

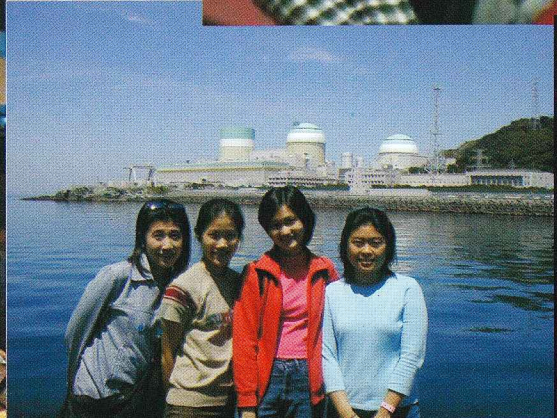
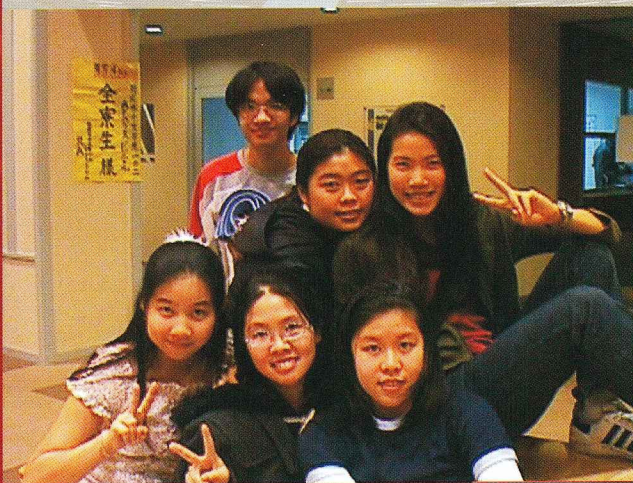
Newsletter by Thai Students

# SAWASDEE

Special 6<sup>th</sup> Issue

January 31, 2003

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Messages from  
Prof. Takamoto,  
Dr. Twee,  
Pichaya , Nipa,  
New students  
Special Events  
Pictures .







**Dear all,**

**First of all, we would like to give warm welcome and congratulate to new student both from Spring 2002 and Falls 2003. We hope you all have enjoyed new experience as APU student, Beppu citizen and Japanese life style. Thai teachers, APU members and we Thai seniors are happy to have you here with us. We also strongly hope you will make the good use of this opportunity you have in your hands and try your best as a representative of our country.**

**To all dear Thai friends, we believe all of us have been working hard throughout this semester and we reserve vacation for sometimes. So, let's enjoy!!**

**Wishing all of use for good grade, have a nice holiday and see you next semester.**

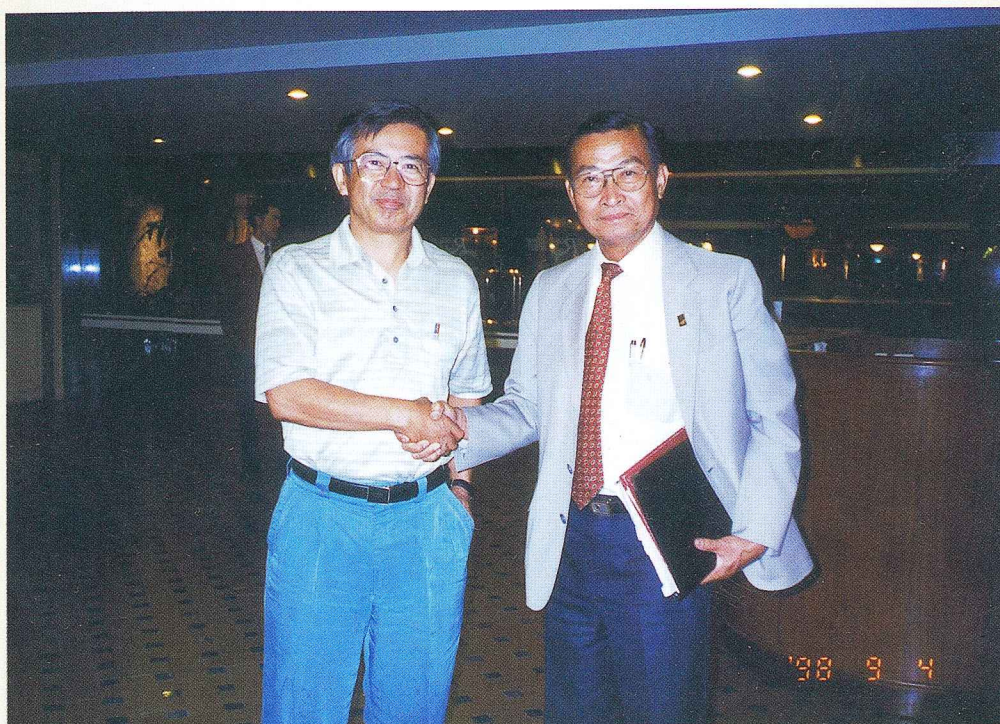
**Best Regard,**

**I. Manasith & C. Maslin**

**Editors**







Dear Thai Students

It was a very pleasant surprise to hear from Manasith that he was just producing next APU Thai Students Newsletter. I have been waiting for it just as Dr Twee and all your parents must have been. I have been concerned that I was losing contacts with you, as the Thai community at APU grew larger. Lets keep in close touch with each other.

Dr Twee and Kitamura-san will certainly join me wishing you a nice holiday and a Happy New Year!

Please don't forget to come back to Beppu after the holiday.

If you are staying here, please come and see me any time.

All the best!

Aki Takamoto



## Special Remarks from Dr. Twee

I have seen Newsletter "SAWASDEE" written by Thai students from Issue no.1 to Special Issue no.5. Thanks to Manasith and Muslin, the Editor of Special 6th Issue for their request for my remarks about their Newsletter.

I impress and admire those young Thai students who were able to publish a very nice newsletter. For the 1st Issue it was done by the first group of students from Thailand, only six Thai students, while the 5th Issue was prepared the manuscript by nine fall 2002 students.

I realize that it is quite difficult for the APU Thai students to publish such nice newsletter. Because, each one of them were studying very hard.

From my observation, I think Thai students Newsletter "Sawasdee" is an excellent mean for introduction and advertising of APU.

For the special 5th Issue, I sent 150 copies to Government House for the members of the Thai Cabinet and Prime Minister, Dr. Tuksin Shinawatra and his team members who visited APU on 21st November 2001. We also sent to approximately 200 high schools all over the country of Thailand. I am very happy to inform to the readers that, I received quite a few positive responses.

I am glad indeed to know that the Special 6th Issue is under preparation and it will be coming out soon. And I also was requested from Mr. Nobuhiro NAKAMURA of APU Admissions Office, to assist the Thai students for publication. However, this issue was rather late.

Last but not least, on behalf of the students from Thailand and my own behalf, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Professor Akihiro TAKAMOTO, who gave his advice and guidance to establish Newsletter "SAWASDEE" since 1st Issue; to APU professors and staff who gave excellent instructions and all kind of assistances to the students. My special thanks must go to Ritsumeikan Trust for their financial support.

Twee Hormchong Ph.D.  
Visiting Professor and Executive Director  
APU Liaison Office (Thailand)





My name is Pear. I'm from Wattanothai Payap School, Chiang Mai. First of all I want to thank my Mom and Dad to give me a chance to study here, APU to give me the scholarship, my teachers who always support me, and all of my friends who always be by my side. Without them, I cannot be here in APU.

I planned to study Management since I was in high school, but I had never thought that I could study here in Japan because the living cost is very expensive and I didn't know Japanese. When I first got into APU campus, I felt like it was a dream. It is a university that I am dreaming of. Here, I can learn Japanese, enhance my English proficiency and study Management at the same time. Moreover, I have many friends from all over the world and it is very nice to talk with them and learn their culture.

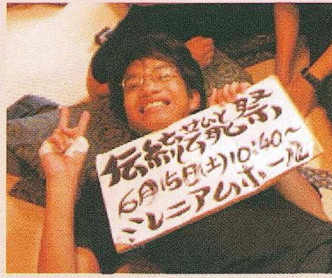
To be far away from my home, at first I thought that I would be alone and homesick. But it is not like I imagined. I have good friends who always take care of me when I am sick, help me when I get in trouble, be by my side when I need someone, and forgive me for all the silly things that I have done.

Thanks a lot for all the things you doing for me.

Finally, I'd like to say to you again, Mom and Dad. Although it is very hard to study here, I do it my best. And I will never make you disappointed in me.

Rodsuphot, Pornpan  
1st year, APM student





My fellow Thai students and I came to Japan in hoping to continue our studies in a broader aspect that which our home country might not be able to provide. Until now, 3 months have passed, new experiences, both favoring and sometimes not so desired have come to pass, leaving many changes to our lives

When we first came, every thing seemed strange and different. Of course, back in Thailand we were warned before to prepare for the changes of Japan's difference in culture but no matter what level we were prepared in, the moment we got here proved that we haven't really learnt anything. The Japanese waited for a signal before crossing the road even if there are cars running or not. Opposite of us Thais, we don't even care if there are cars are haunting the road, when we want to cross, we cross! This is one of the difference in custom which we have never learnt until we got here. Same thing also applies to many other customs considered to us as foreign which can't just easily be taught theoretically in a classroom.

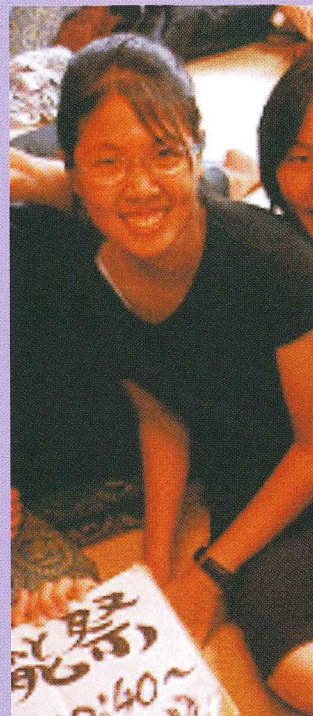
One of the most remarkable things is how amazingly quick our team of Thai students created a great bond of friendship. In a situation where neither of us knew anything about this new place we've come to, "sticking together" seemed to be a solution for survival in the beginning. I remembered the first days of our arrival and placed in our dorms, we were always going shopping, filling out forms in several offices, and just simply hanging around. All of these examples we were always doing them together, so we knew each other fairly quickly as we would never in our home country. There were even a few birthday parties held for a few people in our team that was organized as if we've known each other for a long time. Occasional sleep-overs are quite common, and to think that we've only known each other for just a few months despite our closeness makes it amazing to look back and be surprised in how much we've gone in so little time.

As for custom shocks, yes, of course there are some. I went to home stay during a week of vacation and my host family took me to a Japanese traditional restaurant in where they ordered as an 'hor-d'euve,' a dish of Sashimi, otherwise known as raw fish. This one was nothing I have ever seen before, the head and tail of the fish were still in perfect shape and not harmed while the body was cut into thin squares making it easier to eat with chopsticks. At my host mom's invitation, I took the first piece, dipped it in SHOU – YU and put it in my mouth and chewed. Suddenly I caught sight that the head part of the fish started to move! Well, a shocking sight. After that I swore not to touch fish again. The poor thing wasn't even dead yet, he was cut up so quickly after the chef scooped him out of big fish aquarium located somewhere in the restaurant that he wasn't aware that his body had been mutilated. Shocking.

Our effort goes to trying to blend in as much as possible to this new culture. Communication is one of the most important improvements we must work on. Who ever thought that Japan is a globalized country so English is widely in use. Wrong! People who don't know Japanese come here and they all use sign language to survive. Anyway, I've joined in a few clubs and circles for more experience traditionally and hopefully to improve my Japanese. We hope that our studies here would gain us many skills and improvements which will benefit our future lives.



Asia Pacific Studies (APS). I came to Japan since March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002. The first thing I learnt about APU when I first arrived was that watch out of strong wind! Since APU is on the top of the mountain, the wind is very strong, and the weather is unstable. I lost my umbrella because of this kind of strong wind. You should use raincoat instead. I live on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, which is girls' floor, of AP House 1. AP House 1 is quite quiet. Everyone seems to go to AP House 2. But I like the way it is because I have no problem when I go to sleep. My friends who live in AP House 2 often complain about noisy neighbors. In each floor, there is a resident assistant (RA) who take care of all the residents in that floor. My RA is Thai. Her name is P' Ring. She is a very hard working student, and a hard working RA as well. Studying at APU is quite hard. Everyday, I have Japanese quiz and



a lot of homework. For the other subjects, reports are assigned. Since I am not good at writing in English, I have a big problem when I write the reports. However, I think is a good opportunity to improve my English. I hope I can improve myself here.

APU gives me the opportunity to meet and know people from different countries. I have met many interesting people from all over the world; such as Australian, Chinese, Estonian, Korean, Indonesian, Malaysian, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, and so on. It

broadened my perspective. I have learnt new things that I did not know before. Exchanging ideas with new friends from Asia Pacific region gives me new and better ideas.

APU also gives me the opportunity to know about Japanese people. I have join APU Wadaiko (Japanese drum) circle since April. In this circle, I have many Japanese friends. I have learnt about their culture, and also participated in the circle's performance.

Japanese people are very nice. They are very friendly. Although we cannot easily communicate, I still like them. I wish I had studied more seriously when I was in high school where I had learnt Japanese.

Life here might face challenges and problems for example the high cost of living, the unfamiliar taste of the food, and being homesick sometimes, but I'll try my best to not let down my supporting family and friends. I would

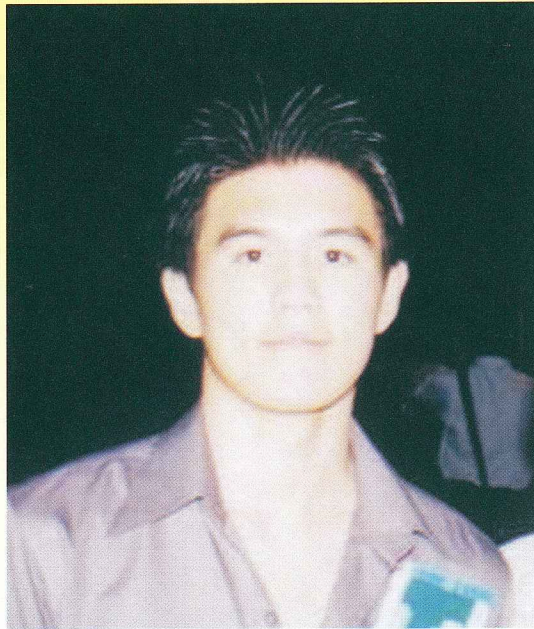
like to thank my family for giving me this opportunity, my teachers at school for supporting and friends whom I received encouragement when I feel depressed. I hope to gain as much knowledge and experience as I can. >\_<





Sawasdeeka Thai newsletter readers (yes!! Japanese language doesn't kill my Thai, but it does my English). Anyway let me introduce myself just a little bit before I go on. I'm Waragarn Pannavalee; a second semester student, majoring in Asia Pacific Management. Well, people call me JENE, which is my nickname. I graduated from the Prince Royal's College in Chiang Mai in 2001. I'm gonna turn 20 in the next few months. so now I'm just going to enjoy my teenage life, which will soon fade away Y\_\_Y. I'm quite sure that I'm the eighth students from Chiang Mai, quite a large number, huh? Still, peeps from Bangkok are the majority (hahaha). It's just a joke. Now I think I'm blabbering too much, so lets begin. It has been 7 months for me here in APU. During this time, I learnt a lot both academically and culturally. I found out that Japanese is one of the most difficult languages that exist in the world. Honestly, sometimes I feel like it's killing me. I should have studied Japanese before I came here. Well, lets say that now my Japanese is getting better, than ever before not a big improvement, given I didn't speak any before. Why? Since I study hard for it and keep practicing, by talking to my Japanese friends all the time. Also I go out with my host family almost every weekend, which allows me to practice using Japanese more and understand Japanese culture at the same time. Life here is a lot of fun and interesting. I still remember the first day I go there, I was only wearing a pare of jeans and a T-shirt when the weather was really freezing, but at that time I was too fascinated about APU to even realize that I was getting cold. As a result, the next day I laid in bed with a heavy cold. It was great seeing all the students wearing their traditional clothes on the day that we had the entrance ceremony. During the ceremony, I felt truly honored since I'm here by myself in Japan, studying as a representative from Thailand, which is my beloved home country. Since that time, I always remind myself to do my best in everything, not only the schooling but also the activities. I took part in many activities here during the last 3-4 months. I joined APU dance ensemble club, and I'm one of the leaders. I enjoy it a lot, because dancing is my dessert. I just love it. Umm, I went to Badminton club sometimes when I was free. I did some exchange events, which are provided by the student office, such as performing Thai dance when local people have the festivals, going to high schools and talking to the students in English. About the schooling, I put a high effort on it, so I think I will be fine. I'm happy with the school record anyway, since I've done my best, and I will always do. This semester I haven't taken any major subject yet. I will have to start taking it next semester. I hope will be a lot of fun to learn though. Friends here are nice, if you take into consideration the culture shock involved when meeting people from completely different cultures and backgrounds. The thing to remember is that we are all different, and though people may do things that we don't agree with, we have to understand that it is their life, and we cannot judge them as a person by their differences to us. As I mentioned before I'm here alone, as are all the other students so, this brings us all together, really quickly, creating a truly dysfunctional family, working together within their circumstances.??

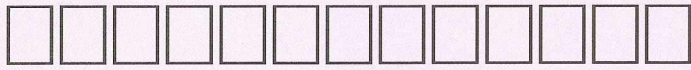




First, I want to say "hello" to everyone that read my article. My name is Isara Itiravivong. My nickname is Ju.

I have one brother, Beer, and now he is studying at APU too. I graduated from Saint Gabriel's College which located in Bangkok. I used to live in Taling Chan( I hope all of you know where it is) but now I live in AP house 2, the best dormitory in Beppu. APU is located on the mountain which isn't quite far from the city but if you want to go down, it will cost you very expensive. I can see many beautiful views from the campus or some room in the dormitory. My live at APU isn't interesting because I have to study a lot for the good grade. If you get good grade here, maybe you'll get another scholarship for yourself. In AP house, there are one basketball court , ping-pong room and the most important is the INTERNET ROOM, which the computer in there are so fast. In APU, there are so many people from all over the world such as Americans, Africans, Koreans (the most), etc. Eventhough I've just came to APU only 1 semester but I have many friends now. I think students at here are so friendly and kind. If you are a talkative guy, you can make friends easily. About Beppu, it isn't a very big city so I can't travel much but the most famous place in here is "ONSEN". I always go to another city, Oita, for shopping. At Oita, there are much more places you to shopping. The most important thing is don't forget to go to 100 YEN shop!!!. This shop has almost necessary things for living. At last, I want to say "Thank You" to my parents. I can say that both of them bring me to this perfect place. And thank you to all of you for reading my article. Thank you very much!!!





Hello there !! My name is Tanatpim Supapornpradub, I go by “GING” I am an Asia Pacific Management student! This is my first semester here in APU and the wonderful town of Beppu. Now I live in AP House which is 10-15 minutes away from APU by walking. AP House is the ideal place to live. Everyday people from all over the



world gathering together and just have fun !! Apart from that my room in AP House is really cool, it's totally new and fully furnished. From my room you can see the fantastic view of the ocean and the city of Beppu which is lying along the coastline. I could spend a whole day looking at the beautiful view from my room's window, it's fabulous!

Here you can learn many new things and experience the world everyday from dawn to dusk. I have met many new friends from around the world, they taught me how to greet in their languages and we exchange ideas and some different points of view. At APU I am able to do a lot of things that I never did and will never do if I just stay in Thailand. I joined the “wa-daiko” circle ( It's about Japanese traditional drum !! ), From this club I learn many interesting Japanese culture, make lots of Japanese friends and we did lots of performances. Moreover, living in APU teaches me how to live with people from different races, cultures and backgrounds. I learn to appreciate the things as time goes by. I learn to cope with unexpected problems, when to take a step forward to reach a better outcome and when to take a step back if it's necessary. APU does not only provide me great education, but also a “life-time” experience.

I would like to give an enormous thank to Dr. Twee Hormchong for giving me this priceless opportunity. Thank you very much, without your helping hand I couldn't make it this far. Special thanks to Professor Akihiro Takamoto and Mr. Shigeo Kitamura for your great kindness and for what you have done for me. Thank to my family and friends for always being there for me. Mom and Dad you mean the world to me !! I love you !!

Since I only have 4 years here, I promise that I will make the full use of my time here as valuable as I can, Let's make each day count together guys !!

Love always, GING







Hi~~!! My name is Vilawan Denrojanamane. Or u can call me Vi. □ I'm 18 years old. I've graduated from Saint Joseph Convent School, Silom Rd Bangkok. Now I'm a first year student in the Asia Pacific Studies(APS). The reason why I choose APS because I don't like mathematics □ or something about Business. I want to study about Media. Before I came here(APU) I was an exchange student in Osaka , Japan for 1 year. I don't want to forget Japanese because it is difficult to study and understand. So I think if I come to APU I can improve my Japanese and English. Besides that, I want to have a lot of friends from many countries and I can learn other languages. As u know that English isn't very useful when u are in Japan. So

Japanese is very necessary for u to come and study in Japan. Studying in APU is easier than studying in Thai University. I can say this because I was studying in Assumption University(ABAC) in Thailand before just a semester. APU is not so difficult to study in the class the professor will use easy English, so u can grasp the concept. But if u still can't u can ask or write in the comment sheet. I think APU is a good choice for someone who want to study in the International University. Now I live in AP House 2 (the new one>.\*). AP House 2 has right side and left side. I live in the right side 5th floor with another Thai student "Ging". In each floor, there are many students from around the world. Usually we ( Me, Ging and Taiwan Friends ) cooked together.

There isn't many thing to do in AP House but normally when I'm free I will go to gym, watch the movie in the Lobby of AP House, chatting with my friends via msn or hanging around with friends to practice my English. Since I came here I never got homesick, everyone in APU are kind. Everyday is fun.

Next winter I plan to go to Osaka with Korean, Taiwanese and Thai friends. Oh~~!!>.< If u think u came to APU u will be starving or skinny with lack of nutrition ( coz APU is on the top of the mountain ) u're wrong~!!!. U can ask from ur seniors and u just need to check it out yourself!!□

At last Thanks to... Dr.Twee ( Thank you for giving me an opportunity )... PAPA & MAMA >.\*  
...Cosmos club. Arigatou~~!!□ vi□







Hello everyone (^\_^)/

My name is Panitsa Kittikanogkul. My nickname is Peung, but non-Thai friends call me "Hatchi" <= bee>. I am a first year, fall semester student of APS <Asia Pacific Study>. I was graduated from Triam Udom Suksa School. Then I had studied at Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy at Chulalongkorn University, majoring on Statistic. But after studied for 1 year, I found out that was not myself so I decided to quit. And I happened to find this university, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University. I chose to study here without hesitation because I can study both languages and subjects in my interesting fields.

I just come to APU just this September so this's kind of new to me, as I never stay away from home more than 1 week before. First I really felt homesick T-T ... even now I still feel homesick. But Thai seniors and Thai friends help me get through these situations.

Being in APU is so unbelievable to me. To live in multi-cultural place, to speak other languages, besides Thai, make me realize that there are much more things to experience. For example, local activities have shown the Japanese people traditional and how they appreciate their lives.

Talking about the study, most lectures are taught in English except the Japanese class. I have to study Japanese 4 days a week/ 2 periods a day. As I spend this much time, so I can get new friends from other countries such as China, Taiwan, Korea or Hawaii. I found that they are really nice people.

Finally, (^\_^) Thanks to my papa and mama, who gave me the chance to study abroad and never give up in me. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES. I'LL BE A GOOD GIRL NAKA. Also, my little sister and little brother who always support me.

MISS YOU LOTS.





Sawadeeka Hello!! My name is Parichart Metasatidsuk but my friends always call me "Nun". Now I'm nearly 20 years--'... Oh! Please give my teenage back!!!...I'm the second year (transfer) in Asia Pacific Studied or APS second year (transfer) so this is my first semester. This is not the first time that I came to Japan but it's the first time that I have to spend my life for a long time. I am very shy to speak so I think that I can't talk to anyone. After spending life in APU about three months I feel that I have to improve myself by talking with foreign friends. It's great because I get to know more friends from many countries and I learn about many customs from my friends.

About life in APU, the first period begins at 8:45am. Shokudou (cafeteria) is the place that we spend almost time with lunch and chatting. There is lots of menu and some are delicious. My favorite menu is Chicken namban oishiidesuyo!! Coop is the place that looks like mini convenient store and I like this place so much because there has many snacks!! Oh I want to buy them but.... okane ga nai. --' When the class finish, I go back to AP House and I always prepare cooking dinner with my friends. I think I'm getting fatter and fatter >-< oh god!! I can cook many egg menus and of course Thai instant noodle "MAMA" hehe!! I have a cooking experience before I came here so cooking is a piece of cake!! ;p I live on the right third floor of AP House 2. AP house is very convenient. I like playing table tennis and looking into the vending machine hehe!!

I get many experiences from here. The thing, that I have never done before I came here, is I get to know myself and I have more confident to do something here. It's good to be here thank you Dad and Mom to give me this chance.!!





Hello~! I, Aylada Khunvaranont, am APS freshmen. I graduated from Ekamai International School and just came to APU in October 2002. It is my first time to mcome to Japan and left home. During my first week of staying in APU,

I got very home sick, even though, I've got friends to hang around with.

But I got better few weeks later. APU is a university that is not like a university. It gives me the feeling of studying in high school, maybe because it is a small university comparing to other university. And as

we all know, APU is located on the mountain top which makes me kind of feel like I'm in the middle of nowhere surrounded by nature and lots of people I never thought I'll meet.

Living life here is a lot different from home (that's how I feel). I get to do things that I've never done before or eat food that I think it doesn't taste good (but it actually did). Food...I think it's quite

expensive if compare to Bangkok but it's consider as cheap for people here.

People here are very friendly and are easy to make friends with. Basically, life is here good, but might need some time to get use to.



•Ciao! Ciao! Everybody. I'm Patchamone Chalinrat. Here everyone call me "Cream" but my real nickname is "Nan". Why don't I use "Nan"? It's because Japanese cannot pronounce it correctly. This word means "What" in Japanese... don't want to be like that (ha ha) =^v^= I'm in APS but, unfortunately, I have to study economics in my seminal class. I've ever been in the faculty of Veterinary Medicine of CU. Since I don't want to study Biology, I decided to quit. Here I also have to study not only Biology but it's Biotechnology. It's more difficult.> <

Firstly, I think that studying here is not as easy as I can but that's all wrong. It's very much difficult. In the first few weeks I cried a lot because I could not understand lectures. (Now I get used to it.) I forgot to tell you all that this is my first time writing a newsletter in English. As you know, it's impossible for me to write such a good one. It seems so difficult but I will certainly try my best. (la kan na) I'm sorry if my English is weird na ka. I've been an APU student for almost 3 months. It sounds like a few times but I could get a lot of great experiences here. Moreover, I could realize how to live my life satisfactorily. I'd like to explain my feeling to my parents now, nevertheless only this page is not enough. I have to do everything by myself, and actually I've felt tired and discouraged. I always think about what my mom said and wanted me to do before I came here. I ignored them but I have to face them here like cooking. I must have more responsibility and no one can help me when I fell down. > T\_T

About classes here...however there are a few classes to choose, they are interesting such as Tea Ceremony. The differences between APU and universities in Thai are clubs, academic and extracurricular activities I have joined many activities such as Home-stay, Soba festival, Beppu Dreamval, Harukigawa kindergarten and more. It's very happy and comfortable to live here. (Except the living expense which is so high.) Everything in APU also APHouse is very high-tech. Sometimes I don't how to use it !?? (ha ha)

I've joined dance circle (I'm still doubt that why in Japan they use "Circle" instead of "Club") that I really want to when I was in Thailand. (no club like this there) And I also want to join other circles but I don't have enough time. ^o^

Talking about friends in APU, I really pleased that Thai friends are so kind and nice. I feel very happy to hang around with them. I know that it is not good to stay with Thais frequently, so I choose to be with foreign friends when I'm in campus or activities.

My foreign friends are kind too. They helped me improve my English and Japanese. It's my fault that I could not remember what they taught me. Sorry everybody na ka.

Sometimes I can learn Korean, Chinese and other languages. It's one of the opportunities that you can get when you are here.

One impressed experience that I want to tell you is the entrance ceremony. My Thai friends and I decided to wear "Shud Thai" (Thai traditional clothes), so do other students. On that day, I felt like I was such a super star who were surrounded with many cameramen and fans, I smiled all the time until I felt tired. If you were in that situation, you would know my feeling that I was so proud of Thailand very much.

The last thing that I'd like to tell you is the weather. Everyone cannot guess what will happen tomorrow. Today it's sunny, though yesterday was rainy, but tomorrow it may be snowy. I have to check the weather forecast every night from Internet. (so I will know that I should bring umbrella or sweater.) So strange it is!

This isn't all that I want to tell you but there is no space for me to write more. Now you can guess my feeling and what is going on here. I promise to try my best on studying and succeed my life certainly.

Wish you all enjoyed my newsletter na ka. " \ (^ v ^) / "





Hello, my name is Siriporn Vongsurbchart. I am the first year student in APM College. I came from Bangkok, Thailand. I have enrolled in APU for 4 months now. I have been to many places like Beppu, Oita, Yufuin, and etc. I like to travel to places because each place has its unique characteristics. When I first came to APU, I thought that it would be quite boring because the school is on the top of a mountain and there is nothing on it. But after a while, I started to realize that there are activities that I can join to gain experience about Japan. I have joined activities like volunteer to Beppu primary school, making tofu, making soba, and etc. I love to volunteer and experience new things. I met a lot of new people and listened to new stories about Japan. They were all interesting to me.

Moreover, in APU, I can also experience new things from other cultures and traditions around the world. I am joining APU volleyball club. I have met a lot of new friends from Japan, China, USA, and etc. Also from classes like seminar class and Japanese class. □ I have met new friends from China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Taiwan, Korea, and Europe. We had fun in the class and sometimes, we go out together to karaoke or dinner. They were good experiences to me because I learned that different countries have different styles of doing things, such as holding chopsticks, singing, and etc.

I think that coming to APU is very beneficial to me because I have not only learned management but also I have learned different languages, cultures, and traditions from different friends in APU. It is almost like traveling around the world without going up the airplane. Finally, I think that this university is interesting and fun to study at because of the people and the environment. So come one! Join us!



## The visit to Japan of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana



Due to longstanding friendship between the Royal Family of Thailand and the Imperial Family of Japan, we, on behalf of Thai students in APU, were graced by the visit to Japan of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana. Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana visited Japan in April, during the golden week, to attend the Argerich's Music Festival 2002 in Beppu, Oita Prefecture, where APU is located. We all gathered at Kamenoi hotel and waited for Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana arrival. Everyone become quiet as soon as we were informed that she had arrived to Kamenoi hotel. Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana asked us several questions with kindness, mainly about our studies and life in Japan. It was a great opportunity for us to be able to welcome Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana in Japan. All of us have been impressed by the care she gave to us through the conversation. We all are looking forward to her visit next time. ( kor pra aong son pra cha reun )

By: A



# One of the most successful Thai student in APU

Pichaya ( MEOW )



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As Wise man said, Time and Tide wait for no one, again I felt a bit surprised that time still flies so fast and I have just only a year left at Ritsumeikan APU. Being asked by my beloved friend *Beer*, to write something about the strategy of my studies, though I really appreciate for the chance to share my words in this Thai Newsletter again for my second time, still I am not sure if I would be able to give any good idea of how to study smartly as recently I have been convinced by my friends of playing too much! 🎵 ('\_') v ★ (Anyway, I will try to figure it out! Hehehe...)

In my viewpoint, there is no manual of any ideal ways for studying because people are different. However, as in the same as every art, good ways of smart studying has few principles and many techniques. Hereby, I would like to briefly share some of my basic principles I apply first in my studies.

As I am an accelerated program student (the 3-year graduation program), I always set a clear goal first, and then plan the strategies, and few tactics that will best suit with the given circumstance.

It is very important to know first what goal you would want to achieve. There are people who have a goal of their life and are doing their best toward it. While some are looking for, some are losing it. But as long as you have a sense of purpose and action, you will never find yourself being at a loss even in your study, or any aspects of your life.

Knowledge, in my opinion, cannot be gained just only through reading from books, but also learning from others. By the way, it would still be useless if that knowledge couldn't be transformed into good skills that only experience you gain by yourself would teach you.

Finally, there is the last; probably the most, important thing apart from what I mentioned earlier and I really do emphasize on, that is having good friends. Here, I have many good friends who always support me. Without having good friends around, I think that one would never do well.

I would like to leave it here with an old saying I once heard before; a person who aims at nothing is sure to hit it but the whole world steps aside for the man who knows where he is going! Best luck for everyone (including me 🎵).

P.S. For those new students who would come here next semester, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [pichaya\\_meow@hotmail.com](mailto:pichaya_meow@hotmail.com) !!! ★



With the help of the APU Career Office, I am fortunate to have done 3 internships at 3 different companies in Japan.

In September 2001, my first internship was at KUMON in Osaka. Known as a Japanese pioneer of education, KUMON develops its own way of education and sells it to all over the world. I was assigned to the Human Resource Department, known as KUMON Human Resource Capital Development Center. Although it was only one week, it plays an important role in my career in the future. I have always longed to find out more about KUMON's education and tried to compare it with Thailand's education.

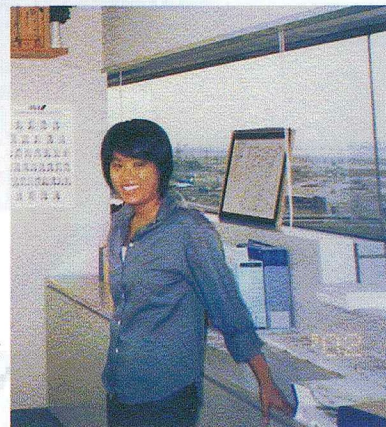
During the internship, I have discovered answers to some of my questions:

KUMON does not teach a person anything, but it helps a person to learn by themselves; KUMON inspires a person by giving them examples of success; KUMON encourages a person by words of understanding, support, etc. This was my first experience at a Japanese company. I enjoyed sharing ideas with other people; I enjoyed knowing more about Japanese society and education; I enjoyed applying my knowledge on my job on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the internship.

In February 2002, my second internship was at OKIDO (Okinawa Economic Development Organization) in, of course, Okinawa. OKIDO is a 2-year-old company serving as a bridge between the public sector and the private sector regarding the economic development of Okinawa. I was assigned to participate in its production of various regional plans. During the 3-week internship, I was learning through my daily job as a translator and a homepage creator, discussions, interviews of shareholders, and board of directors meeting on the last day. I have gained a foundation of these items: (1) Situation of Japan's regional development and its related laws. (2) History, economy, and politics of Okinawa. (3) Relationship between a local government and development. (4) Problems of regional development and exploitation. (5) Meaning of economic independence of a region. In addition, the Okinawa International Financial Services Center was the most interesting project I had found during my experience at OKIDO. The establishment of this 1<sup>st</sup> tax heaven in Japan will not only contribute to the economic development of Okinawa, but also the reformation of finance in Japan as well as in Asia. Last but not least, I am impressed by OKIDO's friendly working environment by which its employees including us interns are motivated.

In September 2002, my third internship was at ANA (All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd) in the head office in Tokyo. ANA, needless to say, is a giant in the airline industry and a major rival of JAL/JAS. I was assigned to the Investor Relations Department and had an opportunity to do a research that has helped me develop my critical business thinking. The research was "To Be a Profitable Airline" in which I discussed about ANA's competitive strategy. Through the 2-week internship program, I was able to learn more about the Japanese management practices, the airline industry, and the operations of an airline. I have always been interested in the challenging airline business. Because 2 weeks was a very short period of time, I feel that I have not yet learned enough. Therefore, I will continue the research on my own as a part of my studies. ANA is a big company, but the friendly atmosphere in the office made me enjoy every second of the internship. Investor Relations Department was on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. Everyday from my window I saw airplanes taking off and landing...

These 3 internships were all very fruitful. Many thanks to the APU Career Office and these 3 companies who gave me the opportunities and paid for my travel, accommodation, and food expenses.



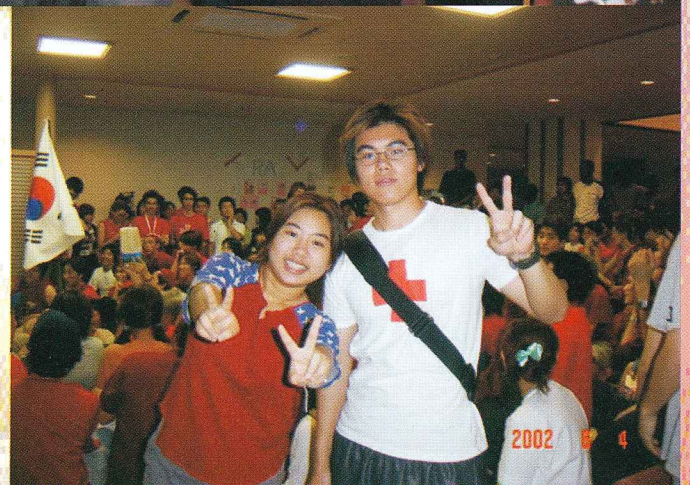
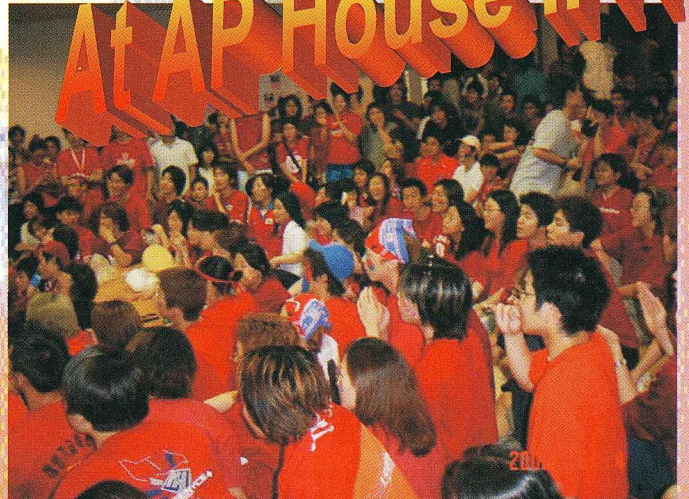
NG. Nipa



# World Cup 2002

## Korea Japan

At AP House II !?!





# Thai Life Style

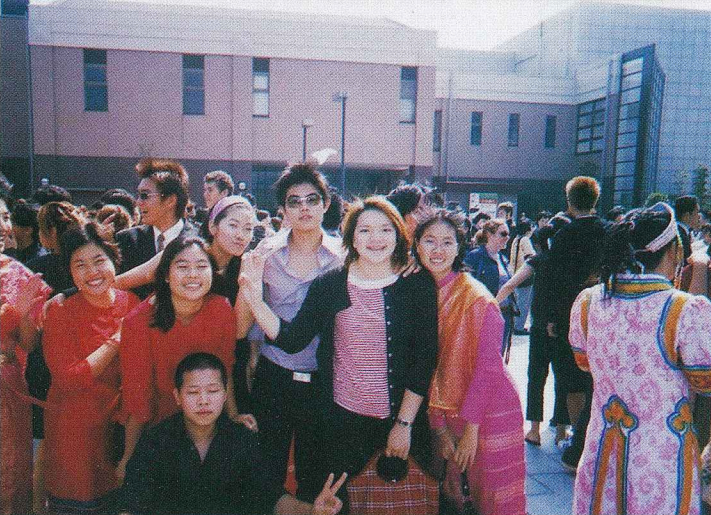




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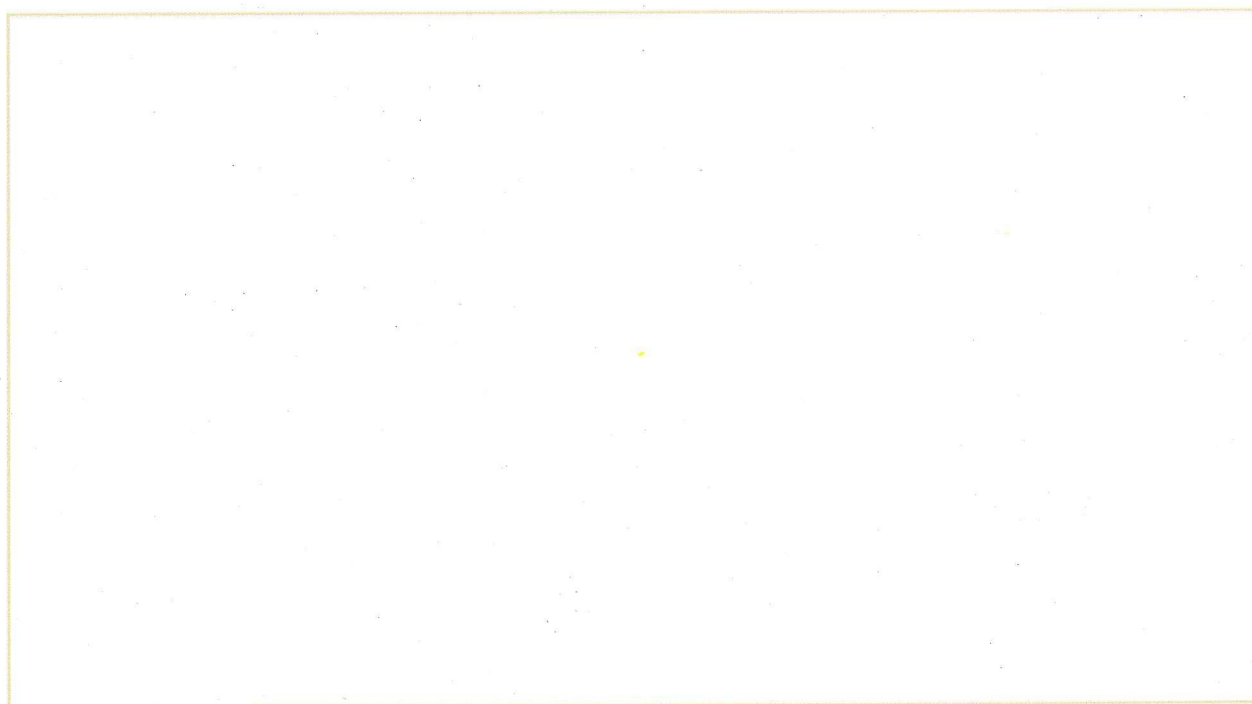
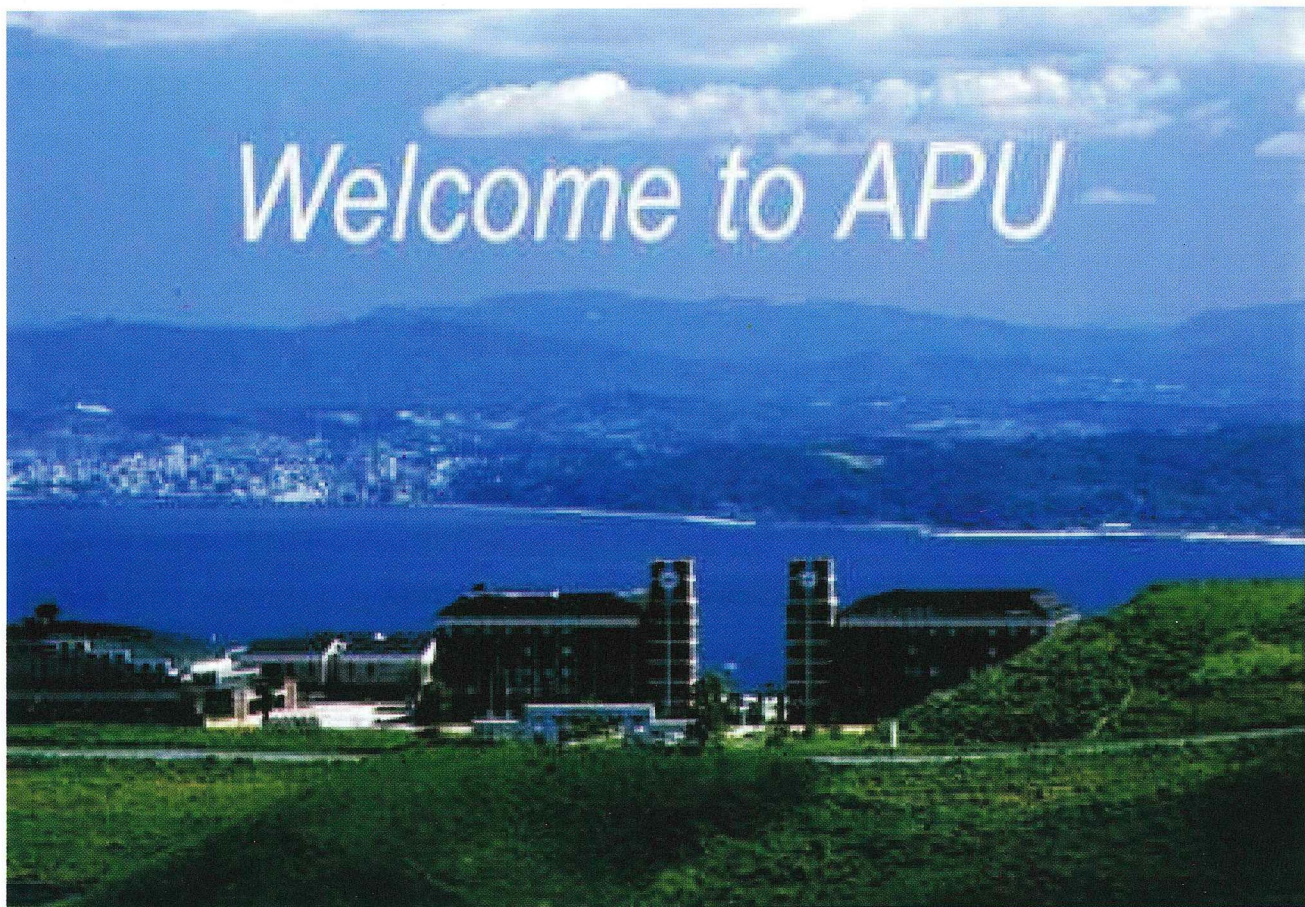
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# *Welcome to APU*



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