

Connect

**GSB
NEWSLETTER**

YEAR 6

ISSUE 16

APRIL 2018

Assumption University's
Convergence in Thailand
Industry 4.0

Horizons of Diversity

An Interview with Hungarian
Ambassador on Living
Diversity

Extraordinary Ukraine

The New Age of Multicul-
turalism in Germany

The refugee Crisis:
Blessing or Curse?

Personal Reflection of
Dealing with Diversity in
Thailand



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*There are not more than five musical notes yet
the combinations of these five
give rise to more melodies than can ever be heard*

*There are not more than five
primary colors yet in combination
they produce more hues than can ever been seen*

*There are not more than five
cardinal tastes yet combinations of
them yield more flavors
than can ever be tasted*

*Sun Tzu
The Art of War*

70 Years of the Greatest Devoted King

I often heard of kings in fairy tales wearing large
crowns, adorned with precious jewels.
And I often wondered if those were ever true, the
king I knew wore but a small cap.

I often heard that kings are humbly greeted by
servants, all his wishes granted as he pleased.
But under the sun, and in its searing heat, the king
I knew spared no sweat for all Thais.

I heard that fairy tale kings live in castles high,
with tall steeples piercing through the sky.
But on barren ground so dry, knelt down this king
of mine. His righteous throne was rooted to the land.

I heard that kings are sent down from heaven, I knew
right then, I knew this much is true.
A king who gave us his all, blessed were you and me.
Ours was a saintly king who graced this land.

He led us to sufficiency, to be our better selves.
The path he'd firmly held all these seventy years.

There's a calling from above, that brings us to tears.
He must now rest in heaven.

May our voices reach him through the sky. He's in
our hearts, as certain as the tide.
Let's walk his noble path, his life shall be our guide.

There are many beautiful languages in the world.
But I can't find one that describe you very well.
I sing this song for you.

I believe,
The furthest distance in the world is heaven and
earth.
But the nearest distance is our heart.
Hope your soul may now rest in peace.

Ms. Wenqin Chen
MBA Professional Track Student



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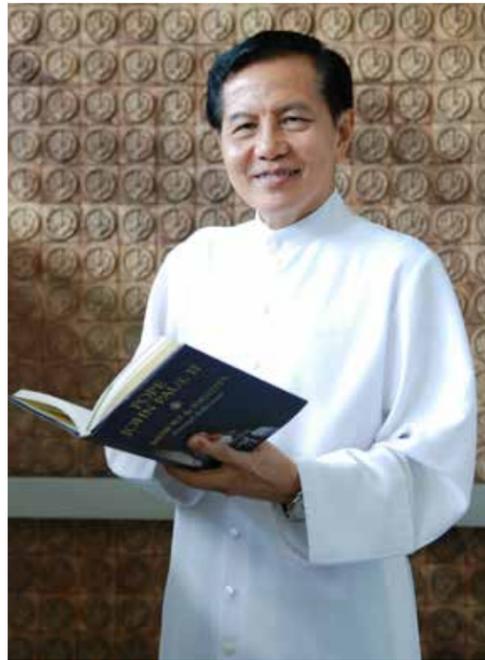
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Living Diversity is indeed a fitting slogan for this issue of CONNECT. Complementing the popular belief that we are products of our times, we need to be aware that each day, we live and interact in a continuum of diversity. For instance, each daybreak is entirely new, every sunrise and sunset unique. Each day we awake to new realities. The matrices of human interactions in their varieties, challenges, problems and solutions are all diversities we encounter. The question remains how do we deal with diversities, differences and challenges with our personal, academic, cultural and professional capabilities?

I wish readers the rich experience of encountering testimonials of diversity as reflected in this issue of the CONNECT NEWSLETTER. May they grow in experience and wisdom in reading and learning from the sharing contained in this newsletter.

Rev. Bro. Bancha Saenghiran
f.s.g., Ph.D.
RECTOR MAGNIFICUS



It is cliché that we live in times of great change. The advent of robotics, genetic engineering and new social trends bespeaks diversity in unprecedented dimensions which classrooms can only address from theories and paradigms which themselves change. The challenge of learners today is how to make their learning and searches for new knowledge relevant and up-to-date and therefore robust learning habits of life-long endeavors towards self-education hold rich prospects through the mazes of diversity. Learning how to manage diversity and responding to diversity itself may be the best strategy. It is hoped that the current edition of CONNECT newsletter will be a launching pad to the awareness of diversity and the rich lessons one can derive from living diversity.

Kitti Phothikitti, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate School of Business

ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY'S CONVERGENCE WITH THAILAND INDUSTRY 4.0

— MR. GLEN CHATELIER
DIRECTOR
THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Since its inception in 1969, as a tertiary level institution, Assumption University through its services in business education, interdisciplinary approaches to studies and its training for students has promoted Thailand's and the regions industrial growth. The Thailand Industry 4.0 platform is yet another aspiration for Assumption University to participate in its programs of business education, scientific research and entrepreneurship to point his graduates in the direction of innovation, cybernetic integration and regional cooperation. The academic year 2016/2017 under review has proven to be yet another productive year in upscaling the Assumption University services and evidences of student effectiveness in the areas of entrepreneurship research and innovation.

The Martin de Tours School of Management showcased its business majors in the "Loreal Brandstorm 2017" by topping the Thai National competition and thereafter participating in the International Competition in Paris in July of 2017. The Undergraduate business majors were challenged to think entrepreneurially, to be creative and to present their case for Loreal within 3 minutes. They came out the best with the first prize. Evident in their performance was the three Assumption University unique identities of English usage, entrepreneurial spirit and ethical mindset. This indicates that the academic training and the skills facilitation for our students will indeed propel them towards jobs in the marketplace whereby they create value for the employers and uphold the industrial enterprise.

The second platform for Assumption University's convergence with Thailand Industry 4.0 is in scientific research evident in recent initiatives has been innovation breakthroughs

by the faculty of Biotechnology. To list a few, the Kang Liang Cube germinated rice with Chlorophyll Drink and fruit and vegetable wash from herbal extracts have all resulted from research endeavors by faculty and students and through collaborations with technology transfer centers. The core technology involves collaboration with industries, using and synthesizing existing research to be able to be used by industries and industries themselves input funds, materials and equipment towards research projects. The end result is the transfer of knowledge, techniques and technologies from the laboratories to the country.

The third case in point is a recent innovation in the Assumption University faculty of Science and Technology. The initiative consists of participatory learning by students and a shift in the teaching methodology of the lecturers. The classroom becomes a working laboratory for student research investigation, discussion and innovative thinking all spurred

on by the professors' problem based teaching methodology. Although in its initial phases of implementation in classrooms, the active or participatory learning will provide students the opportunities for learning by doing, internalizing expertise and innovating solutions which can be applied actively to the outside spaces of science and technology.

The entrenched learning and academic service environment is conducive to thought leadership, diversity training and even while fostering the Thailand Industry 4.0 vision, to enhance the opportunities of growth within the ASEAN community. While educating intelligences and active minds to change Thailand and the world, Assumption University is the abode of new learning and new inspiration for young learners.



ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY REPRESENTED AT THE PLENARY OF THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE IN THE VATICAN

As Consultor for the Pontifical Council for Culture, Mr. Glen Chatelier participated in the 2017 Plenary Assembly at the Jesuit Curia, The Vatican, November 15-18, 2017. The topic: The Future of Humanity, New Challenges to Anthropology was discussed elaborately among the Plenary Speakers, the members and consultors on subtopics such as Philosophy, Genetics, Cybernetics and Robotics. Essentially whilst Philosophers and Theologians view genetics, cybernetics and robotics warily, science as a philosophy takes an open view on the workings of these elements to confront realities and more, to advance human conditions and thinking, beyond perceived limitations. Faith, reason and science can co-exist in efforts which seek to alleviate human suffering in objective ways. Is there room for debate? Yes. However, the role of ethics is central to the moderation of human scholarship and scientific enterprise. The Plenary closing was addressed by His Holiness Pope Francis at the St. Clement Hall, The Vatican Palace on November 18, 2017. At the ensuing Audience generously granted by His Holiness the Pope, Mr. Chatelier presented Pope Francis with his book, Saduee Maharacha: Poetry in Praise of the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great.



HORIZONS OF DIVERSITY

ORGANIZED BY
THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

What better way is there to celebrate the year end, Christmas, the New Year and the bringing together Assumption University's faculty, staff, students and university partners than to host Horizons of Diversity "The Event" of the Stars in a Cowboy theme! That's exactly what happened on December 7, 2017 when the Office of Graduate Studies and the Graduate School of Business threw a party at the Choop Plaza, Hua mak campus. The party was "chique" for the cowboy outfits, caps, guns and all, to that extent that the Emcee of the evening declared himself The "Santa Cowboy" of the show!!! There was good food, lots of friendship and laughter, song and dance, lucky draw quizzes and the main "hit" of the evening was the competition of dressing up Santa in newspaper outfits in keeping with the rugged theme of the "cowboy/ cowgirl" Christmas entré. The theme of Horizon's Diversity could have never been served better. The Santa Claus "jingle bell" songs and Christmas theme songs in Chinese, German, Vietnamese and Thai was topped by a karaoke version of "We wish you a merry Christmas" sung by the diverse audience and participants of the evening. A Great Celebration indeed.





Figure 1
A view of Wat Saket
showing the spiral pathway
to the top chedi

As a contribution to promoting Thai Art and Culture The MMOD class consisting of six students and comprising one Thai, one Vietnamese and four Myanmar students paid a visit to Wat Saket or Phu Khao Thong (The Golden Mountain) located just off the northern end of Rajdamnoen Avenue on the afternoon of Sunday 3rd September.

Wat Saket Ratcha Wora Maha Wihan (Thai: วัดสระเกศราชวรมหาวิหาร, usually shortened to Wat Saket) is a Buddhist temple (wat) in Pom Prap Sattru Phai district, Bangkok, Thailand.

The temple dates from the Ayutthaya era, (1350-1776) when it was known as Wat Sakae. When Bangkok became the capital, King Rama I (1737-1809) renovated the temple and gave it its present name.

Phu Khao Thong (Golden mountain, ภูเขาทอง) is a steep artificial hill inside the Wat Saket compound.

Rama I's grandson, King Rama III (1787-1851), decided to build a chedi or stupa of huge dimensions inside Wat Saket, but the chedi collapsed during construction because the soft soil of Bangkok could not support the weight. Over the next few decades, the abandoned mud-and-brick structure acquired the shape of a natural hill and was overgrown with weeds. The locals called it the "phu khao" (ภูเขา), as if it were a natural feature. (Anonymous, 2009).

During the reign of King Rama IV, (1851-1868) construction began of a small chedi on the hill. It was completed early in the reign of his son, King Rama V (1853-1910). A relic of the Buddha was brought from Sri Lanka and placed in the chedi (McDaniel, 2011)

The surrounding concrete walls were added in the 1940s to stop the hill from eroding. The modern Wat Saket was built in the early 20th century of Carrara marble (Norwich, 2001, p 266).

An annual festival is held at Wat Saket every November, featuring a candlelight procession up Phu Khao Thong to the chedi. Phu Khao Thong is now a popular Bangkok tourist attraction and has become one of the symbols of the city.

Our group first visited the bot which houses the principal Buddha image. On that occasion, there were many devotees paying respect to the Buddha whilst others were consulting with the monks. Our group paid our respect to the Buddha and donated funds to the upkeep and educational activities of the wat.

wishes. Others of our group beat the large drum and made wishes. We continued the ascent all the while taking in the panoramic view over the adjacent areas of Rajdamnoen avenue and Larn Luang Roads.



Figure 3 Panoramic view from the Golden Mount

We proceeded to the small shrine near the top but decided not to take the steep internal staircase to the top platform and chedi located there.



Figure 2 Bot of Wat Saket Bangkok.

After taking group photos in front of the bot we then walked a short distance to the entry ticket counter and again took photographs of the beautiful kuti or residences of the monks. We then took photographs of the three wise monkeys (hear no evil, speak no evil see no evil) and began the walk up the pathway to the Golden Mountain. After ascending through a shady grotto, we paused at the Coffee shop to take a variety of welcome cold refreshments and to read the long and glorious history of the Golden Mount inscribed there. After a 10-15-minute break we then proceeded on up the mountain stopping briefly to ring the many bells each with its own distinctive chime and in the process to make

Time was by now running short for our students from Myanmar to return to Suvarnabhumi airport for their evening return flight home. So, we descended the Golden Mount located our van and returned to ABAC Hua Mark campus and then onto the airport. It is hoped that this visit will encourage our students to return to the area to visit the recently redecorated Loha Prasad, The King Prajadhipok and Queen Rambhi Bharni Museum and Nitas Rattanakosin exhibition all of which are within sort walking distance of each other.

References:
Anonymous (2009) Old photo (around 1900) of dilapidated prang from the collection of Cornell University Library (last access 2009-09-24)

McDaniel, Justin Thomas (2011). The Lovelorn Ghost and the Magical Monk: Practicing Buddhism in Modern Thailand. ISBN 9780231527545.

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MMOD CLASS VISIT TO WAT SAKET OR PHU KHAO THONG THE GOLDEN MOUNTAIN

3rd SEPTEMBER 2017

Freshmen Seminar 1/2017

at Dusit Thani Hotel, Pattaya

MS. ANNE THOMAS
EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM IAE TOULOUSE, FRANCE



It was a unique opportunity to organize an event for a large number of students. The preparation started at the beginning of September and continued until this weekend. The aim was to glorify our theme and make sure that all of the students would have fun and would enjoy participating to the games. Our team of team leaders was a true "Diverse" team, because all of us were from 6 different nationalities. We tried to provide for each student a unique experience through close interaction between them. The games were a good way for students to work together effectively and to learn to work as a team between unknown people.



"Living Diversity"



This freshman seminar was a special one because it was right after the one year Passing of His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. All of us tried to respect and honour his memory. At night, the performances were solemn and were a good way to remember and share what the King inspired to each of us.



Organizing the seminar was a good experience, all of us worked hard to provide a great event, an event where people can leave with new friends, good memories and a nice experience. In order to provide a great experience, we had to plan everything, consider students and teachers. All of us were there to encourage students to exchange together, to encourage them to work as a team. None of this would have been possible without the help of the staff of ABAC whom helped us to organize the freshman seminar.

This fourteenth of October, more than 130 students gathered to spend a weekend on the theme "Living Diversity". Indeed, students from different countries were participating to the Freshman Seminar, at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Pattaya. All the students from different campus had the chance to exchange views together, to get to know each other. The afternoon was a good opportunity to network, small teams of 20 people were playing together to win the battle between the teams. I had the chance to be one of the team leader of Orange team and to help organizing the Freshman Seminar.



To end my testimony, I want to thank everyone who participated to this weekend, students, teachers and the other team leaders.



August



Armenia: What is in it for Thai Businesses

H.E. MR. ARTO ARTINIAN
CONSULATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

H.E. Mr. Arto Artinian, the founder of the Armenian - Thai Chamber of Commerce and the President and CEO of high - end jewelry concern Artinian / owner of Maison Artinian at the Mandarin Oriental Bangkok, has been living in Thailand for 21 years, and has tenured the position of the honorary consul of Armenia since 2011. He is also a member of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce of Thailand and the Thai Gems and Jewelry Traders Association, and the treasurer of Chaîne des Rotisseurs Thailand. Armenia is very small country, located between Europe and Asia. The country celebrates the 26th Anniversary of Armenia, being rich history and culture. There are many famous Armenians. Andre Agassi, the retired professional tennis player and the former world number one of sport's most dominant tennis player, is one of among Armenian descent.

The economic structure of Armenia is typically based on services, followed by agriculture, industry, trade, information technology, and science. Having modest National Gross Domestic Products and Foreign Direct Investments, the population has high literacy rate with the ICT skills. The strategic development factors are education systems, trade and investments, and services. The government has

implemented tax incentives to boost the country's investment. Currently, the government would like to promote the country to be education, science, and research & development hubs. The technology market, cybersecurity and security of big data are very important for eCommunication, eGovernment, eFinance, and eCommerce. Various opportunities and challenges are for IT centered government, because they are related to construction, infrastructure system, and national security.

The country's strategic development is to increase the number of university students in IT. Numerous new products and services are specialized ICT, technology education, ecosystem, and renewable and sustainable wind / solar energy.

The country promotes and supports ecotourism, eVillages, sports, recreation, relaxation, and adventure to visit farmers and see the way of nature lives. The board game of chess championship is also being promoted to develop human intellectual.

Finally, the Armenian Chamber of Commerce works closely with and supports all Thailand based Armenian - Thai Chamber member businesses to promote their products and services to diverse markets within Thailand, and International markets.

September



The Belt and Road Initiative: Opportunities and Challenges

MR. XIAOLONG FENG, AND MR. YING XU
PH.D. ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT CANDIDATES

These guest speakers introduced our MBA students to 'The Belt and Road Initiative,' which is more comprehensive and frequently used expression around the world, rather than word - by - word translation of 'One Belt One Road.'

In September 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Kazakhstan, and delivered an important speech at Nazarbayev University titled "Promoting Friendship between Our People and Working Together to Build a Brighter Future." The initiative to jointly build the Belt and Road is designed to uphold the global free trade regime, and the open world economy in the spirit of open regional cooperation. Economic significance of the Belt and Road Countries is about 62 % the total world share. The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road is designed to go from China's coast to Europe through the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean in one route.

The Belt and Road Initiative is in line with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. It upholds the five principles of peaceful coexistence for (1.) mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, (2.) mutual nonaggression, (3.) mutual noninterference in each other's internal affairs, (4.) equality and mutual benefit, and (5.) peaceful coexistence.

Peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, and mutual benefits are the Silk Road Spirit, becoming guidelines to solve complex regional and international issues. Cooperation priorities include policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people - to - people bonds. Bilateral cooperation strengthens through multilevel and multichannel communication and consultation. Opportunities for global development are to establish an open cooperation platform, demonstrating China's sense of responsibility. As the sponsor, China volunteered to provide the capital source of the Silk Road Fund, while announcing that it does not seek dominance in the strategy. The Belt and Road Initiative will bring the benefits of the Chinese model, and Chinese benefits across the world. The high - speed trains serve as a good example. Also, advocating the thinking of a community of common destiny, the Belt and Road Initiative will better serve the integration of the global economy.

Challenges are in terms of political risks, economic risks, legal risks, and culture risks. Each country would like to implement the Belt and Road, but infrastructure projects are required

huge capital investment and may be very costly to implement in some countries. All countries along the Belt and Road have their own traditional and advantageous industries. Some Belt and Road investment programs may impact the balance of industrial structure of certain countries. Once the structure is broken, it will be hard for locals to benefit from economic development, making them resist the programs. To protect the national economy, trading partners in the Belt and Road Initiative will usually adopt strict laws to implement trade protection policies.

Overall, these guest speakers just would like to provide our MBA students some tentative ideas on finding opportunities from the Belt and Road Initiative. The Belt and Road Initiative is the grand strategy to bring great opportunities to all countries along the routes, shall big challenges and risks arise.

October



The Royal Cremation: Great Tributes to the Great King

DR. APICHART INTRAVISIT
ABAC GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS LECTURER

Our MBA lecturer combined his seasoned experience in Thai arts, history and culture over 30 years in Thailand and abroad to deliver his humble tributes to a fond farewell to the late His Majesty the King.

He introduced our audiences to the state funeral in other countries, followed by cremation in Thailand. During royal cremation from 26th to 29th October, 2017, the audiences would be kindly requested to strictly observe of Thai tradition, arts, craftsmanship, architecture, and landscape. Beliefs and practices of the Royal House of Chakri since 1782, the dedicated construction of Royal Urns, the state, rites and ceremonies were nicely explained.

King Bhumibol's royal crematorium started with creating the pinnacle of Thai arts in tribute to the King. To honor the King of Kings, the crematorium is the tallest since King Chulalongkorn's funeral in 1911, standing 50-meter height and 70-meter width. The design was drafted within 24 hours after the King's death, imitated Phra Sumeru Mountain with the Buddhist center of the universe and highest heaven on earth where the spirit of King Bhumibol rests. The artists have exactly nine months to bring the design to life that would normally take three years to

complete a project of this majestic scale. There are 600 individual sculptures. To adorn every layer of the crematorium from angels to gods, Phra Narai was sculpted to resemble the King. Each direction of the crematorium is protected by sacred beings. Elephants protect the north. Tigers guard the east. Horses safeguard the west. And, cows care for the south. At the center of the crematorium is the royal urn and coffin. They are made from fragrant sandal wood, reserved only for royal ceremonies and collected from Kui Buri National Park. The garuda is believed to transport spirit of King Bhumibol to heaven. The master artisans are from the Office of Traditional Arts, which has been preserving traditional arts for 235 years, and they pour their hearts into this opportunity for a lifetime. The completion of Royal Crematorium is a stunning golden masterpiece, surrounded by equally grand royal pavilions. The crematorium is adorned with meticulous artwork. Each delicacy must be patiently carved. Decorations are assembled layer by layer.

The front garden represents the King's many projects from his Chaipattana Water aerator to flood prevention innovations. The rice farm is shaped in the Thai numeral for nine to signify the King's contribution to agriculture. The Royal vehicles are the Chariot of Victory and the Chariot for Supreme Patriarch.

The Royal Court's Ceremony & Protocol of event management and administration must harmonize human resources, suppliers, military, health care & security, construction, and broadcast/publicity/post production. Human Resource Management recruits personnel, experts, and volunteers with welfare and relationship management. Time managements are concerned with long - term, short - term, and ad hoc. Public Health and Security is concerned with welfare, officials, and workshop hygiene. The interior security of on - going works and actual days are for royalties, dignitaries, and general public. Communications are three stages of pre - event of publicity/media management, on - event of broadcast/press management/production, and post - event of news release/copyright/sales of media materials.

The lessons learned from the honorable royal cremation is that the Royal Cremation connects all Thais to have mutual respect, remembrance, gratitude, good deeds results, welfare consideration, and the nation reverence and preservation.

November



The Early Marketing Strategy of Portuguese Jesuits in Goa India.

FATHER CHARLES BORGES

On Thursday 9th November 2017, we were treated to a very interesting and informative presentation by Father Charles Borges of Loyola University Maryland USA.

Dr. Charles visits Assumption University annually, together with his students who, as part of their classes here, also visit numerous travel destinations in Thailand.

On this occasion, we were all treated to an historical presentation of the history of The Portuguese in Goa India. Dr. Charles presented a very colorful and interesting historical power-point of India and its four principal religions namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Muslim. This was followed by a discussion of how the Portuguese came to Goa and settled there to conduct their Jesuit missionary activities.

Father Charles Borges identified key, historical, Indian and Portuguese people and events were identified. We were then informed that explorer Vasco De Gama of Portugal visited Calicut in India, in 1499. Shortly thereafter Jesuit missionaries visited India but preferred Goa to Calicut, as that local population was less extreme in their tolerance of other religions.

After receiving initial seed funding for their mission, funding dwindled, due to economic difficulties back in Portugal, so the Jesuit pioneers were left to fend for themselves.

Being resourceful souls, the Jesuits scraped together sufficient funds to purchase seeds to plant rice and coconut palms. They sold the produce locally and used the resulting profit to purchase the farmland. This strategy was employed repeatedly, and the scope of the exported agricultural produce was enlarged to include export back to Portugal and elsewhere. The Jesuits and their charitable activities in Goa thus became self-sustaining.

As profit is discouraged under Catholic policies, the Jesuits business strategy involved reinvesting profits into the land-bank and in expanding export of agricultural products in order to establish schools, hospitals and other charitable missionary activities.

Our venue for this presentation was A52 which was fully packed and come question time, Father Charles successfully fielded numerous questions from the audience.

This writer, found Father Charles Borges presentation to be most informative in that it provided additional information of how early Portuguese missionaries came to Thailand (probably from Goa in India rather than directly from Portugal) and established missionary activities here. Several of those early Portuguese churches and associated schools, flourished in Ayudhaya and later in Bangkok and Thonburi. Those in Ayudhaya were destroyed when the city was sacked and burnt however those in Bangkok and Thonburi remain and can be visited today and nearby grave stones identify those early Jesuit pioneers of early Jesuit pioneers and identify their contribution to the early history of Siam.

The presentation was concluded with a gift to Father Charles, which was followed by the taking of group photographs.

It is hoped that next year Father Charles Borges will again present to us other historical details of the Jesuit order, perhaps in terms of early Siam.

Comment several slides to be added here from Father Charles Borges power point.

John Barnes



December

The Philanthropy of a Japanese Diplomat During WWII Mr. Chihiro Sugihara

THE GRANDSON OF MR. CHIUNE SUGIHARA

The ABAC GSB MBA guest speaker discussed about his grandfather, Mr. Chiune Sugihara, doing his philanthropy. He also studied his grandfather's undertaking good causes to save the refugees' lives.

At that time, his grandfather was tenured in the position of Japanese diplomat during WWII, and was responsible for saving lives of thousands of European Jews by providing them with the necessary papers in order to migrate to Japan. About 200 people surrounded outside the Japanese consulate trying to cross over the fence, because they would like to apply for transit visa. Unfortunately, the Japanese government had very strict rules, concerning its immigration policy that transit visas would be given to those who had proceeded suitable immigration procedures and had sufficient funds to stay in Japan. However, many applicants were unable to meet that criteria.

His grandfather requested for instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for those who were unable to meet the requirement, but he was not authorized to compromise his position in order to issue transit visa to Japan. If he disobeyed instructions from Japanese government, he would face disciplinary.

In July 1940, his grandfather agreed to issue the transit visas to those unqualified refugees, and some did not have their passport. Later, he lost his profession, because he disobeyed the government order.

Afterwards, he worked in an export company in Moscow, Russia. His philanthropy went largely unnoticed in Japan during his lifetime. In 1969, he was found that he had helped to save those people's lives before his pass away on July 31, 1986, at age of 86 years old. His philanthropy was acknowledged by the government of Israel, and he was granted the title of the Righteous among the Nations, reserved for individuals who helped Jews during the Holocaust.



POETRY BOOK LAUNCH AT THE DUSIT THANI HOTEL

On November 8, 2017 Mr. Arsa Sarasin, President of the Board of Directors and Mr. Francis Vanbellen, Managing Director of Padaeng Industry hosted the launch of the book of poetry, Sadudee Maharacha: In Praise of His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, by Mr. Glen Chatelier, Assumption University's Director of the Office of International Affairs. The book launch hosted by Padaeng Industry took place at The Library, the Dusit Thani Hotel, and was attended by friends and well wishers of Assumption University. Speaking about his book, Mr. Glen Chatelier revealed the impetus of his

inspiration: the life of greatness by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, the exotic panorama of Thai culture, and the nurturing of the poet's talents by eminent Thais coupled with collaborative creations by talented pianists at Assumption University. The poems themselves cover a time period of twenty one years, are adulatory and therefore could also be viewed as historic lyrical representations of the Late King's birthday anniversaries and the anniversaries of his Royal accomplishments. The poems written in sonnet and lyrical forms, in substance cover deep philosophical and moral aspects of the King's

life, such as Tossapit Rajatham or the King's Ten Moral Codes of governance, Sufficiency Economy, a Buddhist philosophy of economic moderation in development, and the King's great literary translation of The Mahajanaka, a sermon on perseverance and sufficiency of mindset, inspired by a sermon-interpretation of a renowned Buddhist monk. The book launch culminated with the poet autographing copies of his book for the appreciative audience who each individually love and cherish the life and work of the Great King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR ON LIVING DIVERSITY



H.E. Péter Jakab
THE EMBASSY OF HUNGARY

As part of a featured exclusive interview on the theme of “Living Diversity” interview our first question is, as from perspective of the ambassador what is your understanding of living diversity?

Diversity is very broad concept when we talk about this we think about many different aspects. First I would like to mention a very important aspect which is biological. It is important because we are living in the United Nation decades of bio-diversity. Living and working here in Thailand I also find it really important. There is a huge impact on nature and environment like tourism this is very popular destination. There is huge impact on the natural environment. For me personally it is very important, of course there are many other aspects cultural, religious, ethnic diversity, and by looking at a philosophical point of view it is very important to mention personally I feel diversity its entertaining and its delightful. There is a Latin proverb: diversity is delightful. Variety is the spice of life.

Does Diversity imply convergence or divergence from any given concept of culture?

There are cultural universals which are the same in human culture but there are also different social behaviors and norms. My experiences have involved many countries the world over. We know people are same wherever they go. From my experience basic needs, happiness, sadness, behavioral patterns and the way people think, those cultural universals are same everywhere. There is the diversity variability of social norms, cultural patterns and that can be challenging when you live abroad and you need to adjust to local social behaviors and norms. I personally find it fascinating and great to acquire knowledge. To find your place in society you must not overestimate cultural diversity. I have been in Thailand for 3 years now as ambassador but all together 7 years I wish I could stay longer. It is a highly popular place. I have been studying Thai language for 7 years. On the one hand it's a courtesy, on the other hand it's essential to be able to work in a different society because each and every class will get you closer to understanding of mindsets, the way of thinking. It's extremely difficult and it's pretty different in thinking and perceptions of the world so you learn that when you try to study the language and it's a great asset for you, when you work in a different environment but you must not underestimate the people of such a different cultural backgrounds

Kindly illustrate how diversity plays a role in your Embassy mission.

I have already talking about in terms of Thai language and culture but of course talking about any foreign country where you work you should have the same approach but it would be easier in your own culture, for example in Europe than overseas. Specifically speaking about embassy mission well it's great job it's very interesting to deal with many different areas like politics, economics as the main focus. In Thailand it is trade and investment. In terms of our job as we are representing foreign affairs trade this is a special focus in international trade, investment and of course culture and sports and education and many different things. Therefore, the needs of different people everyday represent different areas. This is a very good reward to learn something new everyday. I learned a lot, it's life learning so we really need to apply those cultural tools communication, networking, building friendship that is actually our job here to connect nations economically and culturally. Obviously as a diplomat you must be open to new culture and culture diversity you need to be able to communicate with this people in effective ways. Of course it's very different you should know how to approach different groups of people. When we have meetings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we use completely different language and approach with our colleagues and experts. You have to keep in mind that diversity is within culture. Where you have diverse groups you always have to assess how to approach your partners

Is there room for diversity to live or grow in the current context of global affairs?

This is the most general question I think and probably the most important. This is global question so I think diversity is absolutely necessary. For example, in agriculture, mass production, consumerism, these trends are leading to dangerous patterns. I think too much diversity is not effective with too much individualism, the universal world is very dangerous within society, nature etc. The best is to have the middle way to balance diversity. The trends are opposite but there are positive trends too especially in a liberal society where more individual personal freedom is given to all of us. It is very good if it is not going to extremes like I said but that is a positive trend it is very good. We see these days more and more freedoms in which society gives more space to us to express ourselves and understand ourselves. It is very important also when we talk about how to provide the same opportunity to each and every group such as religion, gender, sexual

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orientations, and ethnicities. The trend is positive. But in terms of agriculture and economy being opposite and not going in the right direction. That's where we get back to the first point saving our planet basically. It should be sustainable development. In traditional ways you need to grow to sustain your population which is also growing and if resources are limited how can we speak about sustainable development. If we are consuming this level as we are doing now that is not sustainable. We have to reduce growth or find alternative ways. We read about hard conflicts everyday in news but it is much less than before. On the global level it is reduced. Of course there is poverty and there are alternative ways to alleviate it. But we cannot compare efforts to the previous aggregate successes. On the other hand, what we see huge challenges, climate change and others as results of the industrial revolution. We cannot predict the future. Science may find a solution to solve all problems. Now life is changing so fast, especially after the scientific revolution.

Extraordinary Ukraine

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Ukraine is one of the most extraordinary countries in the world. In this article we want to introduce you to some of the most interesting facts about our country.

1. Many do not know that Ukraine is the largest country in Europe, and also the center of Europe is on the territory of Ukraine in the picturesque Carpathians in the small town of Rakhiv.
2. Ukraine is located in the east of Europe surrounded by forests, mountains, seas and plains; all this makes Ukraine beautiful and attractive. We do have all four seasons starting from very cold and snowy winter, beautiful and green spring, really hot summer and beautiful gold autumn.

3. Ukraine got beautiful Carpathians mountains, where you can skie in the winter, and also it has a beautiful beaches on the coast of the Black Sea, where you can have extremely good vacation during summertime.

4. Ukrainians are also proud of their own language, and in fact it's the most melodic language after Italian due to the results of language-competition in 1934. To add, everybody in Ukraine is fluent in Russian language, even though they are completely different.

5. Ukraine also has the largest desert in Europe. It is called Oleshkovskiye sands, they consist of infinite bark hocks with a height of about 5 m with non-greyish vegetation. There

are even sandy storms there. In the desert, at a depth of 300-400 m there is a fresh underground lake with delicious water.

6. The Ukrainian city of Lviv is sometimes claimed to have the most cafes in the world per capita. Also it is one of the most beautiful city for sightseeing.
7. Another Ukrainian claim to history is Chernobyl, the site of the world's worst nuclear power plant disaster. Chernobil zone has a number of abandoned towns, most notably Pripyat, that draw interest from all over the world. Tours of the area, including the power plant, are available, at the risk of the traveller. Radiation levels remain dangerously high

8. Unlike many cultures around the world, Ukrainians wear wedding rings on the right hand not the left.

9. Ukraine has the metro station Arsenalna, which is the world's deepest at 105.5 metres below ground.

The final fact is that Ukrainians are extremely hospitable people, especially to foreigners. So if you ever want to experience some unique eastern-european culture and get to know more about really old and intersting traditions- you are more than welcome to come to visit our country, and believe us, YOU WILL LOVE IT!





The New Age of Multiculturalism in Germany

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Thirty years ago, many people believed that multiculturalism could solve the social problems within Europe. Nowadays, in a huge number of cases this view changed to the opinion that multiculturalism might be the cause of those concerns, leading to fragmented societies, estranged minorities and bristled natives.

Before going on with the different viewpoints in this ample debate, we should first take a step back and see what the term multiculturalism actually means. 'Multicultural' does not only describe the social fabric, but also the ground rules for contact. Taking into consideration the number of immigrants with various ethnic backgrounds living in Germany nowadays, it becomes clear that this term is more up-to-date than ever.

The roots of multiculturalism in Germany can be traced back to the time after WWII, when the federal republic started to recruit guest-workers, mainly being from Turkey. Within the following years, the German state did encourage those immigrants to maintain their culture, language and way of life, instead of trying to generate a common culture with Germans. The result of those politics was the formation of two coexisting cultures, who's discrepancy is today more apparent than ever.

In the past years, more immigrants have been entering Germany from countries such as Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal,

mainly being caused by the economic crisis in Europe. With the European Refugee Crisis emerging in 2015, multiculturalism became an even bigger issue within the society.

At the moment, Germany's society is somehow fragmented, preventing multiculturalism and fostering the coexistence of different cultures. However, there are still examples which depict that, despite all those negative comments on multiculturalism in Germany, it is for sure possible to establish multiculturalism in society and enable a harmonic living together. A recent example from Germany is Cologne, a city with diverse people from different backgrounds, living together and sharing their cultures. Within view hours, one can make a 'journey' from Cuba, over Turkey, Africa to India just by walking around. Sure there are inhabitants that are sealing themselves off from people with different backgrounds, but Köln is a vivid example that multiculturalism in Germany is not dead, in contrast to the estimations of numerous people.

It is now the task of politics and people to work out actions in order to assure a pleasant living together with all kind of cultures, taking the example of Cologne as a role model that shows that multiculturalism is not just a model, but indeed a wonderful way of melting cultures together.

The Refugee Crisis: Blessing or Curse?

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Living room:

The biggest problem for the cities and communities is to accommodate the refugees permanently. The municipalities have learned that it is financially much cheaper to accommodate refugees in private homes instead of in shared accommodation. Integration also succeeds better. However, the large number of refugees causes problems, because especially cheap apartments are in demand.

In cities and university towns, rents have risen significantly in recent years. At the same time, apartments are empty in some rural areas. So, there is not a nationwide housing shortage, it is said in a report of the Federal Ministry of Construction. Where rents are high, the refugee crisis could be a boost for social housing.

Labor market:

opportunity or burden? At first glance, the conditions are currently ideal for integrating refugees into the German labor market. Just 2.4

million people were without a job in October - this is the lowest level in 25 years.

However, this is not a guarantee that refugees can quickly gain a foothold in Germany. The majority of the refugees arrive in Germany without having completed vocational training. The chance is that around half of the migrants are younger than 25 years and can be educated in Germany, but they can contribute little to the financing of the state budget for the time being. At first, unemployment should rise. But in view of the demographic development, Germany urgently needs immigrants - and they need to be trained as well as possible.

Growth: the new consumers:

In recent months, German consumers have shown optimism and contributed by their high consumption to the fact that the Federal Republic showed a decent growth. The refugees tend to have a positive effect on the German economy. Reason are the expenses

for the care and accommodation. It is also to be expected that in five to ten years' time the refugees will make a greater net contribution to economic performance in Germany than they receive from benefits.

Public finances:

So far, the Federal Government plans to waive all new debt in the federal budget in all years until 2019. But there are doubts as to whether Germany has to get into debt again. On the one hand, federal, state and local governments will probably take less tax than predicted. On the other hand, no one can seriously predict how many refugees will come. But the conditions for new debt are good: because of the low interest rate policy of the European Central Bank, it has seldom been as favorable for Germany as it is to lend money.

Whether the opportunities associated with refugee migration are used for the German economy depends on economic policy decisions that must not be postponed.



PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON DEALING WITH DIVERSITY IN THAILAND

MS. ANTARA CHOWDHURY
MBA PROFESSIONAL TRACK STUDENT

It's a topic you widely see discussed in many articles - how to combat diversity and the challenges that come with it in our schools, workplace and daily life? Or better yet, how do you use diversity as a positive influence in your life and its progress?

We all stereotype as much as we admit, or we don't - build up a notion in our head about situations, people, things and vice versa based on what we have seen, felt or have been exposed to. I am a Bangladeshi student currently studying in Thailand - Bangladesh and Thailand - we are both a part of Asia, there wouldn't be too much of culture shock, right? I mean we are almost neighbors! But was i wrong about it.

When you are in an MBA classroom where almost 90 percent of the people you will be interacting with on everyday basis of your life are from various nations of the world - that's when the culture shock comes. I thought i was pretty modernized with my exposure to western culture, it is easy to think that way when you are sitting in the comfort bubble of your home with very little exposure to other cultures except through media. Dealing with diversity - i feel is a challenge in itself, it doesn't come directly as a blessing on you, it pushes your buttons and you then slowly learn how to deal with it in your own perspective.

Language barriers can be a major cause of misunderstandings, but that is a minor issue that can be taken care of over time. Sometimes it is the differences in cultures and how people from various cultures perceive actions and words. For example, sarcasm might not be as hilarious anymore when the person you are communicating with does not understand it, it might

just end up being offensive instead. Changing political situations or religious sentiments can sometimes affect a person's perspective on another country or culture. Then of course, there is bias based on literature and media we are exposed to, the stereotype i have mentioned earlier. It might be enjoyable or a topic of discussion to us - is it to the other party? Where do you set the line? When should you get offended and when do we think we are being offensive? Also, human beings are curious by nature, we like to explore, dissect something that we do not understand - we also tend to want to do the same when we come in exposure with another culture very different than ours.

How do you tackle these situations? There's few ways to go about it but the core concepts would be- Communication and empathy. Firstly, prepare yourself to keep an open mind. Be ready for misunderstandings, miscommunications and the whole basket of it. You also have to be prepared to make mistakes yourself and know others will. Secondly, communication is the key. It is important to remember that there is two sides to the story. Before you set your mind to something you have been exposed to, it can be more helpful to communicate with your friends about it to understand their side of the story and then make judgements. It is good to be opinionated, but it is not good to jump to conclusions about situations. Third, empathy is important because one should have the ability to understand the sentiments and feelings of the party you are communicating with. For example, if you have unintentionally offended your friend due to some cultural miscommunication, you should not be egoistic about apologizing for it.

And then move forward to explain why the miscommunication has happened. And of course, mutual respect is very important from both parties, so they are able to communicate freely and without any judgement and prejudices. These are the keys to better understanding your diverse environment.

In other ways, there's positive aspects of the challenges to diversity. Once you are exposed to the beauties of diversity, there is no looking back. It is like a hunger that cannot be nourished. You just want more of it, you want to learn and understand more because it, simply put, widens your vision about the world and how you used to see it. You start to indulge in the beauty of it. For example, only after coming to do my MBA it baffled me how much similarity in morals and ethics i share with my fellow Asian classmates in terms of family upbringing, cultural codes, festivities and so much more. It's always exciting to share such information and learn something new everyday. In a more practical sense, you get to build your network which can help you progress both, personally and in your career. For example, i have become more knowledgeable and informative about real time insights about the markets in different countries thanks to my classmates, and it is not from absorbing information from the media, but discussing with them about it.

As humans, no matter where we go, familiarity always eases us. And it is only when you are exposed to such diversity, you can also find familiarity in our differences and that is beautiful. Which also makes the world and it's people such a large, undiscovered platter of goodness and excitement to keep on wander lusting for it.

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