



Winners Announcement

THAILAND ALUMNI GRANT COMPETITION 2011

The Embassy of the United States of America in Bangkok is pleased to announce the winners of the Thailand Alumni Grant Competition 2011.

The winning alumni teams are:

1. Young State Alumni Roadshow for Northern Thailand

Project Coordinator: Mr. Sutthichok Linprasert (USBT)
This project aims to bring together young State Alumni members in Northern Thailand to participate in a series of informal "speed networking" events and capstone community service projects.

2. Green Route of Mangrove Forest

Project Coordinator: Ms. Pissmai Khanobdee (Fulbright)
The project aims to reduce and prevent the destruction of the greenhouse effects and global warming due to the accumulation of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The project operates by the team personals from the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association (TFA), local residents and community leaders with collaboration by the Thai Fund Foundation.

3. Glittering English for Young Kids to the Future of Thailand

Project Coordinator: Ms. Sulaiya Hajihama (IVLP)

This project aims to offer Thai youth in the southern border provinces to be more interested in learning English and to be more motivated to realize the importance of this language. In organizing these camps, Muslim youth in the remote areas can learn language in a more relaxing way from alumni and they will have a positive attitude towards the language, which will help enhance their learning and future career.

4. Great Propel of Alumni Latency for Our Community

Project Coordinator: Mr. Yutthakrit Chalermthai (YES)
This project aims to increase YES alumni participation in community outreach efforts, using the experience gained in the U.S., through funding available from the U.S. Embassy. The grant will be used to implement the pending projects of the newly established YES Thailand Alumni (YESTA), including visiting schools, blood donation drives, volunteer camps, alumni reunion, projects planning, pre-departure orientation and arrival orientation for YES students.

5. Vocational Training Program and Service for Adolescents with Autism

Project Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Unchalee Sanrattana (Fulbright)
This project aims to enhance

high functioning autism performances on certain tasks and also provide the necessary counseling, training, and guidance to adolescents with autism and their families.

6. Save Mangrove, Save Our Life

Project Coordinator: Ms. Chollada Suawong (IVLP)
This project aims to encourage alumni to work together to protect mangrove forests in Samutprakarn and surrounding areas to give back to their community. At the same time, they can collectively share benefits of their exchange experience with local community.

7. Intensive English Camp

Project Coordinator: Ms. Phakamas Nokkaew (Fulbright)
The project aims to increase students' English language knowledge and create positive attitude for learning foreign languages.

We would like to congratulate the 7 winning alumni teams and thank all the alumni from all over Thailand who submitted proposals to compete in this project.

For updates on these projects, please visit <https://alumni.state.gov/th> or www.facebook.com/thai.sac

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'State Alumni' are current and former participants of U.S. government-sponsored exchange, teaching or professional programs.

Join alumni.state.gov to stay in touch with fellow alumni, and with the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and U.S. Consulate in Chiang Mai, so that your exchange experience does not stop when you return home, but continues to result in productive professional, societal, cultural, and community engagements.



Alumni Share Smiles with Visually Impaired Students

BANGKOK, Thailand - On July 2, 2011, 15 alumni from youth programs, including Youth Exchange and Study (YES), Global UGRAD, and Southeast Asia Youth Leadership, organized a special event to celebrate the U.S. Independence Day with students from the Bangkok School for the Blind. The students participated in this two-hour delightful event, which started with an introduction to U.S. Independence Day led by the alumni, followed by games, singing activities, and quizzes. Alumni also brought stationery and other needed materials to be used in the school. This program gave the disabled students an opportunity to open their minds and to have lively conversations with State Alumni who had studied in the U.S.



A Warm Welcome Home for Brand New State Alumni

NONTHABURI, Thailand - On July 3, 2011, a group of twenty Youth Exchange and Study program participants who had just returned from the U.S. a day before attended a post-orientation event at the Richmond Hotel hosted by American Field Service Intercultural Programs (AFS Thailand). This fifth class of Thai YES alumni was greeted and provided with useful information by AFS, YES upperclassmen, and U.S. Embassy staff throughout the full-day event. YES Alumni Naim Laeni, Nudi Manundawi and Anissa Naksewee, took part in the program by pointing out the value of community service to their fellow alumni. They provided guidance on how to start managing projects, including writing proposals, raising funds, and reporting. The senior alumni also shared some of their recent activities and urged the returnees to do the same. Mr. Adisorn Laopiroon, the U.S. Embassy's Alumni Coordinator, also talked to the group about the Thailand State Alumni Community, the Thailand Alumni Grant Competition, and the U.S. Embassy's alumni outreach efforts.



Alumni Attend 'City of Angels: Bangkok & Los Angeles' Photography Exhibition

BANGKOK, Thailand - On July 8, 2011, State Alumni joined U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney at the opening ceremony of the 'City of Angels: Bangkok & Los Angeles' photography exhibition at Siam Paragon. The event was co-organized by the United States Embassy in Bangkok and Siam Paragon. The photos were taken by Curtis McElhinney, a talented American photographer.



Fulbright Alumni Meet to Set Its 10 Year Framework

CHACHOENGSAO, Thailand – On July 23-24, more than twenty board members and advisors of the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association (TFA) met to establish its 10 year framework in order to 1) efficiently support both its mission and that of the Thailand-United States Educational Foundation (TUSEF – Fulbright Commission), 2) strengthen its organization, and 3) develop engagement by alumni in activities promoting cross-cultural awareness and caring for Thailand and the U.S. At this two-day workshop, participants took part in several activities to cultivate a strong spirit in support of the mission of Fulbright and the Association. Ms. Porn-tip Kanjananiyot, TUSEF Executive Director, Ms. Chotima Chaitiamwong, TUSEF Outreach Officer, and Mr. Adisorn Laopiroon, U.S. Embassy Alumni Coordinator, also took part in the workshop and shared their thoughts on how their respective organizations can support and work together with TFA. More than 500 members of the Association from around the country who were not able to attend the workshop will be sent a newsletter informing them of the Association's new 10 year framework, and how they can participate in future activities that will be beneficial to local communities and the country.



Alumni Share Experience with Mahidol University Students

BANGKOK, Thailand - On August 3, more than 100 Mahidol University students and faculty staff led by lecturer Payungsak Kaenchan, a Fulbrighter, paid a half-day long visit to the U.S. Embassy's Media and Cultural Section. A number of Embassy staff took turns greeting the students, delivering presentations, and answering questions. In addition to the Embassy speakers, two Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) program alumni, Ms. Khadijah Chalermthai from Mahidol University and Mr. Nirut Bannob from Srinakharinwirot University, were invited to talk about how to join the program and shared their experience in the U.S.

Alumna Joins EducationUSA Team to Tell Her US College Experience

CHIANG MAI, Thailand -- On Friday, September 2, 2011, Ms. Kanokwan Klinhom, a Global UGRAD alumna and 4th year student at Chiang Mai University, joined an EducationUSA advisor and a U.S. Embassy staff member on their "Study in the U.S." speaking tour to Payap University and Regina Coeli School. Ms. Kanokwan shared information on student life in the U.S. from her 10 month experience as an exchange student at the University of Mississippi with 200 very interested students. She also gave information on how to apply and win a spot in the Global UGRAD program.



YES Alumna Reflects on U.S. High School Experience

CHIANG RAI, Thailand -- On September 13-14, 2011, Ms. Matika Hemman, a Youth Exchange and Study program alumna joined EducationUSA advisers to share information about American culture and classrooms with approximately 900 students from three high schools in Chiang Rai.





Alumni Volunteer on USS George Washington

CHONBURI, Thailand – Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) alumni joined the USS George Washington crew and U.S. Embassy staff to welcome 40 students from Pattaya Orphanage on their first visit to the USS George Washington (CVN 73) aircraft carrier at Laem Chabang, Chonburi, on August 8, 2011. State alumni Thanaporn Panitchanok, Yutthakrit Chalermthai, and Naim Laeni volunteered to escort and help students communicate with GW crew during this special visit. The students learned general information on ship operations and the GW sailors' daily routine during an hour-long ship tour. The program ended with a fun photo op on the flight deck of this huge carrier. The USS George Washington arrived in Laem Chabang, Thailand, on Saturday, August 6, for a goodwill visit that aims to further enhance the strong historic ties between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand.



Alumni Find Another Way of Giving Back

BANGKOK, Thailand – On September 10, 2011, Youth Exchange and Study Thailand Alumni Club (YESTA) organized a Blood Drive Campaign to promote volunteer blood donations among Thai youth and to make a positive difference in their communities. A small but socially-minded group of 15 alumni and friends gathered at the Thai Red Cross Society to register and give blood. Alumni, several of them first-time blood donors, realized how important it is to donate blood. They plan to coordinate a blood drive activity again in the next few months and intend to inspire more of their fellow alumni to join them to help others with this cause.



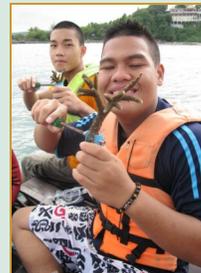
Alumni and Thai Youth Show their Passion for a Greener Forest

CHIANG MAI, Thailand – To take action against deforestation and climate change, a dozen Thailand State Alumni joined hands with 15 American Studies Club (ASC) students from Chiang Mai University to implement the “Northern Thailand State Alumni’s Forest Restoration Project” at Mae Sa Mai Hill Tribe Village, Doi Suthep-Pui National Park, on September 3, 2011. Youth alumni from diverse exchange programs, including USBT, Southeast Asia Youth Leadership, Fulbright, YES and Global UGRAD, together with ASC students, helped a local Hmong community nurture some young trees, apply organic fertilizer, weed and grade local tree seedlings. Project participants also had a discussion with village leaders about the effects of deforestation, such as drought, landslides, and wildlife extirpation. In the past several years, the community has taken a number of measures to avoid additional damage, including planting and monitoring trees, making fire breaks, organizing forest fire patrols, and educating fellow villagers about the importance of woodland protection. In addition, reforestation experts from the Forest Restoration Research Unit (FORRU) of Chiang Mai University were invited to guide a walk in the forest and share their techniques on forest restoration with the participants. At the end of the program, alumni and ASC students came to realize the importance of environmental preservation and were eager to get more involved in other community engagements.



Alumni Work to Keep the Gulf of Thailand's Coral Reefs Alive

CHONBURI, Thailand – On September 17-18, 2011, 35 Thailand State Alumni from five U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs, including Youth Exchange and Study (YES), Study in the U.S. Institutes (SUSI), International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), Global Undergraduate Exchange (Global UGRAD), and English Access Microscholarship (Access), helped a local community in Samaesan Village, Chonburi Province, plant units of coral back into the sea. The project aims to raise environmental awareness among youth and also encourage alumni to work together on a common cause for society. The activity started with a local leader giving information to participants about the types of coral reefs in the Gulf of Thailand and the causes of their destruction, including water pollution, global warming, and human activities. After the presentation, alumni snorkeled to a floating platform where they planted young coral in PVC pipes, after which trained divers took them down to an assigned zone at the bottom of the ocean. As part of the "Coral Reefs Planting and Environmental Protection Project," alumni also took an educational field trip to the Thai Island and Sea Natural History Museum to learn about Thailand's islands, seas, and their ecosystems, through an education and conservation tour of the museum. This two-day program also included team-building activities and sessions in which participants shared experiences and future project ideas with their fellow State Alumni.



GLOBAL STATE ALUMNI MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Adriana Labardini
July 2011

Adriana Labardini Inzunza, from Mexico, was selected as the U.S. Department of State's State Alumni Member of the Month for July 2011. Since 1990, she has had the opportunity to participate in several exchange programs in the United States. She studied at [Columbia University's Law School](#) as a [Fulbright](#) student from 1990 to 1991, completed a [Humphrey Fellowship](#) at the [University of North Carolina](#) in 2003, and three years later, she participated in the [International Visitor Leadership Program \(IVLP\)](#) and learned about non-governmental organization management and development.

Labardini's fellowship in the United States was a life changing experience "that allowed her to professionally reinvent herself, the way she viewed the world, and the way she viewed herself and the role she would play." She explains, "After being a Humphrey Fellow, sound notions of leadership, volunteerism and empowerment are engraved in our minds, in our hearts and in our will."

[Read More](#)



Nguyen Van Anh
August 2011

Nguyen Van Anh is a recognized leader in the fight against domestic violence in Vietnam. She participated in the [International Visitor Leadership Program \(IVLP\)](#), one of the premier professional exchange programs of the [Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#) in 2004, and used her exchange experience to advocate for domestic violence victims and for the rights of sexual minorities.

Nguyen says that her exchange experience in the IVLP on volunteerism gave her a "thorough understanding" of volunteerism and non-profits in the United State and encouraged her to "be creative and take action to further support women and children." Upon her return, she was more "decisive and courageous" and inspired to "further volunteer and dedicate herself to improving society, especially for a better life for vulnerable people."

[Read More](#)



Huner Anwer
September 2011

Huner Anwer is a dedicated and enthusiastic alumnus of the [Study of the United States Institute for Student Leaders on Religious Pluralism in the United States \(SUSI\)](#). He has the vision to promote dialogue among groups in Iraqi society by creating settings for greater intercultural understanding. "My trip to the United States really opened my eyes," Anwer said, "I came back to Iraq with a wish to encourage people to become more tolerant with each other in our Iraqi culture, and to help debate become dialogue."

After participating in the SUSI Program in 2010, Anwer returned to Iraq and founded the Iraqi Dialogue Institute. The Iraqi Dialogue Institute is an organization modeled after the [Dialogue Institute](#) at [Temple University](#), which served as Anwer's host organization during his five-week, [Department of State](#)-sponsored exchange program. After launching the Iraqi Dialogue Institute, Anwer established a formal partnership between his Institute and the Dialogue Institute.

[Read More](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT ALERT

Call for Applicants:

2012 Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on Global Environmental Issues

Program Description:

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders are intensive academic programs whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The Institute on Global Environmental Issues will be hosted by the East-West Center in Honolulu,

Hawaii, pending the availability of funds. The four week academic residency will consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. The academic residency will be complemented by a four day educational tour that will take participants to San Francisco where they will meet with local, state, private, and non-profit organizations working in the field. The Institute will then conclude with a 3 day program in Washington, D.C. The Study of the U.S. Institute on Global Environmental Issues will explore the role that environmental policy has played in the economic and political development of the United States. The Institute will use experiential learning techniques to expose participants to current themes in the

field, including natural resource management, sustainable development/sustainable agricultural practices, food security, ecotourism, energy generation (new and traditional forms), and water management and treatment. The issues will be explored from numerous angles: local grassroots activism and civic initiatives, market-oriented approaches, and federal government policies and regulations. The Institute might also examine the relationship between environmental security and national security. Finally, the Institute will explore environmental issues in the context of a globalized society, and draw comparisons between the United States and the participants' home countries.

For more information on how to apply, visit [this link](#).

MEET THE ALUMNI

Global warming and climate change are technical words of environmental issues widely known today. People around the world are interested and concerned about this problem. I am one of them. I regularly attended extra-curriculum activities to launch projects in order to raise people's awareness in environmental problems. SUSI (Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on Global Environmental Issues) is one of greatest program I have ever attended.

SUSI was organized by the East-West Center (EWC) at University of Hawaii and the U.S. Department of State to encourage young leaders from four countries in Southeast Asia (Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines and Myanmar) to develop their leadership skills. The program took place in four states in the U.S. We went to University of Hawaii at Honolulu for classes on improvement of environmental problem. We launched "Mini Projects" to solve those problems in Hawaii. We went to San Francisco, California and Boulder,

Colorado for an exciting and great experience for our field trip. Finally, we went to Washington D.C. to learn about environmental policy and strategy from the federal government's points of view.

All of the activities we have done during the four week program encouraged us to try to learn new things and have fun at the same time. We had a lot of great direct experience in the environmental field. We were inspired to create more projects to address environmental issues back in our countries. At the same time, we could also share our cultures and languages. We could learn to work, live and have fun together. We could make more friends and build career network in the future. That's why I love SUSI.

NIRUT BANNOB
SUSI Alumnus 2011
Student
Srinakharinwirot University



A Comfy Place to Work and Play

Good news! The newly remodeled **Information Resource Center (IRC)**, a specialized reference and research facility that aims to provide the Thai public with free, comprehensive, and authoritative information on the United States, is now open for your use!

Staffed by information professionals and reference specialists, the IRC is equipped with modern information technologies, including **high-speed WiFi, iPads, and Kindle e-book readers**. We have a great collection of English-language reference and general **books, audiobooks, and e-books**, plus **almost 100 magazines** on all subjects. Easy access to **unique commercial databases** provides full texts of thousands of publications on contemporary issues and American society. In addition, a **wide screen TV** with access to selected **English-language news channels** including CNN and VOA, is readily available in the reading room for pleasure viewing. Also available for your viewing pleasure are more than 100 **movies, television series and documentaries**. If you just want to have fun, we have several **popular board games** for you to kill time and boost your physical and intellectual skills. If you're a regular, you may even get a complimentary cup of hot coffee!

The IRC also offers **trainings on information literacy**, particularly online information



search techniques and information evaluation and ethics. We also host occasional movie shows followed by discussions with American staff.

Oh, did we mention that our services and products are virtually free?

Conveniently located on the **9th floor of the GPF Building on Witthayu Road**, within walking distance of BTS Ploenchit Station, the IRC is an ideal place for research as well as educational and cultural programs. The reading room, with 20-person capability, has study tables as well as lounge chairs and bean bags for leisure reading and movie viewing. An adjacent program room easily accommodates 150 persons. Limited free parking is available.

The IRC is open weekdays from 8 am – 5 pm, except Embassy holidays.

It would be a pleasure to welcome you and your friends! Simply walk in or call Ployying Siripakdee at 02-205-4113, email irc@state.gov.

See you soon!



Product Highlight: SAM

Aboard the USS George Washington in the Latest SAM!

IRC Bangkok just released the latest issue of the youth eZine "SAM" featuring a story about the US Navy's aircraft carrier "USS George Washington" along with an interview with its sailors. Also included are tips to find good pictures on the internet, fun quizzes and games. Check out the September 2011 SAM [now!](#)



93/1 GPF Witthayu Tower A, 9th Floor
Wireless Road, Lumpini 10330

Email: irc@state.gov

Website:

<http://bangkok.usembassy.gov>

Phone: 02-205-4113 **Fax:** 02-650-8918

Hour:

Mondays-Fridays: 8:00-17:00 hrs
except U.S. Embassy holidays

