



MAPS

MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT
2016

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Statement of the Director



After one year had passed, a noticeable changes has come colouring MAPS journey this year. The year 2016 has been a very good year for Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies (MAPS) Program, as it strides forward providing quality education at tertiary level focusing in contemporary Asia Pacific. MAPS remains committed in preparing our students first hand learning experience that will prepare students to be ready to work in the exciting region in the world, especially for those who wish to have career path in international arena including in field of diplomatic-related profession, academic, and in international agencies. Students are given the opportunity to learn from each other and to taste the reality of living together in diversity and unity. This is far more than a usual Master's Degree class available in Thailand and elsewhere.

Our first batch of student (intake 2015) continues to learn from the very best the program could offer, having the opportunity to learn from world renowned academics, experts on the field and Ambassadors residing in Thailand. This year is a busy year for them, as they start with their thesis writing in the Summer Semester before their research works were scrutinised by our carefully selected Committee. We are happy with the outcomes of their thesis, of which snippet of it was presented in our very own international conference, Thammasat Annual Academics and Post Graduate International Conference (TUCAPS) held last December, in Phuket Thailand. As part of post conference contribution, a proceeding is underway that will be made accessible through our website.

At the same time, we welcome our second batch (intake 2016) comprises of 18 students from 8 ASEAN countries including Bhutan. Dubbed as the best out of the best, all the selected students have an excellence extracurricular records, not to mention their extraordinary academic records and resume. As for the 1st Semester of their studies, both 1st Intake and 2nd Intake learn together in one of the required course, producing a well blend and enriching learning experience for both batches. While our 1st Intake has successfully graduating from the program, we hope to continue in providing quality education to incoming students while slowly developing MAPS Program as a prominent Centre of Excellence specifically in the Area Studies. We look forward for more exciting events to come as MAPS journey towards academic excellence continues.

Asst. Prof. Dr Suphat Suphachalasai,
Director, Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies (MAPS) Program



Executive Board of Directors

Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies



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Former Director-General, The Treasury Department,
Ministry of Finance



Vice Chairman

Asst. Prof. Suphat Suphachalasai

Director, Thammasat Institute of Area Studies & Master of
Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies Program



Committee

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Director General, Thailand International Cooperation
Agency (TICA)



Committee

Dr. Panpree Phathithanukorn

Former Member of Parliament &
Deputy Chairman of Chart Pattana Party



Committee

Dr. Witoon Simachokedee

Chairman of the Boards, General Environmental
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Uchupalanan**

Lecturer, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



Committee

Dr. Supreut Thavornyutikarn

Director, India Studies Centre, Thammasat Institute of Area
Studies, Thammasat University



Committee

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Deputy Director, India Studies Centre, Thammasat
Institute of Area Studies, Thammasat University



Committee

Mr. Wirote Watinpongpun (J.S.D)

Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University



Committee

Assoc. Prof. Chanin Mephokee

Deputy Director, Thammasat Institute of Area Studies
Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies Program



Committee

Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto

Associate Dean for International Affairs, Faculty of Political
Sciences, Thammasat University

Advisory Board of Directors

Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies



Chairman

Dr. Panpree Phathithanukorn

Former Member of Parliament &
Deputy Chairman of Chart Pattana Party



Committee

Mr. Songsak Saichuea

Director-General, Department of American and South
Pacific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Committee

Dr. Mia Mikic

Chief, Trade Policy and Analysis Section, United Nation
ESCAP (2005-Present)



Committee

Professor Vinod Aggarwal

Professor and Travers Family Senior Faculty Fellow,
Political Science and Director, Berkeley APEC Study
Center



Committee

Professor Sisira Jayasuriya

Professor of Economics, Department of Economics,
Monash University, Australia



Committee

Professor Gary Madden

Director, Centre for Research in Applied Economics,
Member, Board of Directors, International
Telecommunications Society (2002 – present)



Committee

Dr. Denis Hew

Director, APEC Policy Support Unit



Committee

Professor Hal Hill

H.W. Arndt Professor Emeritus of Southeast Asian
Economies, the Arndt Corden Department of Economics,
Crawford School, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific



Committee

Asst. Prof. Sitthiphon Kruarattikan

Director of Ph.D in Integrated Science Program, College of
Interdisciplinary Studies, Thammasat University



Committee

Professor Mark Jamison

Director and Gunter Professor, Public Utility Research
Center(PURC), University of Florida



Committee & Secretary

Asst. Prof. Suphat Suphachalasai

Director, Thammasat Institute of Area Studies, & Master of
Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies Program



MAPS

MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

"a premier Master program focusing on contemporary Asia Pacific"

Vision

'a premier Centre of Excellence in Area Studies'

Mission

'To build experts on Area Studies through quality education in multidisciplinary lens'



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 inter-disciplinary lenses. 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.



KEY FEATURES

- 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.

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 (valid if taken less than 2 years)
- A statement of purpose and study plan of approximately 500 words
- Scholarships are available upon request. Terms and Conditions may apply

PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

- 16-18 months program (three semesters and one summer semester), full-time, and requires the completion of **39 credits**
- A 27 unit course work component
 - o Core course 21 credits
 - o Elective course 6 credits
- A 12 unit research component
- Graduate Conference (as per requirement and to facilitate thesis examination).



OUR FACILITIES



Asia Pacific Resource Centre

Asia-Pacific Resource Center houses a relevant and accessible collection of Asia-Pacific related resource materials. It provides space for information and cultural exhibition as well as acquires information and dissemination manuals, information and research about countries in Asia-Pacific region in order to help users to gain access to information from other sources. 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.



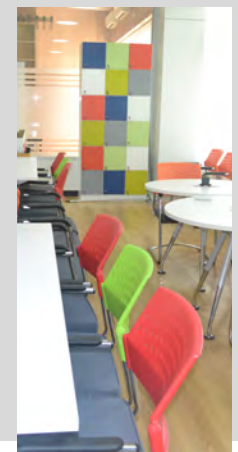
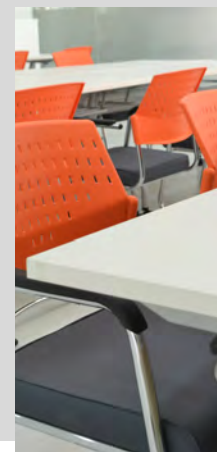
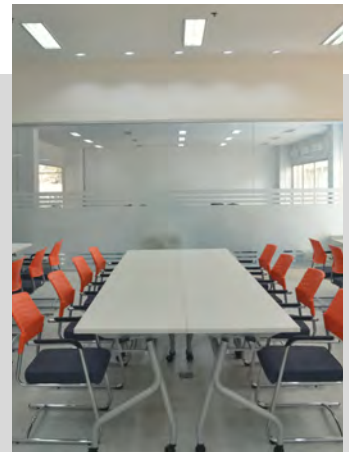
Opening Hour

Monday to Friday, 9.00 - 16.30.

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 especially for graduate students of the program. It is a primary space for students to hang out – whether for work on project or to spend time with each other. The common room is created with comfortable and welcoming environment features wireless internet access and lockers for student use.

Opening Hour: Monday to Friday, 9.00-16.30.



APPLICATIONS, ADMISSIONS, AND ENROLLMENTS



A total of 18 students from a total of 34 applicants were enrolled in 2016. These students represent 8 countries in ASEAN and one Bhutanese. 13 outstanding international students are awarded with merit-based scholarships from Thammasat University and Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). While, three outstanding Thai students also received merit-based scholarships from the Government Savings Bank and PTT Public Limited Company.



Number of students 2016/17

Bruneian	1
Bhutanese	1
Cambodian	1
Indonesian	1
Laos	6
Burmese	1
Filipinos	1
Vietnamese	1
Thais	5

Semester 2, Year 2015

Summer Semester, Year 2016

MAPS
MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES



- APS 611 Economic Integration in the Asia Pacific Region
- APS 631 International Law and Regional Architecture
- APS 641 Contemporary Issues in Asia Pacific
- APS 681 Research Methodology

SEMESTER 2, YEAR 2015

- APS 800 Thesis

SUMMER SEMESTER

Semester 1, Year 2016 (1st Intake)

Semester 1, Year 2016 (2nd Intake)

- APS 622 Comparative Politics and Government in Asia Pacific Region
- APS 800 Thesis

SEMESTER 1, YEAR 2016

- APS 600 Foundation of Asia Pacific Studies
- APS 612 Dynamism of Thai Economy
- APS 621 Political, Security and Defense Strategies in the Asia Pacific Studies
- *APS 622 Comparative Politics and Government in Asia Pacific Region

SEMESTER 1, YEAR 2016

MAPS CLASSES

CLASSES & PROFESSORS

Semester 2, Year 2015

OVERVIEW

In the 2nd semester of 2015, MAPS students took 3 core courses and 1 selected core course:

- 1) APS 611 Economic Integration in the Asia Pacific Region
- 2) APS 631 International Law and Regional Architecture
- 3) APS 681 Research Methodology
- 4) APS 641 Contemporary Issues in Asia Pacific

A total of 18 professors, visiting professors, and experts delivered their lectures in the Second semester.

INSTRUCTORS FROM THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY

- 1) Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai, Faculty of Economics
- 2) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chanin Mephokee, Faculty of Economics
- 3) Dr. Supruet Thavornnyutikarn, Faculty of Economics
- 4) Dr. Virot Ali, Faculty of Political Sciences
- 5) Dr. Tavidia Kamolvej, Faculty of Political Sciences
- 6) Dr. Phattarphong Saengkrai, Faculty of Law
- 7) Dr. Noppadon Detsomboonrut, Faculty of Law
- 8) Dr. Thitirat Thipsamritkul, Faculty of Law

GUEST LECTURERS

- 1) Prof. Jaran Maluleem, Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University
- 2) Prof. Vinod Aggarwal, Political Science and Director of Berkeley APEC Study Center, University of California, Berkeley
- 3) Prof. Sudhama Yoonaidhama, Faculty of Law, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce
- 4) Asst. Prof. Dr. Pitch Pongsawat, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University
- 5) Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Mekong Institute

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER

- 1) His Excellency Kirill Barsky, Russian Ambassador to Thailand
- 2) His Excellency Felix Denegri, Russian Ambassador to Peru
- 3) ML Nattakorn Devakula News Analyst & TV Celebrity

EXPERTS ON THE FIELD

- 1) Dr. Denis Hew, Policy Support Unit, APEC Secretariat
- 2) Dr. Mia Mikic, Trade Policy and Analysis, UN ESCAP



MAPS

Summer Semester, Year 2016

In the Summer semester of 2016, MAPS students have to read the APS 800 Thesis

This course supervised by 5 Instructors from Thammasat University:

- 1) Asst. Prof.Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai Faculty of Economics
- 2) Assoc.Prof. Dr. Chanin Mephokee Faculty of Economics
- 3) Dr. Supruet Thavornytikarn Faculty of Economics
- 4) Dr. Virot Ali Faculty of Political Science
- 5) Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto Faculty of Political Science



SEMESTER 1, YEAR 2016

1ST & 2ND INTAKE



The next semester will be the first in MAPS history, whereby two Batches (1st Intake & 2nd Intake) run simultaneously. Interestingly, While the 1st Intake read only APS 800 Thesis, there is another elective course that they sit together with the incoming 2nd Intake i.e. APS 622 Comparative Politics and Governance in Asia Pacific Region.

A total of 8 professors and guest lecturers deliver their lectures in this course.

INSTRUCTORS FROM THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY

- 1) Dr Takashi Tsukamoto, Faculty of Political Sciences
- 2) Asst. Prof. Dr Prajak Kongkirati, Faculty of Political Sciences



GUEST LECTURERS

- 1) Asst. Prof. Dr. Pitch Pongsawat, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn
- 2) Dr. Lowell Skar, University of Michigan Visiting Professor, Chulalongkorn University
- 3) Dr. Pijitra Tsukamoto, Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University
- 4) Dr Victor Sumsky, ASEAN Center, MGIMO University, Moscow.
- 5) Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, ASEAN Center, MGIMO University, Moscow.
- 6) Dr Evgeny Kanaev, ASEAN Center, MGIMO University, Moscow.
- 7) Dr Monti Datta, University of Richmond

SEMESTER 1, YEAR 2016

2nd Intake

OVERVIEW

The 2nd intake (2016) start off their 1st Semester of academic year 2016 by reading 3 more core courses:

- 1) APS 600 Foundation of Asia Pacific Studies
- 2) APS 612 Dynamism of Thai Economy
- 3) APS 621 Political, Security and Defence Strategies in the Asia Pacific Region

A total of 8 Professors and Guest lecturer coming to MAPS Program to give a talk.

INSTRUCTORS FROM THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY

- 1) Asst. Prof.Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai, Faculty of Economics
- 2) Assoc.Prof. Dr. Chanin Mephokee, Faculty of Economics
- 3) Dr. Virot Ali, Faculty of Political Sciences
- 4) Dr Tavidia Kamolvej, Faculty of Political Sciences
- 5) Dr. ML Pinitbhand Paribatra, Faculty of Political Sciences
- 7) Dr. Thitirat Thipsamritkul, Faculty of Law

GUEST LECTURERS

- 1) Prof. Thongchai Winichakul University of Wisconsin-Madison



APS 611 ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

The course is a discussion on the relationship between states, institutions and economies in the region, as well as development of regional integration and comparative perspectives on regional integration schemes. The topics covered international cooperation arrangements and organizations, approaches to regional economic integration of major players in the region, the political and non-political objectives of integration, and the economic aspects of multinational corporations.

Lecturer & Guest Lecturers:



Lecturer:

Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

Guest Lecturers:

1. Prof. Vinod Aggarwal, Berkeley Political Sciences, University of California, Berkeley
2. Prof. Sudhama Yoonaidhama, Faculty of Law, University of Thai Chamber of Commerce
3. Dr. Denis Hew, APEC Secretariat Policy Support Unit
4. Dr. Mia Mikic, Trade Policy and Analysis, UNESCAP
5. Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Mekong Institute.

APS 631 INTERNATIONAL LAW AND REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE

The course introduces students to public international law and institutions by examining the treaties establishing them, law-making processes, law enforcement, international organizations, the law of the seas, human rights law, and international economic law. The course focuses on the issues within the Asia-Pacific context, including territorial disputes in the South China Sea, bilateral agreements, dispute settlement mechanisms, principles of regional integration schemes such as ASEAN, and legal basis of regional architecture. Regional agreements as well as financial architecture established in the region are also introduced, such as the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and other bilateral Free Trade Agreements particularly and issues in political economy behind these architectures.

Lecturer & Guest Lecturers:



Lecturer:

1. Mr. Phattaraphong Saengkrai, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University
2. Dr. Noppadon Detsomboonrut, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University
3. Dr. Thitirat Thipsamritkul, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

APS 641 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ASIA PACIFIC

Contemporary Issues in Asia-Pacific aims at broadening students' understanding of specific countries or regions and provides an interdisciplinary introduction to various aspects of modern history, politics, economics, society, culture, and people. This subject covers ASEAN/Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Latin America, and USA, etc.

Lecturer & Guest Lecturers:



Lecturer:

1. Dr. Virod Ali, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University

Guest Lecturers:

1. Prof. Jaran Maluleem, Faculty of political Science, Thammasat University
2. Asst. Prof. Dr. Pitch Pongsawat, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University
3. Dr. Boonwara Sumano Chenpuengpaen, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)

Distinguished Guest Lecturers:

1. His Excellency Kirill Barsky, Russian Ambassador to Thailand
2. His Excellency Felix Denegri, Russian Ambassador to Peru
3. ML Nattakorn Devakula, News Analyst & TV Celebrity

APS 681 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this course is to familiarize student with research process in field of Asia-Pacific Studies, both qualitative and quantitative research, and also help formalize their own research interests. In class, students will explore how to develop a research problem and research purpose, how to evaluate and choose research methodology, how to develop a theoretical framework and conduct empirical field research. Students will also learn how to critically present and discuss research issues arise in the thesis as well as how to write up their working paper, thesis, and defend their thesis.

Lecturer & Guest Lecturers:



Lecturer:

- 1) Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 2) Dr. Supruet Thavornyutikarn, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 3) Dr. Virod Ali, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University
- 4) Dr. Tavid Kamolvej, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University

APS 800 THESIS (SUMMER)

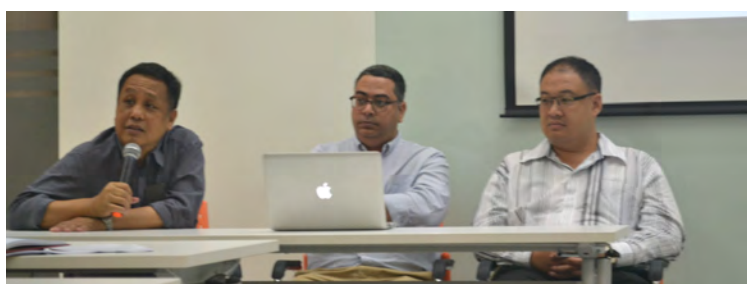
The thesis provides an opportunity for students to conduct research in their own area of interest. Topics can be selected from five areas: Japan and Republic of Korea, PRC and Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand, ASEAN/Southeast Asian Studies, and Telecommunication Policy and Development in the Asia-Pacific region. The thesis course will involve close collaboration between supervisor and student. Students are expected to present weekly progress in the workshop sessions organized by the program. Student can conduct their respective field research during this time, providing that the Program and supervisor give their permission for the student to conduct such activity. Duration of field research for each student vary from one to another, but no longer than two weeks.

Lecturers:



Lecturers:

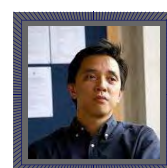
- 1) Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 2) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chanin Mephokee, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 3) Dr. Supruet Thavornnyutikarn, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 4) Dr. Virot Ali, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University
- 5) Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University



APS 622 COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IN ASIA PACIFIC

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 & Guest Lecturer:



Instructor:

1. Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University

Lecturers:

- 1) Asst. Prof. Dr. Pitch Pongsawat, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

Guest Lecturers

- 1) Dr. Lowell Skar, University of Michigan
- 2) Dr. Pijitra Tsukamoto, Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University
- 3) Asst. Prof. Dr Prajak Kongkirati, Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University
- 4) Dr Victor Sumsy, ASEAN Center, MGIMO University, Moscow.
- 5) Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova, ASEAN Center, MGIMO University, Moscow.
- 6) Dr Evgeny Kanaev, ASEAN Center, MGIMO University, Moscow.
- 7) Dr Monti Datta, University of Richmond

This course was conducted in such a way that both the 1st Intake (2015) & 2nd Intake (2016) learn together, looking at the diversity of background of students between the two intake. This allowed them to learn from each other and have a first hand comparative learning experience for each student.



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:



Lecturers:

- 1) Assist.Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 2) Dr. Virod Ali, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University
- 3) Dr. Thitirat Thipsamritkul, Faculty of Law, Thammasat 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.

Lecturer & Guest Lecturers:



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 Thavornytikarn, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
- 5) Dr. Kaewkwan Tangtipongkul, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

Guest Lecturer:

- 1) Prof. Dr. Thongchai Winichakul, Department of History, University of Wisconsin Madison

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.

Lecturer & Guest Lecturers:



Lecturer:

- 1) Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto, Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University
- 2) Dr. Tavid Kamolvej, Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University
- 3) Asst. Prof. Dr. ML Pinitbhand Paribatra, Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University



**MAPS Annual
Report 2016**



MAPS JOURNEY



...Journey towards academic excellence continues..."

*Special credits goes to Nathan Daniel Sison for writing the piece in this section



In 2016, MAPS continues to stride forward, providing quality education in Area Studies focusing on the Asia Pacific Region. During the Second semester of the academic year 2015, MAPS program garner a lot of attention through its Special Lecture Series. MAPS always committed in giving the best available academicians to come and give a talk to our student. As this semester mean to expose students to different perspectives of different actors in the Asia Pacific Region, the program hope the student will familiarize themselves with the inner workings of the politics, international economics, international relations and law surrounding the Asia Pacific Region. This semester alone sees 18 professors, visiting lecturers, experts on the field and distinguished guests coming to MAPS program and engage with our student. During this series of Special Lectures, interested individuals and the public is welcome to join the class. In Summer semester, our student continue their thesis writing with their respective supervisor all throughout the semester.



Later on, MAPS make history for Thammasat University in particular and Thailand in general with the completion of high quality thesis written by its student. Those works were proudly showcase in the International Conference organized by Thammasat Institute of Area Studies (TIARA). MAPS make a hallmark in its history as its launch the first ever Thammasat Annual Academic and Post Graduate International Conference (TUCAPS) in Phuket, Thailand. Such a meaningful event have brought together renowned Professors and Academicians across the world with particular expertise in Area Studies and Telecommunications.



At the same time, this year, MAPS made a history with the enrolment of 18 students into the program, spanning students from 8 ASEAN countries and 5 Thai students as well as one student from Bhutan. With the coming of Second intake, MAPS is confident that the journey towards success will continue for many years to come. A total of 15 scholarships are given from sponsors ranging from institutions and organizations that see their collaboration with MAPS as mutual importance including Thammasat University, Thailand International Cooperation Agency – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PTT Public Limited and The Government Savings Bank. Only 13 qualified students are awarded with the full scholarship in 2016.



Singay Wangmo

BHUTAN

Singay Wangmo graduated with Bachelors Degree in English and Environmental studies from Royal Thimphu College. Her hobbies include, reading novels, creative writing, watching movies and playing/listening to music. From an academic standpoint, she is interested in the development policies of South East Asia. But generally, she is also interested in meeting people from all walks of life and experience new culture. Moreover, she interned as a tour guide, at “Bhutan Reisen”, interned at a Policy Coordination Division, National Environment Commission worked as a volunteer English Teacher in Thailand. After the MAPS program, she aspires to work for an NGO in the hopes of delivering great service to humanity.



Heng Sonya

CAMBODIA

Heng Sonya's background is International Studies, where he earned his honor degree. During his bachelor years, he was nominated to attend various events such as Peace Building in JENESYS program in Japan and competitions including the ASEAN+3 Young Speakers Contest in Malaysia, where he was awarded the Grand Finalist. Professionally, he used to be an English teacher and have been working as a Content Manager for a local TV station in Cambodia. His Interests cover International Relations, Foreign Policy, and Military Studies. Sonya's future career would not be far from a diplomat and/or being a military officer. His hobbies include playing and watching sports, in which football is his most favorite; playing and listening to music; and making fun of his close friends.



Dk. Nur Rabi'ah

BRUNEI

Dk. Nur Rabi'ah Pg. Hj. Abd. Rahman or Beah is a Sociology-Anthropology graduate from the Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Her scope of interest is learning and understanding the similarities and differences in cultural lifestyle and behavior because she believe that every culture is unique on its own. MAPS program provides Beah with a great first-hand experience to understand and appreciate cultural differences and similarities in comparison to her own through exchange of interactions with classmates of various backgrounds. . In the near future, with a Master's degree in Asia-Pacific Studies, she aims to work with Brunei's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the hopes to be able to help in facilitating Brunei's growth in network-building and expanding relations and partnerships with other countries.





Soulinda Thammavongxay

LAO PDR



Soulinda or “May” finished with a double degree in International Relations and Business Administration at the National University of Laos. She is a music lover and food hunter, in fact during her free time, she often scout for popular restaurants or dessert cafés around the area. During her bachelor years, she is quite active in participating in various youth programs both locally in her country and in abroad. In the future, she hopes to land a job the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Febrianti Tentyana

INDONESIA

Febrianti Tentyana graduated from International program of Governmental Studies (IGOV), Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta right before she got accepted in MAPS program. During her bachelor degree, international conferences and programs were her way to combine both study and hobby at the same time. In 2012, Tentyana went both to Korea University to present the research she did in public administration, and Sias International University, China to participate in an student exchange program in Chinese Language and Culture studies. Her plan after finishing the MAPS program is to work as intern in Friedrich Ebert Stiftung foundation in Singapore office, however her top career target is to go back to Indonesia and work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Thip Nouansyvong

LAO PDR



Thip Nouansyvong received her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) from Faculty of Law and Political Science, National University of Laos. She is admitted attorney and a member of the Lao Bar Association (LBA), She is one of co-founder of 1st Southeast Asia Pro Bono Conference in Vientiane, Laos and became International Organizing Committee (IOC) for SEA Pro Bono Conference in Vietnam, Singapore, Myanmar and Indonesia. Currently, she is taking Master of Arts in Asia Pacific (MAPS) at Thammasat University and after graduate she will returns to her home country and continuing to work on pro bono work either law firms, academic institution and NGOs in Laos.



Palamy Phetpaseuth

LAO PDR



Palamy Phetpaseuth finished his bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the National University of Laos. During his university life, he participated in several International Programs such as JENESYS2.0 in 2013, 41st SSEAYP in 2014, and 4th NIDA Summer Camp in 2015. He like travelling and is very much interested in diverse traditional culture and economics of the Southeast Asian region. Palamy used to work as a freelancer for a tour company. In the future, he would like to work for an international organizations and run his own business.



Chantida Ratanavong

LAO PDR



Chanthida Ratanavong or Poupee from Lao PDR finished her bachelor's in International Relations from the National University of Laos. She participated in an exchange program in China in 2016. In the past, she work as an operator in magazine company and volunteered in GDG Vientiane and the Start Up Vientiane. Poupee likes travelling and is interested in foreign policy and economics In the future, she would like to work for an international organization and hopefully start her own business too.



Nang Nu Nu Yee

MYANMAR

Nang Nu Nu Yee, from Myanmar, graduated from University of Dental Medicines Mandalay and had a diploma in development studies from Yangon Institute of Economics. She loves to travel and her compassion is to serve back her own mother country's development in future. She worked not only for international organization but also local organization in different sectors such as health, peace and development for more than 7 years in her beloved country. She is interested in working for civil society organizations and would also love to learn different cultures and languages. Her future career after MAPS program is to become a consultant specializing in development and economy.



Nousa Sayasarn

LAO PDR



Nousa Sayasarn has a background in International Relations. She has some serious interest in water issues in her country due to joining the Mekong Younger Basin program. Moreover, she also joined other programs like the 4th Asia Youth Parliament on water 2015 at Korea and 3rd World Youth Parliament in water forum 2015. She loves to be involved in youth participation as she believes in youth empowerment. Her favorite hobbies are reading books and watching movies. Aside from that, she formerly worked for STELLA as a project assistant and Fair Trade Laos as a media project assistant. Nousa hopes that in the future, she will be able to support and develop her country by working for an international organization like World Bank.



Sinthavanh Chantavong

LAO PDR



Sinthavanh Chanthavong or Sin earned his bachelor degree in International Relations at the National University of Laos. He is very interested in economics and development which is deeply rooted to his real life experience of coming from an undeveloped country which really needs development especially the living standard of its people. Apart from study life, Sin enjoys playing guitar and singing. In the future he wants to land a job in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in Laos.



Hasanai Sukcharoen

THAILAND



Hasanai Sukcharoen (Jame) graduated from the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, Government and Politics major (Second Class Honors) in 2015. He is interested in Thai politics and the Western political Theory focusing on modern political theory. he completed his internship in the Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior (Thailand). During the internship, he learned a lot about the nature of Thai bureaucratic system and to improve my social skills, especially manners and conflict resolution skills. For his future, He would like to study Political Science (both M.A. and Ph.D.) and hope to do research and teach Political Science eventually.



Chayapruek Kongchan

THAILAND



Chayapruek Kongchan also known as Gunz, MUMU or CPKZ graduated from Thammasat University, Faculty of Political Science in International Relationship major and minor in History, Philosophy and Sociology in 2016. Mumu is interested in International Relations, diplomatic history, East Asia International politics, security policy and International political economy. In the future, he wants to be a Professor in a university or be a diplomat or intelligence agent.



Kornchanok Nushkasem

THAILAND



Kornchanok Nushkasem (Mook) was born in Bangkok, Thailand. At the age of fourteen, she moved to Canberra, the capital city of Australia. In 2015, she graduated with the Bachelor of Arts doubled majored in International Relations and Development Studies. After spending seven years in Australia, Mook returned to Bangkok and started her post-graduate study with MAPS Program at Thammasat University. In the future, she hopes to use her knowledge and experiences around international relations and development studies to make a difference to our society.



Yoonradee Wongcharoenpaisan

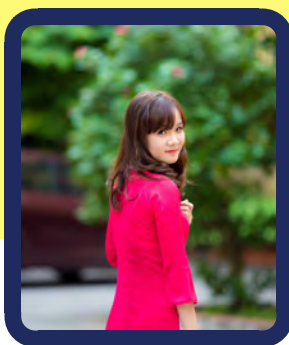
THAILAND



Yonradee Wangcharoenpaisan or Nook just recently graduated from Thammasat University with a major in British and American Studies. She also spent a year studying abroad at San Diego State University, USA. Since then, she developed a passion in working for people in need. On June 2016, she had the opportunity to work with non-governmental organization named Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and was honored to be a part of organizing The 6th Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights. Working with them has given her the self-satisfaction in every levels in which she have definitely found myself a purpose in life; that is to work on refugee development, especially in Asia Pacific Region.

Ta Sao Mai

VIETNAM



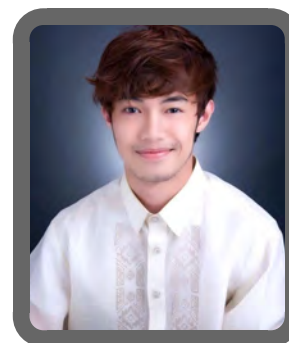
Sao Mai graduated from the Faculty of International Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Hanoi. In her spare time, she likes to draw, travel and indulge in Korean culture, particularly listening to K-Pop music and learning the Korean language. During her university years, she had opportunities of receiving scholarship grants both from her own university in Vietnam and in Korea such as Chungsoo and King Sejong Institute. She also attended various national events such as the Vietnam Global Positioning Summer that is presented by the Virtual Trade Mission Foundation. Mai is interested in economics and foreign policy. She hopes to be a researcher and have more chances to continue her studies about the Asia-Pacific region in the future.

Nathan Daniel Sison

The PHILIPPINES

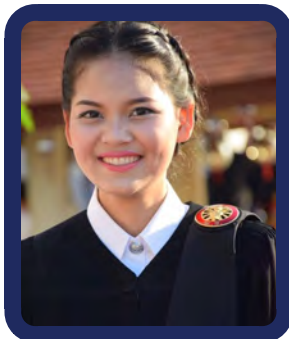


Nathan Daniel Sison is a born student leader who graduated with honors in a degree in Mass Communication at Far Eastern University, Manila, Philippines. His interests include reading books, playing sports and traveling. Believing in the importance of furthering his education in order to get to his desired career field in International Relations, Nathan applied for the MAPS program and was awarded the TU Scholarship. In the future, he is looking forward to working for an international organization like the United Nations or making it bigger into the broadcasting industry, equipped with a well-rounded mind all ready to discuss and report issues about the world, particularly the Asia-Pacific region.



Merica Chanakitchinchon

THAILAND



Merica Chanakitchinchon or Mona as her friends use to call her graduated from the faculty of Political Sciences from Thammasat University where she received second class honors. She majored in public administration and my minored in psychology. Ballet dancing and singing are her favorite hobbies. More so, she is interested in public policy, because in her bachelor degree, she studied about organization theories and management, strategic planning in public sector, and public management. Mona think that the MAPS program will give her the chance to understand strategic and management in public sector in each country from this region; what are the strength and weak points. For her future career, she wants to work in management department either in public or private sector.

This year, MAPS program see the coming of an active group of youths. All of them have shown to MAPS what they worth and continue to contribute positively in living up to MAPS reputation. This batch sees a more versatile group of student, with most of them are quite active in youth activities both in the national and regional level. The program hopes the student can learn to become a better person once they graduated from MAPS program. MAPS 2nd Intake start their first class on the 15th August 2016. From then on, students continue the paths that had been laid by their predecessor before them and hope to continue making good name for MAPS program.

Annual Report

2016

Master of Arts In Asia Pacific Studies

MAPS HIGHLIGHTS

This year, MAPS garnered a lot of interest both from the public as well as the academic circle. MAPS launch its free-to-the-public Special Lecture Series featuring renowned academicians, world class Professors and distinguished guests coming from different background to give a talk and engage with our students as well as the public. For the Second Semester 2015, MAPS is opening its door for public participation through 2 courses offered in the semester, first APS 641 Contemporary Issues in Asia Pacific Region that allow students and the public to know and learn first-hand from the perspectives of the invited speakers. While APS 611 Economic Integration in the Asia Pacific Region focuses more on the economic issues of Asia Pacific by engaging with the world renowned economists and experts on the field.

Special Lecture Series: APS 641 Contemporary Issues in Asia Pacific Region

As the student finished their 1st Semester which gives them foundation courses on Asia Pacific Studies, the 2nd Semester let the student immerse themselves in the complexities of the Asia Pacific Region. Therefore, this course allowed the student to learn deeper of the perspectives and strategies of different key players in the Asia Pacific Region by letting them engage first hand with the invited speakers.

The first open-door public lecture for this course was officiated by Asst. Prof. Dr. Pitch Pongsawat, our guest lecturer from Chulalongkorn University on 3rd March 2016. Both students and the public had a chance to learn about another interesting issue that recently turns opportunity into challenges in many mega-cities; the issue of Urbanisation and Planning. By giving example of mega cities across the world and how they deal will urbanization and planning, this can become a good model for developing cities in the Asia Pacific Region by focusing the niche that each cities can capitalize.



Our Special Lecture Series resume on 16th March by welcoming Russian Ambassador to Thailand, His Excellency Kirill Mikhailovich Barsky, who had been kind enough to accept our invitation to give a talk to our student. On that day, His Excellency talks about "Russia's Security and Economic Engagement in Asia-Pacific". In a matter of security issue, Russia concerns about the architecture of security that has been shaped and employed in the Asia-Pacific since it could bring back the cold war mentality that were ended with the Soviet Union dissolved into its component republics in the 90s. His Excellency aired his hope that, if we have clear goal of the game, a genuine and transparent security policy for Asia-Pacific may be realized as conflicts and fears do not bring any good to regional cooperation.



In the afternoon of the 22nd March 2016, MAPS welcomed one of Thailand's famous TV personality, M.I. Nattakorn Devakula (or Khun Pleum), to give a lecture related to the US Presidential Elections. M.I. Nattakorn share his thoughts on the rise of demagogue personality of Mr. Donald Trump and his kind as "Trumpish" personality kind of a leader. For the first time, the American people now knows the difficulties in developing world political arena are facing due to their leaders' bizarre personality. He believes that Trump's phenomenon is an eye-opener not only for America but also the world, and it is not a bad thing at all. It is simply a by-product of human interaction and struggle in political spectrum.

On Wednesday, 30 March 2016, MAPS once again have the honour to host Peruvian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Felix Denegri to give a lecture to MAPS. His Excellency talks concern about "Peru's Engagement with the Asia-Pacific" that touches on how Latin American Countries engage to the world. In order to understand Peru's engagement, he went back to the period when the cold war ended; briefly explained globalization that changes Latin America, and the dawn of regionalism. His Excellency ended his lecture by pointing out that while other regional blocs are competing to be one of economic powerhouses, Latin America is losing out from this game. Therefore, it is time for Latin America to be part of the global production chain.

Last but not the least, for this course, MAPS received the honour to host Mr. Jeff Jung, Political Officer from US Embassy in Thailand. During the sharing session entitled 'U.S. Economic Engagement in Asia-Pacific' Mr. Jung shared with the participants of the US stance in the Asia Pacific following president Obama's Pivot to Asia Pacific policy. At the same time, Mr. Jung also have a light moment with our student to talk about different issues concerning US-ASEAN relationships in general such as the upcoming election and the possibility of China's overtaken US hegemonic world order. MAPS program is very happy with the outcome of the Special Lecture Series especially strong number of public present as well as from the diplomatic corps that shows the quality of our curriculum.

Special Lecture Series: APS 611 Economic Integration in the Asia Pacific Region

As for this course, the program start kick-start with the presence of world class scholars and experts. To start off, Professor Vinod Aggarwal, from University of California at Berkeley came to our program to deliver a talk on the 29th January 2016. He gave a lecture on a very interesting topic, "The Past and Future of Asia-Pacific Regionalism: A Political Economy Perspective" which he pointed out what problems of the WTO and Mega- FTAs. He also touched upon the rise of regionalism in the Asia-Pacific, the development from APEC to FTAAP, from ASEAN to RCEP, from P4 to TPP, and finally about the politics and mega -FTAs. Students as well as the public were given a chance to discuss and share their ideas and their countries' experiences on the topic.

In early April 2016, another special guest make an appearance to MAPS program. Dr. Mia Mikic from Trade Policy and Analysis Unit, UN ESCAP shared with our students the inner workings of trade in services, which slowly gaining importance in the global economy. Dr. Mikic shared the issues and challenges face in liberalising trade in services as well as discuss about the foreseeable outcomes in near future. Overall, MAPS had an eventful year just for the Second semester and is very happy with the unprecedented reception both from the public and the diplomatic corps. This positive outcomes is the evident of the quality of MAPS curriculum and MAPS motto to give only the best for its students.





On the 16th August 2016, MAPS Program officially welcomed 2nd Intake of MAPS students. On that day, student had the chance to know each other as well as all the Professors and staffs from MAPS. Student were briefed on the curriculum and program regulations in order to graduate in one and half year time. Later on, Student joined the MAPS staffs to explore the university campus to get know better on how things work around the university.

Special Lecture by Dr. Lindsey Te Ata O Tu Macdonald

On 17th August 2016, MAPS Program welcomed special guest lecturer, Dr. Lindsey Te Ata O Tu Macdonald from University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Dr. Lindsey came to give a special lecture entitled “New Zealand’s Reform”, talking about the wholesome reform that takes place in New Zealand concurrently and the challenges face by the government to achieve a result based reform. This special lecture is part of APS 641 Contemporary Issues in Asia Pacific Region that student need to read.

Special Lecture by Dr. Catalina Ribas

MAPS received the honour to host Dr. Catalina Ribas from Universitat de Barcelona to give a lecture to our student entitled “Australian Immigration Policy”. As an ‘open’ country, the core of Australian competitiveness is due to the fact that it manage to attract high skilled migrants to move in and make a living in Australia. Yet, in order to continue such pattern, Australia must remain ready to face any changes to labour mobility. Such an interesting discussions and exchanges happened between our special guest and student.

Special Lecture by Prof. Thongchai Winichakul

On 26th September 2016, MAPS welcomed Prof. Thongchai Winichakul as part of APS 612 Dynamism of Thai Economy course. Prof. Thongchai delivered his talks entitled “Special Topic on Thailand Colonisation” that talked about the new perspective of Thai history. History per se is used by most States as knowledge and tool to instill pride and nationalist sense in its citizens, but after this lecture, student learned that history is also for "thinking", in the most liberal sense. Our program felt privileged with the presence of Prof. Thongchai and spend the time with our student.

120th Anniversary of Thailand – Russia Bilateral Diplomatic Relations

To celebrate 12 decades of strong cooperation between Thailand and our close partner, Federation of Russia, Thammasat Institute of Area Studies (TIARA), MAPS Program with collaboration of Russia & CIS Study Centre held a commemoration ceremony to celebrate this new milestone On 22nd November 2016. Attending to officiate the event were Russian Ambassador himself accompanied by Thammasat University Rector, Prof. Somkid Lertpaithoon. Accompanying the event is an exhibitions that entails the history of the strong relationships between two countries.

While in the afternoon, MAPS program open its door for a public lecture with 3 renowned scholars from ASEAN Centre in MGIMO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia Federation. Dr. Victor Sumsky, Dr. Ekaterina Koldunova and Dr. Evgeny Kanaev share their works at the ASEAN Centre as well as discussing Russian Federation diplomatic approach in the Asia Pacific. On that afternoon alone, the theatre hall is a full house with participants coming from Diplomatic corps, Thammasat University Students and the public.



MAPS Student Activities

MAPS students is known to come from various backgrounds and each one of them have an excellent curricular. Both the local and international students of MAPS are active in participating in national, regional and international events. Therefore, may it be their free time after class or seeking opportunity to showcase their talents; MAPS student had made the program proud of having them. In their leisure time, MAPS students mingle with each other's and spend their time exchanging ideas or just taking day off exchanging stories and experiences. Below are some of the pictures that show their life in MAPS Program:



Voice TV came to make a half an hour video introducing MAPS to wider audience. The one day filming focuses on the curriculum and structure of MAPS Program following an interview with the Program Director, Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai. The TV station also film the students activities including their class and their free time to learn more about the life with MAPS program for the international students. The link to the video can be fetch through YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXXWF1BRXi4&t=885s>





"ASIA PACIFIC CENTURY: INTEGRATING THE DIFFERENCES ASIA PACIFIC CENTURY: INTEGRATING THE DIFFERENCES"

On the 8th of December 2016, MAPS create its new milestone with the launching of inaugural Thammasat Annual Academic and Post Graduate International Conference in Phuket Thailand. With the theme of ‘Asia Pacific Century: Integrating the Differences’, the Conference bring together renowned academics and scholars around the world with particular expertise on Area Studies especially in Asia Pacific Region. This International Conference was organized in partnership with local agencies and institutes namely Office of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, College of Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS), Thammasat University, Government Savings Bank, together with a strong supports from our esteemed affiliated networks namely Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSAPS), Waseda University, Meiji Univeristy and Copenhagen Business School.

"...Area Studies has gained prominence as of late with its multidisciplinary approach and it's in depth study of a particular Area Study that enabled the highest quality of academics to be produced. Area Studies contributions to the academic known to be one of the most innovative as well as the most diverse learning method that helps to give much needed solutions and initiate healthy discussion in piercing issues of our contemporary society today...."

Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai, Chairman





Thammasat University Rector Prof. Dr. Somkid Lertpaithoon come to give a welcoming and opening speech as well as officiating the event. Later it was accompanied by opening speech by Dr. Suphat Champathong, Director General of office of Higher Education Commission, Thailand. Present to give the accompanying Keynote speech is Prof. Hal Hill, a world renowned economist from Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific, Australian National University. On that day, Prof Hill gave a lecture entitled “Southeast Asia in the Global Economy: Great Achievements, Big Challenges”.

Soon after, the opening ceremony continued with the conference itself. The conference have two parallel sessions running at the same time, first is the Academic and Post graduate Conference on Asia Pacific Studies and second, the Academic and Post Graduate Conference on Telecommunication and ICT Development Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region. On the first day, the conference featured new studies and research done by academics on the theme of the conference itself. For the Conference on the Asia Pacific Studies, it was divided into 3 sessions on the first day itself, touching issues such as Human Security, Political Economy and selected issues in the Asia Pacific Region. As for the Conference on Telecommunication and ICT Development Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region, there is only one session running on the first day namely ‘Digital Society’ session. A total of 11 papers were presented as part of the Conference on Asia Pacific Studies and 3 papers on the latter.





The International Conference continued on the second day, featuring post graduate students from Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies (MAPS) which take center stage on the Conference on Asia Pacific Studies and post graduate students from Graduate School of Asia- Pacific Studies (GSAPS), Waseda University, Japan that hold on the Conference on Telecommunication and ICT Development Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region. The former featured 3 main sessions namely Political Economy, Economics and Development and selected issues in Asia Pacific Region; whereby 9 students presenting their papers. While the latter have 2 sessions running; Digital Society and Telecommunication and Broadcasting Development featuring 6 students' papers.

The International Conference ends with a high note, looking at the amount of research papers presented and the outcomes of an active and beneficial engagements as well as discussion during the conference itself. The International Conference have achieved its mission of showcasing what Area Studies can offer not limited to the academic circle but the public as well. At the same time, with the congregation of well-known academics and scholars, some possible academic and research collaborations had been aired and will be follow up post Conference.

Looking at the success of Thammasat Annual Academics and Post Graduate International Conference 2016 (TUCAPS 2016), MAPS is confident that the next International Conference will bring in new interesting studies and research that will contribute further in Area Studies. Slated for December 2017, MAPS will once again presented some of the best papers produce by its student from the Second Intake, 2016.





TU-CAPS
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY

Phuket, Thailand

MAPS students are quite lucky as the program provides a venue for them to showcase their research projects. The university required every Master level student to present their research in some seminars as a requirement to graduate. Therefore, on the second day of the Conference on Asia Pacific Studies, 10 MAPS students delivered their papers and received comments from the appointed commentators. The whole day Conference divided into 3 sessions, namely Human Security, Political Economy and selected issues in the Asia Pacific Region. For the first session on Political Economy in Asia Pacific, three MAPS students delivered their papers. MAPS students are quite lucky as the program provides a venue for them to showcase their research projects. Below are the titles of their research papers presented at the Conference.



1. Ms. Khonsavanh Vongvannaxay (Lao PDR), "A Role of Economic Diplomacy in the Handling of Chinese Banana Plantation in Lao PDR"
2. Mr. Nutthawut Naowabutra (Thailand), "The Sovereign Wealth Fund Management in Petroleum for Development in Timor-Leste"
3. Ms. Thi Hue Nguyen (Vietnam), "Corporate Social Responsibility Engagement in Vietnam State-owned Enterprises: A Comparative Analysis between PVEP and VTC"
4. Ms. Thi Hang Vu (Vietnam), "The Influence of Government Policies on the Return of Overseas Vietnamese in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Sector"
5. Mr. Myint Mo Tun (Myanmar), "Educational Reform in Myanmar: the Case of Two Technological Universities"
6. Ms. Chhoun Nareth (Cambodia), "Disaster Management in Cambodia: Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in the Case of Drought"
7. Ms. Thuy Anh Dinh (Vietnam), "The Causes and Effects of Korean Pop Culture on Vietnamese Consumer Behavior"
8. Ms. Thi Thu Thuy Doan (Vietnam), "Analysis of the Effect of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement on Vietnam Apparel Industry"
9. Mr. Prutti Vasikasin (Thailand), "Impact Assessment of Export Processing Zone on Thailand's Gems and Jewelry Industry"
10. Mr. Mohammad Zaidul Anwar Haji Mohamad Kasim (Brunei Darussalam), "Attempts at Democracy: Thailand's 80 Years of Democracy"





MAPS
MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

In 2017, MAPS will welcome our 2nd batch from universities around ASEAN and Asia Pacific. 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 2nd Thammasat Annual Academic and Post Graduate International Conference, this time tentatively in Chiang Rai. The 3-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 Second batch (intake 2016) 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. Call for Paper will be published from April 2017 onward at the MAPS website www.maps-tu.org.

MAPS Program will intensify publications as part of its drive to become a unique research tank focusing on Area Studies. The outcomes of the 1st TUCAPS will be published as both individual working paper and proceeding in the first half of 2017. Not only that, academic aids for MAPS program such as Thesis Writing Guidebook has been produced to help students to guide them for their studies while there are more to come in near future. Publications to promote MAPS program will also be underway in order to spread the information related to the programs.

In terms of academic events, MAPS program plan to bring more knowledge in the field, particularly from experts in the fields. In 2017, 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 be open for public in Thammasat University, Rangsit Center.

At the same time, we hope to see more students coming as part of the 3rd batch (Intake 2017) featuring students from ASEAN and Asia Pacific countries. Applications to the program open since March 2017 until June 2017. Details and application forms can be accessed through our website at <http://www.maps-tu.org/>

MAPS Action Plan & Way Forward

2017



MAPS
MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies (MAPS) Program

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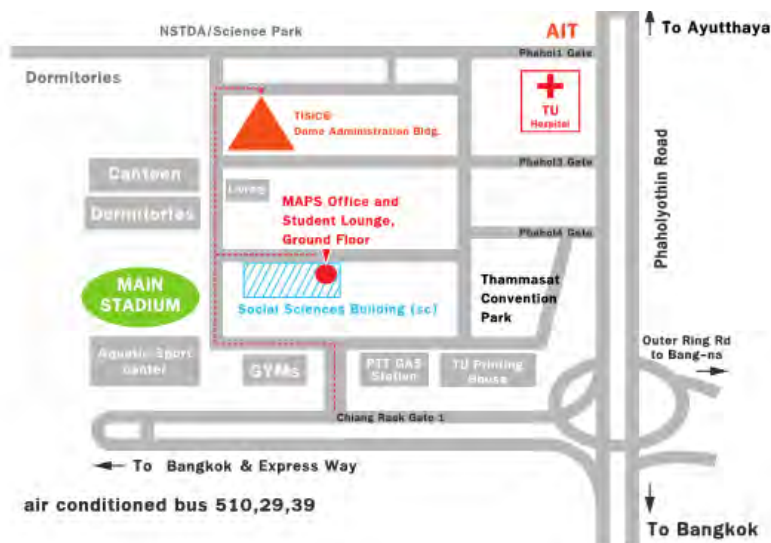
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TIARA
THAMMASAT INSTITUTE OF AREA STUDIES



MAPS
MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies, Thammasat University
Thammasat Institute for Area Studies, (TIARA)