

QUOTES FROM SOME ATTENDEES WHO JOINED THE PREVIOUS EOPs

H.E. Mr. David Daly (Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand)

"I was **greatly impressed** by **the variety of sessions** we had ranging from lectures to vibrant visual and musical media. It was all **very stimulating and informative**. I felt that I learned **many small yet important** things about Thailand, which otherwise might not have discovered until much later in my posting, if at all."

H.E. Mr. Park Yongmin (Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Thailand)

"The EOP4 has provided me with **very useful and enriching information** about Thai culture and custom. And the entire two days offered **a great balance of topics** which kept the presentation **very stimulating and informative**."

H.E. Mr. Allan Joseph Chintedza (Ambassador of the Republic of Malawi to the People's Republic of China)

"The sessions were **an eye-opener and professionally delivered**, leaving **a lasting impression** and craving to learn more. The information on business and investment opportunities in Thailand, including the company profiles and their contact details was **invaluable and what every diplomat wishes to have** before being deployed to a new country."

WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW TO APPLY?

Orientation Dates: 19 – 20 March 2025

Venue: Vithes Samosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Ayudhya Road, Bangkok.

Orientation Fee: 2,500 Baht per person (2 lunches and 4 coffee breaks included)

REGISTER
HERE:



Reserve your seat by **28 February 2025**

Schedule

Day 1 – Wednesday 19 March 2025

08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.10	Welcoming Remarks by Ambassador Tharit Charungvat, Secretary-General of the Thailand Foundation
09.10 – 10.40	Prism of Thainess: Approaching Thai Society from the Perspective of Thai Values by Mr. Jonas Anderson
10.40 – 10.55	Coffee Break
10.55 – 12.10	Introducing Thai History by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dhiravat na Pombejra
12.10 – 13.10	Lunch
13.10 – 14.25	Discovering the Four Regions of Thailand by Rails by Mr. Richard Barrow
14.25 – 14.40	Coffee Break
14.40 – 15.40	Thai Economy: Thriving in Global Uncertainties by Dr. Kirida Bhaopichitr

Day 2 – Thursday 20 March 2025

09.00 – 10.15	Hidden Bangkok by Mr. Philip Cornwel-Smith
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee Break
10.30 – 11.30	Appreciating Arts Around You in Thailand by Prof. Dr. Apinan Poshyananda
11.30 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 14.00	Buddhism in the Mindset and the Ways of Life of the Thai People by Dr. Phibul Choompolpaisal
14.00 – 14.15	Coffee Break
14.15 – 15.30	Finding Your Lifestyles in Thailand by Mr. Daniel Fraser

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MORE INFORMATION:



THE SIXTH EXPATRIATE ORIENTATION PROGRAM (EOP6)

19 – 20 MARCH 2025

AT VITHES SAMOSORN HALL,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BANGKOK
THIS PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH



EXPATRIATE ORIENTATION PROGRAM by the Thailand Foundation

ENRICHING THE EXPAT EXPERIENCE IN THAILAND

People from all over the world come to live in Thailand, enjoying its hospitality, lifestyle, and economic potential. As cultural differences can be a hurdle in professional and personal life, the Thailand Foundation now offers the **Sixth Expatriate Orientation Program (EOP6) on 19 – 20 March 2025** to help expats effectively navigate their stay in Thailand.

This **two-day comprehensive learning experience** is designed for foreigners living in Thailand, including diplomats, business people, consultants, scholars, and their families. Conducted by **prominent speakers from different fields**, our sessions offer attendees a deeper understanding of **Thailand, Thai people and characteristics of Thainess**. The EOP is a rare opportunity to make expat life in Thailand more successful, enjoyable, and memorable.

WHAT WILL YOU GET?

Ways to Decode Thai Culture Understanding cultural nuances is essential, as cultural shock can impede a comprehensive experience of Thailand. Our course will clarify the complexities of Thai society, providing fresh insights into local ways of life.

Connect Better with Thai People Customs and language barriers may discourage communication with locals. We will demonstrate how to navigate Thai and international values helping you connect better with your Thai peers.

Fresh Perspective of Thailand How did Thailand come to be, and where is it heading? Attendees will explore the historical development of Thailand and its influence on the country's character, international stance, and ambitions for the future.

Prominent speakers Participants will benefit from insider expertise from prominent speakers across various fields. The sessions will provide networking opportunities to connect with other expat professionals and our acclaimed speakers.

PRISM OF THAINESS: APPROACHING THAI SOCIETY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THAI VALUES



Mr. Jonas Anderson

Values tend to shape our perspectives which in turn impact actions. In this session, we view Thai social frameworks through the "Prism of Thainess" – exploring core value systems that underlie multiple aspects of Thai ways of life. Through understanding these influencing dynamics, we may foster harmonious connectivity and mutual understanding across cultures. Equipped with the practical information and underlying elements presented, we are confident that attendees will enjoy enhanced work, leisure and social experiences in Thailand.

Mr. Jonas Anderson is known as the "farang" (white guy) who sings in Thai. Born in Sweden and raised here speaking Thai, he has since 2000 earned widespread popularity by singing the challenging folk music style of lookthung. Nine hit albums attest to his appeal with a broad spectrum of Thais young and old, from farmers to socialites.

INTRODUCING THAI HISTORY



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dhiravat na Pombejra

To grasp the dynamics and foundations of the modern Thai state, it is essential to delve into its historical journey. This session, led by a prominent historian, explores the Sukhothai, Ayutthaya, Thonburi, and Bangkok eras, drawing comparisons between local and global events of the time. Discover how monarchy, faith, commerce, and diplomacy have intertwined and developed to influence Thailand's governance and prosperity.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dhiravat na Pombejra is a noted Thai historian and a retired university associate professor. He obtained his Ph.D. from the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London) and taught at Chulalongkorn University for 21 years. Now a distinguished speaker at home and abroad, he still continues his research on the history of Ayutthaya Kingdom.

DISCOVERING THE FOUR REGION OF THAILAND BY RAILS



Mr. Richard Barrow

Despite being one of the world's most renowned tourist destinations, Thailand still has many undiscovered and overlooked dimensions waiting to be explored by foreigners. In this session, an expat citizen journalist uses Thailand's rail system as a medium to guide you through the vibrancy of its regions. Explore diverse scenes, hidden gems, and ways to make use of Thailand's interconnectivity.

Mr. Richard Barrow is a British expat who has worked and lived in Thailand for nearly 30 years. He has a profound knowledge in Thailand's transportation system, journal reports, and photography. Being well-known among the expat community, Barrow documents Thailand's breaking news and information regarding transportation infrastructure on his many websites, including Thai News Reports and Thai Train guide among others.

THAI ECONOMY: THRIVING IN GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES



Dr. Kirida Bhaopichitr

With the rapidly changing global economic conditions, supply chain realignment amid geopolitical tensions as well as technological disruptions and ageing societies, Thai economy, business, and people, will have to adapt to them in order for Thailand to sustain growth and raise the well-being of its populace. This session will guide you through the process of this adaptation. What are Thailand's fundamental economic strengths that will enable it to cope with changes? What are its challenges? What are the potentials and opportunities for Thailand amid these changes?

Dr. Kirida Bhaopichitr is the Director of Economic Intelligence Service (EIS) of the Thailand Development Research Institute, which she joined in 2015. Prior to that, Kirida was the Thailand Country Economist for the World Bank Group for 15 years. Other positions she currently holds include a member of the Khon Kaen University Council, independent director of the Government Housing Bank, etc. Kirida earned her Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University, United States.

HIDDEN BANGKOK



Mr. Philip Cornwel-Smith

Contemporary Bangkok is a startling puzzle of old and new. A renowned author on Thai culture guides you in how to 'read' the city, from its traditional meanings to its unique urban structure, which retains diverse ethnic villages. Attendees will notice the reinvention of old customs, and the localising of imports, to create the cultural hybrids that keep life here so surprising. Bangkok's street life may seem chaotic, but you'll see how a hidden order propels this engaging city.

Philip Cornwel-Smith is the author of the bestsellers *Very Thai* *Everyday Popular Culture* and *Very Bangkok: In the City of the Senses*. A Briton resident here since 1994, he was also founding editor of Bangkok's first city magazine, *Metro*, wrote several guide books including *Time Out Bangkok*, featured in several documentaries, and curated exhibitions on Thai popular culture, documentaries, and curated exhibitions on Thai popular culture.

APPRECIATING ARTS AROUND YOU IN THAILAND



Prof. Dr. Apinan Poshyananda

Thailand with her charm and heritage is packed with fascinating art and architecture that allure visitors worldwide. Multiple layers of cultural flows that left residues in the past are sparkled to life with juxtaposition of contemporary art. Examples of artworks in Bangkok Art Biennale placed in temples, museums, and heritage sites will be discussed. In turn, fusion of contemporary and heritage reflect the meaning of expatriates, immigrants, and foreigners.

Prof. Dr. Apinan Poshyananda is Artistic Director of Bangkok Art Biennale, committee of Art and Culture, Thai Beverage and One Bangkok. Former Permanent Secretary, Minister of Culture, Apinan has published and curated widely in Asia, Australia, Europe, and USA.

BUDDHISM IN THE MINDSET AND THE WAYS OF LIFE OF THE THAI PEOPLE



Dr. Phibul Choompolpaisal

For most Thais, Buddhism is a way of life. Such doctrines as the law of kamma, and Buddhist cosmology determine Thai Buddhists' mindset and behaviors. This session examines how the Buddhist mindset and practices influence Thais' daily activities, and social relations, especially deference, gifting, and service. How do they negotiate major life events like birth, marriage and death? Why do many Thais love amulets?

Dr. Phibul Choompolpaisal is a lecturer and a former Dean of the College of Religious Studies, Mahdiol University. He completed a Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He spent 13 years teaching and researching Buddhism at universities in the UK and Ireland. His publications cover various aspects of Thai Buddhism, including meditation, manuscripts, Buddhism and colonisation, and monastic education.

FINDING YOUR LIFESTYLES IN THAILAND



Mr. Daniel Fraser

Thailand has more to offer than what you may expect in terms of lifestyles and activities. In this session, a veteran traveller explores the diverse options that you and your family can enjoy outside of work life. Discover how to make the most of your time here in Thailand, not only in the professional setting. The experiences you gain may well leave a lasting memory that remains even after your tenure in Thailand.

Mr. Daniel Fraser is a Canadian expat who has been living in Thailand for over 20 years. He is a traveller, co-founder of a luxury adventure-travel company *Smiling Albino*, and a documentary travel show host. Having first-hand experiences in these fields, Fraser has deeply immersed himself in a myriad of activities that Thailand and its surrounding regions have to offer.