

MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

Annual Report 2018

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR



Associate Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai

Director,
Master of Art in Asia Pacific Studies



MAPS has come up strong from the day it was conceived, four years ago. This year, the Program has been able to expand its wing and continue building a name of its own. 2018 has provided us plenty of opportunities to better as an education provider. Giving the changing nature of education trends across the world, MAPS join with strong conviction to provide best possible education not only. Asia Pacific Studies but extended to Area Studies as well. As our university itself to become 'the University of the Future', MAPS supports and reflects this in its curriculum and service. Our continued goal is to produce our graduates with Global Mindset – not only our students must be able to understand and analyze situations must be able to understand other countries/societies and the world around should be able to communicate powerfully, precisely, and efficiently while at the same time possessed the Spirit of Thammasat which has highly developed moral sense and justice, be responsible, good discipline, together with aesthetic appreciation. Finally, our graduates must be able to work effectively both in individual and in team environments as well as be ready to serve society and those around them.

With such outcomes in mind, MAPS resolves to have a well rounded curriculum, activities and programs that can help the aforementioned objectives. With strong commitments from all of our staffs and stakeholder, we hope to deliver what MAPS is all for, preparing well rounded individuals for the future.

MAPS Executive

Executive Board of Directors	
Assistant Professor Naris Chaiyasoot, Ph.D.	Chairman
Associate Professor Suphat Suphachalasai, Ph.D.	Vice Chairman
Associate Professor Chanin Mephokee, Ph.D	Committee
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Associate Professor Pippop Udorn, Ph.D.	Committee
Associate Professor Suphat Suphachalasai, Ph.D.	Committee
Dr. Denis Hew (APEC Policy Support Unit)	Committee
Dr. Mia Mikic (United Nations ESCAP)	Committee
Mr. Jaseem Ahmed (Former Secretary-General, IFSB)	Committee
Mrs. Kanlayanee Kongsomjit (Vice President, TKK Corporation)	Committee



70% of students graduated in 2018



Our students come from 11 different countries



70% of MAPS graduates are employed upon graduation



More than 10 visiting professors and area experts

1:5

Student ratio of Thais to non-Thais

3:1

Student ratio of female to male

Introduction to MAPS

Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies (MAPS), Thammasat University is Thailand's first international graduate program that provides opportunities for students to explore the entire Asia-Pacific region in all its complexity. MAPS is designed for internationally-focused students who wish to obtain an in-depth understanding of this fascinating and occasionally turbulent part of the world through multi-faceted and inter-disciplinary lenses, especially international economics, international relations and international law.

MAPS program was established under a successful collaboration between the College of Disciplinary Studies and the Thammasat Institute of Area Studies (TIARA), Thammasat University. The institutions have long standing engagements with regional collaborations which led them to owe knowledge, experience, expertise as well as a wide academic connection with researchers, academic institutions, and other related institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

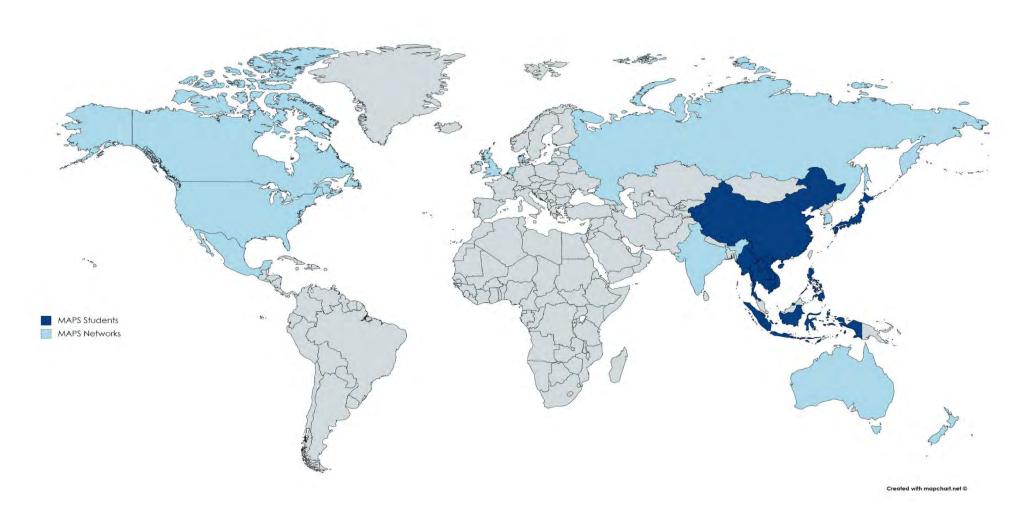
At MAPS, we train and prepares our new generations for the fast-changing Asia-Pacific region. The Program aims to create the most versatile graduates with an ability to understand the complexity of Asia-Pacific region through multiple lens, an ability to analyze an on-going situation and future of the region, and an ability to apply knowledge and analytical skills to practical professions in the real world.

MAPS program is one of the most culturally diverse international programs in the university. Our Program attracts students from both in and outside the Asia-Pacific region. We help connecting students from different countries to live, laugh and learn together in the most vibrant multicultural environment. Apart from studying by the books, our MAPS students have an excellent opportunity to experience and learn from one another. We have students come from 11 countries across the Asia-Pacific region:

- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Philippines
- Vietnam

- Brunei Darussalam
- People's Republic of China
- Japan
- Myanmar
- Thailand

World Map of MAPS Students and MAPS Networks

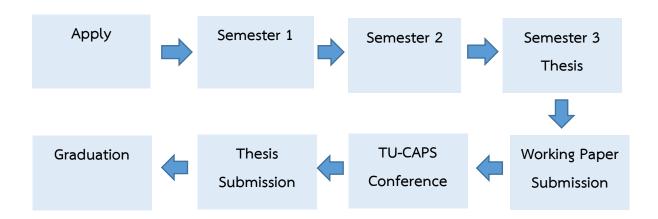




Academic Overview

The MAPS program provides students with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the history, politics, law, and economies of the Asia-Pacific region. The Program adopts multidisciplinary approaches to give students an understanding of contemporary regional issues; allows participants to integrate study of business, economics, politics and law; and prepares and trains our graduates for careers in the public sector, diplomatic service, academic and research institutions, consultancies, and international organizations.

Roadmap to One and A Half Year Master's Degree Program





Program Information

Length: Approx. 16-18 months full-time/3

full semesters and 1 summer

session

Language: English

Class Size: Max. 20 students

Campus: Most courses are taught at

Thammasat University, Rangsit

Campus, but some may be taught

at ThaPrachan Campus

Program Requirements

The program lasts approximately 16-18 months (three semesters and one summer semester session) depending on number of public holiday in Thailand each year, full-time, and requires the completion of 39 units.

- 18 units Core courses
- 9 units Elective courses
- 12 units research component

Course Syllabus

Students are required to complete six core courses. These core courses provide a foundational understanding of the Asia-Pacific region. This core group consists of five required courses and one elective. While the required courses are compulsory, the elective course allows students the choice of either one module in contemporary area studies or public policy.

Core Courses:

APS600 Foundation Asia-Pacific Studies

APS611 Economic Integration

in the Asia-Pacific Region

APS612 Dynamism of Thai Economy

APS621 Political, Security, and Defense

Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region

APS631 International Law and Regional Architecture.

MAPS Facilities

Asia Pacific Resource Center

The Center is an information center which provides accessible collection of Asia-Pacific related resource materials. It also a space for information, culture exhibition, dissemination manuals and research about countries in Asia-Pacific region. The center provides modern, adequate and comfortable learning environment for our students.



MAPS Common Room

MAPS Common Room locates at the 1st floor of the Social Science Complex. The room is designed for MAPS student to use as a co-working space with comfortable and welcoming environment. Common Room also provides free Wi-Fi and personal lockers for students to store their belongings.



MAPS Lecture Room

The Lecture Room is located next to the Common Room. It is equipped with educational technology supports for students to access to online learning materials. Apart from lecture room, this area also has a computer room and a 20-seat meeting table for students to use as a co-working space.



Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 9.00 - 16.30

Annual Report 2018



Student Class of 2018/2019

This is a list of MAPS students in the Class of 2018/2019 who share their postgraduate journeys together, which range from academic hardships, stressful examinations and piles of workload to enjoying a fun classroom environment, experiencing Thailand like a local, and creating lifetime connections with renowned scholars and other future graduates.



Ms. Shifa Shakira Haji Muhamad (Brunei Darussalam)

Shifa has done her bachelor's degree in Universiti Brunei Darussalam, majoring in Brunei Studies. Back in her bachelor years, she has gained experience of doing exchange study program to Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea and has done her work placement in the Department of Economic Planning and Development, Prime Minister Office Brunei Darussalam. Shifa has joined MAPS in August 2018, seeing that MAPS is an interdisciplinary study, it

is really an excellent platform to connect to the study area that she wanted to focus. Her interest is in economics specifically on the study regarding the fisheries industry. After done with MAPS, Shifa hopes to work in Fisheries Industry, or Economic Planning and Development or to teach and able to aspire future generation to be aware and consent about the current situation for a better tomorrow.



Ms. Ry Noyel (Cambodia)

Noyel Ry earned her Bachelor of Law in 2007. Professionally, Noyel has over 15 years of experience in the fields of community development, media and legal and social justice. Most recently, Noyel served as a Case Manager and a Senior Legal Consultant in the Defence Support Section (DSS) of the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). She believes that study at MAPS will enable her to orient her future career toward working with

decision makers and leaders of both the state and the private sector. Noyel's future career plan is to contribute to the political and social well-being of Cambodia by advising national and international organizations and institutions as well as the private business sphere in regard to policies that ensure social justice, accountability and improved rule of law.



Mr. Minghe Yin (China)

Yin Minghe has a background in economics. He is interested in Asia-Pacific after China has closer relationship with ASEAN since the sign of ACFTA and further strengthened the multilateral trade with ASEAN Countries such as Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia through One Belt One Road strategy. He told us that MAPS provides a platform for him to understand more about the ASEAN's economy, politics, and legal institutions. Moreover, he has learnt

and explored different languages and cultures through the interaction with other ASEAN students under a close and diversified community. The professors from different academic background also broaden our vision about Asia and the world.



Ms. Anggia Kusuma Pithaloka (Indonesia)

Gia has been interested in international relations since her high school days. It became the main reason for her to pursue International Relations for her bachelor's degree. Migration and workforce have been her main interests in the IR field, reflected in her undergraduate thesis on Indonesian female migrant domestic workers (FMDW) in the UAE. She had a short internship at the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Penang, Malaysia which

gave her the opportunity to learn more about Indonesian FMDW. After finishing her study at MAPS, she aspires to work at an international organization, especially UN agencies. In her free time, she could be found playing piano or travelling on her own.



Ms. Gu Xinyi (China)

Gu Xinyi's background is Thai language, she had been an exchange student in Thammasat University for one year. She used to be a Thai-Chinese translator and had joined a long list of Thai-Chinese or Chinese-Thai exchange activities. She is a pure Chinese, but really close to Thailand. What she interested in is Sino-Thai relation, her further research will cover this issue as also.



Mr. Alim Bubu Swarga (Indonesia)

Bubu's education background is governmental studies which concern on local politics and public administration in Indonesia. During his bachelor years, he was joined student exchange program in the Public Administration, Khon Kaen University, Thailand and also was participated on Joint research program about Gender and Diversity at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany. Bubu professionally has been working as the assistant professor

during his time in bachelor degree and also as the education consultant for education platform in Indonesia. For him, studying in Thailand is a great opportunity to widen his networks, to understand new cultures, and to be more open-minded. In the future, he desires to become a professor at the University and a traveler at the same time.



Ms. Emmelyn Michelle Daez (Philippines)

Michelle earned her Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of the Philippines. During her undergraduate years, she was an exchange program scholar in South Korea where she pursued her major in Global Communication and Culture. She was likewise an intern at the Center for International Relations and Foreign Languages Education Center of Hannam University, and a delegate at various events and competitions such as the

CIMB Young Leaders ASEAN Summit in Malaysia, National Achievers' Congress Philippines, Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Student Summit on Banking and Finance, and Maybank GO Ahead Challenge, among others. After graduation, she worked as a Relationship Manager for one of the largest financial institutions in the Philippines and as an Industry Lead for a startup engaged in digital marketing and financial technology.



Ms. Shwe Yee Phu (Myanmar)

Shwe Yee Phu is Second Secretary at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar with the education background of Master of Arts degree in English as a Foreign Language. She has chosen to study MAPS because it offers students great opportunities to acquire knowledge, skills and expertise in history, politics, economics, law and other contemporary issues in Asia-Pacific region. She found it advantageous to stay and study in this beautiful country, Thailand, and is

proud to be one of the MAPS scholarship awardees. After completing her study, she will return to Myanmar and continue serving the Ministry and the country. With the skills gained from the study, she will be performing the task of improving Myanmar and Thailand bi-lateral relations.



Ms. Nicha Jitkaew (Thailand)

During bachelor years, Nicha Jitkaew studied in both Thailand and Australia — majoring in psychology and graduated with a dual-degree in Bachelor of Science in psychology from University of Queensland and Chulalongkorn University. She applied for MAPS due to the diverse courses the program offers to learn more about the politics and dynamic of Southeast Asia. Jitkaew also has a chance to learn more about Japan culture through the

exchange program with Kyoto University, faculty of economics. She told us that she is currently exploring many fields as much as possible to find the right path for her future career.



Mr. Marvin Renelle Rollo (Philippines)

Marvin Renelle Rollo is a graduate of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at the University of Santo Tomas Manila, Philippines, class of 2018. His academic research interests include topics on international development, sustainable development, and collaborative governance in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in Southeast Asia. Studying in Thailand is a great opportunity to immerse oneself in the culture and traditions of the country. Marvin was able

to fully understand all the things he learned inside the four corners of the classroom by applying it to the case of Thailand and the whole of Asia-Pacific region. His future plans include studying for another master's degree specializing one of the four pillars of the MAPS program or becoming a professor of Asia-Pacific studies in the Philippines.



Ms. Nguyen Thu Thao (Vietnam)

With her background in English Studies, Thao used to work as a communications intern at APEC Secretariat and a Blog Correspondent for ASEAN-Korea Center. Besides her academic training in linguistics and translation, Thao possesses artistic creativity, a lifelong passion for multimedia, and an avid interest in world affairs. Through the multidisciplinary approach, MAPS has broadened her horizons and sharpened the

way that she sees the world. Thao said that her perspective has transformed from the monotonous lens into a kaleidoscope which helped her to unravel myriad contemporary issues. In the long run, her career orientation is to pursue a profession in political and strategic communications with a pay-it-forward spirit to contribute back to her community in Vietnam.



Ms. Parchuen Yamacoop (Thailand)

Parchuen Yamacoop graduated with Business English Communication major, Thammasat University. She is interested in Economics, especially Southeast Asian Economics. Maps is a great place to study because I can study in my hometown with an international atmosphere. She told us that through MAPS she met many friends who came from various countries in Southeast Asia and East Asia. So, it's exciting to learn about different cultures from classmates.

Also, Maps provided an opportunity for a 2-month exchange program at Kyoto University, which considered as one of the best universities in Japan. This exchange program is not only enlarged my academic knowledge, but it also opens up her vision towards the world. After graduate from Maps, she would like to be an entrepreneur.

Quick Facts about class of 2018/2019

Students come from **EIGHT** countries across the Asia-Pacific region

The ratio of Thai student to non-Thai student is at ONE TO SIX

The ratio of male student to female student is at ONE TO FOUR

Campus Life

Study at MAPS allows you to meet new friends from different backgrounds. Our students get to explore to new languages, cultures, traditions and practices from their classmates. In their free time, our students enjoy traveling around Bangkok and other provinces to experience Thai tourist attractions, food, culture, and lifestyle. They also attend cultural events held by Thammasat University such as Thai traditional festival of Song Kran and Loy Krathong. Some students travel to Thailand's neighboring countries to learn and more about Southeast Asia.



Lecturers, Guest Lectures, and Experts in the Field

In 2018, a total of 5 in-house lecturers, 8 guest lecturers, and 5 experts in the Field held lecture series at MAPS. The mixture of in-house lecturers, guest lecturers and field experts from Thailand and aboard allowed our students to learn and to deepen their understanding from lecturers who has a prolong experience in a particular field.

In-house Lecturers

Assoc. Prof. Suphat Suphachalasai, Ph.D Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
Assoc. Prof. Chanin Mephokee, PhD Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
Dr. SupreutThavornyutikarn Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University
Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University
Asst. Prof. Pitch Pongsawat, Ph.D Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkom University

Guest Lecturers

Australia

Prof. William T. Tow Australian National University

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nattavud Pimpa RMIT University

Hong Kong

Prof. Chueng Kwok Law The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Thailand

Asst. Prof. Dr. Chotika Wittayawarakul Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University
Prof. Chumphorn Pachusanond Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University
Asst. Prof. Dr. Saratoon Santivasa Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University
Dr. Thanes Sucharikul School of Law, Assumption University

Asst. Prof. Pijitra Tsukamoto Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University

Field Experts

Dr. Mia Mikic Chief, Trade Policy and Analysis, UNESCAP
Dr. Denis Hew Director, APEC Secretariat Policy Support Unit

Dr. Yoichi Nemoto Center for Asian International Organization Studies, Japan

Mr. Masanori Kondo Deputy-Director, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

Mr. Jaseem Ahmed Former Secretary General, Bank Negara Malaysia









Selected Dissertation Topics

In 2018, Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies program published a total of 12 theses.

Thailand

• Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Practices in Thailand

Brunei Darussalam

 Women and Career Advancement in Brunei Darussalam: A Case Study of Women Working in Brunei Darussalam Government Sectors

Lao PDR

- Factors Affecting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflows to Lao PDR
- Factors Attracting Investors to Invest in Laos: Case Study of Savan Seno Special Economic Zone
- Inequality and Economic Development in Lao PDR since the 1986 Economic Reform

Vietnam

• Vietnam's FTA Strategy

Indonesia

Global Maritime Fulcrum (GMF) Performances to Deal with Tensions in South China Sea
 Disputes: A Constructivist Analysis of Indonesia's Strategic Culture

Myanmar

• Effects of Agricultural Policies on Rice Industry in Myanmar

The Philippines

• The Influence of China on Philippine Foreign Policy: the Case of Duterte's Independent Foreign Policy

Japan

Impact of the Obama Administration's Ambiguity on Japan's Security Policy

Korea

• Economic Development Pattern under Military Regime: A Comparative Study between Park Chung Hee and Sarit Thanarat Administration

Bhutan

An Explorative Analysis on Environmental Conservation under Gross National Happiness

TU-CAPS 2018

Thammasat Annual and Post Graduate International Conference on Asia-Pacific Studies



On 6-7 December 2018, Thammasat Institute of Area Studies (TIARA) together with The Australian National University, University of Canterbury, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS) Waseda University, Meiji University, Faculty of Political Science Thammasat University, and the Office of the Higher Education Commission co-hosted the 3rd Thammasat Annual Academics and Postgraduate International Conference in 2018 at Dusit Thani Hua Hin, Petchaburi province, Thailand. The conference was held under the theme "Asia-Pacific amidst the Challenge Times".

For its first time ever, TU-CAPS held specialized panels on area studies including Panel on Australian Studies, Panel on ASEAN Studies, and Panel on Japanese Studies. Apart from that, an excellent long-standing parallel session on Telecommunication and ICT Development Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region continued as its previous years.

The 2018 TU-CAPS, attended by over 70 scholars, researchers, graduate students and individuals with their interests lined on the Asia-Pacific. We were joined by 11 universities and 2 academic institutions from Thailand and overseas. We also proudly announced that we had participants from up to 12 different nationals including Australia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam who came together to share ideas, exchange perspectives and experience on the Asia-Pacific at our conference. This diversity makes TU-CAPS to be the true 'international' academics and postgraduate conference to be held.

TUCAPS 2018

Participated Universities

Australia

 Department of International Relations, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University

Japan

- Department of Policy Studies, Nanzan University
- Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS), Waseda University
- Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University
- Graduate School of Policy Studies, Aichi University
- School of Political Science and Economics, Meiji University
- School of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University
- Shumei University



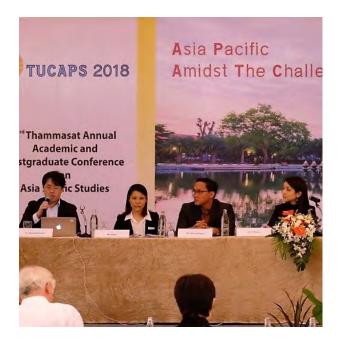












Participated Universities

New Zealand

- School of Language, Social, and Political Sciences,
- University of Canterbury

Thailand

- College of Innovation, Thammasat University
- Faculty of Economics, Chiang Mai University
- Faulty of Economics, Thammasat University
- Faulty of Political Science, Thammasat University
- Mae Fah Luang University

Participated Institutions

- The Foundation of Multimedia Communications, Japan
- The Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand



MAPS Highlights 2018







MAPS students won the Best Performance Team Award & Best Presenter Award

International Student Summit 2018, CUHK, Hong Kong

CUHK International Student Summit 2018. Our team - Ms. Kornchanok Nushkasem and Mr. Nathan Daniel V. Sison- won the Best Performance Team Award on research presentation competition under the theme ", Business Environment for SMEs, and Society". Nathan Danial Sison, one of our team also won the Best Presenter Award. The Summit was held on 10-12 May 2018 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. This year, there are 9 participating teams from 4 countries in and only one team from South East Asia. This is the first time that students from Southeast Asia was invited to participate in such prestigious event and has won two awards in this competition.





MAPS Highlights 2018







Collaborative Community Service, Tha Khlong Municipality, Thailand

For the first time ever, MAPS hold a community service at Tha Khlong Municipality, Pathumthani Province, Thailand. The event was jointly organise with Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University under direct supervision of Asst. Prof. Dr. Sunida Aroonpipat. The event saw MAPS students showcasing their national attires, languages, cultures and games with the audience. 4 countries namely Indonesia, China, Myanmar & Vietnam served their national dishes for the audience to try. Dishes such as Tempe & Ais Kacang, Chinese Hot Pot, Pickled Tea Leaves and Vietnamese Spring Rolls were served during the event. MAPS students also helps the audience to write their names in different languages and writing systems native to the region such as Vietnamese, Khmer, Burmese, Javanese and Jawi. The feedback from he audience has been very positive and well received by the community. They get to learn different cultures and dishes as well as having some photo opportunities with our students. Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies, Thammasat University would like to extend our endless thanks to our partner, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University for continuous support during the whole event. At the same time, MAPS send our heartfelt gratitude for the Tha Khlong Community for hosting us for the said event.





Visiting The UNESCAP, Bangkok

On February 16, 2018, the students of MAPS students paid a visit at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) headquarters in Bangkok. The students had the opportunity to enter the main meeting hall of UNESCAP, to meet the UNESCAP staffs, and to listen to a brief overview of the United Nations and also information on Trade and Regional Integration in Asia-Pacific Region.

Public Lectures & Seminars

We encourage students to attend public lectures and seminars as to enriched their learning experience.

- 'Malaysian Economic Policy under Tun Dr. Mahathir: Past, Present, and Future Prospects' by Mr. Jaseem Ahmed, the former Secretary-General to Islamic Financial Supervisory Board
- 'A Talk on American City Managers' by Mr. Trey Cocking, Deputy Director, The League of Kansas Municipalities
- Special Lecture Series on South Korea by Professor Joo Yoon Jung & Professor Jae Hyeok Shin from Department of Political Science and International Relations, Korea University
- 'Thai Economic Outlook 2019' by Associate Prof. Dr. Chanin Mephokee, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University













International Exchange Program

Kyoto University, Japan Graduate School of Economics (GSE)

2-month Special Exchange Program

MAPS Students, **Ms. Nicha Jitkaew** and **Ms. Parchuen Yamacoop**, 4th intake (2018/19) was selected to participate in a 2-month **Special Exchange Program** during Winter & Semester terms at Kyoto University, Japan.









Yokohama City University, Japan Graduate School of International Management

6-month Exchange Program

During the 1st semester of 2017/18, two students, namely, **Mr. Chayapruek Kongchan** and **Ms Kornchanok Nuchkasem**, 2nd intake (2016/17) students have participated in the 6-month Student Exchange Program at Yokohama City University.

In the 2nd semester of 2018, **Ms. Panipak Arthisiwakul**, 3rd intake (2017/18) student will join the same exchange program at Yokohama City University. She will also be there to collect data for her thesis on Japanese education system.









MAPS Graduates (Batch 2016 - 2017)

More than 70% of MAPS students from the Second Batch (2016-2017) has completed all the required requirements to graduate and will have their graduation ceremony this coming April. Since leaving MAPS, most of them land few job offers right away. Today, they joined international NGOs, the academics, conglomerates, professional jobs, aspiring entrepreneurs and different other job sections in their native countries.



No. of graduating students in 2017: 7



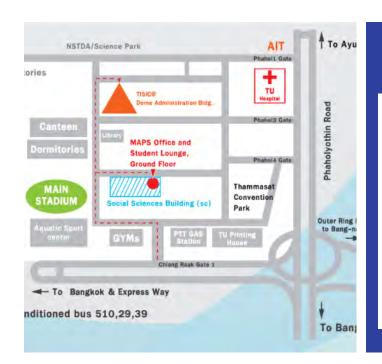
No. of graduating students in 2018: 11











Contact Us

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