



# IAC International Newsletter

Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus, Thailand  
<http://www.iac.phuket.psu.ac.th> Issue 9 (March 2015)

## **INTERNATIONAL VISITORS:**



**4 February: Delegates from the ASK ASIA / ERASMUS MUNDUS Regional Workshop on “Agriculture, Skills, Knowledge in Asia: competences and employability of Erasmus Mundus Graduates in Agriculture on the Asian Professional Market”**

Delegates from universities in countries including the Czech Republic, Belgium, Austria, France, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, China and Mongolia visited PSU Phuket campus. The delegates were traveling as part of the ASK ASIA / ERASMUS MUNDUS Regional Workshop, funded by the European Union (EU), as part of a worldwide mobility project. Dr. Olga Leuner, Researcher from Czech University of Life Sciences (CULS) in Prague, Czech Republic, introduced us to the ALFABET (Asia, Life, Food, Agriculture, Biology, Economics, Technology) Program. ALFABET is an international exchange program based around Life Sciences studies, offering 143 scholarships for students/staff exchange, financially funded by the European Commission. There are 24 partner universities that prospective students could attend in Europe as well as Asia. The call for the next candidates will be from the end of October to the end of December 2015, with 50 scholarships still available. This is a great opportunity for students and staff who are interested in living and studying in another country. Please visit their website: [www.alfabet-em.cz](http://www.alfabet-em.cz) for more information as well as the application procedures.



**6 February: Prof. Yasuko Shiozawa from Bunkyo University, Japan**

We were delighted to have Prof. Yasuko Shiozawa, Head of the Department of International Understanding, Faculty of International Studies, Bunkyo University, Japan visit us for a day as Bunkyo University is interested in various further collaborations with PSU Phuket in both teacher and student exchanges, especially in the fields of Hospitality and Tourism.



**17 February: Prof. Shimoda Tatehito and Prof. Kazuhiko Yamakawa from Reitaku University, Japan**

On a Tuesday afternoon, we received visitors from Reitaku University (RU), also in Japan. Prof. Shimoda Tatehito, Dean of Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, and Prof. Kazuhiko Yamakawa, Faculty of Foreign Studies, Exchange Program Coordinator at RU spent a half day in meetings and touring PSU Phuket campus. The meeting with the Dean of FIS and FHT at PSU Phuket as well as program director of PICAS (Phuket International College of Arts and Science), and Assistant to the President for International Affairs, involved a long discussion on new opportunities to strengthen the current Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between RU and PSU Phuket, especially regarding student exchange. RU professors were intent on increasing the number of Japanese students from RU who come to study at PSU Phuket as well as Thai students to study at RU, where students would be able to take courses from various departments.



## RECENT EVENTS:

### 4 February: Safe Sex Campaign @ PSU Phuket Campus

The 2nd Safe Sex Campaign, arranged by Mr. Colin Gallagher (lecturer and international affairs assistant at FHT), was another great success, with 80 PSU students, both Thai and International, who volunteered in making safe sex packs for later distribution in Patong.



### 11 February: Confucius Institute Phuket (CIP) Chinese New Year Party



### 16 February: Bunkyo University students arrive for Short Course International Student Program

IAC, Mr. Naoyuki Koyama (former Japanese teacher at FIS), together with a group of Thai PSU Phuket students, were at the airport to pick up the 7 Japanese students from Bunkyo University, Japan, who have come to Phuket for the Short Course International Student Program that they will participate in for around 3 months here at PSU Phuket. The Thai buddies were very welcoming and helped the students get settled into campus life at PSU Phuket.



### 17 February: Bunkyo Students' Orientation Day

The morning after the Bunkyo students arrived, an orientation was held for them. Lecturers who will be teaching them introduced themselves and their courses, while Dr. Tatiyaporn introduced PSU Phuket campus as well as providing general useful information about living in Phuket. After the morning meeting, the students were given a quick IAC campus tour, and then IAC staff took them to Phuket Town where they purchased their university uniforms, as well as did some useful shopping for themselves.



### 18-22 February: Bunkyo Scholarship Trip to Bunkyo University, Japan

For a period of five days, two Thai PSU Phuket students, one from FHT and one from FIS, and one lecturer from FIS got the opportunity to visit Bunkyo University in Japan.

Quote from FHT scholarship student Mr. Kritsana Rungsujja:

“ Japan is a culturally rich country with a perfect blend of nature and technology. I really had a wonderful time there and can't wait to go back. ”



## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**14-22 March: Mid-Term Exams at PSU Phuket**

Halfway through the semester already! Good luck to all students on your mid-term exams!



## **HOLIDAYS:**

**4 March: Makha Bucha Day**

This month, we do have a public holiday, and that is *Macha Bucha Day*. This day is a Buddhist holiday, marking the occasion of the third lunar month, to honor Buddha and his teachings. In Thai, the third lunar month is known as “Makha”, and “Bucha” means “to honor”.

It is said that on the day of the full moon of the third lunar month, four special events occurred:

1. There were 1,250 Sangha followers that came to see the Buddha that evening without any schedule.
2. All of them were “Arhantas”, “Enlightened Ones”, and all of them were ordained by the Buddha himself.
3. The Buddha gave those Arhantas the principles of Buddhism, called “The Ovadhapatimokha”. Those principles are: to cease from all evil, to do what is good, and to cleanse one’s mind.
4. It was full moon on that day.

(source: <http://www.dhammathai.org/>)

## **IAC’S MONTHLY TIPS:**

### **Immigration FAQ:**

Please visit the IAC Website’s FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) Section (under the MENU on the left hand side). It is very useful as you can find many answers to your common questions regarding visas, work permits, re-entry permits, 90 day reports, etc.



### **Safety in Phuket:**

Please ALWAYS WEAR YOUR HELMET when riding your motorcycle, we cannot stress this point enough. We know that there are many islanders who do not wear their helmets, but that doesn’t mean that you should follow them. It is important to be rational and safe, as the roads in Phuket are hectic, and accidents happen on a daily basis. Please be safe!



**USEFUL WEBSITES:** <http://www.phuketgazette.net/>

The Phuket Gazette is an English Language Newspaper reporting on daily happenings in Phuket. Their website is good to check out if you want to keep up to date and know what’s happening on the island, news, developments, events, visitors, etc.

### **CONTACT US**

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