

ไทย ไทย THAI THAI

NUS Thai Language Program Newsletter Volume 6 December 2014

Editor Says 'Hi'



Ajarn Weena

สวัสดีค่ะ
Sawatdii kha

Warm greetings!
Welcome to the latest edition of *Thai Thai* Newsletter vol. 6.

In this issue, we recap events and activities that took place this semester, part of the rich and fun Thai language program offers. Do not hesitate further, come join our program to pursue Thai language. I would boldly say that our Thai language courses will not disappoint you. With passion and hard work, you will master Thai language of your level.

What we can assure you is an enhanced classroom-learning environment, fun and interactive lessons; a great team of caring, supportive and helpful Thai language teachers to guide you along your learning journey. To

further equip you with a holistic learning experience, various activities and events are conducted throughout each semester.

This semester, the rich activities of Thai language program started off with a *Welcome Tea Ceremony*, followed by *Thai Day*, *Cooking Day*, and last but not least, the major festive celebration, *Loy Krathong*.

Find out more about our unique Thai Immersion program and watch out for the announcement regarding the program which is held twice (July and December) yearly. For more information, please contact Ajarn Sasiwimol at clssk.nus.edu.sg.

In this issue, you will also get to know Charlene, who was awarded The Best Thai language student for AY 2013/14. She will be sharing with us her learning journey in Thai language.

Well, I believe you will agree with me that the learning process takes place beyond the classroom, thus, additional cultural and informative activities and events organized for our students would greatly enrich your overall learning experience that will last you a lifetime.

On this note, I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of our newsletter and embark on the Thai language learning journey together with us.

Goodbye for now and see you again in our next issue.

สวัสดีค่ะ
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Cultural Events

By: Thai Language
Program at NUS

Welcome Tea

The Thai language program at NUS organized a *Welcome Tea* to welcome new students in semester 1: AY14-15 and share with the students on what the program has in store. A good number of students from all Thai modules, Thai 1-6, alumni as well as some Thai students in NUS turned up to mingle with one another sharing their experiences in learning Thai. The students who attended the Thai immersion program at Chiang Rai Rajabhat University, Chiang Rai, Thailand,

in July 2014 were invited to share their insights into their enriching journey. Other highlights of the students' presentations included the alumni from the program sharing how learning Thai benefits their current careers and personal growth. Towards the end of the event, students were introduced to an internship program, co-organized by the Thai language program and the Language Centre at Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand. The first batch of

interns is expected to embark on the trip this coming June-July 2015. The *Welcome Tea* happily concluded with all ajarns and students enjoying snacks and drinks provided.



Sawatdii Club students introducing the presentations from the alumni and students from the Thai program

Thai Day



Thai booth showcasing Krathong making and promoting Thai Language Program

To promote the Thai language program's cultural events, our *Thai Day*, held on Tuesday 14 October 2014, highlighted *Loy Krathong*, a cultural event held yearly in October. At our Thai booth, located in front of Central Library, Krathong making was demonstrated by professionals and Thai ajarns. Other activities included introducing the Thai language program and activities

offered by the program, Thai-name writing on bookmarks by students from Thai 3-6 and giving giveaways to passers-by. The crowd of students from all Thai modules and prospective students stopped by at the Thai booth to join the Krathong making while socializing with one another and having their names written in Thai script on handmade bookmarks.

Loy Krathong Festival

The *Loy Krathong* festival at NUS was held once again on Friday night of 24th October, 2014 at Town Plaza, Utown, NUS. Organized by the Thai Language Program together with the International Relations Office and Sawatdii Club, the festival was made possible by the Royal Thai Embassy in Singapore, sponsors and friends. A big crowd of Thai teachers, students and friends from the Thai communities in Singapore gathered at the Town Plaza since noon to help prepare Krathong, set up stalls for food, drinks and others.

The much-awaited festival started at 6 pm, graced by our Guest of Honour, Khun Aekajit Kraiwichien Charge d'affaires from the Royal Thai Embassy in Singapore. Special as ever, the event started with the traditional Thai dances performed by dancers from Thai Dance Society, Singapore, guest musicians and dancers from SOTA, Naresuan University, Thailand, and Absolutely Thai. Following this was our all-time favourite jazz music, performed by our distinguished guest artists, *The Jazz Trio*, by a professor from NUS Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music and

other leading jazz musicians from Singapore. One highlight of the night included *Thai Voice*, singing contest participated by students from the Thai language program. Other than the stage performances, guests also moved around to join the *Papaya salad* and *Thai-iced-tea making* contests.

The fun-filled atmosphere continued especially when *The Mosquitoes*, our home-grown Thai pop band, took over the stage. Formed 4 years ago by a group of musically talented students and

professors, the pop band has been invited to perform at the Thai program's cultural events and concerts throughout the island. The full-moon night ended beautifully with Krathong floating at Town Plaza, Utown. Loy Krathong 2014 was another success; witnessed by almost 300 participants, audiences were being engaged in the fantastic cultural performances, meaningful and enriching activities and enjoyed authentic Thai food and snacks.



Thai Performances during Loy Krathong Festival

*Soak yourself in the rich
Thai language and culture.
Immerse yourself in
a journey of a lifetime.*



Thai
Immersion
*July &
December*

Chiang Rai Rajabhat University

In Conversation with... *Charlene Teh*

“ *Learning Thai required hard work and practice, but it was worth it because it let me communicate with the people and gave me a new perspective of the world.* ”

Sawatdii kha Charlene. Can you please tell us briefly about yourself?

Sawatdii kha Ajarn Tukta. My name is Charlene, and I am a year 4 Psychology major. The prize I was awarded is the best Thai student award, and I was surprised but also honoured to receive this award. Many of my other classmates deserve this award!

What motivated you to learn Thai?

I have learnt Thai for 3 and a half years now, from Thai 1 to Thai 6, and currently sitting in for Thai 5 classes. I first learnt Thai because I had gone on a mission trip to Thailand to teach English to primary school children, and I wanted to go back and be able to communicate with them. Due to this, I had great interest in Thai and I wanted to be able to master the language. This led to my aspiration of being a translator. As I learnt Thai, the enjoyment of the lessons and even the history of the language interested me more and more, and I wanted to continue learning.

How does Thai language help or benefit your studies and daily life?

Thai language helps me to engage the locals that I visit on a yearly basis on a much deeper level. I am able to have conversations with them that I previously could not, which is very heartwarming. Thai also helps me to see the world differently, because some things just cannot be translated across languages, and learning and understanding a new language helps you understand a culture and the way in which this culture views the world can be very different as well. Besides this, another benefit would be that you



Charlene Teh
CLS Thai Language Prize Winner 2014

can use Thai as a secret language if you have to talk about something in front of others, whom you do not want to understand the conversation. Furthermore, it helps you to get around in Thailand.

In your view, why should NUS students learn Thai?

In Thai 6, my classmates and I made a video called “10 Reasons to Learn Thai” and many of the reasons we proposed in the video are real, heartfelt reasons. The most heartfelt of all would be that the classes are fun, and the teachers are nurturing. Thai was my favourite class every semester because I could go into class and have fun with my classmates and teacher and still be able to learn. We learnt Thai through many mediums, like movies and songs and through these activities, I learnt about culture as well. Thai teachers are probably the nicest teachers you will ever meet. On top of this, university is a chance to gain new skills, so why not a new language? Learning about a new language and culture would help to broaden your view of the world, and appreciate differences between cultures and even people more.

Khop khun maak kha Charlene ☺ I am very glad to hear that you have enjoyed learning Thai at the Thai Language Program at NUS, and that it has been very helpful for you.

yindii kha Ajarn.
Sawatdii kha ☺