



## ESD on Campus Program

### An Ocean of Students at Kasetsart University - Bangkok, Thailand

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Threshold, July/August 2007*

Kasetsart University was Thailand's fourth university system. Kasetsart emerged initially in 1938 at the Maejo village in Chiang Mai. The university was initially founded for agriculture - -Today, there are 16,000 students across four campuses, in many different disciplines, with its largest campuses in Bangkok, with many studying Electrical Engineering. Besides the main campus in Bangkok, it presently has three other campuses in the Central region (Kamphaengsaen, Sri Racha, and Lopburi) and one campus each in the Northeastern region (Chalermprakiat Sakhon Nakhon), the Western region (Suphan Buri), and the Southern region (Krabi).

When one drives through Kasetsart University, it feels like a city, and is hard to distinguish what is Bangkok and what is the KU campus. The campus has significant housing and lecture facilities in Bangkok. Students sit in open air courtyards with laptops open, doing homework and interacting in the summer March heat, waiting for the end of the college year. Dogs, and an occasional cat, also make themselves comfortable to avoid the March heat.

The campus spans from traditional Thai cultural centers to modern white concrete buildings, to glass structures - - from traditional to super modern design.

For the visit to Kasetsart University, Suneat Pranonsatit of the Faculty of the Electrical Engineering Department served as the host. Suneat Pranonsatit provided a tour of the new spotless center on mechatronics and robotics recently constructed for training jointly developed with Bosch. In Thailand, there is considerable focus on robotic equipment and design for electromechanical systems. Other tours consisted of visits to tightly crowded student projects with rooms filled for retinal scan identification research and fingerprints for password identification. We had our eyes scanned with cameras and projected them into the computer systems. Algorithms are being researched which combine the retinal scan, fingerprints, and other features. ESD issues? It all depends.

Other faculty, such as Patamaporn Sripadungtham, Parnjit Damrongkulkamjorn and Denchai Warasawate joined for a Thai lunch buffet with Tod Man Plao, Laab Gai, papaya salads, coconut ice cream and bananas - -where lunch mixed with discussions on ESD, research and education.

On this visit, the head of the Electrical Engineering department, Professor Mongkol Raksapatcharawong, joined us for the ESD on Campus lecture series. At the ESD on Campus lecture, more than 100 graduating students attended. In the photograph, it is clear that the students arrived in full formal attire of the Kasetsart University uniform. The students were animated --- this was one of the last lectures they would listen to in the close of their educational career. From the photograph one can see the smiles on the student faces.

Maybe a new career in ESD?

As they head into the work place, they will discover ESD openings and ESD engineers from corporations such as Seagate Corp have ESD engineers in place solving today's MR head industry problems. ▲