IUPUI Southeast Asia Program Hosts Visit by Thai Administrators

During their visit to the IUPUI and IU-Bloomington campuses, Thai administrators Dr. Amara Raksasataya and Dean Somkit Raksasataya met with administrators, faculty, and students in various formal and informal events. Pictured at right is a meeting of IUPUI's Southeast Asia Program Steering Committee, with (left to right) Marjorie Lyles, Chair of the Steering Committee, Howard Schaller, Interim Director of the Southeast Asia Program, Robert Kosberg, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Dr. Amara, and Patricia Biddinger, Director of International Affairs.

In late March, IUPUI's Southeast Asia Program welcomed two senior Thai administrators for a five-day visit to the IUPUI and IU-Bloomington campuses—Dr. Amara Raksasataya, Distinguished Professor of the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) and Fellow of the Royal Institute of Thailand, and Dean Somkit Raksasataya, Dean Emeritus of the School of Nursing at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University. In addition to his academic duties, Dr. Amara, an IU alumnus (Ph.D., Political Science, 1960), serves as UN consultant and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Thailand. Dean Somkit, a graduate of Chulalongkorn University and Boston University, has been a prominent leader in the development of nursing education in Thailand. In addition to attending an important steering committee meeting of the Southeast Asia Program (pictured above), Dr. Amara and Dean Somkit each had busy schedules of individual meetings on both campuses.

On March 22 at the IUPUI University Place Conference Center, Dr. Amara delivered an update on Hong Kong/China relations to members of the Indianapolis business and university communities. The presentation, co-sponsored by IUPUI’s Southeast Asia Program and other international associations, was followed by an open reception.

Dr. Amara had individual meetings with Marjorie Lyles, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Southeast Asia Program and Howard Schaller, professor emeritus and Interim Director of the Southeast Asia Program. He also consulted with Mariam Lansam, Associate Dean, School of Liberal Arts, and Director of the Honors Program, to discuss curricular offerings for study abroad Honors students in Southeast Asia; Chris Keeley, Director of Human Resources Administration, on developing a masters' degree in human resources management at NIDA; and Greg Lindsey of SPEA, concerning mutual research interests in water resources management.

Dean Somkit's schedule concentrated on visits at the School of Nursing. She met with Dean Angela McBride, and had individual meetings with Linda Finke, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, and James Haas, Associate Director of International Affairs, to discuss graduate admissions; Gail Ingersoll, Chair of Nursing Administration, and professor Constance Baker on the subject of graduate nursing education and research in Thailand; and Linda Bremmer of the Sigma Theta Tau International Center for Nursing on the matter of scholarships.

On the Bloomington campus, in a meeting organized by SPEA Director of International Programs Randall Baker, Dr. Amara shared his most recent publications with Dean James Barnes and SPEA faculty members, and discussed recent developments in Thailand's public administration programs. Dr. Amara also conferred with Joe Waldman, School of Business Director of Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Amara and Dean Somkit also paid calls on International Programs Dean Patrick O'Meara and OIP administrative staff, Chancellor Herman B. Wells, Political Science Chair Edward Carmines, and Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures Henry Cooper.

During the Bloomington visit, Dr. Amara, as President of the IU Alumni Association in Thailand, presented a beautiful memorial on behalf of the association (see page 13) to the family of William J. Siffin, who served as academic advisor from 1957-59 to NIDA in its formative years.