



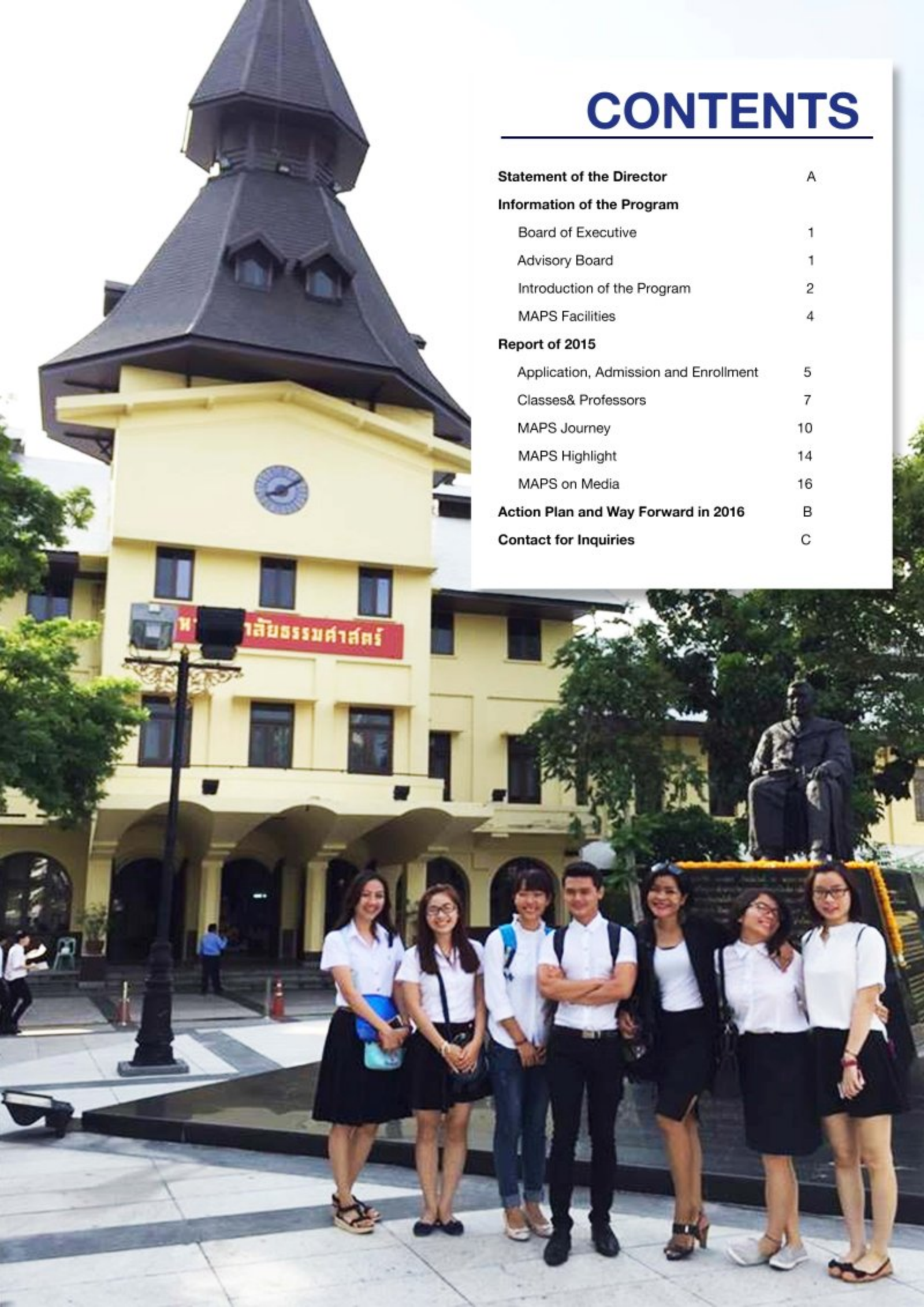
MAPS

MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015**

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Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies Program



Our multidisciplinary program on Asia-Pacific Studies, with specific focus on the Pacific Rim, will provide an excellent opportunity for those who want to be able to understand and analyze the effects of multidimensional dynamism within the vibrant region. Combining three core pillars of subjects for strategists: *international economics*, *international relations and politics*, and *international laws* and applying them to a myriad of situations in this region, this program prepares students to be ready for the most exciting region in the world, especially for those who wish to have career path in international arena including in field of diplomatic-related profession, trade and investment, financial strategists, academic, and international agencies.

The mission and vision of MAPS is to provide high quality graduate education, academic resources, training and professional developments as well as foster cultural learning and exchanging opportunities for graduate students and professional in the intellectually diverse environment.

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the mostly dynamic and diverse political and economic power centers in the world.

Thammasat University's Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies (MAPS) is the first graduate program, which examines the entire Asia-Pacific region in all its complexity.

Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies Program or MAPS is an interdisciplinary graduate program that is designed for internationally-focused students who wish to obtain an in-depth understanding of this fascinating and occasionally turbulent part of the world through multi-faceted and interdisciplinary lenses.

The Pacific Rim, indisputably, will be the most exciting area in the world for the next century. This region will have the highest economic growth in the world. Conflicts of interest among countries are certain and will be intensified and all major countries in the world are eyeing and trying to widen their sphere of influence over countries in these region.

Key Features of the MAPS Program

- MAPS Program is a multidisciplinary program for specific area studies – the Asia-Pacific Region with specific focus on international economics, international relations, and international law.
- MAPS is the first international program offered in Thailand that provides excellent opportunities for students to explore the Asia-Pacific Region and connect students with other international students and experts in fields related to the Asia-Pacific region.

Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies Program



Admission Criteria

- A Bachelor's Degree in any field with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and above from an accredited university
- Minimum requirement for English Proficiency is 6.5 for IELTS, 550 for paper based TOEFL test, 79 for internet-based TOEFL test, and 213 for computer-based TOEFL test or 550 for TU-GET.

The official score report of English Proficiency is valid only if the test was taken no more than 2 years prior to the last date of the application submission period. However, requirement for English Proficiency does not apply to native English Speakers.

- A statement of purpose and/or academic essay of approximately 500 words
- Scholarships are available upon request. Terms and Conditions may apply.

Program Requirement

The program lasts 18 months (three semesters and one summer semester), full-time, and requires the completion of 39 credits

- A 27 unit course work component
 - Core course 21 credits
 - Elective course 6 credits
- A 12 unit research component
- Graduate Conference

The program will hold an annual academic conference and the graduate student seminar as a combined event to provide students with the opportunity to present their theses and publish them in conference proceedings and to facilitate thesis examination.



MAPS Students are given the access to a dedicated research and study space to help fostering intellectual exchange and collaboration beyond the classroom.



Asia-Pacific Resource Center

Asia-Pacific Resource Center houses a relevant and accessible collection of Asia-Pacific related resource materials. The center provides space for information and cultural exhibition as well as acquires information and dissemination manuals, information and research about countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The center also provides modern, adequate and efficient information center services and appropriate and comfortable learning environment on the use of resources for individual and group study for students of MAPS Program and Thammasat University.

Types of information materials in the Resource center include APEC documents, other international cooperation documents (particularly in the Asia-Pacific region), Books and Journals (political science, international relations, international laws, economics, telecommunication policy disciplines and public policy disciplines), Books and other materials of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The electronic section of the Asia-Pacific Resource Center is under construction. This section will be for browsing the Resource Center database only. There are the Resource Center books & resources, APEC database, Australia and Australian Studies database, International Cooperation database, trade and investment database, international law database, country profile database, training & conference materials database, MAPS graduate thesis and working paper database.

In addition to the electronic section and the information section, there are reception area, display section (new arrivals/ interesting documents or manual), documents/ browsing area, reference section, periodical section, reading area, exhibition area/ small group training area available in our Asia-Pacific Resource Center

The opening hour of the Asia-Pacific Resource Center is on Monday – Friday from 09.00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MAPS Common Room

MAPS Common Room, located at the 1st floor of the Social Science Complex next to the Asia-Pacific Resource Center, is designed specially for MAPS graduate students. It is a primary space for students to hang out – whether for work on project or to spend time with each other. The MAPS Common Room is created with comfortable and welcoming environment features wireless Internet access and lockers for student use.

MAPS Common Room is divided into three zones with different functions; 1 small classroom seated classroom style with the capacity of 40 people, 2 rooms with flexible furniture configuration with capacity for 20 people for group gathering or informal group meeting.



Applications, Admissions, and Enrollments

A total of 13 students from a total of 28 applicants were enrolled in 2015. These students represent 6 countries in ASEAN. Eight outstanding international students are awarded with merit-based scholarships from Thammasat University and Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). Two outstanding Thai students also received merit-based scholarships from the Government Savings Bank and Export – Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM Bank).

● Summary of Applications, Admissions, and Enrollments

	Round1	Round2
International Students	8	11
Bruneian	1	-
Cambodian	-	10
Loas	-	1
Burmese	2	-
Vietnamese	5	-
Thai Students	8	1

● Summary of 2015 Scholarship Awards and Supporters

Supporters	No. of Awards	Scholarship Coverage
- Thammasat University (ASEAN Students)	4	Tuition Fee/ Monthly Allowance
- Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)	4	Tuition Fee/ Monthly Allowance, Air Ticker/ Books/ Health Insurance
- PTT Public Company Limited for International Student	1	Tuition Fee/ Monthly Allowance
- PTT Public Company Limited for Thai Student	1	Tuition Fee/ Monthly Allowance
- The Government Saving Bank for Thai Student	1	Tuition Fee
- Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM Bank)	1	Tuition Fee

In 2015, there are 12 scholarship awards available but only 10 students are qualified. The followings are the 2015 scholarship awardees.

● Thammasat University Scholarship Awardees

No.	Name	Nationality	University	GPA
1	Mr. MD Zaidul Anwar HJ MD Kasim	Bruneian	University of Brunei Darussalam	3.73
2	Miss Nguyen Thi Hue	Vietnamese	University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi	3.61
3	Miss Dinh Thuy Anh	Vietnamese	Foreign Trade University	3.25
4	Mr. Myint Mo Tun	Myanmar	Mandalay Technological University	3.00

● TICA Scholarship Awardees

No.	Name	Nationality	University	GPA
1	Miss Vu Thi Hang	Vietnamese	University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi	3.53
2	Miss Doan Thi Thu Thuy	Vietnamese	University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi	3.09
3	Miss Khonsavanh Vongvannaxay	Loatian	National University of Loas	3.27
4	Miss Nareth Chhoun	Cambodia	IIC University of Technology	2.70

● The Government Savings Bank Awardee

No.	Name	Nationality	University	GPA
1	Mr. Nattawut Naowabutr	Thai	Thammasat University	3.09

● Export – Import Bank of Thailand Awardee

No.	Name	Nationality	University	GPA
1	Mr. Sakhunpeth Mahipan	Thai	Burapha university	3.53

● Self-Financial Support Students

No.	Name	Nationality	University	GPA
1	Mr. Prutti Vasikasin	Thai	Ramkhamhang University	2.72
2	Mr. Suchan Tanasothon	Thai	Rangsit University	3.34
3	Miss Punyisa Thongklom	Thai	Silpakorn University	2.27



The MAPS curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary study from professors, scholars, and professionals with high expertise in their fields. Students will learn to look deeper into topics from all aspects and perspectives, foster critical thinking and analytical ideas including to tackle topics from new directions, which will transform into a lifelong learning.

In the 1st semester of 2015, MAPS students took 3 core courses and 1 elective course:

- 1) APS 600 Foundation Asia-Pacific Studies
- 2) APS 612 Dynamism of the Thai Economy
- 3) APS 621 Political, Security, and Defense Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region
- 4) APS 623 International Relations and Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region

A total of 15 professors, visiting professors, and experts are given lectures in the first semester.

Instructors from Thammasat University

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Asst. Prof.Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai | Faculty of Economics |
| 2) Assoc.Prof. Dr. Chanin Mephokee | Faculty of Economics |
| 3) Assist.Prof.Dr. Pornthep Benyaapikul | Faculty of Economics |
| 4) Dr. Supruet Thavornyutikarn | Faculty of Economics |
| 5) Dr. Thorn Pitidol | Faculty of Economics |
| 6) Dr. Virot Ali | Faculty of Political Sciences |
| 7) Miss Pongkwan Sawasdiapakdi | Faculty of Political Sciences |
| 8) Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto | Faculty of Political Sciences |
| 9) Dr. Tavida Kamolvej | Faculty of Political Sciences |
| 10) Dr. Michelle Tan | Faculty of Political Sciences |

Instructors from other Institutions

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1) Dr. Chotika Wittayawarakul | Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|

Visiting Professors

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Assoc.Prof. Dr Daniel Unger | University of Northern Illinois Visiting Professor, Thammasat University |
| 2) Dr. Lowell Skar | University of Michigan Visiting Professor, Chulalongkorn University |

Experts in the Field

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Mr. Kasit Piromya | Former Foreign Minister |
| 2) Mr. Songsak Saicheua | Director – General, Department of American and South Pacific Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand |

MAPS Classes

APS 600 Foundation Asia-Pacific Studies

This course introduces key concepts from the main disciplines of the program. The course will be divided into three parts: international economics, international relations, and international law. International economics includes trade theories and policies, regional trade agreements, labor and capital movement, and international finance. International relations covers the main concepts, ideas, and analytical tools necessary to understand the relationships among countries, major concerns, issues, and players in world politics. Lastly, international law covers the essential concepts of international law and institutions, including the sources of international law, the use of force, international human rights, international business transactions, and international economic law. Various case studies of issues in international economics, international relations, and international law such as economic integration in Asia-Pacific region, international relations among China, USA, ASEAN, North Korea, South Korea, and Convention on the territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, etc.

Lecturers:



1) Assist. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



2) Dr. Viroth Ali, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University



3) Dr. Chotika Wittayawarakul, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University

APS 612 Dynamism of the Thai Economy

This course studies on the development of Thailand economic structure and its impacts on Thailand economy. The course will also study on the impacts of structural changes and role of Thai state on economic growth, economic stability, and economic equity.

Lecturers:



- 1) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chanin Mephokee, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 2) Assist. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 3) Assist. Prof. Dr. Pornthep Benyaapikul, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 4) Dr. Supruet Thavornnyutikarn, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 5) Dr. Thorn Pitidol, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

APS 621 Political, Security, and Defense Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region

The course gives an overview and challenges in the international security, defence strategy and security policy with respect to Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific region is experiencing a shift in the balance of power and also being challenged by a various non-traditional security issues. The most important are the re-balancing of US Strategy towards Asia, Chinese military modernization, Japan and Republic of Korea's increasing involvement and influence and their contribution to the changing global landscape. Moreover, the balance of power in Southeast Asia will be affected as various Southeast ASEAN countries - including Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore- rapidly expand their military capacity and develop their defence industries. The nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula is another destabilizing force. The course will look at the key players in the region, including the two superpowers- the US and China and middle powers such as Australia, Indonesia, Japan, and Republic of Korea would also be considered. Other issues discussed include military and political cooperation in the region, and the roles and objectives of ASEAN. Lastly, non-traditional security issues – including irregular migration, drug tracking, terrorism, and natural disaster will be discussed as well.



- Lecturers:**
- 1) Miss Pongkwan Sawasdipakdi, Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University
 - 2) Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto, Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University
 - 3) Dr. Tavidia Kamolvej, Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University
 - 4) Dr. Lowell Skar, Visiting Professor, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University

Expert in the Field: 1) Mr. Kasit Piromya, Former Foreign Minister of Thailand

APS 623 International Relations and Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region

The course will introduce students to the international relations of the Asia-Pacific region i.e. the relations of the region's component parts, both internationally and with eternal powers, such as the United States, Russia, China, Japan, and ASEAN. It will also examine how leaders of different countries in the Asia-Pacific region make foreign policy decisions on different issues, such as trade, aid, military intervention, global environment, and so forth. In the first part, the course examines IR theory and the Asia-Pacific region. In the second part, the course examines the level of analysis and the formation of foreign policy and evaluates the processes by which foreign policy are made.

Lecturers:

- 1) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniel Unger University of Northern Illinois, Vising Professor, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University
- 2) Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University
- 3) Dr. Michelle Tan Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University

Expert in the Field:

- 1) Mr. Songsak Saicheua Director-General, the Department of American and South Pacific Affairs, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand



MAPS Journey



Asia-Pacific region, encompassing the largest share of the world's population and economic power, has become the centre of attention in the global political and economic arena. Despite the importance of the region, there had been no academic program offering knowledge and training in the context of the Asia-Pacific in Thailand. Dr Suphat Suphachalasai, The Founding Director, say the need of Thailand for an integrated and multidisciplinary course that can provide a cutting-edge of practical knowledge and deep understanding of this vibrant region. He initiated the idea to the Rector of Thammasat University, Prof. Somkid Lertpaithoon. The idea of establishing the first Master's Degree on Asia-Pacific Studies in Thailand was well received and approved. As a result, Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies or MAPS began her ambitious journey at late 2013. A total of 13 experts from various fields including experts from a variety of Area Study Centres, economics, law, international relations and political sciences were invited to become MAPS Curriculum Development Committee. Due to the high quality of the curriculum and its prospects, the curriculum passed securitization at all level contentedly. MAPS Program is ready to open for admission in 2015.

Because MAPS Program is designed in such a high quality, the program is very demanding. MAPS Program decided to provide the scholarships for students with high academic achievements and show their leadership skills. A total of 12 scholarships are given from institutions and organizations that see the importance and prospects of this course including Thammasat University, Thailand International Cooperation Agency – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PTT Public Limited, The Government Savings Bank, and Export- Import Bank of Thailand.

Only ten qualified students are awarded with the full scholarship in 2015.

The very first student of MAPS is **Mr. MD Zaidul Anwar HJ MD Kasim**, an outstanding student from Brunei Darussalam. Zaidul took part in the Thammasat Seminar 2015 **"ASEAN Youths in the ASEAN Community and the Global Community"** at Thammasat University, Rangsit Center, earlier this year. His performance at the seminar caught the Rector's eyes and landed him an opportunity to study in Thammasat University. Zaidul has his background in history with various academic achievements back in Brunei.

MAPS Program offered Thammasat University scholarship to him in the hope that he could pursue his dream of being an expert in political history and contributing to Brunei, Thailand and ASEAN community as a whole.



Mr. MD Zaidul Anwar HJ MD Kasim from Brunei



Miss Nguyen Thi Hue from Vietnam

Our second student is **Miss Nguyen Thi Hue** from Hanoi, Vietnam. Thi Hui or Bao Bao, as she preferred to be called, impressed our scholarship selection committee with her idea on one of the hottest Security issues facing

Asia-Pacific region and her homeland Vietnam. Bao Bao received her B.A. from Vietnam National University, University of social science and Humanities or VNU in Oriental Studies majoring in Indian Studies. She passed VNU's internal selection due to her distinctive undergraduate GPA as well as her English proficiency score. Bao Bao is one of the recipients of Thammasat University Scholarship.

The next recipient of Thammasat University Scholarship is **Miss Dinh Thuy Anh** from Foreign Trade University, one of the most renowned universities in Vietnam. Thuy Anh or Tuna passed her internal selection and joined MAPS program with the background in international finance and banking. Tuna is interested in economic interaction among countries. MAPS Program hopes that what the program offers will help her to expand her horizon with the knowledge of international economics and international relations in the Asia-Pacific region.

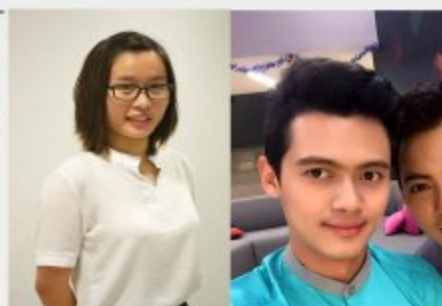
Miss Doan Thi Thu Thuy or Thuy is another TICA scholarship recipient from VNU. Thuy has a strong foundation on Southeast Asian Studies. She also works extensively in Youth program and will make the most of what she learns from MAPS, especially in terms of public policy and international relations, into her line of work. Her commitment made MAPS Program wants to support her and welcome her to our family.

Miss Vu Thi Hang or Hang from VNU is the next student who is admitted through merit-based scholarship scheme. MAPS Program was impressed on Hang's intelligence and sincere effort to further her study in our program. Hang has her B.A. in Oriental Studies. She is awarded with TICA Scholarship.

Another TICA scholarship recipient from Lao PDR is **Miss Khonsavanh Vongvannaxay** or Khon, a lecturer from National University of Laos. Khon's line of work and academic background fit perfectly with MAPS Program. On top of her academic performance and teaching experience, her hardworking and optimistic spirit bring additional value to the program as she constantly lifted up her classmate spirit with her smile and cheerful personality.

Mr. Myint Mo Tun or Roy, charismatic Burmese IT personnel, is the next addition to MAPS Program. Despite his background in Engineering of Information Technology, he won over the scholarship selection committee with his impressive interview on his interest in public policy and how he would like to see development in Myanmar. He would love to utilize the knowledge gained from MAPS Program to benefit his motherland.

Another Thammasat Scholarship Students **Miss Dinh Thuy Anh** from Vietnam (Left) and **Mr. Myint Mo Tun** from Myanmar (Right)



TICA Scholarship students - **Miss Doan Thi Thu Thuy** and - **Miss Vu Thi Hang** from Vietnam

- **Miss Khonsavanh Vongvannaxay** from Lao PDR and - **Miss Nareth Chhoun** from Cambodia

Miss Nareth Chhoun is the last international student who received scholarship in 2015.

Nareth impressed MAPS with her determination and her work experience at Cambodia Development Resource Institute – a leading development think-tank in Cambodia. Therefore, MAPS scholarship selection committee decided to give it a try to nominate her for TICA scholarship. Her application was successful and she became part of MAPS Program only a week before school started.

Not only outstanding international students are awarded with scholarships, Thai students also received the same opportunity to continue their study and pursue their dreams with MAPS Program.

Mr. Nattawut Naowabutra or Arm, a distinguished student from Faculty of Liberal Arts, Thammasat University, was awarded a tuition fee scholarship from the Government Saving Banks. His academic background is Southeast Asian Studies and his interest is on development, human rights, and history of arts. Prior to joining MAPS program, he worked at the Embassy of Portugal as Personal Assistant to the Ambassador.



Mr. Sakunpetch Mahipan or Save from Burapha University is the last scholarship recipient from Thailand. He received the tuition fee scholarship from the EXIM Bank. His successful application proved that MAPS provide equal opportunity to study to students from each and every university in Thailand.



Other than 10 scholarship awardees, there are three qualified students who join the program, namely, Mr. Prutti Vasikasin, Miss Punyisa Thongklom, and Mr. Suchan Tanasothorn.



Mr. Prutti Vasikasin or Ray comes to MAPS Program with strong historical studies. Because of his interest in cultures and places around the world, he worked as a tourist guide for a time being before joining MAPS. Ray is always fascinated with China, especially its economic and logistic development. Inspired by the articles, the “New Silk Road”, and, “The Belt and Road Initiative”, Ray hopes to further develop his knowledge on the improvement of logistic route for Thailand and ASEAN.



Miss Punyisa Thongklom or Sa is welcomed by MAPS for her perseverance and strive to be better in her education. A hard-workin-down-to-earth girl from Silpakorn University comes here with her determination to learn about Asia-Pacific despite her background in Archaeology. With her fighting spirit, MAPS Program believes that she will be successful in everything that she wants.



Mr. Suchan Tanasothorn or Patrick, a lively kindhearted person from Rangsit University. Patrick is half-Filipino. He is a people’s person who strongly believes that there are plenty of things that cannot learn only from books. MAPS Program captured his interest because of how courses are designed for students not only to learn from academic books but also for practical knowledge that will be taught by experts in fields such as foreign policy making, economics, and diplomatic-related field. He finds MAPS Program is unique as it provides diverse learning culture that creates strong dynamic discussions suit him well. Patrick also hopes to utilize the knowledge gained from MAPS to pursue a successful career in diplomatic-related field.

All of MAPS students come from various academic and cultural backgrounds. It will be very interesting to see how much they could learn from each other – academically and culturally. Real life lesson will be valuable for them to grow and will help them to find the way to unify the diversity in the region.

MAPS first class commenced on the 18 August 2015. Right before the beginning of the academic year, the program organized a one-day orientation to give MAPS students an overview of the program as well as getting to know everyone who is involved in MAPS Program – advisors, staff, and friends. From then on, students will study with lecturers and experts of the fields. Their journey has begun and the rest was history, as we knew it.



Orientation Day



MAPS's Orientation Day was organized at the Common Room, 1st Fl., SC Building on 14 August 2015. The program organized this event in order to give MAPS students an idea what to expect when joining the program as well as a welcome parties for both MAPS lecturers and our new students.

Students were participated in a half-day orientation and a half-day campus tour to help them to familiarize with the new environment, lecturers, and staff.

2015 MAPS Scholarship Award Ceremony



On the 14th October, all scholarship recipients attended the MAPS Scholarship Awards Ceremony 2015, held in the Pridi Banomyong Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Dome Administration Building, Thammasat University, Rangsit Center.

This joyous occasion is a time for scholarship supporters, scholarship recipients, MAPS Program Executive and Advisory Board Members, and faculty/staff came together to thank the supporters for their philanthropy.

Our scholarship supporters include Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM BANK), The Government Savings Bank, PTT PLC, and Thammasat University.

"On behalf of MAPS Program and our students we would like to express sincere gratitude for your generous support which gives us opportunity to study and learn necessary skills. We are certain that knowledge gained from MAPS program will be beneficial to our countries and ASEAN community as a whole in the years to come."

Special Lecture by Mr. Kasit Piromya, Former Foreign Minister of Thailand

On 17 September 2015, MAPS Program welcomed special guest lecturer, **Mr. Kasit Piromya**, Former Foreign Minister of Thailand, to give lecturer for our students on the topic, *"Russia's Strategic and Geopolitical Shift to Asia-Pacific"* at MAPS' s Common Room, 1st Fl., SC Building, Thammasat University, Rangsit Center.



1st Academic Writing for Research Paper

MAPS Program organized the 1st Academic writing for Research paper workshop on 17 October 2015. This one-day workshop laid down the foundation for thesis writing that MAPS students will undertake from summer semester onward. This workshop is also considered a complimentary training to APS 681 Research Methodology.

Special Lecture by Mr. Daisuke Kotegawa

Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies (MAPS) in collaboration with Thammasat Institute for Study of International Cooperation (TISIC) organized a public lecture on *"World Economic Outlook 2016"* delivered by **Mr. Daisuke Kotegawa**, *Research Director at the Canon Institute for Global Studies (CIGS)*, and former Executive Director for Japan at the IMF (2007-2010) Monday 14 December 2015 from 13.30 -15.00 at Room F332, 3rd Fl., 60th Anniversary Thammasat Building (Anek Prasong 2 Building), Thammasat University, Ta Prachan Campus.



Assist.Prof.Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai,

Director of MAPS Program, gave interview to Matchon Newspaper in the Prachachuen section on the 1 June 2015 on the new Master of Arts Program, “Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies” or MAPS at Thammasat University. He shared his idea on why is it necessary for us to learn about Asia-Pacific region, especially in fields of economics, politics and international relations as well as the necessity for Thailand and ASEAN countries to be ready in the Asia-Pacific era.



Mr. MD Zaidul Anwar HJ MD Kasim, MAPS student from Brunei Darussalam, was invited to show off his Bruneian national dish on the TV program, “Traveler’s Kitchen” or “ครัวพลัดถิ่น”. The program was on air on 19 September 2015 at True-Plook-Panya channel. This program aimed to deepen cultural understanding, foster people-to-people relations between Thailand and other countries, and unify diversity through food culture.



Mr. Nattawut Naowabutr, MAPS student from Thailand, **Mr. Myint Mo Tun,** MAPS student from Myanmar, and **Mr. MD Zaidul Anwar HJ MD Kasim,** MAPS student from Brunei Darussalam, were interviewed by Nation TV Channel 22 or 32 on the topic of Myanmar election and ASEAN.



The program, “**เข้าสู่วันศึกชิงเก้าอี้เมียนมาร์ 8 พฤศจิกายน**” (Countdown to Myanmar Election, 8th November) aired on 31 October 2015.



Mr. Myint Mo Tun, MAPS student from Myanmar, who volunteered as Delegates Liaison at Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI Workshop), was interviewed by Khaosod Newspaper, published on the 31 December 2015, in the special column, “**มุมมอง “เด็ก AEC” ความพร้อมอาเซียน**” (AEC Youth Perspectives on the ASEAN Readiness for AEC). The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiatives was launched in 2013 by U.S. President Barack Obama to help empower young people in Southeast Asia, with the skills, resources and networks. YSEALI seeks to build the leadership capabilities of youth in the region, strengthen ties between the United States and Southeast Asia, and nurture an ASEAN community.

MAPS Action Plan and Way Forward in 2016

In 2016, MAPS will welcome our 2nd batch from universities around ASEAN. This coming year we plan to provide more scholarships for our prospective students in both land and maritime ASEAN who have outstanding academic performance and portray analytical and leadership skills. In addition, MAPS will also open for application for prospective students who are interested in enhancing their knowledge in Asia-Pacific studies.

Also at the end of the year, MAPS plan for the 1st Post-Graduate International Conference in Phuket. The 2-day international conference will welcome scholars in the field of Asia-Pacific studies, public policies, international relations, political sciences, economics, laws, and telecommunication policy. Our first batch of MAPS will present the fruit of their labor at the very first showcase of the program and be scrutinized by the renowned scholars in the fields including scholars from Japan, South Korea, Australia, Europe, United States, and ASEAN.



(Left): Promoting paper in Vietnamese
(Right): Call for paper 2016

Call for Paper will be published from February 2016 onward at the MAPS website www.maps-tu.org.

MAPS Program will also select our outstanding students to participate in the Asian Studies Association of Australia Conference 2016 at Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, during 5-7 July 2016.

In terms of academic events, MAPS program plan to bring more knowledge in the field in, particularly from experts in the fields. In 2016, the program will organize a number of special lectures delivered by various Diplomat representatives from Embassies and international agencies in Thailand. These lecture series are part of the MAPS course and will open for public in Thammasat University, Rangsit Center.





Contact for Inquiries



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MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES



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