

## 26<sup>th</sup> International Police Executives Symposium (IPES), August 2015

Shinawatra University was honoured to be given the opportunity to host the 26<sup>th</sup> International Police Executives Symposium in August, 2015. The symposium was held in Pattaya at the well-appointed Ravindra Resort there. The purpose of the symposium is to bring together practitioners, senior police executives, academics and other interested people from around the world to share best practice, new knowledge and technology and to mark advanced policing work and the efforts made by police forces internationally. The theme of this year's conference was human trafficking, which was particularly relevant for Thailand, as media headlines throughout the year have made evident.



**Figures 1 and 2:** *Thai Police Band at the IPES, 2015; source: Editor*

The event was particularly well-supported by the Royal Thai Police, with many leading officers attending and lending their support to the event. Participants also enjoyed the police escorts to and from the hotel to events in other parts of Pattaya.

The event had a diverse range of speakers, including academics who had shaped contemporary understanding of the police and their

behaviour, as well as serving officers, including one American colleague whose work involved rescuing women held as trafficked victims, and those whose work relates to the interactions the police undergo linking them with victims and their stakeholders, the legislature and judiciary and with suspected perpetrators. It was instructive to compare the earnest and well-meaning efforts made by participants with the reality of police work in Thailand in 2015. In common with a number of other countries, Thailand saw its police force become a regime-friendly institution, with its principal activity not to protect the people and maintain law and order but protection of the establishment elite from any real or imagined threat, whether justified or not. As a result of Cold War realpolitik, the police force was set against the military in the struggle for influence and resources. Although there was early success for the police, the military has subsequently taken the ascendancy and now consumes an enormous amount of state resources and has taken on powers with respect to such issues as disaster mitigation, emergency response and a wide range of other activities which, in other countries, are more appropriately served by specialist agencies. Now, the police force is used, when required, by the ruling elite to take actions in the interests of that elite, with the results being those headlines throughout the year. Obviously, this is an issue which cannot be expressed any more plainly than this.

The symposium was successfully held and participants seemed pleased by the event. The SIU team was headed by President Prof. Voradej Chandarasorn and his lieutenant Tanarat Teeratanakiat, who ensured smooth running of the event. Next year's event is scheduled to be held at Washington D.C. and we wish all involved another memorable occasion. The subject matter of policing may often be grim but, with pessimism of the intellect and optimism of the will, we can believe that our efforts can make thing better.

*John Walsh, Shinawatra University*

## **3rd International Conference on “Skill Development and Technological Innovation for Economic Growth (ICST-2015),” November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, IMS, Ghaziabad**

The Third International Conference on ‘Skill Development and Technological Innovation for Economic Growth’ (ICST-2015) took place on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Institute of Management Studies, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The editor was grateful to be invited to attend in the capacity of chief guest and gave a keynote address, as well as a regular academic presentation. The conference was organized by IMS staff and coordination was well accomplished by Assistant Professor Surabhi Singh.



**Figures 1 and 2: Audience and Invited Speakers; source: Editor**

This well a well-attended event with a number of lively and interesting speakers. Congratulations to all involved for a successful event.

*John Walsh, Shinawatra University*

## **International Conference on Management Cases, 2015, BIMTECH, Greater Noida, December 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>**

The 2015 version of the International Conference on Management Cases was conducted on December 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to its customary success. As ever, it was skillfully organized and managed by the indomitable team of Professors Sardana and Thatchenkery, together with an extensive support team and the executive support of the leaders of Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

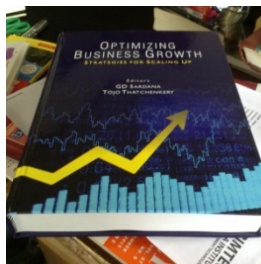


**Figure 1:** *VIPs at the Opening Ceremony of ICMC, 2015; source: Editor*

As the name of the conference indicates, the conference focuses on the case study approach to pedagogy and all the papers presented were intended to relate to either a teaching case study or that rather nebulous and often unsatisfactory item, the research case study. The more successful cases, at this conference and previous versions, tended to focus on a specific area of theory or analytical model and used the case material to lead the students to evaluate or use those

theories or models to choose between various possible options or strategies. When an author prefers to reverse this situation, putting the focal company at the heart of the case and asking the student to comment on what has already been decided, then there is the danger that students can do little more than praise decisions taken. This is particularly a problem when the researcher is junior in status and grateful just for being given access to data and when the critical analytical mode of thinking and writing is not deeply embedded into a culture.

Participants at the conference came from a number of countries from around the world, in addition to India. Sizeable contingents came from Finland and the USA, as well as Australia, France, Japan, Nepal and, of course, Thailand. A very convivial atmosphere enlivened the conference and participants enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with their peers in a friendly manner. Distinguishing this conference was the presentation to delegates of the two volumes of the conference proceedings, published by Bloomsbury, thanks to the legendary diligence of Professor Sardana (see Figure 2). The process of helping authors who submitted full-text cases to the conference to have suitably amended versions of those papers published in academic journals has now begun, which is a much-appreciated additional service provided to participants.



**Figure 2:** *One of the Two Volumes of the Conference Proceedings;*  
**source:** *Editor*

*John Walsh, Shinawatra University*

