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PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY FOR MEMBERS OF THE THAILAND STATE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Articles contained in Thai Link do not necessarily represent the official view of the U.S. Government.

## Proposal Submission Phase of AEIF Competition Ends

The proposal submission phase of the 2012 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) competition has closed. This year's competition brought in many hundreds of proposals from thousands of alumni from more than 115 countries. In this competition, 4 teams of Thai State Alumni participated by submitting proposals. Please click on the each of the following links to review the proposals and support your fellow Thai alumni.

### [Disaster Preparedness Volunteering for Community Service](#)

Team Leader: Khun Aree Aporn, IVLP

### [YES to ASEAN](#)

Team Leader: Khun Pairoh Kokyai, YES

### [Volunteer Network Expansion in Thailand](#)

Team Leader: Khun Phonlapat Amornrattanaket, SUSI

### [Youth Movement on Environmental Issues](#)

Team Leader: Khun Fitra Jehwoh, SUSI

The finalist teams will be announced in mid April. **Starting May 8, you, Thai State Alumni, can vote for your favorite proposals from among the competing finalists.** Please log on to <https://alumni.state.gov> to read other submitted proposals from other countries. Please note that you have to register at <https://alumni.state.gov> before you will be able to participate and vote for your favorite proposals.

The **Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF)** offers **\$1,000,000** to help teams of alumni tackle some of the world's most pressing issues. Administered by the State Department's Alumni Affairs Division, AEIF awards up to \$25,000 per winning team. All State Alumni are welcome to participate.



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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](https://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.

## SUSI Alumnus Shares His American Journey

BANGKOK, Thailand - On January 11, Mr. Sutthichai Boonprasop, Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) alumnus, talked to 35 students from Ubon Ratchathani University about his visit to the U.S. last year. He told the audience how he joined the program and shared his experience from his trip, especially the adventure activities in outdoor environmental settings in both Hawaii and Colorado. Mr. Sutthichai was able to get a first-hand look at environmental challenges and solutions. He then encouraged the students to follow in his footsteps by competing for a spot in the SUSI program.



## State Alumni Meet Representative from U.S. State Department

BANGKOK, Thailand – On January 23, six State Alumni from five U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs, including IVLP, SUSI, YES, Southeast Asia Youth Leadership, and Global UGRAD, met with Mr. Selim Ariturk, U.S. Department of State's Country Affairs Coordinator for Mainland Southeast Asia in the Office of Public Diplomacy, to talk about their experience visiting and studying in the U.S. Alumni also reflected on how this opportunity has changed their lives for the better and activities that they have done to expand their knowledge to others in their communities.



## SUSI 2012 Participants Learn Direct Experience from Alumni

BANGKOK, Thailand - On February 22, 2012, Ms. Khadijah Chalermthai, Mr. Sutthichai Boonprasop and Ms. Supisan Fuekfon, Study of the United States Institutes for Student Leaders (SUSI) alumni, got together to meet five incoming SUSI participants who will travel to the U.S. in the next few months. The alumni, all of whom attended this same program last year, shared what they learned from their trip to the U.S. with the new participants. The incoming participants will spend 5 weeks in Hawaii, Denver and Washington D.C. attending environment-related programs.





## Alumni's Save Mangroves, Save Our Lives Project

PETCHBURI, Thailand – On January 28, approximately 30 IVLP, Access, and YES alumni joined hands with 50 high school students from Islamic College of Thailand to conduct “Save Mangroves, Save Our Lives” Project and help a local community fight coastal erosion along coastlines. The group traveled to Bangtaboon Bay, Petchburi Province, to meet and talk to local residents about some environmental problems in the community, including climate change, water pollution, and land erosion. After a half-day discussion and some brainstorming activities on how to promote responsible management of mangroves and coastal environments, alumni led this energetic group of students to pitch in and help plant some mangroves back to the swamp. “Save Mangroves, Save Our Lives” is one of the seven winning alumni projects of the Thailand Alumni Grant Competition 2011.



## Alumnus Seeks to Maximize Partnership with American Corners

CHIANG MAI, Thailand - On February 23, 2012, Mr. Sutthichok Linprasert, a USBT alumnus and an EducationUSA advisor, joined other U.S. Embassy staff at the American Corner Directors Annual Conference to give a presentation on how State Alumni can work with American Corners (AC) in Thailand. He stated how alumni can facilitate social and academic activities at the American Corners. Besides, he showcased some of his recent alumni activities that have been useful to the community.

## Young State Alumni Roadshow for Northern Thailand

CHIANG MAI, Thailand - On February 24, 2012, approximately 10 State Alumni from Global UGRAD, SEAYLP and USBT Programs, organized the "Young State Alumni Roadshow for Northern Thailand" project, in which they invited students and other guests to meet, chat about studying in the U.S. and informally interview young State Alumni about their experiences during exchange programs. More than 30 students and parents attend the meet up. This event is one of the events in the Young State Alumni Roadshow for Northern Thailand Project's activities. This group of alumni will arrange more community service activities in the next few months. This project aims to bring together young State Alumni members from the northern region of Thailand to participate in a series of informal "speed networking" events and a capstone community service project. This project is one of the seven winning alumni projects of the Thailand Alumni Grant Competition 2011.



## Thai Fulbright Alumni Association (TFA) Annual Meeting

BANGKOK, Thailand - On February 26, 2012, the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association committee members and Fulbright alumni met to select new members of the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association committee for calendar year 2012 and plan their future programs.

## YESTA Shares How It Serve Community and Its Alumni

BANGKOK, Thailand - On March 6, 2012, Mr. Yutthakrit Chalermthai, President of Youth Exchange and Study Thai Alumni Association (YESTA) and his fellow alumni, Ms. Pairoh Kokyai and Ms. Sunwanee Dolah, gave a presentation to nineteen Alumni Coordinators from U.S. Embassies worldwide at the Alumni Outreach Strategy Building Seminar held in Bangkok. The speakers laid out how they established and maintained their organization and also discussed some of their inspirational community service work.



## Glittering English for Young Kids to the Future of Thailand

YALA, Thailand – On February 25, 2012, a group of southern State Alumni organized the "Glittering English for Young Kids to the Future of Thailand" at Thailand Knowledge Park, Yala. Approximately 30 primary school students from three local schools participated in this English and information camp. At the opening ceremony, Ms. Sulaiya Hajihama, an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumna and the project leader, delivered welcoming remarks to the participants and introduced the YES alumni who helped make this event happen. More than 10 State Alumni led a series of educational and fun activities including English learning games, a talk on life in the U.S. as Muslim exchange students, quizzes, and prizes. Glittering English for Young Kids to the Future of Thailand project aims to encourage the young kids in the southern border provinces to be more interested in learning English and to be more motivated to realize the importance of the language. This project is one of the seven winning alumni projects of the Thailand Alumni Grant Competition 2011.



## Fulbright Talk Show

BANGKOK, Thailand – On March 2, Thai Fulbright alumni shared experiences and recommendations on "the Culture of Learning" with the younger generation at a "Fulbright Talk Show" event. The forum tackled the challenge of building a stronger learning culture in Thailand, and discussed different learning cultures in Thailand and the U.S.

DCM Judith Cefkin attended the event and talked to the assembled high school and college students about the importance of reading and her favorite book, "To Kill a Mockingbird." Following the DCM's remarks, students were treated to literary talk shows featuring several Fulbright alumni and prominent scholars.

## Alumni's Green Route Project

SAMUT SONGKRAM, Thailand – On March 17, the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association led a young and energetic team of State Alumni to help a local community in Samut Songkram restore and conserve a coastal area. A group of approximately 50 former and current participants of the U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs — Fulbright, IVLP, YES, SUSI, Global UGRAD and ACCESS — traveled to Ban Bang Bo Lang, a coastal community in Samut Songkram province, to talk to local leaders about measures taken to cope with some environmental challenges in the area, such as degraded mangrove forests and marine debris.

In addition to picking up trash and planting mangrove trees, they created and installed some permanent boards throughout the walking trails with information about biodiversity and the food chain among plants, animals and living organisms of the mangrove forest, so other people can learn and are aware of this important environmental issue. This project is one of the seven winning alumni projects of the Thailand Alumni Grant Competition 2011.



## Alumni and University Students Share Thoughts on Thai-U.S. Relationship

BANGKOK, Thailand - On March 20, a group of State Alumni and international studies students from Chulalongkorn, Thammasat, Srinakarinwirot and Kasetsart Universities shared their thoughts on various topics with delegates of the U.S. Air War College.



## Alumni Talk to SEAYLP 2012 Participants at Orientation

BANGKOK, Thailand - On March 23, 2012, three South-east Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) alumni talked to six incoming participants who will travel to the U.S. early next month. Mr. Panya, who attended this program last year, along with other two alumni informed the participants about what to prepare for prior to departure and things to expect when they get there. These participants will spend 3 weeks in Illinois and Washington DC, attending classes and participating in several environmental projects as the representatives from Thailand. Other nations in South East Asia that will participate in this program include the Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Indonesia.



## Alumni's Training Project for Adolescents with Autism

KHON KAEN, Thailand - During the week of March 26, Prof. Dr. Unchalee Sanrattana, a Fulbright alumna and an expert on autistic education at Khon Kaen University, organized the "Vocational Training Program and Service for Adolescents with Autism." 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. This project is one of the seven winning alumni projects of the Thailand Alumni Grant Competition 2011.

## YESTA Annual Meeting 2012

BANGKOK, Thailand – Approximately 30 Youth Exchange and Study program alumni attended the "YESTA Annual Meeting 2012" on March 24 at I Residence Hotel in Bangkok. After welcome remarks by U.S. Embassy Regional English Language Officer Damon Anderson, YESTA President Yutthakrit Chalermthai led a series of icebreaking and teambuilding activities. They later discuss their annual projects which include plans to visit schools, conduct outreach to minority communities, attend volunteer camps, participate in pre-departure orientation programs for incoming YES participants and post-orientation programs for returning alumni, as well as engage more alumni with worthwhile programs.



## GLOBAL STATE ALUMNI MEMBER OF THE MONTH



**Consolata Ndayishimye**  
January, 2012

**Consolata Ndayishimye** of Burundi was selected as the U.S. Department of State's Alumni Member of the Month for January 2012 in recognition of her role in empowering women entrepreneurs to become part of the business network in her country and the East Africa region. Mrs. Ndayishimye credits her participation in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' 2006 [International Visitor Leadership Program](#) (IVLP) on the topic of women and entrepreneurship with inspiring and encouraging her to seek the presidency of the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi. Today she promotes women's entrepreneurship for the entire region thanks to her selection earlier this year as president of the [East Africa Business Council](#).

[\*\*\*Read More\*\*\*](#)



**John O'Loughlin Kennedy**  
February, 2012

**John O'Loughlin Kennedy** of Ireland has been selected as the U.S. Department of State's Alumni Member of the Month for February 2012 in recognition of his entrepreneurial and humanitarian efforts that have improved lives around the globe. O'Loughlin Kennedy received a 1961 Fulbright Student Program scholarship to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he studied at the Graduate School of Business Administration. He credits the Fulbright Program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs with giving him the confidence and ability to affect positive change in the world. Today O'Loughlin Kennedy is a thriving member of the Irish business community.

[\*\*\*Read More\*\*\*](#)



**Tanbir ul Islam Siddiqui**  
March, 2012

**Tanbir ul Islam Siddiqui** of Bangladesh has been selected as the U.S. Department of State's Alumni Member of the Month for March 2012 in recognition of his tireless efforts to support civic education, human rights, and good governance. Siddiqui took part in a 2004 [International Visitors Leadership Program](#) on the topic of 'Civic Education in the United States.' After returning from the program, he transformed the focus of his organization, Change Makers, towards youth civic education and is a dynamic advocate for the issue throughout his country.

[\*\*\*Read More\*\*\*](#)

## 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 infor-**



**mation 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 Ployping Siripakdee at 02-205-4113, email [irc@state.gov](mailto:irc@state.gov).

See you soon!





**IRC Bangkok** **INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER**

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Wireless Road, Lumpini 10330

**Email:** [irc@state.gov](mailto: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

## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

For State Alumni who have new contact information, please fill out details on the following link.

[http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni\\_signup.html](http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni_signup.html)

Other options to communicate with us:

Phone: 02-205-4849

Mobile: 081-813-0704

Fax: 02-650-8921

E-mail: [Adisorn@state.gov](mailto:Adisorn@state.gov)

<http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni.html>



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