COE Thai Grad Coordinates U.S. Higher Education Fair in Bangkok

Faite Mack

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Chutkeaw Ratanachamnong (Art) is a Program Officer in the Institute of International Education in Bangkok, Thailand. She is a former graduate assistant in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University working under the supervision of Dr. Faite Mack.

Art’s employer, the Institute of International Education (IIE), is a private, non-profit educational organization. Founded in 1919, it is the oldest and largest educational exchange agency in the United States. It is best known for administering the Fulbright, and Humphrey fellowship programs in behalf of the U.S. Department of State. It also manages programs for the U.S. Agency for International Development as well as private scholarship programs for corporations and foundations.

The Bangkok branch of IIE provides free advisory services on educational opportunities in the United States to students in Thailand. It is known as the place where parents and students can obtain official, reliable, and legitimate sources of information about higher education opportunities in the United States. It also assists U.S. University representatives who visit Thailand with information on how to link with Thai universities and recruit talented Thai students to their campuses.

Chutkeaw Ratanachamnong, as Program Officer, assists in coordinating the annual U.S. Higher Education Fair, which is held in October. The Fair attracts representatives from more than 80 U.S. institutions as well as more than 3,000 parents and students. It provides students in Thailand with opportunities to learn more about higher education in the United States as well as meet representatives from a broad range of U.S. colleges and universities.

In using international education to open minds, IIE administers the Exchange Program for Sustainable Growth to allow individuals in Asian governments, businesses, and NGO’s to interact directly with their counterparts and experts from the U.S.A. To enhance opportunities for global and intercultural understanding, the IIE administers scholarship and training programs for various sponsoring agencies including the World Wildlife Fund, USAID, the Asian Development Bank, and the GE Project Guiding Light (Development of Master Teachers in Mathematics, Science and Technology, and the Environment).

As well, the IIE represents Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Prometric in administering the TOEFL, GRE, GMAT, USMLE, PMI, and PRMIA in Thailand, and the TOEFL Institutional Testing Program (TOFEL-ITP) in Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and Thailand. It also provides English-language learning and assessment solutions to educational institutions in Thailand by offering several ETS English-language learning and assessment products, for example, the Criterion Online Writing Evaluation and LanguEdge Courseware.

Art and her mother and father are proud alumni supporters of Grand Valley State University. She admits a fond bias for GVSU and proudly posts its banner in her office including brochures on the available fields of study. She also continues to serve on the Board of Governors of the Education for Humanity Foundation in Thailand. Noteworthy is the sign in her office which states the following information:

Art believes, “Peace and prosperity in the 21st Century depend on increasing the capacity of people to think and work on a global and intercultural basis. As technology opens boarders, international education opens minds.”