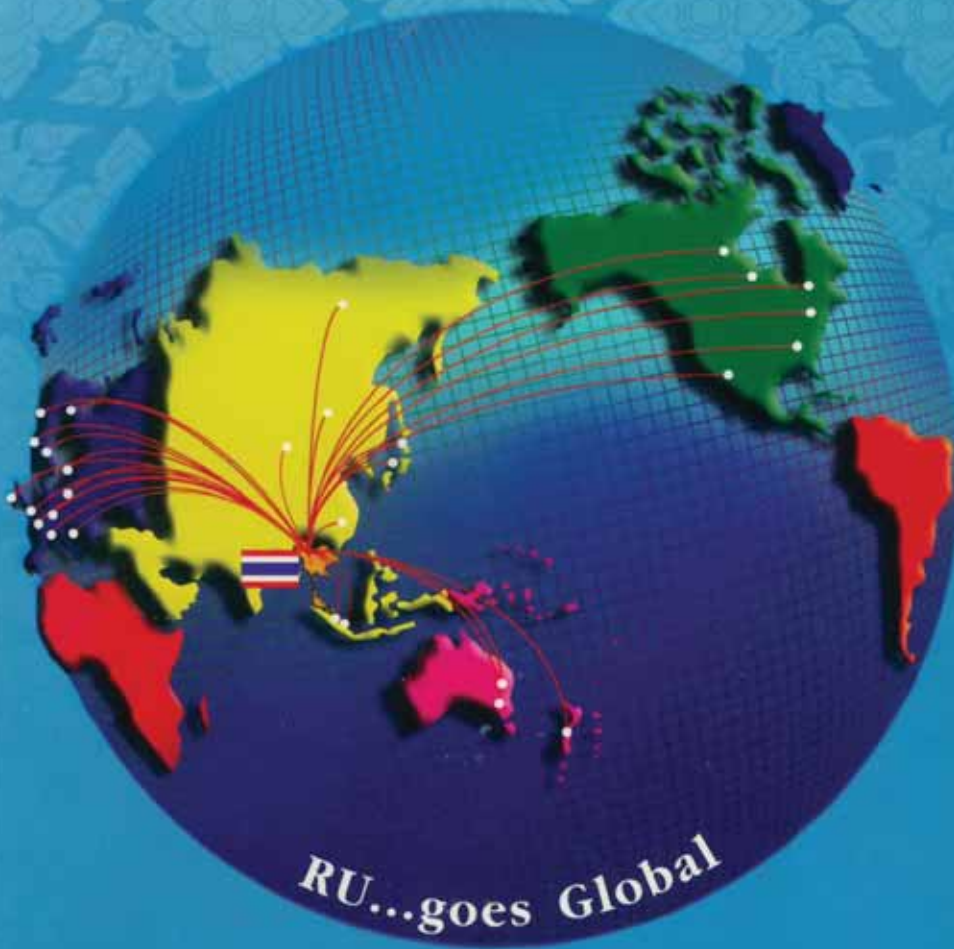


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Ramkhamhaeng University



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*President Rangsak Saengsook
Ramkhamhaeng University*

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Message from the President

My long-time association with Ramkhamhaeng University, both as a lecturer in the Faculty of Law and as President (a period of 12 years, longest tenure of any other RU President), has given me a unique perspective on the growth of the university, which I have served so faithfully for more than three decades. During my tenure here, I have witnessed the relentless growth of Ramkhamhaeng University, from a single campus at Hua Mark, to a second campus in Bang-Na and to an additional 21 regional campuses throughout the country, as well as reaching out to overseas students in 20 countries.

With a staggering enrolment of more than 500,000 students, this makes it the largest university of its kind in the world. But size alone does not even begin to account for Ramkhamhaeng's unique character; it is rather its success in keeping abreast of -- and in certain cases ahead of -- the times.

Because of its unique character as an "academic marketplace", with admission open to all, Ramkhamhaeng has for a long time offered its students two systems of instruction, in the form of both on-campus and distance learning, a field in which it has had extensive experience -- long before it became fashionable among the educational community. In this respect, the university has made judicious use of the latest technological advances in the field of IT to serve both its own students and the community at large in line with the current era of globalization. It currently uses a satellite link to provide teaching and learning at its various regional campuses through a two-way video-conferencing system. It has also set up an e-Learning Center to provide on-line courses, books and other materials via the Internet, thus setting it well on the path to becoming the country's very first e-university. An on-line Thai course, free of charge for foreigners interested in learning the Thai language, has already enjoyed phenomenal success, attracting almost 50,000 subscribers each year. And last but not least, a revolutionary concept in both education and design, the first of its kind in Thailand, is the "Mobile e-University" -- a luxury coach fitted with 39 computers connected to a satellite truck that has brought education to remote rural areas that are otherwise un-serviced by such technology.

Ramkhamhaeng University is well-known and internationally recognized because the university has made systematic efforts to develop and progress and to establish an international reputation. Academic cooperation with other institutions, both locally and internationally, has also been extended. The Institute of International Studies at Ramkhamhaeng University offers various English and Chinese programs. All courses at the Institute are taught by experienced visiting professors and lecturers from leading universities overseas, who take turns to come and lecture at the Institute. Currently, nearly 1,000 students have enrolled, consisting of both Thais and overseas students from over 35 countries worldwide.

Aggressive expansion has been the hallmark of the current administration at Ramkhamhaeng University in terms of establishing several new faculties, institutes and centers to serve both the academic and administrative needs of the staff and students, as well as creating brand-new programs of study at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, including research



programs. However, it has never been a case of expansion for expansion's sake; the driving force behind the growth of Ramkhamhaeng University has always been the desire to serve the interests of Thai society, particularly those sectors of Thai society who might otherwise have no other means of access to higher education. In this respect, ever aware of our responsibility to society at large, Ramkhamhaeng University has launched a number of programs aimed at the development of human resources in both the public and private sectors here in Bangkok and in more than 20 regional provinces as well as more overseas.

The main outcome of these development efforts is that Ramkhamhaeng University stands out as one of the best universities in Thailand, reaching out beyond the country's borders to become a world-class university.

In conclusion, Ramkhamhaeng University cares about its students, about the quality of education they receive, and about creating further opportunities for those in Thai society who have 'slipped through the net' to receive a reasonably good tertiary education. Furthermore, the university is equally interested in producing graduates who are not only academically qualified, but who are also armed with a sense of ethics and morality, and hence capable of serving as a force for good in the world. Yet despite its many achievements, Ramkhamhaeng University is not content to rest on its laurels; it is still very much a work in progress institution that will seek ever more ways to serve the educational needs of modern society in an increasingly globalized world.

R. S. SM

Rangsan Saengsook, Ph.D. (Hon.), M.P.A., LL.B.

President

Ramkhamhaeng University

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