In June, Mr. Amumongkol Sirivedbin (right), president of Bangkok’s National Institute for Development Administration (NIDA), visited Bloomington to put the finishing touches on a new exchange program.

To be launched in Fall 1996, the program provides for up to two School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) graduate students per semester to take courses at NIDA. A similar number of Thai students will come to pursue their studies at SPEA.

Among those Mr. Sirivedbin met at a luncheon given in his honor were Randall Baker (SPEA), Richard Burke (Telecommunications), Joseph Miller (Business), Ruth Miller (International Services), Frank Proschcan (Cultural Studies), Catherine Siffin (Center on Aging), Richard Stryker (Overseas Study), and Kurt Zorn (SPEA).

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When asked what his biggest reason for opposing the death penalty was, Dando simply responded, "Misjudgement."

Dando’s lecture was a fitting tribute to the late Jerome Hall, whom Dando met on his first trip to the United States in 1950 and with whom he remained life-long friends.

On this trip, Dando also spent a day in Indianapolis, meeting with Governor Evan Bayh and speaking to a group of lawyers and business leaders in the chambers of the Indiana Supreme Court—an event sponsored by the Japan-America Society of Indiana and presided over by Indiana Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard. At the statehouse reception held in his honor, Justice Dando received the "Sagamore of the Wabash" award, the State of Indiana’s highest civilian honor. The Justice is the highest-ranking Japanese government official ever to visit Indiana.

The week-long visit, hosted by Dean Alfred Aman, was arranged largely through the efforts of Joseph Hoffmann of the IU School of Law, who was a Fulbright scholar in Japan in 1995. Hoffmann said, "Justice Dando commands, in Japan, the highest respect of any person in the legal field. That is why his visit to the law school is so important."

The school is embarking on a new Pacific Rim Partnerships Program which will forge closer ties with East Asian institutions.

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Ukrainian Educators Tour IUPUI

As part of a two-week study tour of the United States, 10 Ukrainian high school and college-level economic educators and a translator visited the IUPUI Center for Economic Education, February 24-28. The IUPUI Center was one of only three locations selected by the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) as host sites for the tour. The other cities were Chicago and St. Louis. The visit by the Ukrainian delegation followed economic education seminars taught by the Center’s director, Robert Harris, who has made three trips since 1994 to the Newly Independent States: to St. Petersburg, Omsk and Siberia in Russia; to Baku, Azerbaijan; and to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Accompanied by representatives of the NCEE, Harris arranged for the Ukrainian educators to attend college and pre-college classes, to meet with university and government officials, to visit a 2,500 acre farm and a farm co-op, and to tour the Cummins and Klaas factories in Columbus, Indiana.

The visiting educators commented that in their country roughly 50 workers would have been required to farm the land that one full-time and two part-time workers farm in central Indiana. They particularly enjoyed getting a briefing on the new farm bill at Indiana Senator Richard Lugar’s office.

A high point of their visit was an evening spent comparing educational systems with Indianapolis-area K-12 teachers who are participating in the IUPUI Center’s mentor teacher program, "Key Teachers in Economic Education."

Both groups were surprised to discover how much they have in common. They agreed that, for both countries, the biggest problems in education were a lack of student discipline and low teacher pay. The U.S. teachers were shocked to discover that Ukrainian teachers qualify for extended maternity leave following the birth of a child.

While in Indiana, the Ukrainian educators also participated in a session of Harris’ introductory economics course, which will be broadcast on Indianapolis public television this fall. Their insights were very helpful for IUPUI students trying to understand different economic systems.

This program and on site seminars in the former Soviet Union can help to ease the difficult transition away from command and toward a market system.

For further information, contact Robert Harris at IUPUI (317) 274-8100.