



MAPS

MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

Annual Report 2017



MAPS

MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

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MAPS
Master in Asia Pacific Studies



THE MAPS PROGRAM

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STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR

We are now in our third year and things continue to get better. The year 2017 has proved itself to be a challenging (in a good way) one for all of us in the Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies Program (MAPS). This comes from the fact that as time passes by, we strive harder to improve ourselves in order to provide the best education for Asia-Pacific region Area Studies.

Within the last three years, MAPS has proven itself worthy of being called "a premier Master program focusing on contemporary Asia Pacific." As ambitious as it may sound, I can attest that it is more than just a tagline. More so, it is not what we try to be, rather what we already are. Since its inception, I have witnessed the development and changes that occur along the way.

Our first batch of students for the academic year 2015-2016 had already graduated and is now ready to take on the world. Some of them were immediately integrated into the workforce both in Thailand and back in their respective countries. Some of them had pursued careers in NGO's and private companies, while some continued in joining the academia. Batch 2016-2017 on the other hand, continues to learn with the program and is now in their final year before they graduate too. As of the moment, they are all writing their researchs which are dedicated for our interesting region. Later this year, they will present their theses at the second Thammasat Annual Academics and Postgraduate International Conference in Chiang Rai. At the same time this year, we also welcome our third batch of students. For the first time in MAPS, we have finally had one Japanese student making the MAPS program the most diverse international program with about 11 nationalities taking part.

The future of the MAPS program seem so bright and I just could not wait for the coming years. For now, we hope to have more students from across the region to come and study with us. Through this, we hope to contribute to the world in terms of truly understanding our fast-changing, complex and dynamic region of Asia-Pacific!

We hope to see you in the program!

Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai
Director, Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies (MAPS) Program

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Asst. Prof. Suphat Suphachalasai

*Director, Thammasat Institute of Area Studies &
Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies Program*

ABOUT US



MAPS
MASTER OF ARTS IN ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES

VISION

'a premier Centre
of
Excellence in Area
Studies'

MISSION

'To build experts on
Area Studies through quality
education in
multidisciplinary lens'

"a premier Master program focusing on contemporary Asia Pacific"



KEY FEATURES

- MAPS Program is a multidisciplinary program for specific area studies – the Asia- Pacific Region- with specific focus on international economics, international relations, and international law.
- MAPS is the first international program offered in Thailand that provides excellent opportunities for students to explore the Asia-Pacific Region and connect students with other international students and experts in fields related to the Asia-Pacific region.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- A Bachelor's Degree in any field with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and above from an accredited university.
- Minimum requirement for English Proficiency is 6.5 for IELTS, 550 for paper based TOEFL test, 79 for internet-based TOEFL test, and 213 for computer-based TOEFL test or 550 for TU-GET (valid if taken less than 2 years).
- An academic essay of approximately 500 words.
- Scholarships are available upon request. Terms and Conditions may apply.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

- The program lasts 18 months (three semesters and one summer semester), full-time, and requires the completion of 39 credits.
- 27 unit course work component;
 - o Core course 21 credits
 - o Elective course 6 credits
- 12 unit research component.
- Graduate Conference (as per requirement and to facilitate thesis examination).



ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT



Since its inception, the MAPS program had 40 students. For batch 2017, the MAPS program had 12 students composed of eight countries. Proving to be the best, each one has been awarded with merit-based scholarships from Thammasat University and Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA).

NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER BATCH

BATCH 2015-2016

Brunei 1, Cambodia 1, Laos 1, Myanmar 1,
Thailand 2, Vietnam 4

BATCH 2016-2017

Bhutan 1, Brunei 1, Cambodia 1, Indonesia 1, Laos 6,
Myanmar 1, Philippines 1, Thailand 4, Vietnam 1

BATCH 2017-2018

Bhutan 1, Brunei 1, Cambodia 2, Indonesia 2, Japan 1,
Myanmar 2, Thailand 1, Vietnam 2



ASIA PACIFIC RESOURCE CENTER

Asia-Pacific Resource Center houses a relevant and accessible collection of Asia-Pacific related resource materials. The center provides space for information and cultural exhibition as well as acquires information and dissemination manuals, information and research about countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The center also provides modern, adequate and efficient information center services and appropriate and comfortable learning environment on the use of resources for individual and group study for students of MAPS Program and Thammasat University.

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00-16:30.



MAPS COMMON ROOM

MAPS Common Room, located at the 1st floor of the Social Science Complex next to the Asia-Pacific Resource Center, is designed specially for MAPS graduate students. It is a primary space for students to hang out – whether to work on a particular project or to spend time with each other. The MAPS Common Room is created in order to provide a comfortable atmosphere and welcoming environment. It also features a reliable wireless Internet access and lockers for student use.

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00-16:30.



RUSSIAN & CIS STUDIES CENTRE

The Russian & CIS Studies Centre, located next to the MAPS Common Room is a multifunction hall that serves as a classroom, study and research area. It features a long table where meetings can be held and a 20-seater room with a state of the art projector. This room also has its own computer lab which is specifically used in learning the Russian language.

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00-16:30.





COURSES OFFERED

APS 600 Foundation Asia-Pacific Studies

This course introduces key concepts from the main disciplines of the program. The course will be divided into three parts: international economics, international relations, and international law. International economics includes trade theories and policies, regional trade agreements, labor and capital movement, and international finance. International relations covers the main concepts, ideas, and analytical tools necessary to understand the relationships among countries, major concerns, issues, and players in world politics. Lastly, international law covers the essential concepts of international law and institutions, including the sources of international law, the use of force, international human rights, international business transactions, and international economic law. Various case studies of issues in international economics, international relations, and international law such as economic integration in Asia-Pacific region, international relations among China, USA, ASEAN, North Korea, South Korea, and Convention on the territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, etc.

APS 612 Dynamism of the Thai Economy

This course studies on the development of Thailand economic structure and its impacts on Thailand economy. The course will also study on the impacts of structural changes and role of Thai state on economic growth, economic stability, and economic equity.

APS 621 Political, Security, and Defense Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region

The course gives an overview and challenges in the international security, defence strategy and security policy with respect to Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific region is experiencing a shift in the balance of power and also being challenged by a various non-traditional security issues. The course will look at the key players in the region, including the two superpowers- the US and China and middle powers such as Australia, Indonesia, Japan, and Republic of Korea would also be considered. Other issues discussed include military and political cooperation in the region, and the roles and objectives of ASEAN. Lastly, non-traditional security issues - including irregular migration, drug tracking, terrorism, and natural disaster will be discussed as well.

APS 623 International Relations and Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region

The course will introduce students to the international relations of the Asia-Pacific region with regards to foreign policy. It will also examine how different countries in the Asia-Pacific region conduct foreign policy decisions on different issues, such as trade, aid, military intervention, global environment, and so forth. In the first part, the course examines IR theory and the Asia-Pacific region. In the second part, the course examines the level of analysis and the formation of foreign policy and evaluates the processes by which foreign policy are made.

APS 800 Thesis

The thesis course provides an opportunity for students to conduct research in their own area of interest. Topics can be selected from five areas: Japan and Republic of Korea, PRC and Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand, ASEAN/Southeast Asian Studies, and Telecommunication Policy and Development in the Asia-Pacific region. The thesis course will involve close collaboration between supervisor and student. Students are expected to present weekly progress in the workshop sessions organized by the program.

PROFESSORS AND LECTURERS

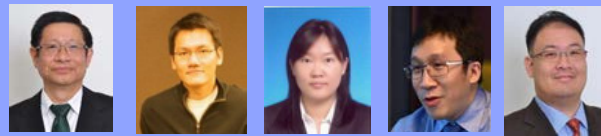
APS 600 Foundation Asia-Pacific Studies

- Dr. Robin Ramcharan
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai
- Dr. Thitirat Thipsamritkul



APS 612 Dynamism of the Thai Economy

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chanin Mephokee
- Dr. Anin Aroonruengsawat
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Kaewkwan Tangtipongkul
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Pornthep Benyaapikul
- Dr. Supruet Thavornrutikarn



APS 621 Political, Security, and Defense Strategies in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto
- Asst. Prof. Dr.M.L. Pinitbhand Paribatra
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chanintira na Thalang
- Dr. Robin Ramcharan
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Tavida Kamolvej



APS 623 International Relations and Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Dr. Daniel McFarlane



APS 800 Thesis

- Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chanin Mephokee
- Dr. Supruet Thavornrutikarn
- Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto



Visiting Scholars

- Dr. William Tow
- Prof. Chueng Kwok Law
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nattavud Pimpa
- Dr. Mia Mikic
- Mr. Denis Hew
- Dr. Yoichi Nemoto
- Mr. Masanori Kondo
- Dr. Jaseem Ahmed
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sudharma Yoonaidharma
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Chotika Wittayawarakul
- Prof. Chumphorn Pachusanond
- Asst.Prof. Dr.Saratoon Santivasa
- Dr. Thanee Sucharikul
- Asst. Prof. Pijitra Tsukamoto



EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO JAPAN

Two students from the second batch of MAPS had the opportunity to visit the Land of the Rising Sun for an exchange program at Yokohama City University (YCU). Miss Kornchanok Nushkasem (Mook) and Mr. Chayapruek Kongchan (Gunz) spent six months of their final semester overseas. Here is what Mook has to say about this academic venture.



"While in abroad, I studied three courses including Global Service Management, Global Leadership and elementary Japanese. As an exchange student, it was fascinating to experience Japan's tertiary education. I was able to observe that the Japanese teaching styles and classroom environment were somewhat different from MAPS. At YCU, lecturers were less focused on theoretical frameworks and more on applying methods through case studies. Interestingly, the level of workloads and assignments were relatively lower than I expected. My advice for the future exchange students of MAPS is to prepare and practice some basic critical thinking skills as this will make their study in Japan much easier. Apart from that, confidence and well-adaptation skills are very useful given that most Japanese students are shy and quiet, especially those who have difficulty with the English language. The most challenging part in Japan was the language barrier. Luckily, all lecturers and office staff at the university were highly interactive and supportive for all us students which makes my stay there more secured. Nevertheless, aside from the academic aspect, the entire exchange program gave me an opportunity to experience a new culture and meet new friends which I will take back with me to Thailand."

-Mook, MAPS Student Batch 2016-2017

This has been the first time the MAPS program engaged in an exchange program. Nonetheless, it is worth knowing that the institute aspires to continue sending some of its student overseas for exchange learnings in the coming years. At the same time, the program is also preparing to accept inbound exchange students in order to share the quality learning of Thammasat University to the rest of the world.

THE MAPS JOURNEY

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



*Education is not preparation for life;
education is life itself.*

INTRODUCING BATCH 2017-2018

On its third year, the journey of the MAPS program continues to draw in scholars from across the Asia-Pacific region, including ASEAN, East Asia (China and Japan) and South Asia (Bhutan). This year, the program continues to expand with 12 new students, representing eight countries. This section is dedicated to the newest addition to the MAPS family. Meet our third batch of students for Academic Year 2017-2018.



BHUTAN
Miss Palden
"PALDEN"



BRUNEI
Miss Nurul
Izzati Haji Mat
"IZZA"



CAMBODIA
Mr. Un Samnang
"SAMNANG"



CAMBODIA
Miss Nget Norin
Rachny
"RACHNY"



INDONESIA
Mr. Muhammad
Shobaruddin
"SHOBAR"



INDONESIA
Mr. Irwita
Erlangga
"ERL"



JAPAN
Mr. Hideaki
Shirakata
"HIDE"



MYANMAR
Miss Su
Sandarr Than
"SU"



MYANMAR
Mr. Thu Rein Saw
Htut Naing
"THU REIN"



VIETNAM
Miss Do Thi
Chang
"CHANG"



VIETNAM
Miss Luong Anh
Linh
"LINH"



THAILAND
Miss Panipak
Arthisivakul
"MOOMIE"

INTRODUCING BATCH 2017-2018

The third batch was warmly welcomed into the program. An orientation day organized by the Academic Support Unit (ASU) alongside with the second batch students held on August 20, 2017 at MAPS Common Room. The orientation serves as a preliminary event in order to familiarize students and provide necessary information about MAPS. This also paved the opportunity for our students to get to know each other, as well as with some of the staff and lecturers of the program.



When the first semester started, our students immediately adopted to the high standard environment of quality learning. Our 12 new students came from different backgrounds. In fact, most of them have worked for their respective governments as diplomats and researchers, thus making their learning more interesting.

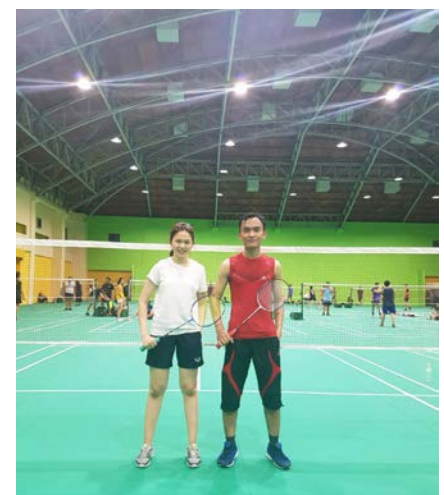


"MAPS allows me to expand my network and broaden my point of view towards the world."

-Shobar, MAPS Student
Batch 2017-2018

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Studying can indeed be very tenses, and to some extent somewhat stressful – especially when you have grades to maintain in order to keep the scholarship. Luckily, Thammasat University and Thailand is more than just your usually academic institution and ordinary location. The university houses a sports and fitness facilities which can be accessed by our students. Like previous batches, most of our student’s activities included going to the gym and playing badminton regularly. Moreover, when they have an extensive free time, traveling around Thailand would also be an option. This offers an opportunity four students not just to unwind from the hectic reality of quality learning but also to mingle and bond with each other. Our students definitely proved that having a balanced academic life, complementing it with extracurricular activities is possible even in a Master’s level.



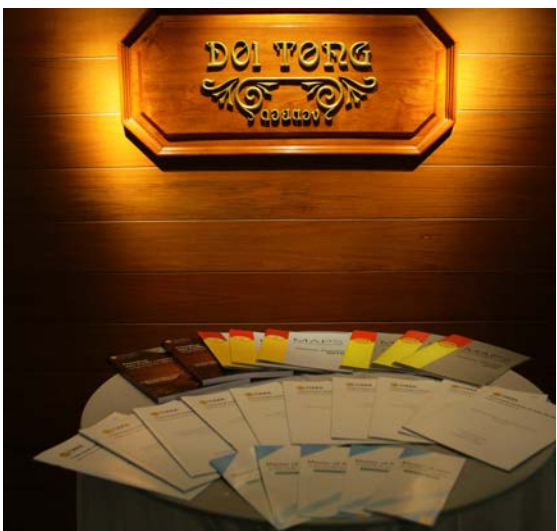
THAMMASAT ANNUAL ACADEMICS AND POSTGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Following the success of the inaugural Thammasat Annual Academics and Postgraduate International Conference (TU-CAPS) in Phuket, December of last year, the Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Studies (MAPS) program has carried on in pursuing its second edition. This year's three-day international conference took place in the beautiful province of Chiang Rai, Thailand, from December 6 to 8, 2017 bearing the theme: "Asia Pacific: World's New Focal Point." Academicians and scholars with various expertise on Area Studies in the Asia Pacific region are flown into the cool north to heat up the discussion through an anticipated healthy exchanges of ideas and perspectives about this dynamic part of the world. Waseda University of Japan, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) of Russia, Copenhagen Business School of Denmark, and the United Kingdom's SOAS University of London are just among some of the participating universities present at the event.

"ASIA PACIFIC: WORLD'S NEW FOCAL POINT"



TU-CAPS 2017



December 6 – Most of the guests and students arrived at the venue on the afternoon of this day. Upon checking in at the lovely Dusit Island Hotel in Chiang Rai, the students of MAPS took the opportunity to visit Thailand's famous Wat Rong Khun, also known as White Temple. As the sun settles in, the first day of TU-CAPS commenced with a lovely cocktail gathering and dinner at the resort's Island Cafe. The venue beside the riverbanks provided a refreshing atmosphere which was perfect for the get-to-know moment of the participants. This part has truly served its purpose in opening up the opportunity for experts, professors, and students to converge in a friendly discussion before the actual presentations in the next two days. After this, participants, especially the student presenters felt more comfortable and became more motivated to share their ideas with the world.



TU-CAPS 2017

December 7 – Greeted by the North’s fresh morning air, the participants left their room for a bountiful breakfast before proceeding to the Doi Toung Room for the actual program proper. At exactly 9:00 AM, the program was officially opened by the Director of Thammasat Institute of Area Studies (TIARA) and MAPS, Asst. Prof. Dr. Suphat Suphachalasai through his welcoming speech. It was then followed by a keynote speech given by Prof. William T. Tow of the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific, Australian National University which mainly enumerated the various challenges and issues faced by this region.



The opening session of TU-CAPS was dedicated to the security issues in the Asia-Pacific Region. The first speaker Dr. Victor Sumsky, the Director of MGIMO’s ASEAN Center gave a presentation entitled: “Security Situation in the Asia-Pacific: Moscow’s Perspective.” Continuing on with a Russian themed presentation was Thammasat University’s Asst.Prof. Jittipat Poonkham’ “Russia’s Pivot to Asia: Visionary or Reactionary?” Dr. Enze Han of SOAS presented about “External Threats, Internal Challenges, and State Building in East Asia,” followed by Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto of Thammasat University’s “Imagining an Unimaginable Dream: Disputes, Dialogue and Security Community Building in Southeast Asia.” Capping off the session was an interesting presentation entitled “Rule of Law or Rule by Lawyers: Legal Ordering and Development” by Asst. Prof. Dr. Maj Lervad Gasten from the Department of Business and Politics, Copenhagen Business School. Asst. Prof. Dr. Wasan Luangprapat, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University served as the Chair for this session. In the afternoon, the TU-CAPS was divided into two simultaneous sessions, one which continued on with topics and issues regarding Asia-Pacific Studies and the other which was solely dedicated to Telecommunication and ICT Development Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region.



TU-CAPS BATCH 2016-2017

December 8 – This day of the conference was deemed as the highlight of TU-CAPS as it was in this day wherein students from various universities, including that of MAPS had the opportunity to present their dissertations. This year, a total of 21 postgraduate students were able to present their studies to the community of international scholars, 16 of them coming from the MAPS program batch 2016-2017.

- 1.) Mr. Nathan Daniel V. Sison (Philippines) –“The Influence of China on Philippine Foreign Policy: The Case of Duterte’s Independent Foreign Policy”
- 2.) Ms. Febrianti Tentyana (Indonesia) –“Joko Widodo’s Strategy in Applying ‘Free and Active Foreign Policy’ to contain tensions in South China Sea”
- 3.) Mr. Heng Sonya (Cambodia) –“The Impacts of Obama Administration’s Ambiguity on Japan’s Self-Defense Restructure”
- 4.) Mr. Sinthavanh Chanthavong (Laos) –“Inequality and Economic Development in the New Era after the 1986 Economic Reform in Lao PDR”
- 5.) Ms. Nang Nu Nu Yee (Myanmar) –“Effects of Agricultural Policies on Rice Industry of Myanmar”
- 6.) Ms. Ta Sao Mai (Vietnam) –“Vietnam’s FTA Strategy”
- 7.) Ms. Merica Chanakitchinchon (Thailand) –“Economic Development Pattern under Military Regime: A Comparative Study between Park Chung Hee and Sarit Thanarat Administration”
- 8.) Ms. Kornchanok Nushkasem (Thailand) –“The Continuity of Thailand’s Bamboo Bending with the Wind’s Foreign Policy: The Perception of National Independence”
- 9.) Ms. Yonradee Wangcharoenpaisan (Thailand) –“Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Practices in Thailand”
- 10.) Ms. Dk Nur Rabi’Ah Pg Haji Abdul Rahman (Brunei) –“Woman and Career Advancement in Brunei Darussalam: A Case Study of Women Working in Brunei Government Sectors”
- 11.) Ms. Singay Wangmo (Bhutan) –“The Relevance of Gross National Happiness (GNH) on Environment Conservation”
- 12.) Ms. Thip Nouansyvong (Laos) –“Women Trafficking in Lao PDR: Conceptualizing the Reality of Government Policy and Intervention in Responding to Trafficking of Women in Lao PDR”
- 13.) Ms. Soulinda Thammavongxay (Laos) –“Factors Attracting Investors to Invest in Lao PDR: Case Study of Savan-Seno Special Economic Zone”
- 14.) Mr. Palamy Phetpaseuth (Laos) –“Factor Affecting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flow to Lao PDR”
- 15.) Ms. Nousa Sayasarn (Laos) –“Global Land Taking Compensation Schemes for Dam Project: A Lesson for Laos”
- 16.) Ms. Chantida Ratanavong (Laos) –“Regional Distribution of Foreign Aid Investment in Lao PDR”

TU-CAPS 2017



The TU-CAPS 2017 ended with a closing speech by Dr. Suphat followed by a farewell message by Dr. Tow. Once again, the international conference was successful in achieving its purpose of gathering experts and novice scholars dedicated to improving the discourse of Area Studies in the Asia-Pacific Region. However, more than just purely academics, the TU-CAPS likewise served as a bridge of connecting scholars not only on an academic level but also on a people-to-people connection which will be truly beneficial for the betterment not only of the region but of the world.



THE GRADUATES OF MAPS BATCH 2015-2016

As our goal, the MAPS program aims to produce experts in Asia-Pacific Area Studies. This year, this goal sees the making of the phrase: *"making goals happen"* turn into a reality. The first batch of MAPS has truly set the bar high, marking the standards for the program and making it only for the best of the best.

With that, this section is dedicated to MAPS Batch 2015-2016. The program is certain that as they leave Thammasat University, opportunities will open and their journey will continue on with another bright chapter. No matter how far they soar in many parts of the Asia-Pacific region, each of them represents a piece of the MAPS program, a treasure that our institution will always take pride in. As they start their careers, they will serve as a testimony and a tough act to follow for our future students.



WISHING YOU ALL SUCCESS,
CONGRATULATIONS!



ACTION PLAN AND WAY FORWARD 2018



In 2018, MAPS will welcome our fourth batch from universities around ASEAN and Asia Pacific. This coming year the program aspires to provide more scholarships for our prospective students coming from ASEAN who have outstanding academic performance, desire for research and leadership skills. In addition, MAPS will also open for application for prospective students who are interested in enhancing their knowledge in Asia-Pacific studies in the hopes of becoming an area studies expert. It is also most likely that the program will venture into more exchange programs with our partner universities in Japan after the success this year. At the same time, we hope that we will be able this 2018 not only to send out students for exchange but also to accept inbound students from other universities to have an experience of the quality education the program renders.

This coming December, the MAPS also plans to conduct its third Thammasat Annual Academic and Post Graduate International Conference, this time somewhere in the south. The 3-day international conference will welcome scholars in the field of Asia-Pacific studies, public policies, international relations, political sciences, economics, laws, and telecommunication policy. Our third batch (intake 2017) will have the opportunity to present their studies in this international academic platform with the chance to be scrutinized by the renowned scholars in the fields which would be coming from distinguished faculties from universities of Japan, South Korea, Australia, Europe, United States, and ASEAN. Call for Paper will be published in April 2018 at the TU-CAPS website <http://tu-caps.org/>.

MAPS Program will also strengthen its publication sphere as part of its drive to become a unique research tank focusing on Area Studies. The outcomes of the first and second TU-CAPS will be published as both individual working paper and proceeding in the first half of 2018. Moreover, the program will revamp its academic tools such as the Thesis Writing Guidebook which is essential for our students as it will serve as a guidebook them for their studies as they venture into research. Publications to promote MAPS program will also underway in order to spread the information related to the programs.

In terms of academic events, MAPS program plan to bring more renowned scholars in the field concerning the Asia-Pacific region. In 2018, the program will organize a number of special lectures delivered by various Diplomat representatives from Embassies and international agencies from all over the region.

At the same time, we hope to see more students for the upcoming intake. Applications to the program are open from February until June 2018. Details and application forms can be accessed through our website at <http://www.maps-tu.org/>. We hope to see you again until next year's annual report!



CONTACT FOR INQUIRIES



TIARA
THAMMASAT INSTITUTE OF AREA STUDIES

Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies (MAPS) Program

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Pathumthani, 12121, Thailand

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