

The 10th International Conference on Thai Studies

Sophana Srichampa *

directlc@mahidol.ac.th

The 10th International Conference on Thai Studies was organized by Thai Khadi Research Institute, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand from 9-11 January 2008. The theme of the conference was “Thai Societies in a Transnationalized World”.

The theme of the conference focused on globalization and transnationalism which play a major role this century in reducing boundaries between countries. Social aspects from one country or one region affect others. This conference aimed to explore the impacts of transnationalism on Thai society. There were 22 sub-themes considered in this conference as follows:

- 1) Alternative Economics
- 2) Architecture in Transnationalized World
- 3) Art, Literature and Music
- 4) Border's Trade
- 5) Buddhism in the Modern World
- 6) Contesting Global Governance: Multilateral Economics Institutions and Social Movements
- 7) Current Situation of Mass Media
- 8) Democracy under Globalization
- 9) Diaspora and Thailand
- 10) Globalizing Civic Engagement and Transnational Advocacy

* Associate Professor at the Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development, Mahidol University

- 11) Law and Society
- 12) Medicine and Society
- 13) The Mekong Basin in Transnationalized World
- 14) Natural and Man-made Disasters
- 15) The Problem of Identity
- 16) Research Methodology for Thai Studies in Transnationalized World
- 17) Science and Society
- 18) Southern Crisis and the Globalized World
- 19) Tai as Transnationalized Studies
- 20) Thai History in Global Contexts
- 21) Transnationalized Corruptions
- 22) Transnationalized Terrorism at the New Global Disorder

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand graciously presided over The 10th International Conference in the main auditorium.

In the morning session, there were three keynote addresses first by Associate Professor Dr. Piriya Krairikish, Thammasat University on "Thai Studies in a Transnationalized World", followed by Professor Charles Keyes, University of Washington, on "The Village Economy: Capitalist and Sufficiency-based-A Northeastern Thai case" and lastly "How to Teach Southeast Asia to Southeast Asian Students" by Professor Hayao Fukui, Ritsumeikan Asian Pacific University, Japan.

On the afternoon of the 9th there were 25 parallel sessions and two roundtable discussion with another 36 parallel sessions and one panel being held on the 10th.

On the final day, apart from the 23 parallel session, 2 special lectures and 2 sessions were held to celebrate the career of Craig J Reynolds and the publication of new books.

Finally, a special session was included for local people from the Mekong region to voice concerns over the transnationalization of the Mekong.