IU Launches Thai Program

At the Fourth Annual Joint Meeting of the Thailand-U.S. and U.S.-Thailand Business Councils in Bangkok last December, a partnership was proposed between the Councils and Indiana University. The proposal will provide internships and partial scholarships to Thai students studying strategically important fields at IU beginning in the 1999-2000 academic year.

The IU program proposal, for the Advancement and Support of Education and Training for Thai Students (ASETTS) received favorable consideration as a "practical initiative to further the education of Thai citizens." To inaugurate the ASETTS program, Indiana University graduate and professional schools have made a commitment of 20-25 partial tuition scholarship awards valued at from $2,000-6,000 to aid new or continuing Thai students in the coming year.

Indiana University seeks to partner with Thai- or U.S.-owned companies, multinational corporations, and other private and public sector organizations that have a common stake in accelerating the development of human resources in Thailand through training and education. By entering into such a partnership, companies will be investing in the human resources needed in the years ahead.

The proposed Thailand-U.S. ASETTS Program will provide internships and other on-the-job training experiences as well as research and study in critically important fields such as information technology.

IU is currently seeking collaboration with Indiana-based companies in the funding of Thai students through the ASETTS Program.

—Kenneth A. Rogers
Associate Dean and Director of International Services

SPEA Hosts Seminar for Muskie Fellows

In early February, Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) hosted a seminar for some of the participants in the Muskie Fellowship program funded by the United States Information Service and administered by the American Councils for International Education in Washington, D.C.

The Muskie Fellowship Program provides an opportunity for young and mid-career professionals from the former Soviet Union to spend one to two years studying a wide variety of fields in the U.S. This group, which came together from locations as disparate as Delaware and California, were all in the field of public policy and administration. They took advantage of an opportunity to exchange experiences and consider the way that one Midwestern state has approached the challenge of regional development and transformation.

Many of the Muskie fellows come from countries with a legacy of extreme centralization, and part of the challenge of democratization is bound up with decentralization and the development of grassroots skills and abilities. The growth of the “New, new Federalism” in the United States, and the passage of so many more responsibilities and resources away from Washington to individual states, provides a fascinating parallel for future leaders considering the same challenges in countries such as Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia.

The program included workshops at Indianapolis International Airport, as well as the Mayor's office in Indianapolis. On a more local scale, Steve Ferguson of Cook Industries provided insight into how to reconcile global reach with a base in a small campus town. Randall Baker and David Jones (SPEA, IUB) hosted the program and led the participants in an exercise to consider where current trends will take us over the next decade, and how the public service should be anticipating these unprecedented changes. Lynton Caldwell (Emeritus, SPEA, IUB) provided a measured perspective on a lifetime of environmental activity, and some prognostications on where we may be heading.

The seminar provided a wonderful opportunity for participants to seek temporary respite from the relentless grind of term papers, and ruminate on the broader context of change in the “real America.”

—Randall Baker, SPEA

Dan Bardin, Karl Jackson, Chumpol Phoruprapha, David Law-Smith, Theodore Roosevelt IV, Wayne Booker, and Kenneth Rogers, IU’s Associate Dean and Director of International Services.