

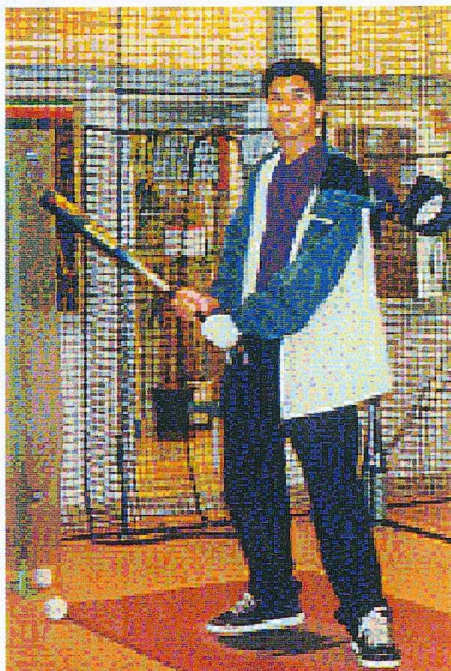
New Students from Thailand

It was a sunny morning in March with breeze blowing.

Fourteen young people stepped out of the Oita Airport, marching their way to Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University—a place to pursue their dreams of education...

Sawasdee Khaa, I am "Top" from Siam University. I am the first person to be here on the student exchange program from Thailand. Studying at APU is the best opportunity for me. I have learnt many things at APU. It is not just only acquiring valuable knowledge from the subjects and Japanese language, but also experiencing diversity of different cultures. I really consider myself as one of the luckiest people to be here in this place. It is such a short time for me to be here for only one year. By the time when I have to go back to Thailand, I will never forget to bring back with me the memorial pictures of lovely friendships. I will never forget the wonderful and meaningful happiness I have here. However, things in the above sentences would never have happened without the kindness of the president of my Siam University, Dr. Twee Hormchong, Professor Takamoto, Miss Sayako, APU, my friends, and my beloved Mom and Dad. Thank you very much Khaa.

--SUMRANROM Chanidapa (Top)



APU is a real gem international academic institution. It provides many courses that satisfy our needs and aspirations. The methodology includes studying in classroom, teamwork, seminar, field visit and refining our consolidation of learning and application to solve the problems in the society which are logical, interesting, and creative.

Being an international university, APU provides a multicultural learning environment that facilitates the students to deepen their understanding and reflect upon the realities of the Asia Pacific region. At APU, we are able to share our opinion and learn through the discussion with the young people from different nations, background and faith. This becomes one of the methodology that help the students deepen their understanding of this region's realities as well as gaining more knowledge which might not be provided during the class. AP House is one of the venue which provides the opportunity for the residents to develop and establish a friendship and solidarity as well as strengthen the proficiency in both English and Japanese. Also we are able to learn the simple expressions in other languages from our friends who are from various parts of the world.

--SABUR Ekraj (Ek)

The Sakura were blooming when we arrived Japan. We spend the first two weeks with the admission procedures and orientations. I haven't gone to see the Sakura yet.

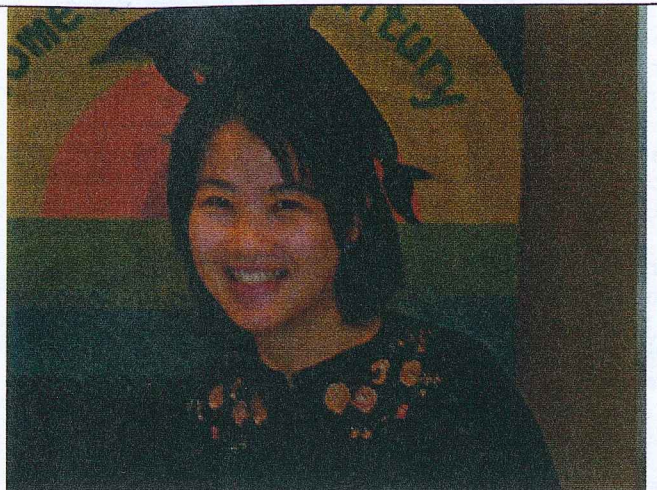
The classes began with so many homework and assignments. The first period begins at 8:45 a.m. and the last period end at 7:30 p.m. Fortunately, we don't have to take the whole 6 periods each day, but that is enough to make us sleep well at nights.

I felt so lonesome during the first three weeks. But things get better gradually.

I have a few Japanese friends so far. Though, I still haven't got much chance to practice Japanese Language. I wish to have a home-stay next semester so that I'd improve my Japanese.

Time has blown away by the harsh of cold winds. The classes had begun while the Sakura had left its trunk. When the cherry trees blossom its second time, I'll be going back home.

--SURASATHIAN Charassree (Jum)



Now I am living in APU and I am enjoying my life. So please do not worry about me. Everything here is very convenient, but things are expensive. Living here, I get to meet and make many multicultural friends especially Koreans. Thus I have a Korean best friend who cooks for me everyday. Please also do not worry about my language communication. I am trying to study Japanese. The studies here are hard and there are tests everyday. Everything has to be done by myself but it is beneficial for me.

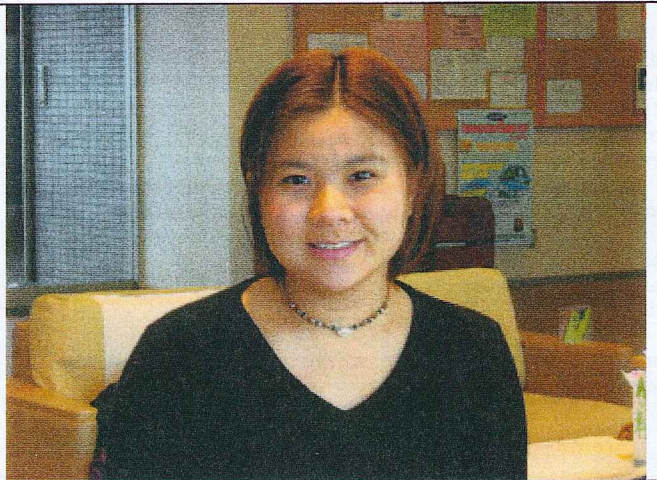
APU is a well-known university in Japan with good education. The professors here are very kind, and the classrooms are equipped with high technology. The teaching style is very different from Thai's.

In Beppu, there are many sightseeing areas including hot springs, beaches, and mountains. The environment here is also very good because of the people and the nature here in Beppu.

--MUANGSUWAN Kanin (Tiger)

Hello everyone! I am Aom. I am also one of the new students in APU. It has been 3 weeks already that I came to Japan. School just started last week and I really enjoyed. I have got a lot of new friends who live together with me in AP House. Everyone is so nice and friendly. At first, I felt uncomfortable with the new environment and Japanese language but right now I am getting better and better. I still miss everybody in Thailand especially my family, but I will intend to do my best in study and everything here. Thank you for all people who support me and make my dreams come true. Love you all...Thank you.

--PHADUNGCHVITE Sarunya (Aom)



It was a warm welcome from Thai students, teachers, and those who live together in AP House. Since the joyful, diverse environment is one of the greatest points of APU, it sometimes seems to me that whether or not this is Japan?

Gathering about 500 domestic students and 400 foreign students from all over the world, I wish APU will give me a great opportunity to develop my understanding of the different ethnics and broaden my perception of the world at the same time. Therefore, I would like to be friends with everyone here, because I would not like to waste any precious minute at this delightful college.

--TANGPAIWAN Panawan (Nok)

I have stayed here at APU for almost 2 weeks. The environment in the university is very suitable for studying because it is calm, and it is surrounded by good view. Studying here is like I can travel everyday. From my window at AP House, I can see mountains and sea. When the sky becomes dark, I see the light from the city down here. I love this very much.

There are students from so many countries around the world. Even though we have different cultures, we can get along with one another.

Being here makes me grow up everyday because I have to do everything by myself, but there is no problem. It is very comfortable here. I love APU.

--TIYAPIPAT Supitcha (Fon)



Sawasdee Khaa! Gosh! I am too tired to write...so many stuffs to do. School just started this week, but I now have lots of homework to do. APU is a very unique university because of its international environment. There are students from more than 50 countries here, I guess. Living in AP House is fun. It is just like a large international community. You can hear people talking in different languages, dressing in different styles, eating different kinds of food...etc. The weather here is totally weird. Today is sunny and freezing cold at the same time. How Bizarre! Anyway, I will try my best in everything. When it is time to study, I will study hard. And when it is time to play, I will do it hard also. I really want to give a big thanks to my wonderful family for always supporting me. I love you: Dad, Mom, Prae, Prim, and the rest of my super huge family. Thank you Dr. Twee Hormchong and Mr. Aki for giving me this fantastic chance.

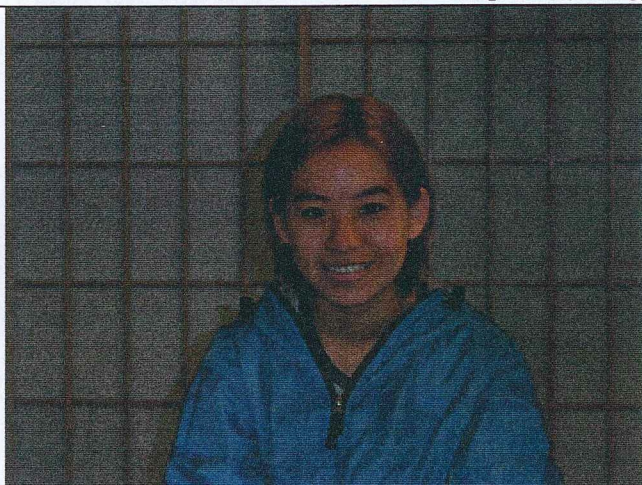
--KRASAEAPH Nopamas (Pueng)

Hi, everyone! Studying here gives me so many things. I have to learn how to live on my own. For those who are planning to come here, I suggest you to study hard. Also, you have to control yourself from the temptations because you have to stand by yourself. No more instructions from parents.

I like APU because everyone here is so friendly. At first, I was surprised when people here say "hi!" even though they do not know each other. The comfortable atmosphere in APU helps me to make friends more easily. I do not feel lonely at all because I have so many friends.

I think I have already got used to the environment here now, except for the weather. I will try to study hard and do the best I can.

--VICHITRISADEE Chutimon (Monik)



I have been here in APU for 2 weeks. When I first came here, everything seemed difficult for me. Here I have to do everything myself. However, I have a great chance to exchange my opinion and cultural experience with my foreign friends. I learn how to live in the global community and how to share my viewpoint with others.

Pa-Ma-Here-Kim, now I am going to be a real adult. Though now I still feel homesick but I am sure that I will get used to it soon. I'd like to say "Thank you" to everyone who always supports me: Dr. Twee Hormchong for your greatest effort. Without you, I wouldn't be in the best university in the world! And also big "Thanks" for all APU stuffs who worked so hard for our documents in APU Liaison Office Thailand. My beloved friends in SJC & TU, you all will always be my best friends. And lastly, to everyone in my family, I want you to know how much I love you, though I don't always express it in words but it is true. I am the luckiest girl in the world because I have the best family. I love everyone.

--VADHANAKOVINT Pichaya (Meow)

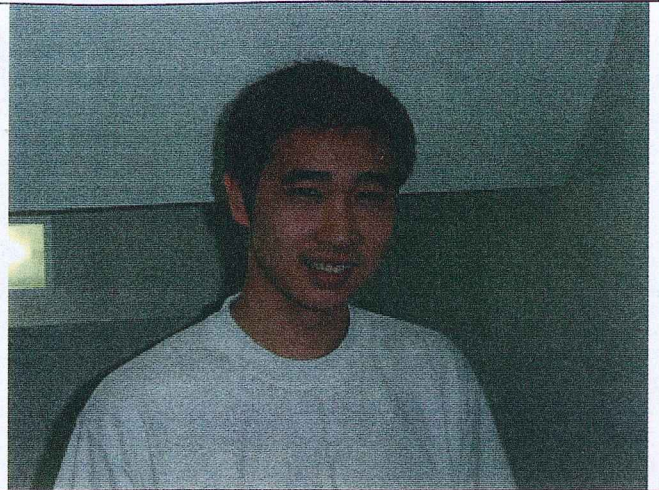
The first thing that impressed me is what I saw from APU—mountains and mountains place one upon another at one side, cities of Beppu and Oita lie opposite of the sea at the other.

It is almost a month now since I arrived. Life here is somewhat challenging. I need to adjust myself to new environment since there are people from all continents. New culture to be learnt, which is what we all are facing.

Japanese is the most concerning for all of us, especially me, I suppose. Studying in Japan, we should take Japanese as our third, fourth, or...language. No matter how hard it is, I will do my best.

To all my family and friends: "Don't miss me too much."

--CHALERMKARNCHANA Tom (Tom)

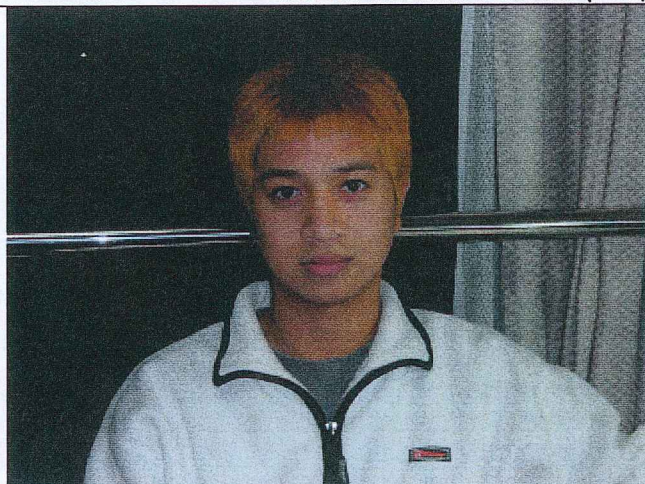


Hi! Everyone in Thailand. It is about two weeks from the first day I stepped in Japan until now. It is quite a short period of time but I find it every exciting and fun. The APU campus is a perfect place for studying, because of its location in beautiful landscape and its modernly equipped facilities. The classes have just started. I think Japanese will be the most difficult subject for me. I have to read a lot. Living here makes me to become more mature because I need to control myself, especially handling the spending of money. I want to buy all Thai stuffs, which seem to be so cheap for me right now.

--CRUAGAO NA LUMPOON Kannika (Pla)

The time passes very fast. We are in the third week of living at AP House. The first day we reached here was a busy day because there are many things to do, such as checking our health, as well as many documents we had to fill out and read in order to live happily. However, people who live at AP House are kind and friendly. They helped us completing our duties smoothly. Last two weeks, we were at the lobby of AP House everyday, making friends and joining activities. Because of the weather, surroundings, and studies (we got many reports and exams), living here is not easy, but not too difficult if we try to adapt ourselves. I believe that we can do it!

--RUETHAIRATH Saechin (Fon)



I felt good when I first stepped out the Oita airport. The cool air and the morning sun freshened me up from the five long hours on the plane. The Asia Pacific College gave me a wonderful first impression. AP House is a very nice and comfortable place to be spending the next year of my life in. It gives me a spectacular view of the oceans, the mountains, and the forest from my room. Everyone is so kind. Students greet each other with smiles on their face. The college itself has a wide range of interesting subjects for me to choose from and the professors are so devoted and understanding. I have made just the right choice to come to APU.

--TAPANYA Trin (Trin)

Entrance Ceremony for Spring 2001 Enrollees

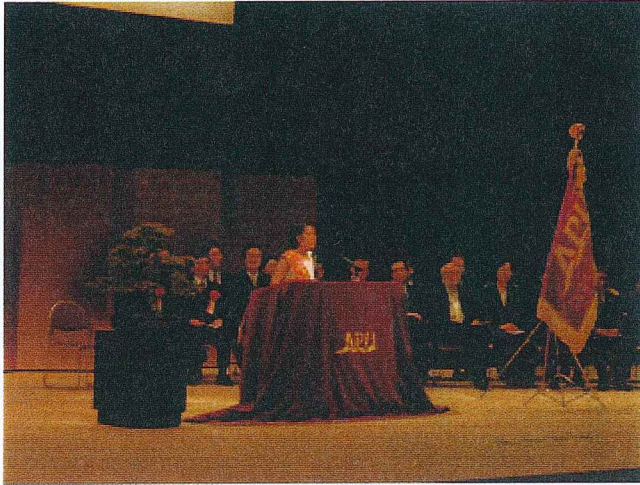


Trees are budding. Birds are singing. Flowers are blooming.

Spring has finally arrived...



At the Entrance Ceremony on April 2 2001, one of the Thai Students Nipa Piboontanasawat was selected as a representative of current students in APU to give a speech:



Respected Mayor of Beppu, Chairman and Executive President of the Ritsumeikan Trust, APU President Sakamoto, Faculty Members, and My Fellow Students.

Today, it is my great honor to represent the current students of the College of Asia Pacific Management. On behalf of the entire student body of APU, I would like to give my warmest welcome to our new friends joining us from all over the world.

Six months ago, I arrived at APU with curiosity, enthusiasm, and dreams. I was amazed by both the natural beauty of the campus and the spirit of this place. It seems like yesterday when I was seated in the audience as one of APU new students being welcomed by our seniors. Now, it is our turn to welcome our new friends. And among the audience I can see faces with hopes. I can

see faces with promises. I can see faces that will build the future of our university.

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As a student of the College of Asia Pacific Management, I understand very well that the world economy is now undergoing a rapid and fundamental change. Globalization has now become the key to business success. John Donne, a famous English poet in the 16th century, predicted this dramatic change. He said in his Meditation 17, "No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." In spite of our difference in languages, backgrounds, customs, and traditions, we are actually members of one big family. Studying in this international university, this fact is confirmed for us. And we are responsible for passing this fact on to others. APU is an ideal place to strengthen our global thinking. Remember, no matter how cultural barriers stand in our way of communication, we should eliminate them and look forward to better understanding of each other. And also remember, we are here to fulfill the demands for successful leaders in the future.

Last but not least, my new friends, I would like to advise you to use your time in APU wisely. Devote yourself not only to studies, but also to your college fun here with us. Reach for the stars, but keep your feet on the ground.

Thank you very much.

On April 18 2001, two Thai students Nipa Piboontanasawat and Sinthip Nuangchamnong were awarded the Gold Prize for their outstanding academic achievements in the Fall Semester 2000. Here is a few words from Sinthip Nuangchamnong:

It has been already been six months in Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and the time passes by very fast! I have enjoyed being able to be a student in this marvelous university. Not only the education that has flourished me, but also the companionship of my fellow friends and professors of APU. Last but not least, I would like to thank Toshiba Cooperation for giving me this opportunity to study here in APU. Without your support, I would not be able to be here. I will try my best to reach my goals and aspiration in this coming three and a half years in APU.



APU Spring Festival 2001



In APU where people from about 50 countries are gathered, cultural exchange is taken place in everyday life. In the APU Spring Festival 2001, for instance, you see people dressed in different costumes, food served in different cuisines, ...

date: 2001.MAY.20th

place: APU CAMPUS

purpose: More activation of student activity

theme: Let's enjoy SPRING!!

Performances by the students at the main stage and Millennium hall

contents: Match game with other university at the Gymnasium & ground

Circle event & performance

Shop booth

Norman ROCKWELL exhibition



New Life Experiences

*I hear and I forget. I see and I remember.
I do and I understand.—Confucius*

WIJITCHOT Thianthong is one of the Thai students who came to APU last October. She would like to share with us her unforgettable experience in life.



During winter vacation, I had a wonderful chance to go for a home stay. It was a great time for me, although it was only the first time since I stayed here for six months. My home stay family brought me to Yufuin. This traveling place is so beautiful. Most of the travelers love to go there. I think if I could not get this program, I would not be able to go there. Home stay program is the best program for international students to gain the experience and Japanese culture. Since I came here, I have always felt homesick but when I went for this home stay, I could feel the warmth from my Japanese family. Now, I still stay in touch with my Japanese family and we always go out together. I will never forget this great life experience.

POOSUWAN Nunnapa is the only Thai student who serves as a RA (Resident Assistant) in the AP House. She would like to introduce us her new life style.

Hello, How are you? Hope you're doing well in everything! About me, this issue I wanna tell you about my RA life. Okay! First I wanna begin with this sentence "Time never wait for you". I think you can understand this sentence. Some of you can think through about its meaning or maybe some of you can't. Don't worry about it. I have heard this sentence from my teacher when I was in 10 grade of my high school. It is my favorite sentence until now. I think, it's a short sentence but the meaning is such a long sentence. If you think about it deeply, you will see the important meaning. The important meaning is "Don't give up".

Nowadays everything is changing easily & quickly, someone can adjust their daily life and know what they should do for getting better. But someone can't do it, they have no confident in step that they are walking, they can't be secure in proceeding their great life. And when they get some problems, they always escape their problems. Everybody knew that is not a best solution for problem. I just want those people try to face with all of problems. Don't be disheartened because every problems have their own solutions but they have to be patient, try to solve all of problems by using your enduringness, brave, experience, and head. All of problems will be great teacher for them. So don't waste your precious time. Let's manage well your time, don't let it go again 'cause time never wait for you!

For me, Now I'm using my precious time in AP House, I think I will get more experiences, knowledge and from RA's duty so I applied for being a RA. First I want you to know more about RAs. Yeah! "RAs (Resident Assistants) are responsible for management of each floor and lifestyle support for residents. The RA's



role is to ensure a safe and comfortable living environment for residents, through management of floor hygiene, lifestyle advice, moral, and disciplinary guidance."

I like to be RA, I can have a lot of friends from different countries, I can learn more cultures and languages that so different from Thailand, and the more important is I can get more precious experiences, get more examples for making my life get better & better. So I just wanna tell you that your RAs love you, they want to help you. So maybe sometime they train you bad, please don't hate them. We are good friends!!!

Sweet Memories with Our Friends



**Thanks to Parents and Teachers
of APU Thai Students, and Dr Twee**

The entrance ceremony in April this year turned out to be a very memorable milestone for the Thai community here at APU. Thirteen outstanding students from Thailand attended the ceremony, making the total number of Thai students studying at APU 26 including 13 students who joined us last year. Those thirteen new students, together with other 772 students representing 35 countries, were warmly welcomed, among all, by the superb speech which Nipa Piboontanasawat delivered most elegantly wearing her traditional Thai costume. Nipa had joined APU last October and had been chosen to represent the College of Asia Pacific Management due to her top-ranking academic performance in the fall semester. As you will find in this newsletter, all Thai students, both first-year and second year, were smiling and shining. As a matter of fact, all Thai students have come to be highly regarded for their excellent personal qualities and high academic performance within APU as well as the local community. As a teacher and an administration staff member responsible for Thailand, we are very proud of our Thai students.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all parents and teachers of our Thai students for the trust they have put in our school. We do understand that entrusting a new school with your sons and daughters and students required a great deal of courage and foresight. For that, we feel very grateful to you and we will do our best to make their study here enjoyable, memorable, and rewarding. Please do not hesitate to contact us immediately if you have any questions or requests.

Last but not least, we also wish to thank deeply Dr Twee Hormchong, Visiting Professor of Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies and Executive Director of APU Liaison Office in Thailand. Without his reputation in Thailand and his unflagging help, our ties with high schools in Thailand would never have grown so strong.

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Last but not least...

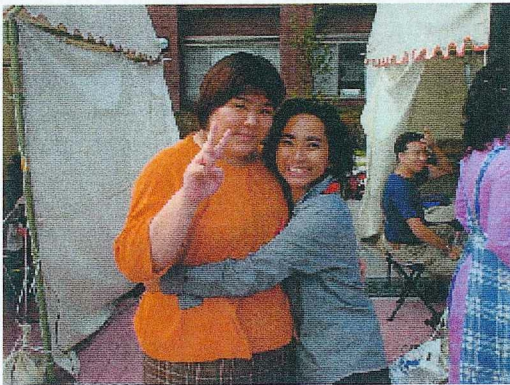


Mr. Supichcha Choowong is a lecturer in APU engaged in the field Linguistics and Culture. He also teaches Thai language and nationalism to both Japanese and international students in APU. Through this newsletter, we would like to say a few words of “thanks” to him and his family. In spite of their busy work, he and his wife devoted much of their time helping us the Thai students with our everyday life here in a foreign country. Thank you very much...

This newsletter is produced by



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