from the School of Business, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Lucerne, the Swiss Confederation will serve as the special guest speaker at this event.

### Acknowledgment

*We would like to express our profound gratitude and to extend special thanks to the president of Ramkhamhaeng University, Assistant Professor Wutisak Lapcharoensap. We greatly appreciate and highly value his keen support for this project in addition to fully appreciating his absorbingly multifaceted and capacious vision of the future of our beloved university.*

*RU Newsletter Working Committee*

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