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On March 26, 2012, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously attended the 95th anniversary celebration of Chulalongkorn University. Arriving at Chulalongkorn University at 7.00 a.m., Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn paid homage to the Royal Statues of King Rama V and King Rama VI and, together with Chulalongkorn University administrative board and students, offered alms to Buddhist monks at the front of Chulalongkorn University Main Auditorium.

As the morning progressed, the Princess presided over various ceremonies to mark the university’s 95th anniversary, including the royal portraits of King Rama V and King Rama VI at the Maha Chulalongkorn building and the foundation stone-laying ceremony at the Siam Square One building. This latter ceremony was held by the Office of Property Management as part of its property development plan to create a contemporary lifestyle center for the city.

At 10.00 a.m., the Princess watched a Thai traditional musical performance at the Chulalongkorn University Main Auditorium and also participated in performances by the Baan Plai nearn and Sai Yai Chamchuri ensembles.

The evening’s highlight was a homecoming night party where Chulalongkorn University alumni were able to get together to celebrate the university’s 95th anniversary. Starting at 7.00 p.m., the get-together party was held on the grounds in front of the Royal Statues of King Rama V and King Rama VI, and was graced by the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Among the evening’s pleasures was Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn’s singing of the song “Suk Kan Thoe Rao” (Let’s Get Happy). The President of Chulalongkorn University Alumni Association along with the organizing committee also sang “Happy Birthday” to celebrate Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn’s own birthday on April 2.
Chulalongkorn University and Toyota Motor Thailand Co., Ltd. hosted a tree-planting event in celebration of His Majesty the King’s 84th birthday on the property of Chulalongkorn University in Saraburi Province. Over 3,000 volunteer participants and locals shared smiles and good vibes throughout the gathering.

The objectives of this joint project by Chula and Toyota are to celebrate HM the King’s 84th birthday, to promote public-mindedness among students, and to expand the network of Chulalongkorn University and external organizations to drive productive CSR activities efficiently.

CU’s Land Development Project at Amphoe Kaeng Khoi in Saraburi was initiated in 1989 by Prof. Dr. Boonrod Bintasan and the CU Alumni Foundation. A 3,354-rai plot of land became an extension of the university’s campus with the objective of creating a network linking the university and Saraburi Province for purposes of research and academic development. The project serves as a place for student internship and for undergraduate and graduate students to perform research and study natural science and information specific to the local, as well as to assist in the development of the province in various aspects.
Chulalongkorn University is among the leading institutions in Asia that publish large numbers of research papers. Most of them are used not only within the university itself, but also made available outside of the university for development purposes.

According to the general report on the years 2009 - 2011 produced by the university, Chula aims "to become a world-class university with academic quality and standards at a high level in terms of graduates, research and other academic achievements." In order to achieve this goal, Chula has set up 12 key performance indicators (KPIs), one of which tallies the number of research projects that benefit the country.

The university has divided its research projects into seven clusters which focus on the areas of Food, Energy, Climate Change, Health, Aging Society, Advanced Materials, and Human Security. One especially interesting aspect of this setup is that within these seven clusters there are research projects whose technology is passed on to industrial sector and thereby contributes to the development of the country's economy.

Some of the research project that were highlighted in the 2009 - 2011 report are:

Research projects sponsored by the government's Thai Khem Khaeng (SPII) budget (Chula - Saraburi), which are divided into three groups: Food Innovation, Green Engineering for a Green Society, and Efficient Biotechnology and Biomass Utilization for Energy and Chemical Production. These projects have been able to create 60 innovative product prototypes and to contribute to 15 new technologies that can be transmitted to 45 units in the private industrial sector. Furthermore, there is a research that responds to the demands of the pharmaceutical industry, including the development of new smoking cessation and lip care products, antibiotics and antimalarial drugs, herbal cosmetics, herbal treatment for drug addiction, and many more.
Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea vaccine

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea, or PED, is a virus that is widespread in pigs and has caused significant losses for Thai farmers. Chula researchers have therefore developed a vaccine to prevent outbreaks in Thailand caused by this virus. As a result, imported PED vaccine, which is expensive and ineffective, has been replaced by the locally-developed product.

Edible coating for fruit pulp

This is an edible coating that helps extend the shelf life of pomelo and durian pulp. It does not change the smell or flavor of the fruits and reduces export costs, as the exporter can remove the shell reducing the weight of the fruit products.

Chitosan nanoparticles for aroma emission control

Chula researchers have developed Chitosan nanoparticles, which can be used to control the emission of scents by consumer products so that they last longer. They can be used as an ingredient in products like shampoos, soaps, detergents, and cosmetics like lotions, perfumes, hair sprays, etc.

Ceramic powder to absorb pesticides and kill bacteria on fresh fruits and vegetables

Highly effective ceramic powder is ideal for removing contamination by cleaning chemical, pesticide and bacteria residues from various agricultural products. It is extracted from eggshells, and is safer for consumers than other types of vegetable washing powders. Furthermore, the product adds value to the eggshells used to produce it, as these are usually considered to be food waste and discarded.
Green Chula

Right in the heart of Bangkok, surrounded by the hectic, high-speed commercial activity of Pathumwan District, there still exists a green area full of trees and clean air, a lung to help the city center breathe.

The concept of Chulalongkorn University as a Green institution is not a new one inspired by current trends. It has been part of the ideology that has guided the university’s development since its inception, the idea of protecting nature in the university and preserving its many trees. Today, trees dating back almost a century can be seen, as well as others planted only recently.

In line with this long-standing commitment to a Green approach, Chula is planning to pursue a number of projects concerned with all aspects of using energy efficiently at the university. They will be led and coordinated by Professor Lersom Sthapitanonda and the Physical Resources Management Department.

Professor explained to The Gazette that, “in order to attain the ideal of a Green university, a number of factors have to be taken into consideration, and these are the focal points of different, interrelated projects. For example, the ‘Chula Loves Earth’ project helps to promote the expansion of green areas within the university by growing as many trees as possible. This project has been in progress for almost four years. Another activity associated with this campaign was a tree-planting event held at Amphoe Kaeng Khoi in Saraburi Province and organized jointly by Chulalongkorn University and Toyota.

“Another project is our ‘Leaf Waste Recycling for Soil Fermentation’, which will involve using the university’s central area to help reduce the quantity of leaf waste and economize on the cost of removing it. This project was initiated in 2009 and will continue.

“Furthermore, by applying research-derived technology, Chula is turning food waste into biogas by using a Continuous Stirred Tank Reactor. The gas produced is being sent for use in three areas, those in the dormitory canteen, the Chula Chakrabongse Building canteen, and the Mahittalathibet Building canteen.”

Other projects led by Professor Lersom are also concerned with energy and the environment.

“Since our university has a large number of students and staff, we would like to promote the idea of using fewer cars for travelling short distances,” she explained. “We support the idea of walking instead of driving, and to facilitate this we have decided to build more covered walkways, increasing their length from 1,400 meters in 2010 to 3,306 meters. The new walkways will be routed through many faculties.”

“The Chula community and visitors who have seen the progress of our Green projects will realize that we are constantly working to find innovative ways to support environmental conservation.”
“We have already created a number of green areas around the university, including the Laan Prasri Mahabhodi, a green activity space in front of the central library, and the Park at Siam, a pocket park where city people can relax and be revitalized by nature.

“And since Thailand is home to a diversity of plants, we feel that it is a perfect place for the public to learn about botany. That is why we have set up the Chulalongkorn University Campus Plant Research Center, which focuses on the study of plants growing around our campus, and will help build the university’s botanical database. We have placed an identifying label on every single plant to form a living museum that will help educate the general public and the Chula community about the plant life that they see.

“Also in the works is the preparation of a book, Phan Mai Nai Uttayarn Chamchuri (Plants in the Chulalongkorn University Gardens) to provide knowledge to those who have a chance to visit our campus,” Professor Lersom concluded.
Even with all the damage that climate change and natural disasters have been inflicting on people and livestock in recent years, there has been good news coming from the Research and Development area. Three parties of researchers working cooperatively (The Use of Nuclear Technology to Improve Artificial Insemination in Dairy Cattle and Swamp Buffalo; A Scientific Thai-Netherlands Co-operative Project; Increasing Efficiency of Food and Agricultural Production by nuclear Technology, under the supervision of the Research and Development Center for livestock Production Technology, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University) have achieved great success in a project undertaken to clone a swamp buffalo, resulting in the appearance of the first cloned swamp buffalo calf in Thailand.

On November 23, 2011, Chulalongkorn University’s Faculty of Veterinary Science held a press conference on the topic, “First Cloned Swamp Buffalo in Thailand” led by Prof. Pirom Kamolratanakul, M.D., the president of Chulalongkorn University, in association with Prof. Dr. Mongkol Techakumphu, the dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science; Associate Prof. Dr. Anong Bintvihok, the director of the Research and Development Center for Livestock Production Technology; and Mr. Kriengsak Tasripoo, a researcher.

Prof. Dr. Mongkol disclosed that Chulalongkorn University’s Research and Development Center for Livestock Production Technology, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University, and the Science Innovation Center for Veterinary Biotechnology, Chulalongkorn University Centenary Academic Development Project, had successfully cloned Thailand’s first swamp buffalo using ear skin cells from a Phaya Khwai Thai swamp buffalo, resulting in a 40 pound male calf born at Farm Wua Thong in Saraburi Province on October 25, 2011.

“The success of the groundbreaking project will have a significant positive impact on conservation efforts to protect endangered buffalo species in Thailand.”

The research team from the Research and Development Center for Livestock Production Technology, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University consists of Mr. Kriengsak Tasripoo, Miss Wanwipa Suthikrai, Miss Ratri Jintana, and Miss Kittya Sriakwattana, in consultation with Prof. Maneewan Kamonpatana, the consultant and initiator of the Thai Swamp Buffalo Cloning Technology Project, which has been in operation since the year 1998.

Prof. Pirom Kamolratanakul, M.D., the president of Chulalongkorn University, affirmed that the project’s success marks an historical moment for Thailand, and enhances the reputation and prestige not only of the university’s Faculty of Veterinary Science, but of the country as a whole. It will remain a point of pride for the Thai people in the field of animal species conservation.

“I am grateful to the team of researchers from the Research and Development Center for Livestock Production, and deeply appreciate their continuing work, courage and dedication, over 13 years, leading to this remarkable achievement,” Prof. Pirom said.
The Chula community recently celebrated the success of the university’s Thai Classical ensemble, Kiew Kradung Nga, under the guidance of distinguished scholar Pakorn Rodchangphuen and supported by the university’s Pillar of the Kingdom for Thai Classical Music Project as the ensemble won the first prize for the Piphat Mai Nuam class of the National Thai Classical Music Competition (General Public category) held by Ramkhamhang University in September 2011. The ensemble comprises 15 former and current Chula students from the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts and the Faculty of Education. In honor of this remarkable performance, The Gazette of Arts and the Faculty of Education. In honor of this remarkable performance, The Gazette of Arts and the Faculty of Education.

“The key to Kiew Kradung Nga’s success is how we all work together as a family,” said Suwicha Kammathep Theeralertrat, a Faculty of Education major at Chulalongkorn University, adding that he had received very strong support from the university. Under the supervision of Dr. Yutthana Chapphannarat, project leader of the “Pillar of the Kingdom for Thai Classical Music” and a graduate of Chulalongkorn University’s “Silapa Dee Den (Excellence in Arts)” program, gave us an overview of Thai classical music; “What we refer to as classical Thai music today can be more accurately called court music, thanks to its origin in the royal court. Traditional Thai musical ensembles can be categorized into three types, as defined in the Rattanakosin era: Piphat, Khrueang Sai, and Mahori. Traditional Thai musical instruments are categorized based on how they are played. Thus, we end up with the instruments grouped into plucked string (e.g. Jakhe), bowed string (e.g. Saw), percussion (e.g. Ranat, Gong chimes), and wind (e.g. flutes and oboes). Thai music has long been an integral part of the lives of Thai people. Every activity of significance – no matter whether it involves the royal family or average citizens – features Thai music to some degree. These events range from birth ceremonies and citizenship – features Thai music to some degree. Every activity of significance – no matter whether it involves the royal family or average citizens – features Thai music to some degree. These events range from birth ceremonies and education, Thai classical music singer and the ensemble’s Khong Wong Lek player. “We have fun together in a relaxing atmosphere. This way, we can deliver good performances.”

Kammathep Theeralertrat, a Faculty of Education majoring in Musical Studies, added that he had received very strong support from the university. Under the supervision of Dr. Yutthana, ensemble members were able to sharpen their skills alongside genuine masters of Thai music in Ayutthaya, while practice sessions are always well-supported with facilities and equipment.

When asked of their motivations in taking up Thai music, the ensemble’s members all spoke of their determination to preserve this valuable cultural heritage. Sawitree Jamjai, a fifth-year Musical Studies major from the Faculty of Education, Thai classical music singer and the champion of Thai University Rhythm of Prose Reading competition, revealed that she had become interested in Thai music at a young age. “I want to be a representative of my generation in showing that teenagers are still actively interested in classical Thai music,” she said.

Drummer and Musical Studies sophomore, Methas Boonmasongsong added, “Thai music is a test of concentration and patience, and it is also a lesson in showing gratitude to our teachers – a core value in Thai society. Aside from that, participation in the Thai Music Club’s activities gave me a chance to meet new people. I want to see organizations and institutions around Thailand show their support for Thai music and keep this vital element of our cultural traditions alive for future generations to enjoy.”

Dr. Yutthana described Chulalongkorn University’s role in the world of Thai music as a patron, an inheritor, a developer. “We are not only nurturing Thai musicians within the university. We also seek out the most promising prospects from around the country to give them opportunities in learning and full support under the ‘Excellence in Arts’ program, which has been running for over ten years. We have given Thai society a large number of talented artists and teachers.

“Our activities are not for profit. We regularly hold camps for practice sessions and behavioral training. Through Thai music, we can mold the minds of our children to ensure that they emerge as society’s best and brightest.”

Dr. Yutthana admitted that classical Thai music is now fading in popularity as it is no longer a part of everyday life today. This means that preservation of Thai music alone is not enough – a degree of adaptation is required to capture the hearts and minds of the younger generations. “When we play for an international audience, we often inspire awe and admiration in foreigners. However, people within our own country are now turning to music of a different, newer kind. I believe we as a nation have to perform a delicate balancing act between learning about the new and preserving the old.”

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Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping Pays a Visit to the Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University

On December 24, 2011, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping paid a visit to Chulalongkorn University. He was in Thailand as a guest of the Thai government from 22 to 24 December, and was greeted upon his arrival at the Chulalongkorn University Auditorium by the university’s executives and staff, as well as by many students.

After Prof. Pirom Kamolratanakul, M.D., the president of Chulalongkorn University, officially greeted the vice president, students from the Faculty of Arts and the Confucius Institute sang a selection of songs, “Sing and Smile”, in the Chinese language. Mr. Xi then delivered a speech and presented a gift of books to the Confucius Institute, after which he was presented with a gift by Prof. Pirom. Before he left the university, Mr. Xi visited an exhibition of the Confucius Institute’s teaching and learning presented at the CU Auditorium.

The People’s Republic of China and Thailand have a long-standing cooperative academic and cultural relationship. The Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University was established through a cooperative undertaking between Beijing University and Chulalongkorn University. The mission of the institute is to teach Chinese language and to promote the knowledge and understanding of Chinese art and culture, and thereby to help strengthen and secure understanding between the two countries. It receives generous support from HAnBAn or Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language and the Chinese government.

Mr. Xi expressed his pleasure in having this opportunity to visit Chulalongkorn University and the Confucius Institute. He noted that Chulalongkorn University is one of the most famous Thai institutions of higher learning, with a 95-year history, and that in the near-century since its founding it has produced a great number of outstanding graduates for the nation.

Mr. Xi added that China and Thailand have been close neighbors and have enjoyed a warm relationship for a long time. The two countries will continue to work together, with the Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University playing an essential role as a stage for cultural exchange to promote understanding and friendship between the young people of the two countries. He expressed hope that every student at the institute would persevere in learning Chinese culture and language to deepen understanding of the People’s Republic of China, and in that way strengthen and make permanent the bond of friendship between the two countries.

Chula Crowns the Victor at 68th Chula - Thammasat Football Match

The 68th traditional football competition between two of Thailand’s most prestigious universities, Chulalongkorn University and Thammasat University, was held at the National Stadium on Saturday, February 25, 2012. The competition had been postponed a number of times due to last year’s floods. This year Chulalongkorn University was the host of this historical football match, which was organized with the theme, “Opening Up” to restore hope, restrengthen thinking power and embrace change. H.E. Privy Councillor Palakorn Suwanrath was the chairperson of the competition.

The atmosphere in the stadium was charged with energy as supporters from both universities cheered their teams. They were so enthusiastic that the hot weather was not obstacle to them – the Chulalongkorn University side of stadium especially filled up very quickly with supporters. The ceremony started off, as it does every year, with the cheerleading teams from both universities, followed by student parades which include a procession to glorify His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, a drum major’s team and a series of political parody parades.

This year the host was crowned as the winner of the competition 1-0 and won the trophy graciously given for the event by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Over the years, CU has won the event 15 times and Thammasat 22 times, with the rest of the matches ending in ties. In the alumni football match TU was again beaten by the host, 4-3.

The tradition of the Chula - Thammasat football match was started in 1934 by a group of Chulalongkorn University and Thammasat University students who had previously studied at the same high school. They organized a football match between CU and TU in order to strengthen ties between the students of these two prestigious universities. The first match was held on December 4, 1934 at Sanam Luang, then an open field in front of Temple of Emerald Buddha and the Grand Palace. In later years, the competition was usually held at the National Stadium on annual basis. Since the 12th traditional football match, the winning team has won the trophy given by His Majesty the King. The football match is more than just a game to the students of both institutions, as it is a source of pride and an invaluable tradition that keeps ties between CU and TU perpetually strong.
Chulalongkorn University Website Wins Most Popular University Website in Thailand

Chula website ranks first in Thailand, 40th in Asia and 294th in the world, according to the recent university website ranking of over 11,000 universities in 200 countries across the world in 2012. The ranking was conducted by 4 International Colleges & Universities (www.4icu.org) based on independent information: Google Page Rank, Alexa Traffic Rank and Majestic Seo Referring Domains.

Other university websites that secure their places in the rankings are Kasetsart University (2nd), Thammasat University (3rd), Prince of Songkla University (4th) and Khon Kaen University (5th).

Chulalongkorn University: http://www.chula.ac.th/

Asst. Prof. Rattachat Mongkolnavin, Ph.D., assistant to the president for International Affairs, stated that, “According to a recent study, with results announced this year, conducted by SCImago (Scimago Institutions Rankings World Reports), which aiming at becoming an evaluation framework of research performance to Worldwide Research Organizations, Chulalongkorn University ranks first in Thailand, 107th in Asia and 492th in the world based on the 6,047 international publications it produced between the years 2005 and 2009.”

The first-runner up in the ranking is Mahidol University, which ranks 107th in Asia and 521st in the world with 5,742 international research publications. Other Thai universities ranked by the SCImago include Chiangmai University (ranked at 914th), Prince of Songkla University (ranked at 1,170th), and Kasetsart University (ranked at 1,241st).

The Scimago Institutions Rankings World Reports show six indicators that will help users evaluate the scientific impact, thematic specialization, output size and international collaboration networks of the institutions. The period analyzed in the current edition covers 2005 - 2009. The tables include institutions having published at least 100 scientific documents of any type, that is, articles, reviews, short reviews, letters, conference papers, etc., during the year 2009 as collected by worldwide leader scientific database Scopus by Elsevier. The report encompasses Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as well as other research-focused organizations from different sizes, with different missions and from countries in the five continents. The ranking now includes 3,042 institutions that together are responsible for more than 80% of worldwide scientific output during the term 2005 - 2009 as indexed in Elsevier’s Scopus database.
Congratulations!
It’s the 95th Anniversary of Chulalongkorn University.

“A Happy 95th anniversary to Chulalongkorn University! Chula has been my home and a part of me since I first entered the university. It had given me so many opportunities that fulfilled my life’s goal. My congratulatory gift on this special occasion will be to dedicate my work and heartfelt support to the continued strength of Chula.”

Smith Boonchudinema
Lecturer at the Faculty of Communication Arts and winner of the Best Lecturer Award 2010

“I just can’t believe that the university is already 95 years old! It’s been a while since I left. First of all, I would like to congratulate this institution that I respect so highly. Chula is like both a teacher and a friend to me. Without it, I wouldn’t have achieved what I have until now. I am deeply grateful for everything the university had given me. My wish is for Chula to stay as it is as the number one university of Thailand, and of course to become the first university in Asia to be ranked among the best in the world.”

Prachya Preechaweerakul
Alumni

"First of all, I would like to pass on my good wishes to Chulalongkorn University on the occasion of its 95th anniversary celebration. I can’t think of any present that would be worthy of presenting to this university that I respect and love so much. I only have my words and personal will as a gift to offer for this celebration. I will do my best to represent Chulalongkorn University. I will be a responsible student, and a caring adult, and will one day have a successful career for my family and for Chula.”

Jonjutha Sila-ard
Third-year student at Faculty of Arts

Chula International Communication Center (CICC)
Chulalongkorn University
254 Phayathai Rd., Pathumwan,
Bangkok, Thailand 10330