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University Highlighted Activities

International Night 2014

Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, President - Rector Magnificus of Assumption University, presided over the International Night 2014. The purpose of the event was to strengthen the relationships between Thai students and international students. The Assumption University International Students Group (AUISG) hosted international food fairs, attractive shows and cultural performances to everyone’s delight. Attendants were Rev. Bro. Dr. Amnuay Yoonprayong, Vice Rector for Moral Development Education, administrators, faculty and students. The event took place on March 12, 2014 at King’s Court Au Residence Hall, Assumption University, Suvanabhumi campus.
Archbishop Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanit, Archbishop of Bangkok Archdiocese led the Blessing Ceremony of the Vincent Mary School of Science & Technology and Vincent Mary School of Engineering Buildings and thereafter celebrated the Holy Mass for the Anniversary of the Chapel of St. Louis Marie de Montfort on April 28, 2014
Tribute to a True Teacher: Brother Simeon
On His 84th Birthday Anniversary on 10th April 2014,
'ABAC Today' has the privilege of having a focus interview with him on this special occasion

ABAC Today: Bro. Simeon, you impressed me when I read your biography. You determined to be a teacher when you were only 8 years old. Why so? Could you talk more on that?

Bro. Simeon: Oh, yes! (chuckle). I have been teaching every year in my career even when I was school director either at Assumption (College) Rayong, Assumption Nakhon Rachasima, or at ACC. Being the school leader is a full time job but I made sure I had time to teach. At ABAC then, I was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Financial Affairs but I always kept full load of teaching (contented expression on face).

ABAC Today: I can easily see that teaching was in your heart and soul. In retrospect, what did you gain out of teaching? What subject did you teach?

Bro. Simeon: Happiness, of course! I am always happy to teach. I love to see how teaching can change people (see the citation below). That is the beauty of it. Back in the 1970s I taught marketing, management and accounting, but later I shifted to finance.

ABAC Today: Were you one of the pioneers in founding ABAC?

Bro. Simeon: Yes and no. Bro. Bernard and Bro. Philip Amnuay were the founders. Bro. Sompong Jiranond, Bro. Cyril and me were the first Brothers to teach at ABAC.

ABAC Today: You earned your well-deserved professorship after 64 years of devotion. When was this and who bestowed you the title?
Bro. Simeon: I have been teaching for 64 years. I got the title of "Professorship of the Order of St. Gabriel" from the University Council.

ABAC Today: Are there other teachers or administrators granted professorship?

Bro. Simeon: I am the first and only one until now because it’s very difficult to meet all the conditions set forth.

Hats off to Rev. Bro. Simeon, or Bro. Anupatt Petchara-Yuttachai, his respected Thai name!

Citation

In the winter of 1939, responding to a call from God the nine-year old Claude Petiteau wrote down his commitment to join the Brothers of St. Gabriel to teach in any of their schools... (as) a transformative teacher, in his own word, "The way I regard my duty as lecturer is ....to change the students from 'raw material' into 'beautiful finished products' ...I believe that when students graduate, they should be fit and well-formed as educated individuals..."
ABAC Today: The International Night this year was a big success. As President of AUIGS, the leader of international students at AU, how do you feel this event went?

Hassan: I was very pleased. I wouldn’t consider myself the leader though. We all helped and contributed. It might not be a grand, spectacular achievement according to some standards but we do feel good about the whole event. It’s more of how it came out rather than the pure results of it.

ABAC Today: This is interesting. You guys stunned the viewers/audience with a combined multicultural performance of Chinese music- KHMER singers and Vietnamese dancers and many other cultural shows performed on stage, all distinctive in their own unique way. Tell me how you did it?

Hassan: We planned together from step one until the end. This is so important. It is essentially a collaborative work. There are 11 international student communities, each of which has their own president. I worked in collaboration with all of them.

ABAC Today: Did you have to make a proposal to the university? If so, how was it received?

Hassan: Of course, after we discussed and came up with a plan, we proposed the plan to Student Affairs. They were very supportive all the way through. More importantly, we had freedom. They did not interfere with what we wanted to do as long as it was not against the university’s regulations.

ABAC Today: It’s nice to know that. Could you talk more about the 11 communities?

Hassan: As we all know ‘Assumption University International Student Group’ is a group which includes 11 communities. Each community needs to have 50 students or more on campus to set up their community. We now have 11 international communities. Actually there are 10 communities representing a single nation and one with combined nationals where students from any nation can join. They are African countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Vietnam, East Timor, India, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, and Multi-national Community. As I said earlier, each community has their own President. Our mission was to create a clear direction for students to have an experience of how to take part in a real world business through different activities and to create extraordinary bonding between Thai students and international students, as well as among the International students.

ABAC Today: I wish I could interview them all. Really.
Hassan: They would certainly be glad to meet with you but I'm afraid it might be difficult to find a time when they are all free. Anyhow, I can coordinate with them whatever you want to know.

ABAC Today: That's helpful. For ongoing communication and interactions between and among student groups, would they be approachable?

Hassan: You just hit the crucial point. When we were working together the more we interacted, the more we shared our thoughts, the more we opened up and began to understand more about our friends from different cultures, and different countries. Moreover, we suddenly found ourselves talking and working with Thai students. Now more Thai students talk to us and work with us. I would like especially to thank Poying Tseng (Director of Internal Affairs), Pawenee Kasemsan Na Aythaya (Jomjam- Vice President) and Kantapon, the President of AUSO for their amazing support. We were very pleased. Usually our Thai friends in ABAC are friendly and even though some of them are not good in English but still they try to communicate with us. For future events, I am thinking of some activities that will be a collaboration between Thai students and international students.

ABAC Today: That's an excellent point. I couldn't agree more. As a Thai, I know all Thai students want to make friends with international students. But some of them might not know how to begin. Others might not feel confident or comfortable enough to speak English.

Hassan: They shouldn't feel that way. We are friends and we are here to help each other. Even though the majority of the student body is Thai and communication between international students and Thai students is difficult at times due to the language barrier, everyone still works hard to overcome this problem. The usual environment around the campus is lively and bustling with energy as students strive for more knowledge and better opportunities to reach their full potential. Besides, English isn't their mother tongue and we all know that. As I told you before, even though they can't speak at least they try. Please allow me to give ABAC Today our 11 Communities’ contact information. Please email/Twitter/FaceBook/or LINE to us. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

ABAC Today: We want to take a quick poll survey, could you get a brief statement from each community about this international night?

1) The President of the African Community: It was a great success, and they were very happy.

2) The President of the South Korean Community: I will never forget the fantastic moments. I want this event to be organized for one more time and this time I want to have it in the Au Plaza.

3) The President of the Indian Community: I had a very good experience.

4) The President of the Bhutanese Community: Everything went well and my friends had a very good time.

5) The President of the Chinese Community: It was a really good event. We want this kind of event to take place more often. It helps to create bonding between international and Thai students.

6) The President of the Nepali community: It was a good experience. We learned a lot.

7) The President of the Vietnamese community: We learned to work together and got to know more about our University’s rules and regulations.

8) The President of the Multinational Community: This was the largest International Student event of the year thrown by a combined group of mostly international students and some Thai students for all students at Assumption University, and it was a good time and opportunity for ABAC students to present and share their multi heritage in accordance with AU’s vision.
Lastly, you told me one thing in common among you guys is homesickness. Does doing a cultural thing for the International Night help?

Hassan: Absolutely. Exactly. Living far away from home, we all feel homesick at times. To have a chance to do things we used to do at home is great. Many of us never live abroad before and they found this an excellent opportunity. Moreover, thanks to technology, we can show our folks at home, like “Hi Mom, I am singing your song here in Thailand!” So we all felt great and we LINED photos back home.

In addition to International night, we also organized events like:

1) Myanmar Freshmen Orientation for 2/2013
2) Myanmar Bonding Trip to Siam Park City
3) Myanmar Freshmen Welcome trip to Pattaya
4) Myanmar Homage Paying Ceremony to Teachers (Wai Kru)
5) Myanmar Homage Paying to Myanmar Scholar Monk
6) Myanmar social event ‘We Care We Share’
7) Bangladeshi Victory day
8) Bangladeshi social event ‘Perfecting a Smile’
9) Vietnamese culture show
10) Vietnamese Independence Day Celebration
11) Vietnamese trip to Koh Samed
12) Korean sports event
13) Korean career fair
14) Indian Independence Day Celebration
15) International cultural boom
16) Sports events like football
University Highlighted Activities

Agentina Reception

(from left to right) Mr. Glen Chatelier, Director of the Office of International Affairs at Assumption University, Dr. Ioan Voicu, Visiting Professor at Assumption University, H.E. Archbishop Paul Chang In-nam, Apostolic Nuncio to the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Ana Maria Ramirez, the Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to the Kingdom of Thailand, Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, Rector Magnificus of Assumption University, H.E. Mr. Eduardo Zuain, Argentine Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jorge Chazarreta, President of Coca-Cola, ThaiNamthip Limited, Dr. Ninnat Olarnvoravuth, Secretary General of The Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher learning and Mrs. Suchada Olarnvoravuth at a reception at the Argentine residence on the occasion of the visit by the Argentine Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on Thursday, March 20, 2014.

The Independence and National Day of Bangladesh

Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, Rector Magnificus of Assumption University and Mr. Glen Vivian Chatelier, Director of the Office of International Affairs, attended the 43rd Anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh on March 26, 2014, 18:30 at Royal Meridien Hotel, Bangkok as guests of Ambassador Kari Imtiaz Hassain and Mrs. Rabab Fatima.
Graduate students, faculty and staff of the Graduate School of Education and Psychology organized the 2014 Annual Seminar, Faculty and Staff Development Workshop at Pasak Hillside Resort, and a school visit to Sathya Sai School, Chaibadan, Loburi, on February 21-22, 2014. Dr. Sangob Laksana, Dean of GSE, presided over the seminar and workshop. The event was well attended by all faculty, staff, and students.

School of Music, Assumption University organized a seminar on “How to Practice an Eight-Bar Studies after Chopin” by Prof. Martin Widmaier, University of Music and Media Robert Schumann: Dusseldorf-Germany on 24 February 2014 at Martin Hall (CL 24) Assumption University Suvarnabhumi Campus.

Freshman Students 3/2013
Office of Graduate Studies, Assumption University, organized an orientation for freshman students 3/2013 on 22-23 February 2014 at Holiday Inn Hotel, Pattaya. Rev.Bro. Dr. Amnuay Yoonprayong, Vice Rector for Moral Development Education, presided over the event and delivered a speech.
Dr. Pichai Thurongkinanon, a lecturer at Albert Laurence School of Communication Arts, graciously presented an art exhibition on “the Colors of Buddhaisawan” during March 1-24, 2014 at Suanpakkad Palace. Sponsored by Assumption University doctoral scholarship, Dr. Pichai fulfilled the requirement for a PhD program in Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University with this exhibition where Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, AU Rector Magnificus attended as guest of honor and gave a speech.

With B.S. and M.S. in Art Education, Chulalongkorn University, Dr. Pichai has acquired solid knowledge extensive background in art education and fine arts. He has been active in his chosen profession giving numerous art exhibitions since B.E. 2529 and 9 published academic articles in well recognized academic journals. This exhibition portrays his impression on the color scheme skillfully and uniquely presented in the mural paintings at the Buddhaisawan Chapel, a most complete and finest Thai style painting in Early Rattanakosin Period.

ABAC Today joins the AU Community congratulate Dr. Pichai Thurongkinanon on his grand success!
AU Student Organization held a pre-election meeting to register candidates for AUSO President Election 2014 on 18 March 2014 at the AU Conference Center, John XXIII Building, Suvarnabhumi campus.

CA Greet Festival #10
Albert Laurence School of Communication Arts, Assumption University, presents their 10th annual event “CA Greet Festival #10,” under the theme, “Underground Undergreet” on March 19th, 2014 at 16.30 – 22.00 hrs. The event displayed the students’ work from each major: Advertising, Public Relations, Performance Communication, New Media Communication, Visual Communication Design, and Computer Generated Imagery. The exhibition aimed to introduce different majors and inspire all Assumption University’s students and outside event participants. The event included on-stage performance from The Yers, Tabasco’s, and Superbaker music bands, fashion shows, stage play, and etc. Students’ handmade products, services, and foods and beverages were provided throughout the evening on the walking street in front of CA Building.
Japanese Music Concert
Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, President - Rector Magnificus of Assumption University attended the SAKU Japanese Music Concert. The SAKU band performed sweet Japanese traditional repertoires to the audience of AU community. Among the audience were Rev. Bro. Dr. Prathip M. Komolmas, AU President Emeritus, Dr. Vindhai Cocracul, Vice Rector for Student Affairs and Dean of the School of Music, faculty members and students. The performance took place on March 19, 2014, at Martin Hall, 24th floor, Cathedral of Learning Building, Assumption University, Suvarnabhumi campus.

AU Sports Month Closing Ceremony
AUSO or Assumption University Student Organization led by Mr. Kantapon Vittayaprechapon, AUSO President, organized the closing ceremony of AU Sports Month on 24 march 2014 at John Paul II Sports Center, Suvarnabhumi campus. The aim of AU Sports Month 2014 is to encourage students to wisely spend their time in sports for health and for enhancing relationships among friends. Rev. Brother President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran was invited to chair and deliver a speech on this occasion.
Assumption University Celebrated Songkran Festival on April 11, 2014 at the Suvarnabhumi campus.

Faculty, staff and students paid their respects to the President, President Emeritus and the Vice Presidents by pouring lustral water on their hands and invoking blessings upon them.

The President and President Emeritus addressed the university community and while extolling the richness and meaningfulness of the Songkran festival, they urged the students to inculcate respect for traditions and cultural observations. The President and President Emeritus blessed the gathering and wished everyone the joys of the Thai New Year.

The photographs taken on the occasion reflect the rich splendor of the surroundings, the flushness of the Thai summer, and the meaningful ceremonies, and a happy university community.
Environmental and Water Management in Flood-Risk Areas in Asia

On March 24, 2014 Montfort Del Rosario School of Architecture and Design, Assumption University in cooperation with Technical University Berlin, Germany organized an International Seminar entitled “Environmental and Water Management in Flood-Risk Areas in Asia” The objective was to promote academic knowledge exchange and enhance relationships between the two universities. Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, President - Rector Magnificus of Assumption University presided over the opening ceremony.

In attendance were Rev. Bro. Dr. Prathip M. Komolmas, AU President Emeritus, Dr. Kamol Kitsawad, Vice Rector for Advancement, the University Registrar and the Chief Information Officer, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nitichan Pleumarom, Dean of Montfort Del Rosario School of Architecture and Design, faculty members and scholars from several countries from Asia and Europe. The seminar took place on March 24 – 28, 2014 at John XXIII Conference Centre, Assumption University Suvarnabhumi campus.

Flash Mob in Celebration of World Cricket Cup

The Bangladeshi Student Community held a flash mob in celebration of World Cricket Cup organized in Bangladeshi (recently concluded). This was in line with the Bangladeshi fashion to perform a flash mob on the World Cup theme and uploaded on youtube. Approximately 30-40 Bangladeshi students in AU performed on the street at the junction of SM building or Center Point on Wednesday March 26, 2014 at 13.30 hrs. The performance was around 5 minutes.
AU Music Festival 2014

AU Music Festival 2014: a Groundbreaking Music Event
25th March 2014
17.00 - 22.00 hrs. Football Field, Assumption University Aquatics Center
Suvannabhumi Campus

Jointly organized by AU Music Club and the School of Music and Exrass Exhibition, the AU Music Festival 2014 was groundbreaking of its kind under the concept of ‘music in the fun park’ which never happened before as it encompassed all grand musical shows and performances in one place at one time.

The purpose of the Festival was threefold: to promote music activities on campus, to cultivate social responsibility minds among students through music, and to encourage musical collaboration with other institutions and universities.

The activities included performances for the audience and the contest which started from the audition until the final round of 12 contestant bands during the 17-20 March. Some major performances featured award winning bands such as Chulalongkorn University band, Klear, Cocktail, and just as equally talented and skillful were the performances of blind musicians. Moreover, as a FUN PARK, the audience enjoyed riding merry-go-round and ferris wheel, trying food booths, buying many OTOP and local Thai products as well as exploring/viewing the exhibitions of export products.

AU Music Festival was sponsored by Osotsapa (โอรสพา), Thai Insurance Co., Ltd. (ที่ประภัฏรัฐที่), Wuttissak Clinic (วุฒิสัตว์), Jele Beauty (เจเลบิวตี้), LeKone, VitaMilk (วิต้ามิลค์), Counter service (7-Eleven?), ABACA, MegaBangna, Krungsri Bank, New Storm, Super Wear, BJC, Lactasoy (ลาศาสอย), Pork Leg Restaurant (เจ้าหมูปุณณิช), Onet Internet Cafe, Patio, Major Cineplex, and Farm Design.

A Heart-felt thanks to you all for making this event a big success!
Prizes, Awards and Honors

Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, Rector Magnificus presided over the University Entrepreneurial Development Program Certificate Ceremony on March 13, 2014 at Wisetsrisamut Room, Suvarnabhumi Campus. Attendants in the ceremony were M.L. Acharapa Varavarn, AP Recruiting COE Supervisor, Human Resources Services Center from ExxonMobil Limited., Mr. Saran Sasanavin, Senior Vice President and Manager, Corporate Business Department from Bank of Ayudhya Public Company Limited., Dr. Vindhai Cocracul, Vice Rector for Student Affairs, Dr. Chirapa Srilakasin, Assistant to Vice Rector for Student Affairs, faculty members and students.

The Office of the University Registrar in cooperation with the Next Step, Co., Ltd. organized the 11th test competition for scholarships on eListening February 23, 2014 at a computer lab 2nd Floor, Srisakdi Charmonman IT Center, Suvarnabhumi Campus. The number of scholarships are offered each year to high school students in Thailand who successfully pass the test and meet other conditions to study in various undergraduate programs at Assumption University. This year 100 Assumption University scholarships were given to 100 successful 12th grade students, a total of Baht 35 million.

The eListening scholarship project was jointly initiated between the two organization 11 years ago in 2003 as an extension of “Exploring the World” Project (โครงการสำรวจโลก)

For further information on the eListening test visit the following website: www.elistening.au.edu

Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, President - Rector Magnificus of Assumption University, presides over the “Rev. Bro. Martin 80th Anniversary Scholarships” meeting. This scholarship is awarded to high school students who are graduating Matayom 6 from Thai schools all over the country to attend Assumption University undergraduate studies international programs. The purpose of the scholarships is to give qualified students an opportunity to study in a college with international environment that will broaden their vision and so that they graduate with desirable competencies capable to serve the country. Attendants were experience, Dr. Kamol Kitsawad, Vice Rector for Advancement, the University Registrar and the Chief Information Office, parents and students. The event took place on February 28, 2014 at John XXIII Conference Center, Assumption University, Suvarnabhumi campus.
Exchange Program

Orientation of the African Students Community

Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, President - Rector Magnificus of Assumption University, presided over the welcoming orientation of the African Students Community to introduce and advise them on university life, on-campus varied learning opportunities, available services and resources. Attendants were A. Siriporn Kiatpapan and African students. The event was held on March 19, 2014 at SR.416, St. Raphael’s Hall Assumption University, Suvarnabhumi campus.
Photograph Montage
International Night 2014