

The 8th International Conference on Management, Finance and Entrepreneurship and the 10th International Conference on Economics and Social Science

Shinawatra University has been cooperating with the International Foundation for Research and Development (IFRD) to organize conferences in Bangkok for several years. On a biannual basis, conferences are held at the Graduate Campus at the BBD Building, Viphawadi-Rangsit Road. There are benefits from this arrangement for both sides. From the university's perspective, it is evident that our graduate students have low cost access to international conferences which otherwise might be beyond them. They have networking opportunities as a result, as well as the opportunity to receive feedback on their own research while being able to benchmark their performance against their peers. This process, which we try to ensure takes place in a friendly and supportive environment, builds confidence in the students, while also helping to meet publishing requirements for graduation. IFRD maintains four academic journals and, of course, Shinawatra University has three such double-blind peer-review journals and many conference participants over the years have succeeded in publishing their papers through those journals.

So it was in January, 2016, when a one-day event combined the 8th International Conference on Management, Finance and Entrepreneurship and the 10th International Conference on Economics and Social Sciences. The event was successfully concluded and an audience of presenters and observers from various countries enjoyed the contributions made. Among the

presenters from Shinawatra University, Dr. Sirirat Ngamsang gave the paper “The Management of Confucius Institutes in Thailand,” Dr. Petcharat Lovichakorntikul spoke on “The Everyday Politics of Mandalay Street Vendors,” Dr. Fuangfa Ampornstira gave the paper “The Belt and Road Initiative and Its Impact on SEAN” and Thanan Apivantanaporn addressed the audience with “The Use of Renewable Energy Sources and Carbon Reduction Techniques in Thailand’s Tourism Sector.” Other notable participants included Dr. Chanchai Bunchapattanasakda, Dr. Wuttipong Pongsuwan and Dr. Amporn Sa-Ngiamwibool.

As ever, I am indebted to many other people for their support in making this conference people. This includes (but in no means is limited to) Prof. Rao from IFRD, Aj Boonta Wissawapaisal, Chief Information Scientist, Aj. Wilaiporn Lao-Hakosol and K. Ratana Palasak, Secretary of the School of Management.

Academic discourse such as we aim to encourage helps people to understand the world the way it really is, with what Gramsci famously called pessimism of the intellect and optimism of the will. This is a small but meaningful ray of light in the struggle against the darkness of suppression and tyranny from which so much of the world so greatly suffers even in the second decade of the twenty-first century.



Figure 1: *Four Presenters from Shinawatra University: clockwise: Dr. Sirirat Ngamsang, Dr Petcharat Lovichokorntikul, Thanan Apivantanaporn and Dr. Fuangfa Ampornstira; source: Author*

John Walsh, Shinawatra University