

# Australian Education Update NEWSLETTER

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## Welcome Message...

Welcome to the **July edition of Australian Education Update newsletter**. July is the beginning of new financial year in Australia and this edition, as well, bring with it another two beginnings.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that my term as an Education Counsellor at AEI Bangkok will come to an end on July 1, 2010 and I wish to thank you all for your great support during the past three years through a number of projects and joint activities. The new Education Counsellor of AEI Bangkok, Mr Scott Evans, will be working on AEI's ongoing projects and future initiatives. A brief introduction of him is provided in under the 'snapshot'. Mr Evans is looking forward to continue working collaboratively with you.

The second new beginning is the restructure of AEI. From July 1, 2010, AEI will be looking after Australian Education from a government and policy perspective while marketing and promotion of Australian education will be transferred to Australian Trade Commission. We will still be working closely with you to ensure that Australian education provides great benefits and that interests in Australian education are well taken care of.

I wish you all the best for your future endeavours, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work, professionalism, dedication, support and sheer pleasure of working with the AEI team including Khun Watinee Kharnwong, Khun Busarin Sinthunavarat, Khun Pimpaporn Puengpra, Khun Korbua Laorujijinda, Khun Siriporn Lapthanaphanit, Khun Chanwit Chanchaisombat.



**Anne Reynolds**  
Counsellor (Education),  
Australian Education International,  
Australian Embassy, Bangkok

## New Education Counsellor of AEI Bangkok



### **Mr Scott J. Evans**

Education Counsellor,  
Australian Education International, Bangkok  
(From 2 July 2010)

Mr Scott Evans was appointed as Counsellor (Education & Employment) Bangkok in June 2010, with accreditation to Thailand, the Philippines and several multilateral organisations based in Bangkok, including SEAMEO and UNESCO.

Prior to his current appointment, Scott was Branch Manager of the North Asia, Americas & Middle East Branch and the Multilateral, South & Southeast Asia Branch within the International Group/AEI National Office in Canberra. Scott's work in AEI has encompassed key education relationships with the countries of these regions, as well as overseeing AEI-NOOSR's work on qualifications and professional recognition systems; Australia's membership of the Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) of APEC; and the education services aspects of Australia's Free Trade Agreements.

Scott also worked previously in AEI on the implementation of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 in its first phase, prior to working at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and in the International Relations Branch of the former Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, with specific responsibility for Australia's membership of the International Labour Organisation.

Scott various positions have provided the broad multilateral and bilateral international relations and portfolio policy experience, necessary to oversee the further development of the Government's international education, training and employment relationships in the region.

Scott has studied both Asian and European Studies at several Australian universities, including Macquarie University and the Australian National University. He speaks German and French, as well as basic Indonesian and Japanese.

Finally, Scott also brings to the position experience as an international student in Germany over several years in the 1990s and 2000s, where he studied at the University of Freiburg im Breisgau on a DAAD scholarship and at the Goethe Institut in Berlin. His AEI contact email is [scott.evans@dfat.gov.au](mailto:scott.evans@dfat.gov.au).

## **Promotion and Marketing of Australian Education will be transferred from AEI to Australian Trade Commission (Austrade)**

AEI Bangkok would like to inform our stakeholders regarding the changes occurring to some AEI activities including the allocation of promotion and marketing responsibilities to Austrade from 1 July 2010. We would like to reiterate the following changes

1. AEI Bangkok will continue focus on engaging at the government to government level including having dialogue and undertaking projects which support education policies being implemented in both Australia & Thailand, and which are relevant and supportive of international education.
2. Promotional and marketing activities related to student recruitment will become the responsibility of Austrade from 1 July 2010.

Three AEI Staff, Ms Busarin Sinthunavarat, Mr Chanwit Chanchaisombat and Ms Korbua Laorujijinda will transfer to work with Austrade from 1 July 2010.

Austrade, AEI and the Embassy will continue to strongly support the engagement between Thailand and Australia through education at the government to government level, institutional liaison and linkage level, and at the student level. We look forward to our ongoing engagement into the future.

## Endeavour Awards 2011 application closes on 31 July.

Source: [www.AustraliaAwards.gov.au](http://www.AustraliaAwards.gov.au)



### Endeavour Awards 2011 round open 5 April – 31 July 2010.

The Endeavour Awards is the Australian Government’s internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program providing opportunities for citizens of the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe and Americas to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. Awards are also available for Australians to undertake study, research and professional development abroad.

There are four main types of the awards that Thai applicants and apply.

1. Endeavour Postgraduate Awards
2. Endeavour Research Fellowships / Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Research Fellowships
3. Endeavour Vocational Education and Training Awards
4. Endeavour Executive Awards (Professional Development)

The Endeavour Awards are a part of the **Australia Awards** initiative which was announced by the Australian Prime Minister in November 2009. The Australia Awards have been established to maximise the benefit to Australia of its extensive scholarship programs, and to support enduring ties between Australia and its neighbours.

More information is available at [www.AustraliaAwards.gov.au](http://www.AustraliaAwards.gov.au).

## Australian Online Tutors for School Students

Source: “Tutors on Tap” by Julie Hare, Campus Review, Vol 20, No 10, 25 May 2010, page 14

**An online system that connects tutor with school students is helping universities make connections with schools. An ingenious concept that links school students with tutors online is being used by two Australian universities to value-add to their equity activities in low-SES schools.**

The service, **Your Tutor**, works in real time, addressing real student issues using an army of postgraduate students as the tutors. School students simply sign in, are linked with a suitable tutor, and off they go – conversing via instant messaging. The computer screen morphs into a whiteboard on which the student and tutor can draw, write and share information. They can also share websites and files.

For instance, an English essay can be uploaded, which the tutor will read and provide immediate commentary and feedback. Importantly, tutors never provide answers. “The whole premise is that the tutor will highlight key areas and give suggestions, but they won’t rewrite or give solutions,” says Jack Goodman, CEO of Your Tutor.

Goodman says **Edith Cowan University (ECU)** and **the University of Western Sydney (UWS)** are sponsoring the service in local schools as part of their equity programs.

Your Tutor was originally sold into public libraries, the purchase price of which is dependent on how many people it services. Students log in, usually from home, using their library card number.

Currently, 45 percent of sessions are maths-based, 18 percent English and 18 percent science. The balance is made up of sessions involving research and study skills. The service has subsequently been extended to schools, which receive additional services designed to help teachers reinforce key concepts.

## Outstanding Thai students in Australia



**Sirinut Sawatdeenarunat** was a winner of the 2010 Endeavour Awards Postgraduate Scholarship, enabling her to undertake an all expenses paid PhD in Education at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).

After completing a bachelor's degree in secondary school teaching in Thailand, Sirinut decided that she would like to extend her studies, and completed a master's in education at Cambridge University, England. Having enjoyed her experience as a research student studying-abroad, Sirinut applied for the Endeavour Awards, and when she won, began the search to find the right institution to undertake her PhD.

"There are three things I looked for before I came here, first is the supervisor, second is the facilities of the university, and the location", explained Sirinut. Impressed with UTS's staff, facilities and location, Sirinut is now working on her research project, which seeks to underpin the online reading strategies students use.

"There's a lot of research on how people read, and the strategies they use, but now that the internet has become a major part of everyone's life, it's important to know how they are using it"

Sirinut is enjoying her time in Sydney, and upon completion of her studies, plans to return to Thailand to begin her career in teacher education.

## Linkages Opportunity & Update

### Opportunity for VET Outbound mobility in Thailand

Source: Australian Education International (AEI Bangkok)

**Chiang Rai Vocational College (CVC)** is proud to propose a short training course for Australian VET students and/or teachers to share their areas of excellence and knowledge with Australian VET teachers and/or students under VET Outbound Mobility program. The 2 weeks integrated program includes history and practical knowledge of the following areas

1. Traditional Thai Massage (Face, Body, and Foot)
2. The Four Elements of the human body
3. Thai Yoga Therapy (Rusie-dutton)
4. Meditation
5. Thai herbal tea making and Thai style of tea service
6. Thai herbal compress production
7. Thai food preserving and food decoration
8. Thai Perfumery production

These courses are particularly relevant for Australian VET students and/or teachers studying at the Certificate and Diploma levels. CVC is able to begin the class at a time convenient to Australian participants and can accommodate class size of 8-10 students. The structure of the courses enables beginner students to learn the basis and progress i.e. selecting raw materials up to high level performance in each field. CVC would be pleased to welcome all Australian VET students and/or teachers to join this short course training opportunity in Thailand. The program is free of charge.

**For more information** about the course, please contact Ms Sukanya Thaimana, Director Chiang Rai Vocational College, Tel: + (66) 53 713 036 or email: [sukanya@cvc.ac.th](mailto:sukanya@cvc.ac.th)

## 31st Annual Thailand TESOL International Conference

Source: Australian Education International (AEI Bangkok)

Thailand TESOL is organising the **31st annual International Conference** in 21-22 January 2011 on the theme of **“Transforming the Language Classroom: Meeting the Needs of a Globalised World”**. The objective is to provide participants with an opportunity to update their knowledge regarding innovations in English language teaching, acquire knowledge from researchers and leading educator, exchange ideas with fellow ELT professionals from various sectors, and explore the latest ELT publications and services.

Thai TESOL is now calling for presentations and applications for plenary session, featured presentations and concurrent academic presentations including paper presentation, workshops, colloquium, publishers’ and poster presentations for the various areas. The presentation can be based on classroom projects, suggested lesson plan, action research, and report on classroom practice. The deadline for submission is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

**For more information about the conference**, please visit [www.thaitesol.org](http://www.thaitesol.org)  
**For further enquiries** please contact Assoc Prof Nopporn Sarobol at [nopporn9@hotmail.com](mailto:nopporn9@hotmail.com)

## Australian University delivers professional program for Thai teachers

Source: RMIT English Worldwide



Trainer, Lisa Jenkins, with program participants

RMIT English Worldwide (REW) was pleased to collaborate with the Australia-Thailand Institute (ATI) to deliver a Teacher Professional Development program in Thailand in April and May this year.

REW sent a teacher trainer from Melbourne to deliver the four week program, which focussed on developing communicative methodologies and improving English proficiency.

Participants were teachers of English from institutions in the south of Thailand. They were introduced to interactive classroom techniques to expand their repertoire of teaching skills and their

feedback indicates that the program was of great benefit.

The ATI funded the project as part of Australia’s commitment to education in Thailand. Officials from Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Bangkok were strategic in the coordination of the program and visited the classes during the program as representatives of the ATI.

The recent civil unrest in Bangkok did not disturb the program, although changes to the original plans were required. Staff and participants showed great flexibility in moving to REW Bangkok’s Rangsit Campus in Future Park. Thanks to the help of REW Bangkok staff, the participants were still able to access the same facilities and a fully equipped self-access centre.

A follow up seminar is planned for later this year, so that the participants can review the new strategies with their REW trainer.

## Australian Secondary School Exhibition and Cocktail Party

Organiser	:	Complete Education and Touring Australia (CETA)
Date	:	3 July 2010
Time	:	11.00 – 16.00 hrs
Venue	:	Grand Ballroom, The Westin Grande Sukhumvit, Bangkok
More information	:	<a href="http://www.ceta.co.th/cocktail.php">www.ceta.co.th/cocktail.php</a>

## IDP Education Expo 2010

### *Phuket*

Date	:	31 July 2010
Time	:	12.00 – 20.00 hrs
Venue	:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl, Event Hall, Central Festival, Phuket

### *Khon Kaen*

Date	:	2 August 2010
Time	:	13.00 – 20.00 hrs
Venue	:	Orchid Ballroom 2, Pullman Khonkaen Raja Orchid

### *Chiang Mai*

Date	:	4 August 2010
Time	:	12.00 – 20.00 hrs
Venue	:	Ground Fl, Central Plaza Chiang Mai Airport

### *Bangkok*

Date	:	7-8 August 2010
Time	:	11.00 – 18.00 hrs
Venue	:	Queen Sirikit National Convention Center

More information	:	<a href="http://www.idp.co.th/download/IdpExpoAug10.pdf">www.idp.co.th/download/IdpExpoAug10.pdf</a>
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### For further information on

AEI global: [www.aei.gov.au](http://www.aei.gov.au)

Australia Awards: [www.AustraliaAwards.gov.au](http://www.AustraliaAwards.gov.au).

Endeavour Awards: [www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au](http://www.endeavour.deewr.gov.au)

Australian Education Opportunities: [www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au)

Alumni information and registration: [www.ozthaialumni.in.th](http://www.ozthaialumni.in.th)

Australian Embassy (Bangkok): [www.thailand.embassy.gov.au](http://www.thailand.embassy.gov.au)