

Group 7 Portfolio

1. Assignment 2 - Dystopian Design Challenge:

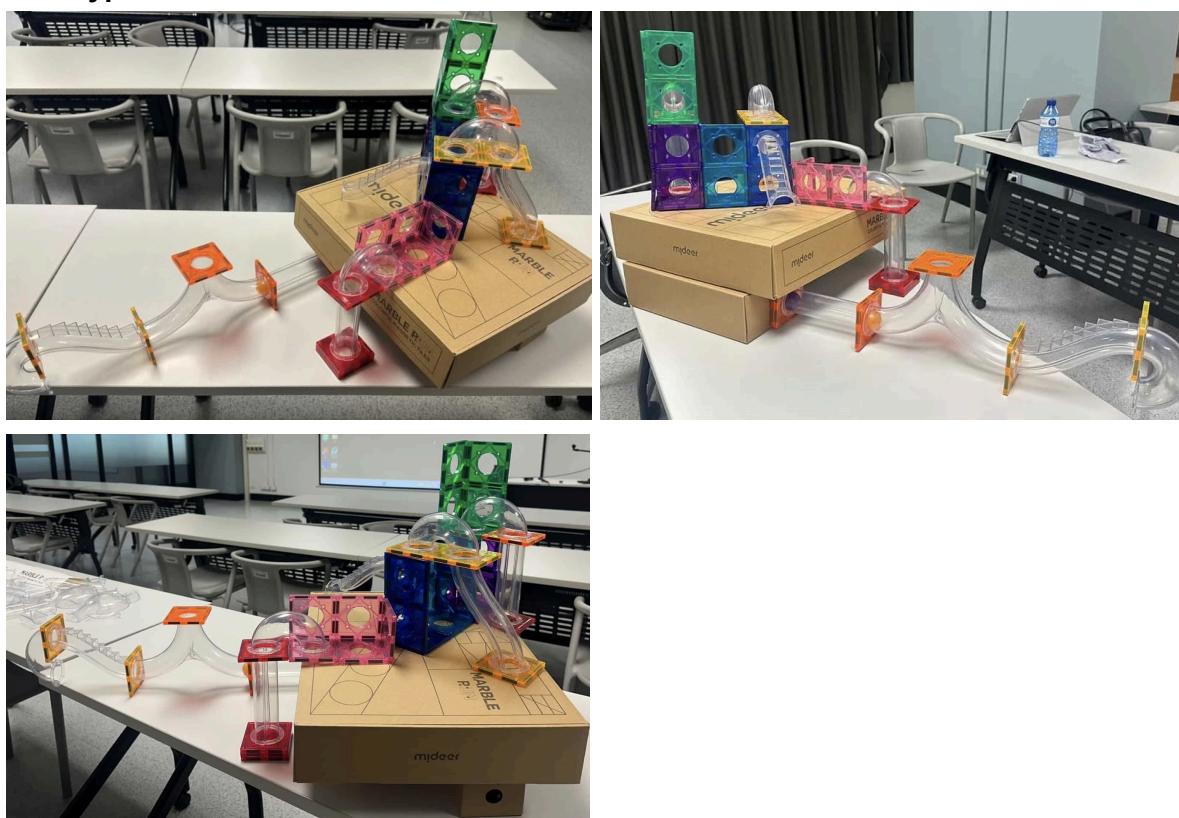
Dystopian World Definition:

Year 26 of the Musk Age - or, in the archaic Gregorian calendar, 2125. Twenty-six years ago came the Great Liberation, when Musk's army of cybertronic sentinels defeated Google's rogue self-aware AI Robo-Cops. The victor's biological clone, Musk the Second, now rules the Walled-Cities as Cyberlord.

Inside the walls lies a manufactured paradise of readily available fresh water, lush green spaces, universal welfare, and free advanced technology, all "mercifully" granted by the Cyberlord. Outside is the Gulf of Death, a wasteland of pro-human insurgents and rogue Robo-Cops.

The roots of this age trace back to humanity's relentless AI expansion, which drained the planet's freshwater reserves to power billions of servers. Water became currency, and independent efforts to harvest it were outlawed. Governments collapsed in a corporate tech arms race, replaced by ruthless technocrats. After decades of chaos, only Musk's mega-conglomerate prevailed. In this new world, technological might is absolute power.

Prototype of sociotechnical structure:



The context of the dystopia:

Inside the Walled-Cities, the Cyberlord's AI drones monitor every citizen's daily lives, scanning for thoughts of rebellion and contraband, especially unlicensed water. Rebels outside the walls and sympathizers inside must find ways to move supplies and information without triggering AI detection. In a society where thoughts, communication and resources are tightly controlled, secrecy is survival.

The purpose and function of the design:

Our invention, the Freedom Railroad, is a water and message smuggling underground tube. The "underground railroad" has no controlled path, and each one leads to dead ends to prevent capture. The tube has sections of hollow chamber for water ration tokens encoded with rebel messages to prevent suspicions.

The gravity-powered system allows travel of tokens through chutes hidden in markets, alleys, or even across city walls. No electronic powered parts means it is invisible to AI surveillance.

Ethical questions or trade-offs the design raises:

Since this design is an underground project both physically and as a metaphor, it is aimed to be hidden by the citizens from the authorities. This is the right of communication freedom. One of the ethical questions against this Freedom Railroad is it will open the way for inappropriate or threatening messages to be sent out. Since it is all about freedom, the rules of ethics and morals are barely shaping the way of the system. Therefore, if there is a harmful or unacceptable context being delivered, there will be no responsibility of actions as to what should be done with the real world ethical freedom.

Reflection:

Design is intentional, never impartial, and is the doorway to understanding personal and systemic perception of prevailing issues in society. It can be used to oppress people, as seen in the Cyberlord's AI surveillance and water-control systems. Design can restrict freedom, reinforce tyranny, and punish disobedience. At the same time, design can empower resistance, as with the Freedom Railroad. The same creativity that creates control can also revive personal autonomy. In crisis, how systems are designed determines who holds power and who retains freedom. Innovations can make a huge difference in people's lives if wielded critically and altruistically with all stakeholders in mind.

2. Individual and Group's Free Writing Exercise:

Aksarapaka Darbtham [REDACTED] (Pak)



Greetings!

First and foremost, my name is **Pak Aksarapaka Darbtham**. I was born in Bangkok [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Later, I graduated from the [REDACTED] with a concentration in science-mathematics which paved the way for my interests in both biological and cultural studies. Thus, I had a vision to go above and beyond at Harvard University pursuing a degree in neuroscience, and another one for music history. I did go through the application process, got deferred, was so delighted, and then got rejected. It was truly an emotional roller coaster for me during my senior years in [REDACTED]. However, I put almost of my everything into the application time; my health, my time, and my passion. I even

wrote a hundred pages book to be published, still finding a matching publisher to print this work out. Meanwhile, I also prioritized other aspects. I started a club called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Model United Nations. Actually, it is a legacy from my first year at [REDACTED] as a pilot generation member. It died during the Covid-19 pandemic period. Instead of writing an eulogy, I decided to revitalize the club and brought diplomatic activities in. Even though all of these do not pay me what I expected, they unlock my potential. I know I can go further and higher within my comfortable pace. I love this lesson about life balancing from the real world so much.

Therefore, I have a new plan for my life. I am aiming for Harvard Medical School with hope. I know that it is going to be harder than I can imagine, but if there is a will, there is a way. Harvard Medical School offers a double degree track of MD-MPP, one in medicine and another master in governance. Since my health does not allow me to study medicine in Thailand due to its overloading system, I see the light to become one with the American boards after finishing degrees here from PGS as a fundamental for the MPP political academic learning. This might be a call for me to become a pediatrician coming back to work in Thailand. Consequently, I have to spend these four years in preparation for the application cycle again. I will definitely conduct research in neuroscience for both self pleasure and the good sake of humanity. I know there is a science heart beating inside of my body while my brain is processing the political science knowledge. This might be the most lucid vision I could think of.

Furthermore, the reason for pursuing degrees from PGS not other faculties is mostly about the location. [REDACTED], and also just a stop from the Faculty of Medicine. This familiarity attracted me like a magnet as it is so easy to walk across the road and do the research or to catch a bus and assist the school choir rehearsal. Another

inspiration to be here is the sense of arts and humanities. When I watched a session from UNGA in 2019, it was so admirable to see the representative of Thailand standing before the whole world and making a decision together with the global community for a peaceful yet solid solution. Plus, PGS is a double degree program that I can have a choice of my own to select where I will study aboard in the sophomore and junior years. As I have familiar experience in Australia, especially the city of Brisbane, the University of Queensland track is very attractive for me. In my knowledge, studying in Australia for international relations is one of the best places in the world to learn. From my point of view, with a different standing point in international forum status, living and experiencing the Australian way of action in real life would be a lesson that is out of the book and such valuable to study.

For you who are going to be my colleagues, I am pleased to let you know that I have really essential things to inform you. One, I am a truly annoying person in the morning. If I have to wake up so early, or after a short low-quality sleep, I become mad, emotional or cry, and basically paralyzed from getting out of bed. Two, I like to get into my nest early. After a long tiring day, I love to be back to my residence as soon as possible, kind of a bit introverted, right? Last but not least, I am matcha addicted. If you want to have one at any time, please let me know and I will create my best brew.

With greatest gratitude, and nice seeing you all,
Pak Aksarapaka

Pakorn Ovadhana [REDACTED] (Pine)



Hello

My name is **Pakorn Ovadhana**, nickname Pine. I was born in [REDACTED] here in Bangkok and also raised here in Bangkok. I study at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which allowed me to experience the community of both public school and international school.

In my time spent there I interacted with many people both in positive and negative ways which taught me many things but mainly the difference in culture and mindset of people but I only was able to look back at these experiences with those mindset when I was already in Senior year. I was not a socialized person as myself and many would describe me and early into each school year I would struggle heavily to

make real or close friends but this allow me to as weird as it sound, observe others student more from side line as I struggle to put myself into the community itself, the downside of joining school later and not the 1st year. Luckily later I did make a decent amount of close friends who I still interact with till this day and allow me to feel included into the school community itself. This

will come to no one's surprise that I do a lot of reading in my free time, be it news, novel / visual novel or history in my free time and sometime from these aspect I get to study and understand the culture of each country and how its history impact it current situation, I am quite bad at socializing still till this day. I also like animals, mainly fish and dogs and cats, and spend a lot of my time at my house playing with my pet.

For my future career I don't have a pin point to what I'm fully committed to be, I want to leave my option quite open but right now the main one I can see is working in works related to diplomacy in general. I haven't put much thought into working as a politician just yet, although the more I look into the PGS course it is slowly becoming a potential option.

I'm pursuing degree with PGS because in high school I have focused my study in Geography field and in that course I was able to get introduce to world of politics, although not as its main topic but side topic it still interest me in how much history and impact the politics situation of other country could affect the world itself, as I wasn't fond of politics before senior year in high school and try to avoid it but now I feel that I'm being pulled into it more and more. And with what I think could be my future career it's a perfect course for me to study on, the co-program with other country also is part of my reasoning, I wanted to see what it's like to study abroad in other country while not fully committing 4 years or more into it and with the course being about politics I might be able to further improve my insight to other country geopolitics while at it. A more personal answer is I wanted an excuse to spend more time in Australia but that doesn't play a big role in making me decide to study PGS, just a nice upside.

Other minor details, I like playing games, I don't go outside much but I do love visiting other cities or countries, I don't stop talking when it's the topic that I like a lot. I'm bad at talking in front of class or under the gaze of others (Is improving with each day).

Preecha Saetaew [REDACTED] (Giant)



My name is **Preecha Saetaew**, or known by my nickname as Giant. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] this is my first year here at Chulalongkorn University.
[REDACTED] Prior to studying at Chulalongkorn University, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the latter where I acquired my High School Diploma and paved the way for me to study here at Chulalongkorn University.

My key intentions to study and pursue a degree with PGS is that I want to better understand how society and governments works, as well as the relations between civilian social life, the government and the international stage. I firmly believe that pursuing a PGS degree will not only make me achieve these goals but to also pursue a successful career in the related fields, such as being a politician, diplomat or the civil service, some of which are careers in which I aspire to become. The reason that politics is one of the subjects that I am most interested in also fueled my aspirations to pursue a degree with PGS.

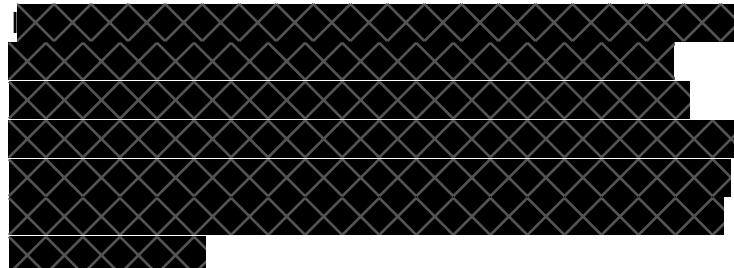
Furthermore, I also have experience from extracurricular activities I took part in during my time in secondary school, such as Interact Club (Part of the Rotary International) and Model United Nations. These activities not only helped deepen interest in the related fields, but also gave me various new knowledge, such as how international organisations work and how countries interact with each other on the global stage.

I'm looking forward to continuing my studies here at Chulalongkorn University and pursuing a degree with PGS.

Thanaphol Lohachitpitaks [REDACTED] (Bank)



My name is **Thanaphol Lohachitpitaks**, but everyone calls me **Bank**, the same name my family calls me by.



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
I am drawn to the freckles and wrinkles of aged souls, tempered by hardship and made patient with age. I am constantly searching for

the authentic, yet I rarely know how to retain it. Over time, I came to see this as a life long struggle: not fitting in. Though perhaps, it is a universal issue for mankind: where only in our sleep do we truly have our own space to belong to, and the power to paint our dreams. I am reminded of a verse by Rabindranath Tagore:

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

I can neither detract from nor add to this verse. In defining my life, I find that **service is joy** - expressed through an altruism and passion directed toward others, the strangers we come to know as life itself.

After graduating from [REDACTED], I attended a small college in [REDACTED], where I initially pursued a degree in Environmental Science. It was there that I discovered my passion for archaeology and botany, and my insatiable dislike for chemistry and engineering. My brief stay in the United States taught me the value of free speech and the role of higher education in shaping not only knowledge, but also career opportunities. Experiencing the American systems of minimum wage, social security, and respect for individuals as equals deepened my admiration for democratic principles and stirred in me a desire to see Thailand advance in a similar direction.

The sudden outbreak of the Covid-pandemic disrupted my path and brought me back to Thailand. This return marked a turning point in my life. I began working part-time and taking on odd jobs. Eventually, I enrolled in the BBA program at Mahidol University International College (MUIC). There, I was fortunate to meet inspiring professors who became my lifelong intellectual companions. Their flame of knowledge encouraged me to pursue every venture with greater curiosity and determination. While I enjoyed the social science side of the BBA curriculum, I found the focus on accounting and finance less aligned with my true interests. This contrast ultimately guided me toward PGS, where I seek to rekindle my sense of self, bravery, courage, and intellectual curiosity. I aspire to deepen my engagement with the local community, contribute in service to my peers, and continue expanding my capacity to learn new ways of learning. I hope PGS will take me to new boundaries, not just intellectually, but physically by taking me overseas to pursue a double degree from partnered universities. To me, that dual degree nature of the program is what drew me to PGS in the first place. Above all, the interdisciplinary nature of PGS resonates with me, offering a space where ideas and disciplines meet, an environment in which I believe I will thrive both academically and personally.

The question of my future career has bugged me existentially for an unhealthily long time. For years, I struggled to reconcile my shifting interests with the pressure to choose a defined, financially sustainable path. Yet, over time, I have come to recognize the emptiness of this invisible expectation, one I was raised under, which for years shackled my creativity and constrained my dreams. I am drawn to fields that allow me to engage with society, whether through cultural exchange, education, or diplomacy. I love geology, paleontology, botany, environmental science, biology, philosophy, religious studies, law, history, archaeology, anthropology, museology, and a plethora of other subjects that are dear to my heart. What connects these diverse interests is a desire to work in spaces where ideas meet people, and where knowledge can be used in the service of others. Echoing the wisdom of an ancient Roman statesman Cicero:

“Non nobis solum nati sumus” - “Not for ourselves alone are we born.”

In the end, I remain inspired by the wisdom of great minds of the past, embodied in a creed I have personally crystallized for myself:

“For posterity, I live - Not for ourselves alone are we born; a son, a brother, a soul’s confidant.”

This, I believe, is the answer to my life’s career.

\Pawares Arnupapbanjerd [REDACTED] (Josh)