

# THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION

## NEWSLETTER

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THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION



## The Committee for International Affairs



"The Committee for International Affairs supports and enhances the internationalization of the Faculty of Social Administration in all its dimensions, from seeking new partnerships to developing deeper and trusting collaborations which lead to concrete and mutually beneficial outcomes."

**Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University**

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Thammasat Faculty of Social Administration provided a training course on protection and assistance for victims of human trafficking as part of the Banteay Meanchey Province Project.



Assist. Prof. Kath Khangpiboon, representing the Faculty of Social Administration at Thammasat University, was instrumental in The Third Transgender Rights Conference in Bogotá, Colombia.

## Exchange Student & Alumni Experiences



# Message from The Dean



“As your Dean, it’s my honor to welcome you on the occasion of the founding of the Faculty of Social Administration's bilingual newsletter. The newsletter’s mission is to deliver our faculty’s news to cooperative networks, providing a mutually beneficial way to track our faculty’s progress and academic development in Thailand and internationally. Likewise, this is also a good opportunity for the faculty to celebrate its 70th anniversary as we continue to be a leading faculty in producing quality personnel for both academic and professional circles at the national and international levels. I am committed to developing the Faculty of Social Administration and supporting faculty personnel and university administrators who help the faculty continue to move forward as an academic leader in Thailand and throughout the world.”

**Assoc. Prof. Auschala Chalayonnavin, Ph.D.,**  
The Dean of The Faculty of Social Administration,  
Thammasat University

# The Committee for International Affairs



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Advisor



Assistant Dean for International Affairs  
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Chairman



Associate Dean for Administrator  
**3 – Asst. Prof. Ronnarong Jundai**  
Committee



Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
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**6 – Asst. Prof. Dr. Kittijayangkula**  
Committee



**7 – Asst. Prof. Dr. Nattapat Sarobol**  
Committee



**8 – Dr. Sorasich Swangsilp**  
Committee



**9 – Dr. Victor Prasad Karunan**  
Committee



**10 – Dr. Mahesh Pandurang Chougule**  
Committee



**11 – Ajarn Kevin Bryan Cook**  
Committee



**12 – Dr. Yeji Yoo**  
Committee



**13 – Dr. Watchara Pechdin**  
Committee



**14 – Ms. Thongsiri Kamdaeng**  
Committee and Secretary



**15 – Mr. Thanthanin Laohasukpaisarn**  
Committee and Assistant Secretary



## Purpose of the Committee

The Committee for International Affairs aims to support and enhance the internationalization of the Faculty of Social Administration in all its different dimensions, from seeking new partnerships to developing deeper and trusting partnerships which lead to concrete outcomes.

## Committee's Roles and Responsibilities

- 1 - Develop, design policies, set goals, strategic plans and action plans on international relations in accordance with the policies and plans of the Faculty.
- 2 - Promote and support collaborative activities that will create and/or result in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with international agencies and universities.
- 3 - Advise the Faculty on emerging trends and opportunities on internationalization.
- 4 - Coordination with overseas educational institutions including personnel and student exchange programs at leading international universities.
- 5 - Coordinate study trips and negotiate cooperation with foreign countries, such as contacting universities abroad.
- 6 - Coordinate projects and activities in response to opportunities within the ASEAN Community and international cooperation activities/projects.
- 7 - Organize cultural activities allowing foreign students and teachers to participate.
- 8 - Promote the international activities of the Faculty

1 - Develop new or expand existing collaborations with other local and foreign institutions and organisations in the area of student and staff exchanges, internships, research collaborations, professional exchanges, joint activities (seminars, roundtable discussions) and other academic or teaching collaborations (joint or dual degrees, twinning)

2 - Represent the Faculty in setting strategic priorities and policies for the internationalization of the Faculty of Social Administration, especially in relation to academic programs and research.

3 - Advise the Dean and the Executive Committee on the following aspects of university internationalization:

- a. international programs, initiatives, and experiences (both within and outside Thailand),
- b. internationalization of curriculum and research activities,
- c. geographic areas of institutional engagement,
- d. international students and scholars at the Faculty,
- e. research collaborations, exchanges, and partnerships with institutions (both within and outside Thailand) that impact the internationalization of the Faculty of the Social Administration, including partners from industry
- f. general budget priorities for Faculty internationalization efforts.

4 - Collaborate with other Faculty of Social Administration staff to execute the university's international strategy.

5 - Identify and seek international collaboration opportunities that will provide students, faculty, and staff international experiences and professional development

6 - Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of all international and local collaborations.

## Recent Committee Activities

Led by the Dean, Associate Professor Dr Auschala Chalayonnavin and the Assistant Dean for International Affairs, Ajarn Pred Evans, the Committee has met regularly over the last year in order to further enhance the internationalisation of the Faculty of Social Administration.

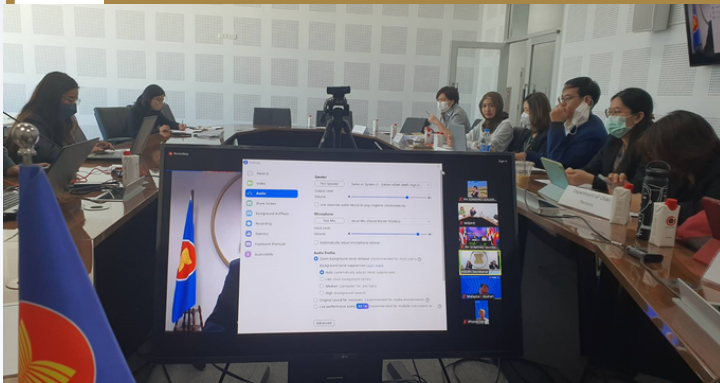
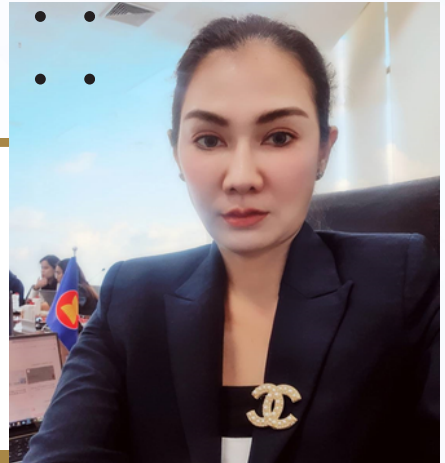
Both formal and informal partnerships have been established with a wide range of partners from the East and Southeast Asia region and well beyond. Collaboration agreements have been signed with reputable universities including the University of York (UK), Hong Kong Polytechnic University, National Taiwan University, National University of Singapore, Sogang University (Republic of Korea) and University of Applied Sciences Kempten (Germany). The Committee has also been involved in productive meetings with the University of Oxford (UK), University of North Carolina Greensboro (US), Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (Bhutan), Cotabato State University (Philippines), Shukutoku University (Japan) and Teikyo University of Sciences (Japan), to name just a few.

Another role of the Committee has involved supporting and establishing a range of domestic partnerships including a range of initiatives with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, local government and municipalities in provinces across Thailand,

prestigious secondary schools and with the Royal Thai Armed Forces. Members have also supported major conferences such as World Social Work Day, and undertaken study visits to the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the UK and EU countries. The Committee has also been successful in securing full support from Asian and Pacific Association for Social Work Education (APASWE) for its international conferences and seminars, and works closely with the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) in promoting social work, social policy and social development across the region.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION

On December 11, 2023, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Administration, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Auschala Chalayonnavin, as a representative of Thailand, reported on social work progress at the ASEAN Social Work Consortium Conference at the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.



From August 1-5, 2023, the Faculty of Social Administration, Lampang Campus, provided a training course at the Prince Palace Hotel in Bangkok for practitioners from Cambodia to improve their skills in protecting and assisting victims of human trafficking. Faculty collaborated with the Division of Anti-Trafficking within the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The goal of the training was to provide more skills and strategies to front-line staff who support victims of trafficking and vulnerable groups at risk of trafficking. The Cambodian officials who participated in the training developed new skills and knowledge and continue to collaborate with Thailand as a network partner.



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION

On July 11, 2023, at the Golden Sea Hotel, Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wannalak Miankerd, Asst. Prof. Dr. Natapat Sarobol, and Asst. Prof. Thanyaporn Chantaravech represented the Faculty of Social Administration at the signing ceremony for the second phase of the "Development of Local Authorities of a Community-based Integrated Elderly Care Model." This collaborative project, including Chulalongkorn University and Tokyo City University, aims to enhance local authorities' capacity for effective elderly care, fostering mutual development between Thai and Japanese communities.



On November 23rd, 2023, Asst. Prof. Dr. Natapat Sarobol and Dr. Thitinan Nakphu shared their expertise in the "SMART & STRONG Project for Mutual Development through Networked Local Authorities." This dynamic session, part of the "Smart Cities for All" theme, was organized by Thailand's Department of Local Administration, depa, and JICA. Held at QSNCC, the event empowered project management teams with valuable insights for enhancing elderly care services in their communities.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION



## A Growing Partnership with the School for Business and Society, University of York, UK

Over the last year, our partnership with the School for Business and Society at the University of York in the UK has developed since the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2022. Visits by the University of York to our faculty and a visit by our Executive Committee to York in September 2023 witnessed significant progress in terms of discussions around joint teaching and learning programmes. We are all looking forward to establishing strong collaborations between academic staff and students in the coming months and years.

As part of the "The Project for Enhancing the Competency of Social Participation for the Youth at the border area between Thailand and Myanmar", funded by KOICA, KMCC is implementing the "International Development Cooperation Course" in collaboration with Pukyong National University.

The course provides university-level classes on international development cooperation, and 50 participants are enrolled with the vision to work with organizations in the Thailand-Myanmar border region after completion. Assistant Professor Karuna Jaisai from Thammasat University Lampang Campus was invited to lecture on "Local Economy" and "Local Development" in the International Development Cooperation advanced course on 17th and 18th November 2023. The activities were beneficial to the 50 participants in developing a vision and plan for their future social development careers.





# KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND RESEARCH



In an enriching initiative, Associate Professor Dr. Auschala Chalayonnavin, Dean of the Faculty of Social Administration at Thammasat University, collaborated with the Mayor of Gemeente Noordwijk for a visit on 24 March 2023. The excursion aimed to explore the commendable achievements of Gemeente Noordwijk in water and tourist management, serving as a model for policy formation. Additionally, the Training and Development Center for Social Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Local Administration, is hosting the 'A Future-Ready City Leader' program from 3 December 2022 to 26 March 2023. This program, attended by 40 chief executives of local administrative institutions, included domestic and international field visits to France, Belgium, and the Netherlands from 19-26 March 2023.

Kevin Cook, a Foreign Lecturer in Thammasat University's Social Policy and Development Programme, attended the 5th Asia Pacific Community Based Inclusive Development Conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from May 14-May 17. He gave a presentation on International Collaboration on Disability Employment and the Promotion of ASEAN Job Coaching. During the conference, Kevin networked with NGO and government agencies from various ASEAN countries and discussed the value of job coaching as a powerful tool for disability employment development.



# KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND RESEARCH



On 30 October 2023, OCEAN Day, more than 50 SPD students joined the UNESCAP conference, the Sixth Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean. The students took this opportunity to connect their knowledge on sustainable development to the global practices on sustainable blue economies in Asia and the Pacific, governance for sustainable and resilient port development, and ocean-based climate action.



## **SPD Student, Thorfan Dechachainimit, Presents at the United Nations.**

Human rights are a significant global concern, and it was an honor to be a representative speaker at the United Nations Conference on Human Rights. I was granted the opportunity to call for human rights protection, especially for children and young people, one of society's vulnerable populations. As a young person in Thailand, I believe that children's rights should be prioritized. I am honored to be able to give a statement directly to the people involved, making my voice heard to promote the child protection movement on a global scale



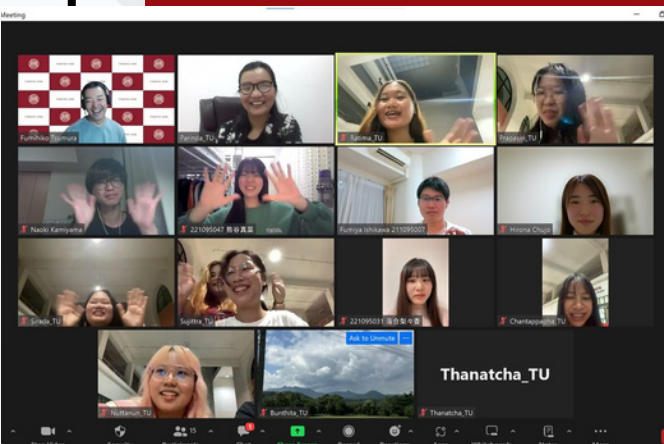
# KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND RESEARCH



The Dean of the Faculty of Social Administration, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Auschala Chalayonnavin served as a representative on innovative research for higher education at Asian University Presidents Forum.

## Fostering Relationships Between Thai and Japanese Students.

The COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) Project was held by Asst. Prof. Dr. Parinda Tasee and Prof. Dr. Fumihiko TSUMURA, Faculty of Foreign Studies, Meijo University, Japan on November 8 and 15, 2023 via Zoom Meeting. The goal of this project is to build a platform that facilitates interaction between Thai and Japanese students. Our aim is to create a space where they can exchange knowledge and ideas on a variety of topics such as society, culture, and academic life. By focusing on shared interests, this initiative will provide an opportunity for both groups to learn from each other, collaborate and grow together.



# KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND RESEARCH

Associate Professor Dr. Wilaiporn Kotbungkair demonstrated outstanding performance during her participation in the Fulbright's Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at Vanderbilt University in the USA (August 2022 – June 2023). She actively engaged in graduate courses, professional development activities, and established connections with prominent social work professional organizations such as the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Additionally, Dr. Wilaiporn established a professional affiliation with the Social Work and Trauma-Informed School division of the Metro Nashville Public School (MNPS), the largest school district in Tennessee, focusing on trauma-informed school practices and school social work. She also developed the impact plan titled "Implementation Analysis of the Standards Practice of Child Protection Officers and Social Workers," reflecting her unwavering dedication to the professional development of social work and highlighting the core values of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program.



In a standout role, Assist. Prof. Kath Khangpiboon, representing the Faculty of Social Administration at Thammasat University, was instrumental in The Third Transgender Rights Conference in Bogotá, Colombia, from September 26–29, 2023. The event fostered collaboration among key organizations, addressing anti-trans backlash through presentations and interactive breakout groups. Reflective activities, organizational presentations, and cultural events enriched the experience, promoting understanding and strategizing for global transgender rights advancement.



Thammasat SPD lecturer Dr. Mahesh Chougule provided a presentation on his review-based research paper "Baan Mankong Project : Transforming Lives through Social Policy Innovation in Bangkok Canal Housing, Thailand". The presentation took place at the "International Conference on Social Work Innovation Theory and Practice in the New Development Stage" at Peking University in Beijing, China.



## EXCHANGE STUDENT EXPERIENCES

### MAXIM MEIER

**Reflection :** Exchange Semester at  
Thammasat University

One of the most rewarding aspects was the opportunity to immerse myself in different courses that complemented my core subjects perfectly. These new academic activities broadened my understanding and allowed me to explore interdisciplinary connections, which enhanced my overall learning experience.

In addition, this semester has helped me to further develop my skills. Working with a global community of students and professors has sharpened my communication skills and enhanced my ability to collaborate effectively in a multicultural environment.

My exchange semester at Thammasat University was a formative time both academically and personally. The invaluable lessons I learned, the friendships I made, and the memories I created will undoubtedly resonate with me for years to come.



My exchange semester at Thammasat University was an incredible journey full of enriching experiences and profound personal growth. I not only gained new perspectives but also broadened my horizons in ways I could never have imagined.

### MUHAMMAD AKMAL NURFAIZ

Exchange student  
from Bina Nusantara University, Indonesia

I decided to take four out of my seven courses in the Social Policy and Development programme. I could not ask for better teachers, friends, and an academic environment. Despite deviating quite drastically from my major (international relations), the SPD major is aligned with my way of thinking and life. Studying here helped me realize what I want to do in the future, namely, to always try to benefit the many through policy interventions.



# STUDENT UPDATES

## ALUMNI EXPERIENCES



### SPD ALUMNI – PIMLAPAT CHAOSAKORN

I am an alumnus of the Social Policy and Development (SPD) program, a cornerstone of my academic and professional journey. The program's commitment to excellence in teaching and research deepened my understanding of social welfare development, encompassing economic, political, social, and environmental aspects. This foundation was crucial as I pursued my MA in 'Conflict Resolution in Divided Societies' at King's College London. Now, as a Policy and Plan Analyst at the National Security Council, I draw on the holistic perspective and critical skills cultivated through SPD, striving to contribute to sustainable development and conflict resolution in Thailand's critical regions.

### SPD ALUMNI – TANYAKORN THIPPAYAPOKIN

Since joining the Anti-Corruption Organization of Thailand (ACT) in February 2022 as a Project Officer for the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative (CoST), I have been able to leverage my solid educational foundation from SPD to achieve substantial progress. My journey has not only been marked by accomplishments within CoST but also by the fusion of my experiences with SPD where I cultivated crucial perspectives that continue to shape my approach to this role. I have successfully supervised a wide range of activities and fostering seamless smooth collaboration between national and international stakeholders from different sectors. Notably, CoST Thailand's achievements shine brightly,

with budget savings exceeding \$700,000 USD and a remarkable data disclosure rate of over 80%. Additionally, at the 2023 Asia-Pacific Anti-Corruption Collective Action Forum in Manila, the Philippines, I had the privilege of representing ACT and CoST Thailand as a panelist. During the forum, I shed light on the pivotal role of civil society in propelling positive change and showcased the CoST model, which greatly enhances transparency and accountability in the infrastructure sector





### SPD ALUMNI – PEEMASWIN NILMALA

My name is Peemaswin Nilmalala and I'm a graduate from the class of 2020. I was very interested in societal issues present in Thailand and the region and SPD was a very eye-opening introduction into both the problems and some of the ongoing solutions of that. Currently, I am the Executive Assistant to the Regional Director of Amnesty International ESEAPRO (East and Southeast Asia & Pacific regional office). The SPD programme was monumental in providing the necessary context to understanding the work under my role.



CONSULTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COUNTERING  
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2023: REFERRAL SYSTEMS FOR GENDER-  
BASED VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN ASEAN

26-28 JUNE 2023  
HOTEL SHERATON MUSTIKA YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA



### LAMPANG CAMPUS'S ALUMNI

#### - RATCHAPON MANEELEK

Director of Protection Group,  
Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons – DATIP,  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

I am a social worker who works with human trafficking survivors. It's important to note that these survivors are not just individuals from within the country but also include those from other countries who have entered Thailand. Under Thai law, we do not discriminate based on nationality, and everyone receives equal treatment. I have been working closely with authorities from the survivors' home countries, and one of the key approaches we use is a social work process in providing care to the survivors.

One of the things we do is to implement a social work process in caring for the survivors, and we work collaboratively to track progress and develop mechanisms to prevent them from becoming victims again. Our goal is to empower them to be self-reliant in the long run and break the cycle of victimization within the framework of social work.



THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION

# Faculty Newsletter Committee

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Assistant Secretary



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