



Editor's Messages

Six months have passed since the appearance of the 5th issue of the IO's Newsletter. Our team has been continually working since then and is now pleased to bring you the sixth edition (Issue July to December 2017). In this edition we present you with a new project created by the Provincial Governor called "Ask Me Project". The project is aimed to improve the proficiency of tourism personnel in order to be a good host for Thailand Moto GP 2018 in Buriram. As Buriram is a land of volcanoes and ancient Khmer civilization site in Thailand which make it important as a historical tourist attraction, we also create confidence for Ask Me's staff as well as serve for both Thai and foreign tourists.

Finally, we want to thank all of you for your continued support of International activities. None of what we do could be accomplished without the generosity and interest given by our BRU administrators and IO staff.

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A Small Talk with Students from QNU, China



Ajarn May : Hello everyone! Please feel free to talk with us.

QNU Students : Alright. Good morning teachers. We're ready now.

Ajarn Ann : Well! How many courses are you taking while you are here ?

QNU Students : Four courses: English for ASEAN, Essay Writing, Thai Studies, and Training Skills in Basketball.

Ajarn Ann : How do you feel about studying at BRU ?

QNU Students : We think that learning in Thailand is more relaxed than in China. In Thailand, there are a lot of activities to do in the classroom such as team work, playing games, singing, and student-centered activities. We closely interact among teachers and students, but in China it's very strict. We only listen to the teachers and we don't have a uniform like Thai students have.

Ajarn Shu Li : Tell us about your daily life in Buriram (Like or Dislike).

QNU Students : Well, things are at a slow pace and we feel calm in this city. We like the fresh fruits here and enjoy shopping a lot because things are very cheap, especially cosmetics. In the dorm, we can also make coffee or easily cook because the canteen closes early.

Ajarn May : Any suggestions or comments before ending our talk ?

QNU Students : We are satisfied with everything you've done for us. If it's possible, we would like to have a water heater in every room because Chinese people always use warm water for their physical therapy well. Actually, our time is very short, we would like to stay longer for one semester.

Ajarn Shu Li : And the last question, what do you get from this experience?

QNU Students : In our opinions, all the benefits provided by BRU are brilliant for us! We can learn and share language and culture in our 2 months here to enhance our skills better than before. We now know more about Thai culture especially, the respect to elders by always using a "Wai" and the good manners of Thai society. Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all teachers, the IO staff, and to the BRU President for giving us this opportunity. Thank you very much again.



Farewell Party for Hue University of Foreign Languages' Students



On the 28th August 2017, the International Office led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Nawamin Prachanant, Vice President for International Affairs, Buriram Rajabhat University organized a farewell party for 36 Vietnamese students who stayed at Buriram Rajabhat University for one month for cultural and language exchange. They participated in various activities and classes such as micro-teaching, Basic Thai language, water color painting, singing Thai songs, Thai boxing and Thai dance. These activities and classes were meant to promote the knowledge and experience of Thai culture and language which can be applied in their real lives.

Screening the H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Scholarship for Academic Year 2018 in Cambodia



The International office, Buriram Rajabhat University took part the screening process for the H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Scholarship for Academic Year 2018 in Cambodia. Officially, the screening delegation was headed by Asst.Prof. Dr. Nawamin Prachanant, Vice President for International Affairs, together with Mr. Wanchana Hakambutr, a staff of BRU International Office, traveled to the Institute of Technology of Cambodia during the 18th to 20th December 2017

to arrange the test and an interview for Cambodian students who were interested in continuing their studies in Thailand. Three Cambodian students were accepted. They are as follows :

1. Mr. Chan Hokly, Civil Engineering Technology Program
2. Miss Len Sreyorn, Computer Science Program
3. Miss Prum Kesor, Physical Education Program





TOEIC TEST

On the 16th December 2017, the Language Center, Language Development Division, International Office, Buriram Rajabhat University cooperated with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to organize a TOEIC test (Test of English for International Communication).

The TOEIC test is a national standardized assessment for Business English skills. There are many institutes and organizations that required a TOEIC score to be considered for employee recruitment. Aeronautic businesses, hotels, tourism sectors, associated business as well as other multinational companies are a few of the types companies and business that require TOEIC for job placement. The test was held at the meeting rooms in Building 19 and Building 22. The 141 examinees took part. Before testing, each examinee was strictly checked by the proctors, led by Ajarn Pallapa Lertjaroenwanich, Head of the Language Center, with a metal detector. The examinees were only allowed to bring their identification cards or their student ID cards into the test room.



We Warmly Welcome Administrators and Students from Shangrao Normal University, China

On behalf of the International Office, Buriram Rajabhat University, we welcomed two administrators and nine students from Shangrao Normal University, China. This visit group was headed by Mr. Chen Litao, Director of the SNU International Office, and Mrs. Xu Fangwen, a member of the SNU International Office staff. They arrived at BRU on the **13th November 2017** and called on Asst. Prof. Dr. Nawamin Prachanant, Vice President for International Affairs for discussion on a dual degree program. While they were staying in BRU, they enthusiastically learned about Thai dancing, boxing and cooking. They also enjoyed visiting **Phanom Rung Historical Park, Muang Tum Sanctuary, I-mobile Stadium, and Play La Ploen Floral Park**, well known tourist attractions in Buriram. The tourist trip was headed by Ajarn Yada Ramrit and Ajarn Jintana Watcharapotikorn. In the morning of the **23rd November 2017**, we had a farewell party for both SNU and QNU students to get better acquainted and made for a cultural exchange sometimes in the future.



Chinese Exchange Students from Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities, China



The 23 Chinese exchange students from Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities were warmly welcomed to Buriram Province. On behalf of the International Office, Buriram Rajabhat University, we provided them with a tentative program for their stay at BRU. These students are going to take the first semester course in Academic Year 2017, from the 14th October to 10th December 2017. They are also going to learn about our culture by learning basic Thai, by sampling Thai food, and taking part in Thai traditional dance and boxing. They can learn how to make “**Krathong**” for the Loy Krathong Festival 2017 with Mr. Wanchna Hakambut, an IO officer. Not only they take part in courses and activities, they also have a chance to visit tourist attractions in Buriram such as Phanom Rung Historical Park, Muang Tum Sanctuary, I-mobile Stadium, and the Floral Park at Play La Ploen, where is headed by Ajarn Jintana Watcharapotikorn, Head of International Students and Staff.



Test Construction Workshop for BRU Lecturers



It was a great opportunity for the 45 BRU lecturers (English Pioneer BATCH 1-2) who had a training workshop on “English-Test Construction” for personnel’s English proficiency on the 13th July 2017. The Vice President for International Affairs, Asst. Prof. Dr. Nawamin Prachanant was officially invited to preside over this project. It’s a great honor for BRU to have a special keynote speaker from Mahidol University, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Singhanat Nomnian. This workshop aimed to equip these lecturers with ability to write the test in English.



EDO Training for Freshmen 2017



From the 11th July to 20th July 2017, English Discoveries Online Project (EDO) was organized by the Language Development Division, International Office, for Buriram Rajabhat University's freshmen, academic year 2017. The purposes of this project are 1) to guide students in using the English Discoveries Online Program, and 2) to enhance BRU students' English proficiency. The English Discoveries Online is an interactive program covering four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing that allow students to access and explore learning English on their own. Around 3,440 BRU freshmen have to take a placement test so they know their English proficiency level before they start learning the program. Evaluation results from this online course will account for 20% of the General English Courses taken at BRU.



Training Workshop on Blended Learning Solution



On the 11th October 2017, Ms. Rosesamon Panduangkaew, Director of the International Office, together with Ms. Purisa Watcharenwong, Head of Language Development were invited to attend a training workshop on “An Effective Blended Learning Solution-Overcoming Pedagogical and Technological Challenges in Thailand” organized by IT Edusoft Co., Ltd. at the Royal River Hotel, Bangkok. A workshop was given so that all participants could experience the three stages of PPP : Present, Practice, and Production (pre, computer and post) for communicative English. In the afternoon session, the participants discussed on learning assessment--Edusoft approach to learning and the tools available. Besides, a role of the teacher in the blended environment was being shared and integrated on lesson planning in English Discoveries.





Vietnam Day 2017

On the 9th August 2017, Vietnam Day was celebrated by the International Office in cooperation with Hue University of Foreign Languages. Asst. Prof. Dr. Nawamin Prachanant, Vice President for International Affairs, was officially invited to preside over the festivals and to give a welcoming speech for Vietnamese lecturers and students who enthusiastically came to BRU for a month of language and cultural exchange. There was a Vietnam exhibition and a quiz in English for Vietnam Day's activities with more than 100 students joined this event. Beside these activities, Vietnamese food was served to the competitors and the audiences by the lecturers and students from Vietnam. This activity not only strengthened the relationship between the two countries but also helped these ASEAN students develop their English skills.

ASEAN DAY 2017



On the 8th August, ASEAN Day 2017 was celebrated by the International Office. The objective was to conduct academic competitions such as a speech competition and a presentation of products made from rice. Dr.Krapan Sri-ngan, Vice President for Administrative Affairs was invited to preside over the celebrations and gave the opening speech for the event. Many and various schools and institutes participated in the ASEAN DAY 2017 activities.

About 300 people took part in the competitions, attended the Rice is Life exhibition and listened to the keynote speech on the topic of "Rice Processing"

Competition winners from schools and institutes were given a trophy, a certificate and a cash reward. The results were as follows:
(1) the winner of the speech competition was from Nangrong School, Buriram Province and
(2) the winner of the rice products presentation competition was from Than Thong Pittayakhom School, Buriram Province.



Ask Me Project

The International Office, Buriram Rajabhat University in cooperation with Buriram Tourism and Sport Office, Buriram Provincial Hall arranged an activity for improving the proficiency of tourism personnel under the following objectives :

1. To enhance the English skills and usage of tourism personnel to meet the goal in order to assist the tourists and be a good host,
2. To create confidence for Ask Me's staff as well as serve for both Thai and foreign tourists,
3. To bring about effective tourism management to serve both Thai and foreign tourists.

The activity was divided into 3 phases with 140 participants each. The specialists from the International Office, Buriram Rajabhat University gave lectures and arranged group activities to enhance the English proficiency of the participants. The event was held from the 7th to 22nd September 2017 at Buritel Hotel in Buriram Province.



Executives Meeting for International Affairs between BRU and NU

An Executive Meeting was held on the 4th November 2017 at Leelawadee Room, 2nd floor, of the Chaloen Phrakiat Maha Vajiralongkorn 50th Anniversary Building (Bldg. 15) and led by Assoc. Prof. Malinee Chutopama, BRU President and the chairman of this meeting, also present were Asst. Prof. Dr. Nawamin Prachanant, Vice President for International Affairs, Asst. Prof. Dr. Akkarapon Nuemaihom, Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Asst. Prof. Dr. Narumon Somkuna, Dean of the Graduate School, Ajarn Chompoo Isariyawat, Associate Dean for Research and Development, Ajarn Rosesamon Panduangkaew, Director of the International Office, Ajarn Purisa Watcharenwong, Head of Language Development, and Ajarn Jintana Watcharapotikorn, Head of International Staff and Students.

Some points of the MOU made between Buriram Rajabhat University (BRU) and Niagara University (NU) were as the following :

1. To have academic cooperation in exchanging students and staff,
2. To exchange of scientific work and collaboration experience in teaching,
3. To develop cooperative research projects,
4. To organize or join more symposium or seminar.

Our guest speakers were invited to visit Meechai Pattana School (Bamboo School), Lamplaimat District, Buriram Province. This school is a place of education based on sustainable development of lifelong learning under the banner "School-Based Integrated Rural Development Project (School-BIRD)".





DOPA's Master Plan on ASEAN Community



A Community Service activity for developing the English proficiency of provincial administrators was organized by a team of lecturers from the International Office led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Nawamin Prachanant, Vice President for International Affairs, Buriram Rajabhat University. The event was held from the 4th to 6th September 2017 at the SP Buriram Hotel. 50 government officers enthusiastically participated in this activity.



