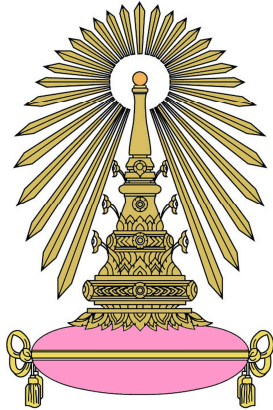


500 years of Thai-Portuguese Relations

at Chulalongkorn University
From 2nd to 4th November, 2011



On the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of Thailand-Portugal relations in 2011, the Centre for European Studies at Chulalongkorn University, representing Chulalongkorn University, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, the Instituto do Oriente / Universidade Técnica in Lisbon and the Embassy of Portugal in Thailand will organize an international seminar "**500 years of Thai-Portuguese Relations**" on **2-4 November, 2011, at the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University.**

The Thai-Portuguese relation is considered the longest relation Thailand has ever had with a western country. The relation can be traced back to the time of the Kingdom of Ayutthaya, during 16th century. Portuguese influence in Siam could be witnessed since that time; The Portuguese newcomers worked in Ayutthaya in various occupations such as craftsmen, merchants and military service, including the training in the use of guns for Ayutthaya soldiers, some were priests and others also served as the King's advisers in the royal court. Moreover, the interaction between people of the two nations lead to cultural dissemination, in the art of culinary and dessert making. In 1820, during the reign of King Rama II of the Rattanakosin Period, the King granted land on the side of the Chao Phraya River to build the first Portuguese Consulate; the place is now the Embassy of Portugal.

Relations between two nations have become closer after the First Royal visit of King Chulalongkorn to Europe and to Portugal in 1897. Portuguese descendants in Thailand have assimilated in/with Thai society and have made contributions to Thailand in many ways. Nowadays, people of both countries have been in contact for various purposes, especially trade, tourism and academia.

Contributions made at the seminar, namely presentations and interventions on panel discussions in various topics will be published by Chulalongkorn University in seminar proceedings both in English and Thai.



1511-2011
Portugal-Thailand
Five Hundred Years of
Diplomatic Relations

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