



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training



Australia Awards -
Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships
STORIES OF THAI ALUMNI



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Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships
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Published by
Department of Education and Training
Australian Embassy Bangkok

May 2018

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The Australian Government is committed to encouraging the mobility of researchers, students and professionals.

Australia Awards – Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships celebrate excellence in both academic and professional pursuits, and provide opportunities for citizens of the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe and the Americas to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. The scholarships and fellowships are also available for Australians to do the same abroad in the Asia- Pacific and Middle East regions.

This booklet features a selection of stories from some of Thailand's outstanding Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships recipients.

Through their work in fields as diverse as cancer research to linguistics, sport medicine to music education, these committed individuals are establishing enduring linkages across the region. An Endeavour Scholarship or Fellowship provides these individuals the



AMBASSADOR'S FOREWORD

opportunity to establish long term personal, institutional, bilateral and multilateral cooperation and understanding.

It has been a pleasure to read about the achievements of the Endeavour recipients and I hope you can draw inspiration from their experiences.

I commend the Endeavour to you.

H.E. Mr Paul Robilliard
*Australian Ambassador to the
Kingdom of Thailand*

ENDEAVOUR SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships, the Australian Government's internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program, is open for citizens around the world to apply from April – 30 June every year. This scholarship program is open to all fields of study and provides full financial support for international students including Thai citizens.

Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships offer high-achieving individuals from overseas and Australia opportunities to increase their productivity and expertise in their field. The scholarship program promotes on-going education, research and professional linkages and build sustainable relationships between Australia and the region.

Around 4,000 applications are received each year from over 127 eligible countries. Selection panels comprising eminent academics, professionals and government representatives are appointed by the Department of Education and Training. Assessment of applications operates on the basis of the individual merit of each application – applications are scored against specified selection criteria.

The bulk of scholarships and fellowships are awarded to non-Australians, with support ranging from short fellowships or



research placements to full postgraduate degrees. Australians also receive support to undertake targeted research and professional development overseas.

Since the program's inception in 2007, a total of 4,973 Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships have been accepted by internationals: and 1,536 have been accepted by Australians to undertake study, research or professional development, across 127 countries.

From 2007 - 2018, 195 Thai scholars have been granted Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships. The Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships also provide opportunities for Australians to undertake research and professional development in Thailand.

Types of Australian Government “Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships”

There are four main types of Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships as follows:

1 Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship

The Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship provides financial support for international applicants to undertake a postgraduate qualification at a Masters or PhD level either by coursework or research in any field in Australia for up to four years.

2 Endeavour Research Fellowship (Australian and international applicants)

The Endeavour Research Fellowship provides financial support for international postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows to undertake short-term research (4-6 months) towards an overseas Masters, PhD or postdoctoral research in any field in Australia, and for Australian postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows to undertake short-term research (4-6 months) towards an Australian Masters, PhD or postdoctoral research, in any field, overseas.

3 Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Scholarship

The Endeavour VET Scholarship provides financial support for international applicants to undertake VET at a Diploma, Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree level in any field in Australia for up to two and a half years. VET provides occupational or work-related knowledge and skills. The courses are directly related to a trade, occupation or 'vocation' in which the applicant participates.

4 Endeavour Executive Fellowship (Australian and international applicants)

The Endeavour Executive Fellowship provides financial support towards professional development opportunities (1-4 months) for high achievers in business, industry, education or government for international and Australian applicants.

The Endeavour Executive Fellowship focuses on learning and building skills and knowledge through a host work environment in the applicant's field or area of expertise rather than through formal enrolment in a study program. Applicants must be nominated by a senior official in their host organisation which is physically located in their host country. The professional development activity must be vocationally useful while not being geared toward an immediate commercial outcome as its purpose. Professional development activities could include attending a conference or short course, management training, peer-to-peer learning or mentoring.





Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship

- **Paradee Treerat**
- **Pett Jarupaiboon**
- **Pornsakol Panikabutara Coorey, Ph.D.**
- **Supicha Sawongkhan**
- **Tir Srinopnikom**



- Full Name:** **Ms Paradee Treerat**
- Positions:** Violin and Viola Instructor
Member of Pro Musica and Symphony Orchestra
- Organisation:** Bangkok Symphony Orchestra
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship 2014**
- Australian Institution:** University of Melbourne
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Music Performance - Violin (First-Class Honours), Silpakorn University
Master of Music Performance/Teaching, University of Melbourne

Ms Paradee Treerat holds a bachelor's degree in music performance, majoring in violin, Faculty of Music, Silpakorn University. She has performed in various concerts with Thailand's leading orchestras, featuring both classical and contemporary music. She has also entered local and international music competitions and won a grand prize in the category of chamber and orchestra performance.

In 2014, Paradee was awarded the Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship to pursue a master's degree in musical performance and teaching at the University of Melbourne. It is the world's only educational institution that combines musical performance and teaching curriculums, and Australia has one of the best educational systems in the world.

Life as a foreign student came with obstacles and learning difficulties along the way. This included communication in English; both speaking and writing were a challenge and many students needed time to adjust to the teaching and learning systems of the university, not to mention the need to adjust to daily life and learn the Australian culture, which was different from their own. "I still remember the time when I sat crying during those countless sleepless nights because I couldn't work and got stuck amid assignments. But thanks to the help and moral support from my mother, friends and relatives, instructors and everyone around me, I have come this far. There was a time when my academic advisor at the University of Melbourne called me in because she knew that I was having a hard time. She recounted the story of her own life in the years prior. I listened in tears because what she was sharing showed that she understood what I was going through, that she had been there and had gone through the same things. My advisor encouraged me to keep on going and was there to help and



support a foreign student like me. My education at the University of Melbourne has made me a musician and a teacher. Today, I apply what I have learned to my performance and music teaching in Thailand in the hope of enhancing the abilities of future Thai generations.”

“I have learned that a music teacher can help develop students’ various skills and uplift their human potential through music. Learning to play a musical instrument is more than having a practice session with an instructor once a week; in fact, a music teacher is instrumental to child development and a witness of a child growing up to be an adult in the future.” Paradee is now a violin and viola instructor at independent music institutes and a teaching assistant to Tasana Nagavajara at the Faculty of Music, Silpakorn University. She is a member of Pro Musica and Bangkok Symphony Orchestra.

“I would like to thank the Australian Government for granting the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships to support school and university students and corporate personnel in their education or training so that they can apply and further develop the knowledge they have acquired for the benefit of Thailand.”



Full Name:	Mr Pett Jarupaiboon
Positions:	Provincial Project Manager (Economic Freedom and Human Rights)
Organisation:	Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia
Type of Scholarship:	Endeavour Postgraduate Award 2009
Australian Institution:	The Australian National University (ANU)
Educational Background:	Bachelor of Arts (Political Science), Majoring in International Relations (First-Class Honours), Chulalongkorn University Master of Arts (International Relations) (with Honours); Master of Diplomacy (with Honours), The Australian National University (ANU), Australia

At present, Pett holds the position of Regional Project Manager (Economic Freedom and Human Rights), Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia. He obtained two master's degrees, in international relations and diplomacy, both with honours, from the Australian National University (ANU) under the Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship. While studying at ANU, he also received the Hedley Blue Scholarship from the university. He obtained a bachelor's degree in political science with a major in international relations, first- class honours, from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

He recounts his experiences in Australia fondly: "For me, one of the two most impressive strengths of Australia is the educational quality; ANU's International Relations Department is one of the best in the world; it has a solid foundation especially regarding the international community concept and constructivism. The other Australian trademark I am so impressed with is the friendliness



and open-mindedness of the Australian people. Australia is a multicultural society that welcomes foreigners. This is a great support for foreign students in their learning and interaction with people from various cultures. I am applying the knowledge and experiences I've acquired from Australia to my work. I am trying to contribute to the promotion of the role of Thailand as a country that offers more freedom and welcomes diversity."

For those who are interested in applying for the Endeavour Scholarship, here is Pett's advice: "Don't hesitate. Show your integrity and competency to justify your place to the Scholarship Committee. And most of all, remember that if awarded an Endeavour Scholarship, you become a lucky one; Thus, you should invest in the study to the best of your ability, and after coming back to Thailand, extend your contribution to the ongoing development of a better society."





- Full Name:** Ms Pornsakol Panikabutara Coorey, Ph.D.
- Positions:** Instructor, Faculty of Law
- Organisation:** University of New South Wales
- Type of Scholarship:** **Australia-Asia Award 2004**
Endeavour Postgraduate Award 2006
- Australian Institution:** University of Sydney and University of New South Wales (UNSW)
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Laws (First-Class Honours with University Medal), Chulalongkorn University
Barrister-at-Law (Thai Bar), The Institute of Legal Education, Thai Bar Association
Master of Laws (Upper Second-Class Honours), University of Cambridge, UK
Master of Laws, University of Sydney, Australia
Doctor of Juridical Science, University of New South Wales, Australia

Ms Panikabutara Coorey obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University in 1999. She was later awarded the Shell Chevening Scholarship to pursue a Master of Laws at Cambridge University in 2002, and the Australia-Asia Award Scholarship in 2004 for the same degree at Sydney University. After completing the master's degree in Australia, she pursued the Doctor of Juridical Science program at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) under the Endeavour Postgraduate Award in 2006.

She explains that the reason she decided to pursue a doctoral degree at UNSW was because of the tremendous support from her academic advisor, Associate Professor Adam Czarnota, regarding both her dissertation and participation in research activities. Besides, UNSW encouraged students to reach out for opportunities to participate in various activities in such forms as providing traveling expenses for attending research seminars and future career development. She further recounted that throughout the four years of studying at UNSW, she gained experiences and learned how to conduct research efficiently for optimum effectiveness. The wide range of skills she learned provides significant support for her own research projects these days.

One of the challenges she encountered while studying in Australia was like that of other research students, namely time management, because most universities in Australia require doctoral candidates to finish their work in 3-4 years; thus, the major difficulty of writing a 100,000-word research paper. Countless revisions were involved in the process before the paper was completed. It should be noted that English is not her native tongue. Such challenge has

taught her to be self-disciplined to achieve research-level education as carefully planned. While studying, she also worked as a project coordinator at the Faculty of Law, UNSW.





Full Name: **Ms Supicha Sawangkhan**

Positions: Senior Analyst
Department of Exchange Policy and Supervision

Organisation: The Bank of Thailand

Type of Scholarship: **Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship 2016**

Australian Institution: Monash University

Educational Background: Bachelor of Science in Accounting (First-Class Honours), Thammasat University

After graduating from the Faculty of Accounting and Commerce, Thammasat University, Supicha began working at the Bank of Thailand in the position of Analyst, Department of Exchange Policy and Supervision. Her main responsibility was supervising and inspecting foreign currency exchange business operators in the non-bank category. The job required integration of knowledge in various fields to achieve efficient work performance. Such situation urged her to pursue further education abroad to accumulate knowledge and contribute to Thailand's preparation for becoming a member of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). Australia was her country of choice to pursue such education.

Due to Australia's modern and world-standard educational environment, Supicha decided to pursue a Master of Public Policy and Management at Monash University. Its interesting curriculum promoted extension of knowledge on policy making of public sectors by emphasizing the application of theoretical knowledge to case studies from various countries. Students were encouraged to express their thoughts and ideas confidently, and integrate knowledge of different fields, from politics to economics and law, to prepare themselves for real-life working environments. In addition, classmates with work experiences at state agencies from many countries have become a network of knowledge sharing and introduced many new perspectives to Supicha.

Supicha believes that the knowledge and experiences gained from the Endeavour Program can be applied to her work at the Bank of Thailand for the benefit of Thailand in the future. Furthermore, she had a chance to build a network with her classmates of the same curriculum who were officers from state agencies in many countries, to coordinate and promote economic development in the future.



A major challenge during her study was self-adjustment; Supicha needed to adjust to the Australian educational system which was different from Thailand's. In addition, she had to familiarize herself with unfamiliar accents of international classmates from various countries. Sometimes, incomprehension got in the way of class discussion. Supicha tried to solve this issue by participating in many conversational groups such as the Let's Chat Program organized by the university. Thus came more opportunities to have conversations with fellow foreign students, get herself familiarized with the accents of international friends, and make a lot new friends along the way.



Full Name: Mr Tir Srinopnikom

Positions: Research Fellow

Organisation: Australian National University

Type of Scholarship: Endeavour Postgraduate Award 2010

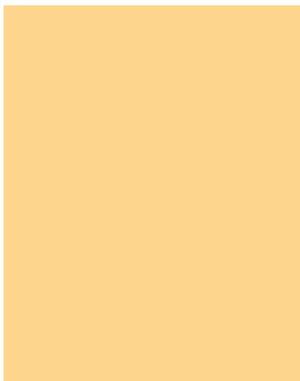
Australian Institution: University of Melbourne

Educational Background: Bachelor of Laws (First-Class Honours), Chulalongkorn University
Master of Laws (Honours), University of Melbourne, under the Endeavour Scholarship

Currently, Tir is working on his doctoral degree in law at the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University in cooperation with the Australian National University. He has an interest in securities and finance law including the integration of regional capital markets. His experiences and past achievements at the undergraduate level include participation in various activities and winning several academic awards such as the grand prize in the Tax Laws Quiz Competition organized by the Central Tax Court, and the Outstanding Student Award. Prior to enrolling in the doctoral degree in law, Tir worked as a legal advisor at Clifford Chance, the world's leading law firm. In addition, his academic work has been recognized and presented in many national and international forums. Most recently, he has received an award and support for his research papers from Chulalongkorn University.



He recounts the benefits of studying a higher education in Australia: "I have learned about the world's financial systems and relevant financial laws. It was an eye-opening experience both academically and professionally. Studying in Australia gave me the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds and experiences. This allowed me to learn and understand the social and cultural dynamics, especially the differences between the



East and the West. This is very useful for my work. Normally, I like to stay home. I was totally homesick in the beginning. However, I received useful advice from my case manager, a delegate from the Australian Government who took care of scholarship recipients. This smoothed things over and my self-adjustment at the early stage finally progressed nicely.”



Endeavour Research Fellowship

Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Research Fellowship

- Arada Rojana-udomsart, Ph.D.
- Associate Professor Chartchai Leenawong, Ph.D.
- Assistant Professor Itsanun Wiwatanaratanabutr, Ph.D.
- Jedsada Manyam, Ph.D.
- Kittiwat Sinthunava, Ph.D.
- Nantana Nuchtavorn, Ph.D.
- Assistant Professor Porawat Visutsak, Ph.D.
- Sutinee Sinutok, Ph.D.
- Wanphen Jitjaroen, Ph.D.



- Full Name:** Ms Arada Rojana-udomsart, M.D., Ph.D.
- Positions:** Neurologist
- Organisation:** Yala Hospital
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Research Fellowship 2008**
- Australian Institution:** Australian Neuromuscular Research Institute/ Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders, University of Western Australia
- Educational Background:** Doctor of Medicine (Second-Class Honours), Neurological Specialist Certificate, Faculty of Medicine at Ramathibodi Hospital Mahidol University
- Doctoral Degree in Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Western Australia

Ms Arada Rojana-udomsart, M.D., Ph.D. is a neurologist now holding the position of physician, senior professional level at Yala Hospital. After graduating from the Faculty of Medicine at Ramathibodi Hospital and earning a neurological specialist certificate, she developed a strong interest in muscular diseases. She received the Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Research Fellowship for a six-month field study and research on muscular diseases at the Australian Neuromuscular Research Institute / Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders at the University of Western Australia in 2008.

I chose this institute because it has worldwide recognition in the field of muscular diseases and conducts research at preclinical and clinical study levels. The institute gave me a warm welcome and took good care of me throughout my stay. I accumulated a wide range of knowledge and skills, met new friends and neurologists from other countries. Not long after coming back to Thailand, my supervisor from the Endeavour Award program accepted the role of supervisor for my Ph.D. study as well. I then returned to Australia to pursue my doctoral degree at the same institute during 2010-2013 with a concentration in inflammatory myopathy and was published in a significant number of academic journals.

Living in Australia gave me a lot more than just academic knowledge. The first winter in the country as a resident, not a tourist on a short trip, was a totally different story. I still remember well that one rainy, windy evening as my Malaysian neurologist friend and I were walking back to the dormitory in the rain. We were soaking wet with tears running down our cheeks because at that very moment we were longing for comfortable, warm weather. When my supervisor found out about my homesickness, he brought a large heater to



my dorm room. Australian people I know are considerate, friendly, well-mannered and strongly committed to work. I was treated like a family member. Even having returned to Thailand, I keep in touch with my instructors and fellow research colleagues and collaborate in academic work. Many of them and my supervisor came to visit me in Thailand, and I there roughly once a year. Every time we meet, my supervisor gives me advice on work and life. He is an inspiration for me regarding patient care and teaching my students. I wish for my students to receive the same opportunity as me.



- Full Name:** Associate Professor Chartchai Leenawong, Ph.D.
- Positions:** Associate Professor, Faculty of Science
- Organisation:** King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang
- Type of Scholarship:** Endeavour Research Fellowship 2008
- Australian Institution:** University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Science (Mathematics), Chulalongkorn University under a scholarship from the Development and Promotion of Science and Technology Talents Project of Thailand (DPST)
Bachelor's degree in Marketing Management, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University
Master of Science (Computer Science), Asian Institute of Technology under the AIT full scholarship
M.B.A. (Financial Management), National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA)

**Educational
Background:**

Master of Science (Management Science),
Weatherhead School of Management, CASE
Western Reserve University, USA under the Royal
Thai Government scholarship

Doctoral Degree (Operations Research),
Weatherhead School of Management, CASE
Western Reserve University, USA under the Royal
Thai Government scholarship

Post-doctoral Research (Organizational
Behaviour), Faculty of Business, School of
Management, University of Technology Sydney
(UTS), Australia under the Endeavour Research
Fellowship

Mana (Pood), a Ph.D. from the far end of a rice field, flew to Sydney to visit his friend Chartchai (Ace), who was working on his research at UTS under a six-month Endeavour Research Fellowship. Eye Ayatana, Ace's wife, had been living with him for a while. The three friends were having an early dinner at Pancakes on the Rocks, a widely-renowned pancake restaurant.

"So, Pood, how did you like Taronga Zoo?" Eye asked her guest about the tour they had just taken that day.

"It's really amazing. I liked koala bears; they looked cute, fluffy, cuddly," Pood, a farmer's son and nature lover, answered.

"The koala is not a bear", Ace clarified, "In fact, it belongs to

the same species as the kangaroo.”

“Really? But people call them a bear and they do not look like a kangaroo at all. Besides, they sleep all day, more like a panda (laughing),” Pood argued.

“Yep, they sleep a lot because they can digest little nutrients. That’s why they need to sleep, to store energy. And a reason why they are like kangaroos is that a female koala has a pouch on her stomach for raising her babies as well.”

“Ummm, this is brand new information for me. You have just been here in Australia for only a while, but already you have learned a lot about the country,” Pood complimented his pal.

“I have the Australian Government to thank; they are so generous to give me the opportunity to experience another part of the world,” Ace replied with gratitude.

“And what do you like most about this place?”

“So many things. For example, I have a chance to do research with a professor who specializes in organizational behaviour. This gives me knowledge to support my research that is related to teamwork and leadership a great deal. Also, I can attend classes and participate in seminars and activities of the faculties and make a lot new friends,” Ace shared.

“Take, Adam, Ace’s roommate, for example. It is unbelievable how a westerner like him is so good at the Thai language. He speaks and writes Thai. He proudly says that he is self-taught because he likes the language,” Eye added.

“Exactly. Australian people may seem like happy-go-lucky guys, ready to cheerfully greet people with ‘G’day, mate’ all the time. But when they decide to do something, they are serious about it; they have strong passion for whatever they do,” Ace reflected on what he had observed.

“Yes, this is a good characteristic of Australians. We must take home what we have learned here and apply it, transfer it to our students,” Eye added.

“What about the least fun thing you have experienced living here?” asked the curious Pood.

“There are a few, in fact. In the early days when I came here and lived alone, I had to make a lot of adjustments. I had no friends; it was quite lonely then. The room I had organized before I came here did not work. I paid half the rent, and lived with two girls. They both shared a tiny bedroom and took over the common area for themselves. Even worse, one of the girls brought her mother to live with us for months. They cooked and it was smelly throughout the place. But never mind that. It’s in the past. This new place is much better. I have Adam, an Australian friend, and other friends from other countries. I am learning many new things. It’s fun.”

“Okay, our food has arrived.” Pood’s eyes followed the waiter excitedly. “Wow! Each dish is such a huge serving. Can we finish them all?”

“Well, we ordered for you to try; pancakes for main dishes and desserts and the famous pork ribs. Let’s chill out here; there’s no hurry. Actually, they also serve crepes and pizzas,” Ace said.

“We are going to be completely stuffed eating what we have ordered. But no worries, Pood. After this, we are going to do some exercise by walking back to Circular Quay,” Eye suggested as a calorie-burning trick.

“Not only that, we have to climb up the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The views up there are amazing. Taking pictures of the Sydney Opera House from up there, we will have a view of the Blue Mountains too. And if Pood wants to climb up to the top of the bridge, you can do that too. Get to the very top and try the SPOODERMAN thing then,”



Ace recommended.

“Thanks, but I’d rather not. I have acrophobia,” Pood answered abruptly.

“I know (laughing), my dear friend. I was just kidding,” Ace teased.

“Let me stay away from high places. But on flat surfaces, I could keep on walking to wherever. We can walk back to our place too. It doesn’t look too far. The weather is nice as well,” Pood quickly proposed as an alternative.

“Ummm, walking from Circular Quay back to Darling Harbour might take almost half an hour. I’d better ask my lady if she is up for it,” Ace said turning to Eye.

“We can take it easy and appreciate the views, observe the nightlife in this city. It’s not a bad idea. I’ll go anywhere as long as it’s leisurely. Pood will go back in a few days. Tomorrow we’ll take Pood to Paddy’s Market to shop for souvenirs,” Eye said.

“Excellent! Thank you very much, both of you. And I must thank the Endeavour Scholarship Program as well for bringing us all together here, right?” Pood teased his buddy.

“That’s right, mate. We must indeed (laughing).”



- Full Name:** **Assistant Professor
Itsanun Wiwatanaratnabutr, Ph.D.**
- Positions:** Instructor
Department of Plant Production Technology and
Agricultural Technology
- Organisation:** King Mongkut's Institute of Technology
Ladkrabang
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Research Fellowship 2014**
- Australian
Institution:** Bio21 Institute, School of BioSciences,
Faculty of Science, University of Melbourne
- Educational
Background:** Bachelor of Science in Biology (Second-Class
Honours), Chulalongkorn University

Doctor of Philosophy in Biology (International
Program), Mahidol University

I received the Endeavour Research Fellowship in 2014 for a six-month research study at Bio21 Institute, School of BioSciences, Faculty of Science, University of Melbourne, Australia. I earned a bachelor of science majoring in biology (second-class honours) from Chulalongkorn University, and a Ph.D. in biology (international program) from Mahidol University under scholarships of the Development and Promotion of Science and Technology Talents Project of Thailand (DPST), and the Kanchanapisek Doctoral Degree program, respectively. I have expertise in atomic biology and insect biotechnology, insect biology and cohabiting bacteria, control of disease carrier insects and agricultural pests through bio-techniques to name some areas.

For the past 10 years, I have received several research grants and field study fellowships to seek further academic experiences and research abroad. For example, in 2015 I travelled to do research at the Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, for six months and in 2014 I travelled to do research at the Department of Forest & Soil Sciences, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria for two months. The Endeavour Research Fellowship from the Australian Government gave me the opportunity to travel to Australia for the first time in my life.

The six-month research opportunity at the University of Melbourne was a time in my life that I am proud of; it was a privilege to study at an institution well known for its strength in sciences and technology, especially biotechnology. Moreover, it is Australia's most recognized university. Obviously, this gave me a chance to learn more about new techniques and gain experiences in many areas, from academic or cultural knowledge to traditions, language and how to live with other people. This life experience that I have earned for myself has allowed me to get to know myself better.

Since I came back to Thailand, I have been applying all the knowledge and experiences I've gained to everyday life and especially research and teaching activities with fruitful results.

As for the city of Melbourne, for anyone who will travel there for leisure or future scholarship recipients, I have some advice about the weather; one should prepare for the unexpected. It is



recommended to prepare for the possibility of all four seasons in one day in the city of Melbourne. Many other cities around the world may have four seasons like Melbourne, but the difference is Melbourne could have four seasons in one day. We may see the bright blue sky when leaving the house in the morning, but rain could pour down out of the blue while waiting for a bus. Then after the rain has stopped at noon, a winter wind could blow in followed by burning hot temperatures in the afternoon. Therefore, future scholarship recipients should be well prepared to cope with all types of weather. At the very least, carry an umbrella in your bag to help you get through unexpected rain.

Finally, I would like to thank the Australian Government for giving me the opportunity to study in Melbourne for six months. My appreciation also goes to Ms Watinee Khanwong and Ms Pasinee Ratanaburi from the Department of Education and Training, the Australian Embassy, Thailand for coordinating and taking good care of scholarship recipients. I wish everyone a happy stay in Melbourne, like I have experienced myself.





- Full Name:** Mr Jedsada Manyam, Ph.D.
- Positions:** Researcher
- Organisation:** The National Nanotechnology Centre, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
- Type of Scholarship:** Endeavour Research Fellowship 2014
- Australian Institution:** University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Science in Physics, Chiang Mai University
Master of Science in Physics, Chulalongkorn University
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, UK

Mr Jedsada Manyam, Ph.D. is currently a researcher at the National Nanotechnology Centre, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA). He was awarded a post-doctoral Endeavour Research Fellowship in 2014 to do research on a cathodoluminescence analysis on the defects of semiconductor crystals. The objective was to build fundamental knowledge for development of innovative materials for electronic devices and light-based electronics such as light-emitting diodes (LED).

During the six-month research under the consultancy of Professor Matthew Phillips of the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), I learned about in-depth analytical techniques for semiconductors. This included experimental study and research from a database of an abundance of electronics journals the university provided. One of the main obstacles was the difficult research that had to be done against the time constraint, because it was a short program. Without the comprehensive advice and assistance of my supervisor, I may not have succeeded. Professor Phillips knew that I had this deadline problem; he kept his door open for me to consult with him about problems and obstacles I encountered even though he had many other responsibilities. This is one of the most memorable experiences of mine.

Regarding living conditions, I was warmly welcomed by Professor Tony Moon, International Relations Advisor, as well as fellow Thai students in Sydney and Endeavour recipients who were working on their programs at the time. We met at social events and they gave me advice on many subjects. This helped me adjust to the new environment more easily. Also, Sydney has many Thai restaurants that serve delicious food. Living in a city where people



of different nationalities and cultures co-exist allowed me to get to know people and learn about many things that became useful for my self-development. Sometimes, I couldn't help but feel proud of the beauty of Thai culture. The Endeavour Scholarship was an invaluable experience of a foreign country and it gave me new perspectives that serve me well in my work and my life.





- Full Name:** Ms Kittivan Sinthunava, Ph.D.
- Positions:** Deputy Dean, Graduate College
- Organisation:** Phranakhon Rajabhat University – PNRU
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Research Fellowship 2014**
- Australian Institution:** University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Business Administration (Finance and Banking), Thammasat University
Master of Business Administration (Finance), Chulalongkorn University
Graduate Diploma of Science (Interdisciplinary Studies), Edith Cowan University, Australia
Ph.D. (Change and Change Management in Higher Education in Thailand: A Case Study of Six Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok, Thailand), The University of Sydney, Australia

The University of Sydney and The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) gave me an experience of studying on my own, analytical thinking, conducting research, and efficient English communication skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing. Universities in Australia offer quality in learning and teaching management, services for students and living safety. Instructors and fellow students are friendly and have a good attitude towards foreign students, ready and willing to share knowledge and work together, both inside and outside university campuses. The experiences I have gained from studying in Australia have helped me to create a good balance in my life, in both work and health areas; I have learned to place importance on work efficiency, based on good physical health and strong spirit.

What I have earned from doing research during the Endeavour Fellowship in Australia was self-development and the understanding of the Australian university system regarding the giving of advice and mutual assistance. The main purpose was to develop learning across the organisation for optimum efficiency. Studying and bringing back experiences of successful instructors from Australia as a model, and making adjustments to suit the contexts of their peers at Thai universities, has led to a pool of in-depth, useful information that supports a clearer self-development of Thai instructors with feasible guidelines for enhancing efficiency.

I have applied the outcomes of my research to further development and continuing research to find new ways to develop professionalism in the teaching profession and support the working conditions of instructors at Thai universities to enhance their efficiency and happiness doing their work.



The first time I went to study in Australia, I had to adjust myself to different weather and foods. But after a while, my body got used to the new environment. Besides, Australia is full of Thai food and Thai people. The weather and food issue was therefore settled in a very short time. The study in Australia became a memorable experience, with the happiness of working with others; I can still share views with my friends and cherish our friendship to this very day. Friendship and all good memories never fade away and in fact grow stronger as time passes. This inspires further cooperation and more development of joint research. I still bond and keep contact with fellow Thai students I befriended during my study in Australia.



Full Name: Ms Nantana Nuchtavorn, Ph.D.

Positions: Lecturer, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy

Organisation: Mahidol University

Type of Scholarship: Endeavour Research Fellowship 2014

Australian Institution: The Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS), School of Physical Sciences, University of Tasmania

Educational Background: Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours), Faculty of Pharmacy, Srinakharinwirot University
Doctor of Philosophy (Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Phytochemistry), Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University

While studying for her doctoral degree, Nantana received the Royal Golden Jubilee (RGJ) Ph.D. Scholarship from the Thailand Research Fund, which allowed her to do research abroad for 18 months at the School of Chemical Sciences, Dublin City University, Ireland. After graduation, she received the Graduate Thesis Publication Award and the Thesis Award (Physical Science and Technology) from the Graduate School, Mahidol University. She also earned a postdoctoral research grant from the Endeavour Research Fellowship 2014 to conduct research at the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS), School of Physical Sciences, University of Tasmania, and an additional scholarship from the University of Tasmania to pursue further research for one year. During this time, she presented her work and received a highly commended poster presentation award at the 22nd Annual Research and Development Conference in Analytical and Environmental Chemistry, Flinders University, Adelaide.

Currently, Nantana teaches at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University and spends some time continuing her research work with a grant from the Office of Higher Education Commission and Thailand Research Fund.

The Endeavour Research Fellowship allowed Nantana to achieve her research goals at the host centre ACROSS at the University of Tasmania, having world-class facilities, equipment, and a team of world-renowned scientists with the necessary expertise. This gave her an opportunity to be involved in multidisciplinary collaborative research to complement her research expertise in the separation science area and broaden her experiences by exchanging ideas with researchers from other fields. She also had an opportunity to be a part of the supervisory team giving advice to students regarding their research work. This organisation is a good model to learn



how education leadership improves graduate students' learning and research, which should be applied to the educational system in Thailand in order to improve international competitiveness.

Nantana now shares these various experiences gained from the Endeavour Award with her Thai colleagues and especially students in Thailand. She has also extended her research work from her study in Australia and receives cooperation from researchers at the institute. Moreover, the benefits of the links with ACROSS flow onto a Thai graduate student who has the opportunity to undertake research at ACROSS.



- Full Name:** Assistant Professor Porawat Visutsak, Ph.D.
- Positions:** Instructor, Department of Computer and Information Science, Faculty of Applied Science
- Organisation:** King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok
- Type of Scholarship:** Endeavour Research Fellowship 2016
- Australian Institution:** University of Southern Queensland
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Science (Industrial Engineering), Kasetsart University
Master of Science (Information Technology), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
Doctor of Philosophy (Computer Science), King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang

I received a research fellowship to conduct a study on brain scanning on children with autism at the University of Southern Queensland. The reason I chose this area was because human resources are the key driver of society; therefore, making the most out of human potential, regardless of gender, age or physical disability is a guideline on which all sectors should collaborate. The analysis of brain scanning in children with autism will illustrate the development of the children's brains after medical treatment, participation in activities that stimulate brain development, or study in a special curriculum. This will help specialists, psychologists, and doctors to design activities or diagnose further approaches for accurate treatment.

Professor Yan Li of the University of Southern Queensland has expertise in the field of brain scanning and the faculty collaborates with Toowoomba Hospital and MATLAB Company, Australia. This is why my research was of great benefit. My experience doing research in Korea during my Ph. D. study helped me to make a faster adjustment to a working environment where colleagues were from many countries.



The main benefit after coming back to Thailand is the use of knowledge acquired from abroad to further research and collaborate with the lab where Prof Yan Li is chief. I am now assigned to review research articles for Brain Informatics, an international journal published by Springer. This assignment will definitely benefit future research that I will pursue.





Full Name: Ms Sutinee Sinutok, Ph.D.

Positions: Full-time lecturer

Organisation: Faculty of Environmental Management,
Prince of Songkla University

Type of Scholarship: **Endeavour Research Fellowship 2008**

Australian Institution: School of Science and Health,
University of Western Sydney

Educational Background: Bachelor of Science (Biology),
Prince of Songkla University
Master of Science (Ecology),
Prince of Songkla University
Doctor of Philosophy (Marine Biology),
University of Technology Sydney, Australia

I received the Endeavour Research Fellowship in 2008 for a four-month research project at the School of Science and Health, University of Western Sydney. The project was part of my master's degree studies at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University. During my stay, I had the opportunity to learn and gain experience in conducting research, and won the Best Student Presentation Award at an academic conference, the 5th Asian Pacific Physiological Forum in New Zealand. In addition, I strengthened my skills in quantitative ecology, participated in various activities with fellow students such as survey trips, sample picking, and group collaboration. This gave me experiences and better understanding of the learning and teaching methods in Australia.

One of the best things that came out of my research were my stronger self-improvement skills, which led to further academic exploration and subsequently a scholarship to continue my doctoral degree in plant functional biology and climate change cluster at the School of Life Sciences, University of Technology Sydney. After finishing the program, I was given an opportunity to work as a post-doctoral research fellow at the university.



The benefits I have gained from the seven-year academic adventure in Australia are vast and varied; doing research and working at educational institutions helped to extend my worldviews and perspectives. I have improved multiple skills, from professional to social, communication to collaboration, and self-learning. I have learned about various cultures, and how various social concepts such as equality, respect for others and co-existence play out in a multicultural society like Australia. I have learned a lot about environmental protection too. Now I try to apply all that I have learned to my daily life and work practice, and share my knowledge and experiences with Thai students, hopefully to improve their competency and skills. I maintain good relationships and collaboration among researchers in Thailand and Australia, and try to contribute to the community of scientific learning and the Thai educational circle as best I can.





- Full Name:** Associate Professor Wanphen Jitjaroen, Ph.D.
- Positions:** Lecturer and Researcher
- Organisation:** Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, Lampang campus
- Type of Scholarship:** Endeavour Research Fellowship 2009
- Australian Institution:** The Australian Wine Research Institute, Adelaide
- Educational Background:** Bachelor's Degree in Food Science and Technology, Chiang Mai University
Master's Degree in Food Science, University of the Philippines, Los Banos, The Philippines
Doctoral Degree (Engineering), University of Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany
Post-Doctoral study in Yeast Biomolecular Science, The Australian Wine Research Institute, Australia

In the summer of 2009, Wanphen received the Endeavour Research Fellowship Award for a six-month postdoctoral research project at the Australian Wine Research Institute in Adelaide, South Australia. The state has a Mediterranean climate and is home to one of the world's most important wine making regions.

The Endeavour Fellowship was another important milestone in my life because it gave me an opportunity to work with world renowned researchers in yeast biomolecular development to create aromatic and taste essence exclusively for wine. Here I learned the new world's wine making techniques; the scientists were extremely professional in their work, especially when it came to the use of highly advanced techniques in research study; the results had to be accurate, precise, and ethically publicized.

It was so generous of the Endeavour Program to allow my daughter Similan Jitjaroen to accompany me and enrol in a high school there. My research then became a project of absolute fun and happiness as I was dedicated and determined to do my work to the best of my ability. Each morning, I would ride a bike from my place towards the institute which was located on Glen Osmond Road. Along the way, I learned to get in touch with nature, friendship, smiles and the language of greetings from Australian friends. Some days I was lucky enough to meet and greet kangaroos, koalas, possums, and large flocks of parrots perched on tree branches. I never thought that one day I would have a chance to get in touch with natural environments in a country like Australia where technology has advanced so much.

Indeed, earning the Endeavour Research Fellowship has changed my life. I became a researcher and a professional wine maker simultaneously because while staying in Australia, the Endeavour Awards Program often invited the media of various



fields to interview me, both from Thailand and Australia. Many times, my experiences were published in journals and well-known newspapers. I became more widely known in the wine community. Shortly after coming back to Thailand, I joined a well-known local wine producer as a full-time wine maker. It was another opportunity to gain more experiences and knowledge in wider areas that later became material for my handbook for winemakers, deemed to be the first feature book about the industrial wine making process in Thailand. Also, I undertook further exploration, research-wise and presented the findings to local and international audiences. My research won the Best Paper Award at an international conference in Beijing, China in 2013. Another moment of pride and honour for the institute as well as for my own family was when I was appointed an outstanding lecturer by the Deans of Agricultural Faculties Council of Thailand in 2014, and an associate professor in 2016.

The Endeavour Awards Program has given me, the Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, and Thailand an invaluable opportunity to become a part of the research community and enhance friendship with Australian people. I sincerely hope that this academic cooperation will continue, both in the form of outbound human resources development and the inbound researcher exchange program.



Endeavour Vocational Education and Training Scholarship

- **Khajorndet Juengprasertkul**
- **Parany Duang-Im**
- **Raweevan Boonyarit**
- **Rutaiwan Dusadeepong**
- **Withitaporn Sangprakong**
- **Wittawat Busaracumwong**



Full Name:	Mr Khajorndet Juengprasertkul
Positions:	Pastry Chef
Organisation:	Family business
Type of Scholarship:	Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award 2011
Australian Institution:	William Angliss Institute of TAFE
Educational Background:	Bachelor of Biotechnology, Faculty of Food Technology, Assumption University Certificate of Bakery and Pastry, Oriental Hotel Apprenticeship Program (OHAP), Bangkok Advanced Diploma of Hospitality, specializing in Patisserie, William Angliss Institute of TAFE

Hello, my name is Kajorndet Juengprasertkul (Long). Currently, I work as a pastry chef and manage my family business. I received the Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award in 2011. It was a two-year program. Here is my brief educational background; I graduated from Assumption University with a bachelor's degree in biotechnology, majoring in food technology. I later studied and earned a certificate of bakery and pastry from OHAP, Bangkok. After that, I received a scholarship to study for an advanced diploma of hospitality specializing in patisserie at William Angliss Institute of TAFE, Melbourne for two and a half years.

During my study in Australia, I joined a chocolate-based pastry making competition called the ChocoVIC Chocolate Competition 2012 and won the second prize as well as a Special Recognition Award. In 2013, I received financial aid from the International Student Memorial Fund, William Angliss Institute, to complete the last six months of the program. (At the time, the duration of the Endeavour Scholarship Award was two years maximum, but my program required two and a half years to complete). I was lucky to have a chance to work in the field of my study, and after completing the program, accepted a job offer in Queensland.

The reason why I chose to study at this institute was because it is famous for its specialization in hotel management, and has been awarded first place in the state of Victoria for many consecutive years. William Angliss Institute's strength also lies in its excellent, standardized learning and teaching system. It is well appointed with equipment and devices, which are operated by competent personnel. Most of all, the curriculum was the perfect answer to my needs.



The experiences I've gained from the Endeavour Award Program are plentiful. I learned the lifestyles of a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic society in a foreign land, including new varieties of foods and pastries. Studying by observation is beneficial to my vocational practice too as it allowed me to further explore and create new products. There were also opportunities to exchange skills and knowledge in various fields with my colleagues and many organizations of which I became a part. However, owing to different cultural backgrounds from my home country in many areas, I and many other people like me who were unfamiliar with the new environment, got a little confused sometimes. But it was a challenge that we managed well by learning and following the cultural norms, such as how to cross the street and dining etiquette, amongst others.



- Full Name:** Ms Parany Duang-Im
- Positions:** Independent artist, Art, Design and Technology Technician
- Organisation:** St. Andrews International School, Sukhumvit 71
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award 2012**
- Australian Institution:** TAFE Brisbane, Queensland
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Education, Art education, Chulalongkorn University
Master of Education, Art Education, Chulalongkorn University
Diploma of Visual Arts, TAFE Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

I used to think success was happiness that came from achieving various goals one had set in life. Yet, the day when that success arrived in full form exactly the way it was expected and valued by ordinary people, I felt nothing but a brief feeling of comfort, like a nice, cool breeze blowing softly past my skin. It evaporated as quickly as it came without getting close to the core of my heart. That kind of success is only a component of life; we all get to it one way or another depending on different factors. But it is not the ultimate success in life. Today, my success is the happy feeling derived from fulfilling my duties to the best of my ability for maximum benefits and minimum suffering.

I applied for the Endeavour VET Award to serve my personal needs, first and foremost; I wanted to find a new approach for developing the quality of Thai education. But the reason I told people when resigning from my lecturer position at the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University was that I wanted to study English language and art, which was also true. But since I did not have the personality of a scholar, and I did not like talking about my personal ideology, I preferred to keep my reasons to myself and act on my own.

The two-year period of studying art at TAFE Brisbane, Queensland was a time for breaking my ego into pieces really quickly; I learned to leave behind the same old habits and familiarity in order to drill myself to become a professional artist. It was a rare opportunity to learn from good teachers who were also professional artists. Their teaching, critiques and advice were distilled from their accumulated experiences and sincerity to help their students realize their own potential.



An especially noteworthy aspect of the program was the teaching method that focused on projecting into one's own inner self, tracing the footprint of the sub-conscience on works, deciphering the meaning of symbols, creating the understanding of art in a profound dimension, getting in touch with the soul of the artists, and creating a work of art from clear inspiration. I was amazed by this method because of its harmonious relevancy to the Buddhist teaching of mindfulness, and its ability to turn art into a thing that anyone can understand if guided towards the ways of artistic understanding.

Moreover, this teaching method inspired students to be creative, to think systematically and reasonably, and to be able to explain the reasons for the happening of things because the students could see and understand their own thought process. Therefore, if we could teach the teachers to cultivate these processes within themselves, they would be able to transfer them to their students later. In the long run, we will be able to build

proper and logical-thinking populations. It is not too difficult to improve the Thai educational system; the problem is just that we have never learned the core of this teaching method before.

The teaching method that is far different from the familiar ways makes me realize why the westerners' ways of thinking are different from Thai people's, and why Australia can keep the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic balance and standard management system while rising to become one of the best countries to live in.

Brisbane is a peaceful city. Most people I encountered there were cheerful and friendly, sincere and cool-headed. Everywhere I went I was greeted with friendly smiles along the way. Brisbane has charms hidden all around. The footsteps of wild turkeys on the rooftops were an alarm clock in the morning. Giant lizards bathing in the early sun kept me company during the morning. Galahs, parrots and lorikeets strolled along the lawns in the afternoon. A family of chubby possums sneaked out to explore the jacaranda flowers that decorated the windows of the house in the evenings. I was so happy living close to Mother Nature.

The mass transit and utility systems in Brisbane were well organized, convenient and easy to understand. The information alert system is serious and efficient, incorporating both technology and human management. I think that Thailand too has the potential to develop a good system of our own, but we need to let go of the negative mindset that we cannot change. We need to leave the familiarity behind, and create a new positive attitude and spread it throughout our society.



Full Name:	Ms Rawewan Boonyarit
Positions:	Regional Admission Manager (Thailand & Malaysia)
Organisation:	Adcote School for Girls, UK
Type of Scholarship:	Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award 2012
Australian Institution:	William Angliss Institute of TAFE
Educational Background:	Bachelor of Business Administration (Second-Class Honours), Kasetsart University Diploma of Events (Industry Placement Program), William Angliss Institute of TAFE

Australia has made a good impression on me, especially Melbourne where I pursued the study of event management through the Endeavour Scholarship Program in 2012. Memorable Melbourne is a multicultural city, a harmonious balance of metropolitan landscape and nature. It has convenient transportation systems and excellent educational facilities. William Angliss Institute is known for its specialization in professional courses. Lecturers and staff have expertise in specific fields and the institute encourages training and experience seeking in the fields of students' studies. I had the chance for internships in various areas such as exhibition organization, academic seminars and festivals. One of the most impressive experiences was volunteering for social causes with many organizations. I was proud to be a part of activities that offered help to others such as patients and the underprivileged.



Now I adapt the knowledge and experiences I earned from the Endeavour Awards Program to my current line of work relating to educational marketing, coordination and event organization, booth organization at educational exhibitions, including giving advice and sharing experiences of my studies and living aboard. I have learned about various cultures from my fellow foreign friends from many countries such as Australia, Sweden, Korea and Sri Lanka. This helps me a lot to increase efficiency when it comes to contacting and collaborating with international peers.

My advice for those who plan to apply for the Endeavour Awards Scholarship is to study the details and prepare ahead of time because the documents and qualifications required for the scholarship may take quite some time to organize. This could help to avoid missing a good opportunity.





- Full Name:** **Ms Rutaiwan Dusadeepong**
- Positions:** Laboratory Technician
- Organisation:** International Organization for Migration (IOM), Thailand
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award 2012**
- Australian Institution:** University of the Sunshine Coast Queensland, Australia
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology, Naresuan University

Currently, Rutaiwan is a laboratory technician at the medical laboratory of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Thailand.

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank Australia for giving me the opportunity and the Endeavour VET Award 2012 to pursue the Associate Degree in Science (specializing in biomedical science) at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science majoring in medical technology from Naresuan University, I was another Thai youngster who dreamed of becoming an expert in the medical profession. I wanted to gain sufficient knowledge and capabilities to realize my potential for becoming a driver of development not only in my own country but also around the world.

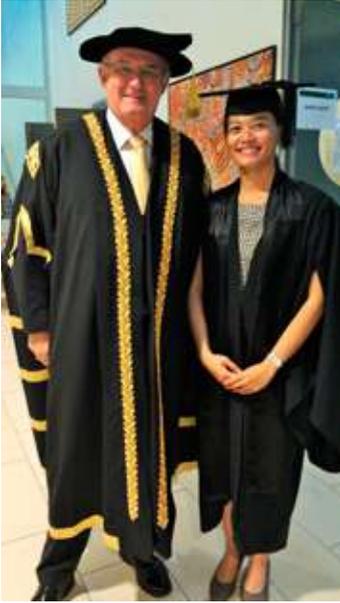
Before receiving the scholarship, I was working on a research program on infectious diseases (HIV) for the Program for HIV Prevention and Treatment, PHPT, a research unit operating through cooperation between the Faculty of Medical Technology, Chiang Mai University and Institut de recherche pour le developpement:



IRD, France. This initiated my desire to apply for the scholarship to study in Australia to develop my professional potential and medical research and language skills. Australia is one of the world's leading countries with its solid foundation for international standard higher learning education and advanced technologies.

In retrospect, from the day I received the scholarship to the last day of my study program, Australia gave me the most prestigious and most valuable award of my life throughout those two and a half years; the knowledge and experience of living aboard, the self-development skills, the self-adjustment to Australia's world famous cultural diversity are priceless. One simply cannot put a price on any of those experiences that only a thirst for learning, diligence, commitment, and perseverance can buy. While studying there, I believed there must have been times when other scholarship recipients became discouraged, tired and stressed out to no less degree than I was. Then I reminded myself that we were representatives for millions of other Thai people back home, to demonstrate to foreigners that we too had excellence that was second to none. This gave me a push to fight on and find a way to beat obstacles that came my way.

Currently, I work at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Thailand. It cannot be denied that my experience as a scholarship recipient and the knowledge I have gained can be applied to create benefits not only for myself but for refugees who have fled calamity in their home countries in the hope of finding a peaceful country to give them a chance to start a new life. I can see that children in refugee families are not different from myself; they too want to pursue higher education to develop themselves, build a better future, and lighten the load for their own families. I



devote my efforts to applying the knowledge and skills I have gained for the best interest of those people in need. I believe Australia and Thailand have taught me what it takes to truly become a qualified human resource.





Full Name:	Ms Withitaporn Sangprakong
Positions:	Project and Administrative Officer
Organisation:	Department of Education and Training, Australian Embassy Bangkok
Type of Scholarship:	Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award 2012
Australian Institution:	University of the Sunshine Coast Queensland, Australia Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE
Educational Background:	Bachelor of Accounting, La Trobe University Associate Degree of Business, Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE

Ms Withitaporn Sangprakong (Anne) received the Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award in 2012 to pursue an Associate Degree of Business at Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE, Australia. The program took two and a half years to complete.

Melbourne is the capital of the state of Victoria, Australia. It has been ranked the world's best city to live in for seven consecutive years. From the personal experience of living there, Anne agrees that Melbourne is indeed a wonderful place to live in thanks to its multicultural personality, convenient transportation, and the friendliness of its people. Melbourne also has a peaceful and quiet atmosphere. Yet, it is so bustling with activities that one would never get bored.

The Endeavour scholarship has taught Anne how to live abroad, make friends with people of various nationalities and ethnicities, and explore new cultures. On academic learning in Australia, generally each subject is divided into two parts: lecture and tutorial. The latter is a small class that allows instructors to supervise students closely while students gain hands-on practical experiences and further discussion of the topics taught in lectures. In addition, instructors would make time for students to visit their office and seek further explanations for better understanding. This kind of support and assistance is very useful for students and helped make a smooth transition for Anne's adjustment to Australian teaching and learning methodologies.

Nevertheless, Anne believes that in-class experience alone is not enough. During the Endeavour Program, she participated in various activities organized by the university, local communities, the ASEAN Students Organization, and the International Students



Organization. She was also involved in other social activities organized by the local Thai community.

A highlight of her extracurricular activities was her role as a City Ambassador for Melbourne, which continued for over two years. Her contributions included giving tips and information to tourists and foreign students regarding activities, tourist attractions and transportation in Melbourne. This gave Anne an opportunity to learn the working culture of Australian people as well as the city's history and other interesting information.

Furthermore, Anne was the Projects Director of the Australian Federation of International Students (AFIS) – an international students organisation in Melbourne established with the objective of helping foreign students make a smooth and happy self-adjustment to life and academic pursuit in Australia. Anne organized various activities for foreign students in Melbourne such as the Amazing Race, one day trips, Aussie Slang Workshops and other workshop series such as the I Am Fit physical workout. She used such opportunities to blend in aspects of interest



for foreigners regarding Thai culture such as Thai boxing. Such activities were received with a positive response. Extracurricular activities brought a lot of joy to Anne as they allowed her to get to know new people, learn new things and sharpen various skills. An extra bonus is the International Student of the Year Award 2015, which was awarded to her by the Council of International Students Australia.





- Full Name:** **Mr Wittawat Busaracumwong**
- Positions:** Managing Director
- Organisation:** Beyond Study Center Co. Ltd.
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award 2016**
- Australian Institution:** Holmesglen Institute, Queensland, Australia
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Business Administration (Finance), Thammasat University
Diploma of Leadership Management & Advanced Diploma of Human Resources, Holmesglen Institute (in progress)

What I have gained from studying and living in Australia is tremendous. I have learned about life experiences, English language skills, networking, knowledge, and systematic and logical thinking. I acquired all these the first time I went to Australia on a student visa under the Work and Holiday Program, and have applied the experiences I have gained to doing business and taking part in social activities. Therefore, I feel a close bond with Australia. (I even had my pre-wedding photo-shoot there!). I had another opportunity to go back when I received the Endeavour Scholarship in 2016. I was so excited with the award, and I believe the best thing that came out of my Australian experience this second time around was the chance to become a part of the alumni network to help publicize the Endeavour Scholarship Program on a wider scale through myself, fellow Endeavour members and related organizations. (I have already organized several events on the Endeavour Program in Bangkok, Sydney and Melbourne).

This is different from the first time in 2007; I believe what I am studying will be suitable for the fast-changing modern world. The knowledge and experiences will be applicable to the management of the organization for which I am working, and to my own self-development. In addition, thanks to new knowledge and technological innovations, it will be more efficient to transfer knowledge and promote Australian education to wider target audiences.

Since this is my second time, I have made better preparations in many aspects; making personal adjustments and language are not an issue like the first time. Besides, the case manager and the Australian Embassy in Thailand take great care of the scholarship recipients. The biggest challenge for me is to apply everything I have learned to improve myself and pay this great opportunity forward



by way of publicizing the Endeavour Awards Program and Australian education in general to the Thai youth, and creating a network of Thai students and Work and Holiday visa holders in Australia to contribute in any way possible to help newcomers who may need more assistance than others. I plan to promote this project, one small step at a time, starting with myself, then the youth, and friends. Once we have it off the ground, we will try to expand the effort to reach larger target groups.

Another challenge is the need to adjust myself to a new city. The first time was Sydney and this second time is Melbourne. It is not that difficult except that the weather in Melbourne is colder and subject to frequent change. Also, time management is quite a test as I learn to multitask my way to get things done, from studying, running a business, managing the organization I am working for, taking care of the students in the Beyond Study Program, and giving advice to young people who are interested in the Work and Holiday Program and the Endeavour Scholarships. Simultaneously, I try to create and manage activities in Thailand and Australia. But most importantly, I am trying to manage my personal life and maintain a work-life balance as best I can to make sure that my time in Australia is well spent.



Endeavour Executive Fellowship

- **Assistant Professor Jittima Prasara-A, Ph.D.**
- **Kanok Jullamon, Ph.D.**
- **Lakhana Dockiao**
- **Norarat Julo**
- **Paradee Tangtang, Ph.D.**
- **Pranee Kasemsarn**
- **Sunee Bovonsunthonchai, Ph.D.**
- **Assistant Professor Thammakit Thammo, Ph.D.**
- **Associate Professor Wanchai Assavalapsakul, Ph.D.**



Full Name:	Assistant Professor Jittima Prasara-A, Ph.D.
Positions:	Lecturer, Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies
Organisation:	Maharakham University
Type of Scholarship:	Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2015
Australian Institution:	RMIT University
Educational Background:	Bachelor of Engineering (Major in Water Resources Engineering), Kasetsart University Master of Engineering (Major in Environment Engineering), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi Doctor of Philosophy (Environment and Planning), RMIT University Melbourne, Australia

Before receiving the Endeavour Executive Fellowship in 2015, Dr Jittima had studied for her doctoral degree at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (RMIT) during 2006-2009 under the Royal Thai Government Scholarship. After coming back to Thailand, she received the Hungarian Scholarship Board Scholarship to conduct research at the University of Pannonia, Veszprem, Hungary.

On the outstanding advantage of her field visit to Australian universities, she says: "Australia has a very high standard of education. As an educator, observing the teaching and learning methodologies at Australian universities is remarkably beneficial. I am applying what I have learned and experienced from the Endeavour Executive Fellowship to my work today. Although it was only a short program, the experience is truly valuable; I had a chance to explore teaching techniques in various fields, both in the form of lecture and tutorial, including grade assessment and examination methods. In addition, I learned about system management, the application for academic positions at a host university. This is a direct benefit for professional lecturers at universities."



“I encountered hardly any obstacles during the field visit in Australia because the Endeavour Executive Fellowship took great care of the award recipients. Besides, there was an orientation before the trip, and after I arrived in Australia, the case manager took care of me very well, and the lecturers at the host universities made sure that we fellowship recipients were taken good care of as well. It was truly impressive.”





- Full Name:** **Mr Kanok Jullamon, Ph.D.**
- Positions:** Judge of the Court of First Instance, Assistant Division
Judge of the Supreme Court
- Organisation:** The Supreme Court of Thailand
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2016**
- Australian Institution:** Federal Circuit Court of Australia, Sydney
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Law (First-Class Honours), Chulalongkorn University
Barrister-at-law, Thai Bar Association
Master of Laws, New York University
Master of Laws, University of Chicago
Doctor of the Science of Law, University of Illinois

Before submitting the application for the Endeavour Executive Fellowship, I had been working as a judge in the government service sector for nine years. The Honourable Judge Soracha Sangviroon, a former Endeavour Fellowship recipient, told me about the scholarship. I saw it as a good opportunity to sharpen my knowledge, gain more experiences and perspective. Personally, I like to improve myself all the time. At the time, I was a judge in the Department of Bankruptcy Cases and Business Rehabilitation for Debtors at the Supreme Court. I wanted to learn more about court procedures for bankruptcy and business rehabilitation cases in Australia, international bankruptcy law and case administration in Australia.

The first difficulty of the application process was finding a host institution before submitting the application. Since I did not know any judges in Australia personally, I had to search for the courts which had jurisdiction in bankruptcy and business rehabilitation cases. Once I found such courts, I contacted several of them but none replied until the Federal Circuit Court of Australia in Sydney did and accepted my request for it to be my host. It was serendipity that the Director-General Judge of this court was fond of Thailand. He gave me full support during my training there. The subject of my study during the one-month period of training was entirely up to me. I consulted with the Director-General and the Court Director. I had a chance to share my views with many judges and observed the case consideration process.

Once a judge even allowed me to sit with him on the bench as an honorary guest judge. All judges and court officials gave me the honour of the same level as their own judges. It was impressive. I exchanged my perspectives with several reputed lawyers and accountants and joined the opening of the Law Term 2016 Dinner

of the Law Society of New South Wales, observed the electronic filing of the Federal Court as well as attended lectures and shared my views with relevant agencies on bankruptcy and business rehabilitation, namely the Australian Financial Security Authority (AFSA), the Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association (ARITA), and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).



The Australian courts have similar problems of legal case management to the Thai courts in many areas. It was a relief that Thailand was not the only country in the world with such challenges. Problem solving in many areas is like that in Thailand. That is, they tried to bring in technology as a tool; yet budgeting could be an issue. This training has widened my perspective, especially regarding comparative legal study. I apply what I have learned to real life in terms of applying Australian laws and guidelines of court judgements as an example for interpreting Thai laws in cases where the Thai courts have not passed judgement or legal explanations as precedent. I did not encounter major problems or challenges because I generally knew what should or should not have been done. Communication and collaboration in all matters went well because everyone involved was responsible and professional. It was one full month of valuable experiences in Australia for me.



Full Name:	Ms Lakhana Dockiao
Positions:	Educational Scholar, Division of Foreign Higher Education Strategies
Organisation:	Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education
Type of Scholarship:	Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2014
Australian Institution:	University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
Educational Background:	Bachelor of Education, English Language Specialization, Srinakharinwirot University Master of Education, specializing in English Language Teaching, Chulalongkorn University

Lakhana received an Endeavour Executive Fellowship award for a short-term field study on student mobility and international engagement at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in 2014. She recounts the reason for applying for the Endeavour Fellowship being that: “Apart from a chance to develop my potential and necessary capacities for international work, I was interested in learning the Australian mechanism in transferring educational policies to enhance international standard of higher learning. Australia has a close relationship with, and has been an important ally of Thailand for a very long time, not to mention a negotiating counterparty of ASEAN countries. It was therefore a tremendous challenge to share experiences and learn from Australia so that we would be able to apply the acquired knowledge to the educational development of and cooperation between both countries.”

Lakhana had never studied abroad before receiving the Fellowship. The visit to an Australian educational institution “opened up my perspective, created friendship and understanding of the multicultural society of Australia. It also helped to sharpen my working skills in a multicultural environment very well. I maintain contact with UTC where I undertook the field study; I am like a bridge linking the Australian university with Thai counterparts through the working network we have built. This could be useful for beginning new projects and activities. In addition, I had a chance to help with public relations and give advice here and there for those interested in applying for the Endeavour scholarships.”

“Looking back, life in Sydney has taught me a lot, especially life skills – understanding people, understanding the world, readjusting my thinking from a different perspective, understanding and admiring co-existence in a society so diverse yet



so harmoniously unified. I'm so impressed with the sincere kindness and tireless dedication of my supervisor and the thoughtfulness of Australian people towards foreigners. This thoughtfulness is evident even in matters that seem trivial to some people, for example, passengers thanking the drivers before getting off public buses and the community pitching in for environmental protection. I try to apply all these good qualities having come back to Thailand. Despite the short period of being a part of UTS and living in Sydney, I experienced and understood sincere friendship. It was a happy time that energized me to continue my work, which is very important for its ongoing contribution to the Thai educational system."

"For those who are interested in applying for the Endeavour Executive Fellowship, here is my advice: determination and preparation is the key to success. First, find an organization that will accept you as your host and specify as clearly as possible in what field you plan to pursue your study instead of giving a broad picture. In addition, mentioning social activities you have participated in

would likely increase your chance of receiving a scholarship. I send my best wishes and hope that everyone will go out there and have a good life adventure, as advised by Senator J. William Fulbright (1989): "To see the world as others see it and allow for the possibility that others may see something that we have failed to see, or may see it more accurately."





Full Name: **Mr Norarat Julio**

Positions: Head of Computer Department

Organisation: International Community School, Bang Na

Type of Scholarship: **Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2014**

Australian Institution: The Armidale School, Amidale New South Wales

Educational Background: Bachelor of Arts, University of New England, Armidale, Australia
Master of Arts, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce

In 1992, I received the John Crawford Scholarship to pursue a bachelor's degree in Armidale, Australia, and the Endeavour Executive Fellowship in 2014. I was delighted to return to Armidale again after almost 20 years away.

Studying in Australia was not only about sitting in lectures; we needed to participate in group seminars. Students had to read the assigned books before discussions in class with the instructors supervising the whole session. It was so much fun and very challenging.

Under the Endeavour Fellowship, I requested to observe the teaching and learning methods at the Armidale School for a month. It is a private school offering classes from kindergarten to high school level. The high school level accepts only male students for boarding and day class curriculum. What impressed me the most on the very first day was that both teachers and students were neatly and properly dressed. Most teachers wore suits while students wore elegant uniforms. I asked my supervisor why it was so; he answered that the school's mission was to nurture students to be true gentlemen on both the outside and the inside.

Another interesting thing was that middle school students at the Armidale School did not have homework. They needed to pay careful attention and try to understand the lessons in class. Students were encouraged to ask questions when they were curious or did not understand. After class, they needed to focus on sports, especially rugby, and join competitions with other schools on Saturdays. I had a chance to join the school team to compete with King's College in Sydney. We stopped on the way to have a meal. Every student had to check if they were dressed properly in uniform before getting off the bus, get in line and not make loud noises. It was very impressive.



Every day students would salute the teachers when walking into class. I had thought it was like that only in Thailand. Students were very obedient and they were charming in their own middle school kind of way. Every student received a MacBook Pro from the school. After the teacher finished teaching, students would start their work on their MacBook. They were all diligent. No one secretly played games. Every morning at 10.30 a.m. it was morning tea time for all teachers; it was when they would have conversations. Students would receive fruit. It was a great time that allowed teachers to foster a close relationship. There were teachers' meetings every morning before class too.

I was a little worried by the fact that I took my wife and my 10-year-old son with me without a clue of what I could find for them to do. The headmaster was very kind, proposing that my son study at the school. I was so happy about that. The school lent my son the uniform and a computer. He made a lot of new friends. It was the most memorable experience for our family.



- Full Name:** Ms Paradee Tangtang, Ph.D.
- Positions:** Deputy Dean – International Relations
- Organisation:** Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Khon Kaen University
- Type of Scholarship:** Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2015
- Australian Institution:** Edith Cowen University
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Education, specializing in English Language, Khon Kaen University
Master of Art in Language and Intercultural Communication, Mahidol University
Ph.D. (Translation Studies), University of Warwick, United Kingdom

It all started one day in 2014 when Khon Kaen University had a chance to welcome the beautiful and kind supervisor of Endeavour Thailand Program, Ms Watinee Khanwong (Dear), who is also Director of the Department of Education and Training, the Australian Embassy, Bangkok. The purpose of her visit was to introduce the Endeavour Fellowship Program. Luck would have it that I was among the host instructors who came to welcome her and participate in her talk. Apart from providing the details of this beneficial scholarship program, sweet smiling Khun Watinee wrapped up the session with the inviting last line, “Don’t miss out on the chance to apply.” That evening I did not know what came over me but I took home all the details and documents required for the fellowship and read through them all.

Since it was online-only application, the preparation of every requirement and all supplementary documents was crucial and had to be thorough and precise. Personally, the biggest challenge was searching for a connection with universities in Australia because applicants had to be accepted by a host university to qualify for the fellowship. I myself had never been to Australia before and I did not know a soul there. So, I decided to try two strategies: seeking help from senior professors to find a connection, and going about it on my own by way of self-introductory emails to the universities I wanted to attend. With tremendous kindness, the Dean of Humanities and Social Science, Khon Kaen University, kindly contacted Dr. Jim Cross of Edith Cowan University to get me started, and the generous Dr. Cross agreed to be my advisor.

I uploaded all required documents about a month before the application deadline. It was the first time I applied for a scholarship where I could not predict the outcome. I had received



some overseas scholarships before; most of the time I could sense from the in-person interview whether there was any possibility of obtaining the scholarships because by answering direct questions of the scholarship committees on the spot, I could instinctively tell what the odds were, who my main competitors were and how tough they were, qualification-wise. But the Endeavour Program was different; it did not require an interview. Once I submitted the application, things were silent for a while. I continued with my life and waited for about nine months for the award recipient announcement. Finally, on November 4, 2014, an email arrived in my inbox with a congratulatory message that I was selected to be a new member of the Endeavour family I remember I was in Tokyo on business at the time I received the email. I was in my room screaming with overwhelming joy. Even to this day, a lot of people still ask me for tips on how to receive an Endeavour Award. I must honestly say that I have no idea because all I did was try my best to prepare the necessary documents and credentials as completely and correctly as possible.

The four months of living and learning at Edith Cowan University (ECU) in Perth was memorable and fun. So much fun that sometimes I forgot that I was on an academic mission. It was such

an enjoyable time all the way through, which started from having a super thoughtful and kind supervisor, Dr. Jim Cross. He took such a great care of me, arranging a schedule of appointments to meet experts in the field of international relations at the university so that I could meet and learn from them in person. Many of them even made time to give me one-on-one tutoring sessions that lasted for hours to show me a clear structure of international relations work. More important than teaching by lecture was teaching by example; they demonstrated to me how professionals worked. At the end of the program before I flew back home, Dr. Cross took me to pay a cordial, exclusive visit to the Rector of the University at his office too. It was such a great honour.

Apart from study trips, the advisor strongly encouraged me to survey the city and get to know local people. I made new friends who gave me tremendous assistance, from my case manager assigned by the Endeavour Program to fellow Thai students and Australian, Indian, and Chinese friends. Once strangers, these people became friends with tremendous generosity; they opened their homes to welcome me, gave me places to stay, drove me on sightseeing tours, and took me out for meals. We spent many hours together getting to know one another better. They were there for me when I got homesick too.

The opportunity that the Endeavour Program gave me during those four months in Perth not only led to tangible professional growth, but also flourishing, warm friendships that have found a permanent place in my memory.



- Full Name:** **Dr Pranee Kasemsarn**
- Positions:** Instructor in Dermatology
- Organisation:** Department of Dermatology, specializing in Occupational Dermatology and Environment, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2015**
- Australian Institution:** Occupational Dermatology Research and Education Centre (ODREC), Skin and Cancer Foundation Inc., Victoria
- Educational Background:** M.D. (Second-Class Honours), Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University
Diplomate Thai Board of Dermatology, Certificate of Attendance
Visiting Fellowship in Research and Clinical Practice in Occupational Dermatology and Contact Dermatitis, Skin and Cancer Foundation Inc., Victoria, Australia



After attaining a medical degree in dermatology, I worked as a medical instructor in the field of occupational dermatology and environment at the Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital. My responsibilities included service providing and teaching under- and post-graduates as well as doing research, especially on skin allergy testing. After a while, I wanted to seek more experiences to improve the work I was doing. Therefore, I started looking for institutions specializing in my field and Australia appeared a top destination for this purpose. Once I learned of the field study scholarships of the Australian Government, I decided to apply for the Endeavour Executive Fellowship in 2015.

The program gave me an opportunity to observe and study occupational dermatology and contact dermatitis at the Occupational Dermatology Research and Education Centre (ODREC), Skin and Cancer Foundation Inc., Victoria, Australia. The ODREC is the only institution in Victoria with expertise in skin allergy and occupational skin diseases, and therefore handles numerous patient transfers from both within the state and neighbouring states such as South Australia. As Melbourne is a city of diverse ethnicities

and races, skin diseases are also versatile, which is interesting and suitable a great deal for learning. In addition the host, Assoc. Prof. Rosemary L. Nixon was also a dermatologist and a specialist in occupational diseases, widely knowledgeable, active in research in the field to accumulate new knowledge, and widely known among specialists in the field around the world.

Therefore, having a chance to study at the Skin and Cancer Foundation Inc. in Melbourne, Australia helped to expand my worldview and increase my experiences in the subject of my interest. I had the opportunity to do research and be a co-author with experts in the field. The knowledge I have gained is applied to my work on skin allergy testing, especially the specific learning for community dermatologists to apply to their diagnosis and treatment for patients on a wider scale, especially occupational skin diseases. In addition, this was a chance to build good relationships across institutions. I maintain contact with professors and colleagues in Australia; we can conduct joint research and expand educational channels for junior doctors and students in dermatology or interested doctors in the future.





Full Name: Ms Sunee Bovonsunthonchai, Ph.D.

Positions: Instructor at the Faculty of Physical Therapy

Organisation: Mahidol University

Type of Scholarship: Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2016

Australian Institution: University of Sydney

Educational Background: Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy, Mahidol University
Master of Science in Physical Therapy, Mahidol University
Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Therapy, Mahidol University

Greetings! My name is Sunee Bovonsunthonchai. I am working as an instructor at the Faculty of Physical Therapy, Mahidol University. I applied for the Endeavour Fellowship to sharpen my skills and research experiences as well as build a network for research and post-graduate education.

Undoubtedly my success from the past to present such as scholarships, work progress, research grants, researcher awards, field trip scholarships and others are my personal pride and my family's. Everything I have obtained has come from perseverance and hard work. But all this I did not expect to get. I just thought that I would do the best I could and would amend my shortcomings to be able to achieve the goals of each job. Another wonderful thing that happened to me was the Endeavour Fellowship Award. It will forever be a wonderful memory to cherish.

In terms of experiences, although I had learned some basics of analysis on 3-dimensional movements, I need guidance from experts on certain complicated theories and information. Thanks to the Endeavour Program, I had the opportunity to learn about foot models for assessments of complicated movements of various joints and in-depth data analysis processes with tremendous support from Professor Richard Smith. The knowledge I have acquired can be applied to clinical research and transferred to students. I was also lucky to have been awarded a grant from The Thailand Research Fund (TRF). What I have learned from this fellowship will be of great benefit for the TRF research and create a network of collaboration.

Even though it was a short course, I have learned a great deal from this field study. Amid diverse cultures and traditions, I could feel the warmth, kindness and friendship from everyone from the very first day I landed in the country. People seemed to be in a



hurry but they did not ignore an opportunity to help. The campus of this university had a good atmosphere and environment. Thanks to the commitment and taking good care of fellow members, we achieved goals and moved forward together. I had the privilege to be a part of an ongoing research project. My assignments included, for starters, preparing research equipment, conducting research with other researchers, and controlling data-

collecting devices. Furthermore, I had a chance to write review articles and collect research data on foot models as well.

In conclusion, let me just say, "luck is not always on our side; it is perseverance and honest commitment that I believe are the drivers of success in making one's wishes come true without difficulty."





Full Name: Assistant Professor Thammakit Thammo, Ph.D.

Positions: Vice President

Organisation: Chiang Mai Rajabhat University

Type of Scholarship: Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2014

Australian Institution: Queensland University of Technology

Educational Background: Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication, Chiang Mai University
Master of Arts, Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University
Doctoral Degree in International Communication, Macquarie University, Australia

I used to work in the field of mass communication before changing my career path to the teaching profession in 1997. I must admit I have not been successful in everything I have done. It's a fact of life, I guess, to experience ups and downs. But that gives me an opportunity to learn every step of the way. Receiving the Endeavour Fellowship was an honour and gave me great personal pride in my life because it is an award for which there is strict screening and intense selection.

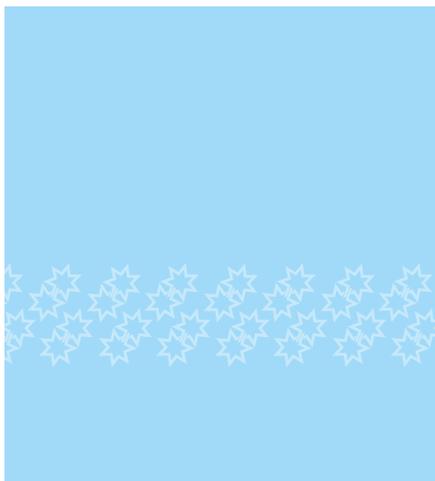
My host organization was Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane. My connection with QUT began with a professor who had teaching experience and had been an advisor for doctoral dissertations of foreign students for more than 30 years. He understood the Australian essence. We then cooperated to promote the human resources development program for Chiang Mai Rajabhat University by supporting education and training in Australia. We were both proud of being able to support Rajabhat instructors in their studies in various fields in Australia. There were only 4-5 cases but we thought it was a good start all the same.

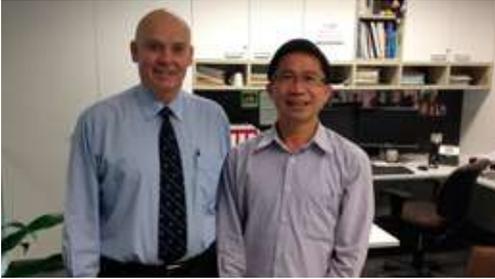
While I was a doctoral student in Australia, I was focused on my dissertation. I devoted most of my time studying, surrounding myself with piles of textbooks, documents and camping inside the library. I may have had in-depth knowledge of the topic of my dissertation, but I still did not know much about the nature of higher learning in Australia. So, when I went back there for the second time, wearing the Endeavour shirt, even only for the short five weeks, I got to learn more about the higher learning management system of Australian universities; I observed their academic management, what qualification framework they used, which is used in Thailand today.

I learned how they developed what is called internationalisation, the determination of a KPI that at least 15 percent of their students must acquire exchange student experience or interact with foreign parties in one way or another, and so on.

All this gave me a new perspective for the small university where I work and allowed me to search for ways to develop our university's strengths. Certainly, we probably will not follow every step we have witnessed because each university has its own unique context. But the experiences I have gained from Australia were an inspiration for the next steps forward.

The host arranged a good schedule for the whole five weeks. I got to meet all the deputy vice-chancellors, the equivalent position to deputy rector in Thailand. They each were responsible for different areas, from academic management, research, finance, assets, international relations, and coordination with business





corporations. Luckily, I had managerial experiences and I did my homework diligently. This allowed me to exchange in-depth views of issues. As to general living, I was lucky too that I was an alumnus of an Australian university, so I did not have to adjust too much. It was all about making myself happy while learning new things in Australia.



- Full Name:** **Associate Professor Wanchai Assavalapsakul, Ph.D.**
- Positions:** Associate Professor, full-time instructor at the Department of Microbiology
- Organisation:** Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University
- Type of Scholarship:** **Endeavour Research Fellowship 2008**
Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2015
- Australian Institution:** Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) University of Queensland
- Educational Background:** Bachelor of Science in Genetics (Honours), Chulalongkorn University
Master of Science in Technological Management, Thammasat University
Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, Mahidol University



I am not an alumnus of any educational institution in Australia, but I had the privilege of obtaining two Endeavour Fellowships to pursue technological research at St. Lucia, Brisbane, Queensland. Both trips on the Endeavour Program have made a good impression on me, especially when it came to the generosity and support of Australian people towards foreigners, and Australia's technological advancements, which are second to none.

My experiences and challenges in scientific study and research in various forms led to the acquisition of new knowledge that has been put to good use ever since, including my time in Australia. There was an interval of seven years between the two Fellowships. The first one was for in-depth research on Bovine Herpes Simplex Virus, a cause of diseases in cows, to find ways to inhibit the viral proliferation. The second one was a continuation of the first piece of research and led to the discovery of the molecule to fulfil such purpose. Both projects were successful. Like scientific study and research, living a life comes with challenges, problems or obstacles from time to time. It is understandable that whenever

people try to meet challenges – in this case a scientific research mostly related to experiments – they are bound to encounter unexpected results or things that do not proceed as planned due to many factors, especially uncontrollable ones. This could cause anxiety, dismay, and distraction. This could happen to anyone including myself. Sometimes, I became discouraged or felt bad and had negative thoughts. And all this could lead to sorrow. I dealt with this mental challenge by letting it be, accepting my thoughts and feelings as they came because holding back could turn into uncomfortable repression and frustration, and stress. I learned that acceptance of my situation helped to lighten my feelings and eventually made them disappear, sooner or later, depending on the character of the person or the nature of the subject in question. We should learn to make peace with whatever has happened, freeing our mind from focusing on the negative past because it has happened and nothing can be done about that.

In any case, after all those feelings were gone or after I had accepted them as they were, I began to ponder upon the true cause of my problems and tried to solve them by myself, at first by gathering knowledge from many self-accessible sources for my



own study. But if that failed or any issue was incomprehensible on my own, I would search for more information or refer inquiries to those with more experience. Most of the time, it worked well. As broad as it sounds, I believe the experiences I am sharing here could be applied to any problem in life. They have strengthened my determination and focus on my scientific work and study up to this very day, and contributed to the progress in my work. I would like to thank the Endeavour Program for the opportunity and support for my study and research in Australia. It was a memorable period of my life where good experiences prospered and found a permanent place in my heart.



ENDEAVOUR SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Endeavour Scholarships And Fellowships Alumni Reception





ENDEAVOUR SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Endeavour Scholarships And Fellowships Alumni Reception







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