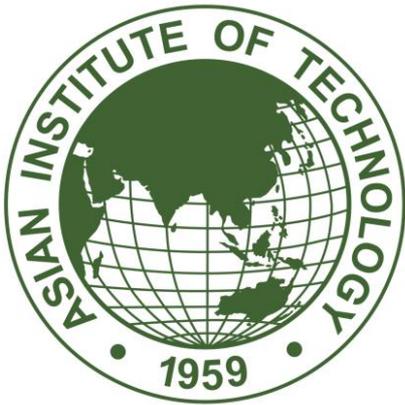


GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2019



Concept

YCA, the Yunus Center at the Asian Institute of Technology, will host a cohort of Graduate Interns next summer, during June and July. The Graduate Internship Program is one of YCA's signature programs, in which YCA collaborates with prominent national institutions in Thailand to host young leaders who come to learn with Thai counterparts.

The GIP attracts top graduate-level students who have experience of working with government, consultancies, and development programs in their respective countries, and are invariably skilled and highly motivated. The Program accepts candidates at the masters' degree level or above, typically from programs or disciplines such as Community Development, Sustainable Development, Planning & Management, Environmental Management, Policy & Governance, or Social Services Administration.

Each international intern will be placed in a host institution and this approach helps build a unique learning experience for the visitor and adds significant value to the host agency as well by contributing positively to society. Each 8-week placement is unique, because it allows every GIP candidate to co-design their own internship experience at a host organization around an issue of

particular interest. It is designed to take interns away from comfort zones and challenge their perceptions.

Interns

YCA offers a diverse learning environment, with bright, engaged individuals from all over the world sharing insights, exchanging perspectives, and learning together to produce doable ideas to solve specific problems. Advanced verbal and quantitative skills, and analytical ability are a given, while the motivation to learn across disciplines, cultures and language-barriers is a decided advantage. GIP candidates share a passion for making a difference, and bring a respectful, open-minded, people friendly, problem-solving attitude to their placement.

GIP alumni typically demonstrate self-discipline and motivation. They are invariably well-organized, focused and consistent, taking initiative in engaging with a wide variety of academic, private, public, and civil society stakeholders. GIP suits individuals who adapt well in cross-cultural settings with sensitivity and open-mindedness, and who enjoy to collaborate and share success.

GIP attracts candidates with an interest in community development, Entrepreneurship and

enterprise-led development, social business, CSR, or alternative models of social inclusion.

Program

Each intern will be assigned a YCA program peer with whom to collaborate with. The internship will begin with a one-week induction program comprising of a policy seminar that sets the context for the assignment, preliminary meetings with the host, and a co-design workshop facilitated by YCA to set mutually agreed expectations and specific milestones for the 6-week placement.

GIP Schedule – Thursday 1 June to Monday 31 July 2019

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|------------------|------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Induction |
| | - Policy seminar |
| | - Host intro & dialogue |
| | - Co-design workshop |
| Weeks 2-7 | Placement |
| | - Stakeholder workshop A |
| | - Fieldwork assignment |
| | - Milestones & Field Journal |
| | - Progress reviews YCA |
| | - Stakeholder workshop B |
| Week 8 | Synthesis |
| | - Final write-up |
| | - Panel review |

During the placement, interns will study in relative depth the host organization and map key stakeholders, with whom an inception workshop will be organized to outline the purpose and expected outcomes of the placement. Field work will follow with agreed milestones, reviewed regularly with YCA. Interns will document their observations and reflections in a field journal that will inform their recommendations as their final deliverable. Towards the conclusion of the field placement, a reflection workshop with stakeholders will be organized to share observations and receive feedback.

The final week will allow time for interns to complete their internship report and prepare for their final presentation. The report and presentation will be

reviewed by three YCA program faculty relevant to the internship topic, before being presented in a public seminar.

In addition to exploring the vibrant AIT-Thammasat university community, an hour from downtown Bangkok, interns may enroll for Basic Thai at the AIT Language Centre, and attend numerous social business events organized by YCA. Home-stays with a Thai family is an option, and there are also numerous accommodation options on campus at AIT and in the surrounding area. YCA will support the interns in finding appropriate lodgings. The internship encourages two-way learning. For the GIP scholar it is an opportunity to acquire a truly immersive experience that demonstrates public policy at work at the level of impact. For the host organization, it is a welcome prospect to gain a fresh perspective on what might be considered the norm, from a knowledgeable independent observer with relevant experience and insight.



Within the framework of activities that comprise the GIP, there is complete flexibility for the scholar and the host to mutually identify which particular topic to address or study during the 8-week program, and what specific deliverable or output to expect from each other. GIP faculty will be invited to set the context, offering their specialized inputs. A number of them will be at hand to oversee a particular placement on behalf of YCA. Host organizations will assign GIP scholars to their identified resource-person (RP) who will provide guidance over the period of the internship, and also anchor the appraisal process.

Placements

For the 2019 program, subject to confirmation, the following hosts may offer placements to GIP scholars:

PDA - Population and Community Development Association: Among Thailand's most well-regarded NGOs, PDA's primary focus is on promoting reproductive health, with significant efforts directed towards socio-economic wellbeing. PDA enjoys a high level of trust within the government, being often asked for policy recommendations, as well as implementing them in selected communities. Founder and chair, Mechai Viravaidya, a former government minister and senator, continues to wield policy influence.

GIP scholars will learn from the innovative behaviour change approaches and social enterprise innovations introduced by PDA in 40 years of work, with particular focus on how PDA operates clinics that offer safe motherhood services in a legal environment where abortions remain a cognizable offence.

RP: Dr. Wolfgang Frank

NASTDA - National Science & Technology Development Agency: Nonthaburi province, just north of the Bangkok metropolitan boundary is famous for its prized Durian, which apart from commanding a premium, brings pride to the small farmers who have grown it for generations. Booming real estate prices amid rapidly expanding mass-transit systems as well as a high demand for affordable housing in this city of 20 million means developers are buying up open land in Nonthaburi at lucrative prices. Farmers face an all too familiar urbanization dilemma, which their present leadership wishes to resolve by coming up with alternative proposals that will boost farmer incomes to a point where selling out will become a less attractive option. NASTDA is helping map existing durian trees and link communities with resources that will help them develop alternatives.

GIP scholars will get an opportunity to work with the Nonthaburi farmers' community and their representatives in reviewing the opportunities available in terms of the existing policy environment, government incentives for the farmers, and alternative livelihood opportunities, and brainstorm options for a way forward.

RP: Mr. Pisuth Paiboonrat

Mae Fah Luang - Royal Foundation: a leading one among Royal Foundations, MFLF carries forward the vision of the Princess Mother of Thailand to empower and develop hill communities in the northern provinces. Doi Tung, MFLF's flagship project is well-recognized for its innovative social enterprise model, where the Foundation has succeeded in leveraging the creative potential and traditional artisanal heritage of the hill tribes into a thriving lifestyle business. A number of MFLF's projects address environmental stewardship, optimizing water and natural resources for water-scarce or depleted ecosystems to generate sustainable resource-use for local communities, all with an entrepreneurial approach. MFLF's 35-year experience in community development and social enterprise now allows it to run projects in Myanmar, Indonesia and Afghanistan.

GIP scholars will study the MFLF models in their head office in Bangkok, and trace their impact chain through visits to a number of project sites, helping identify success factors and challenges, and articulate them into forms that can serve to further mainstream MFLF's success into national policy debate, and impact initiatives within and outside the country.

RP: Dr. Alessandro Calvani

CDD - Community Development Department, Ministry of Interior and the Thaipat Foundation: Inspired by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of King Rama IX, CDD have embarked upon a national initiative to encourage local enterprise-led development initiatives co-sponsored by major corporations listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. These initiatives call for a cadre of well-trained community mobilizers working at the

community level to build capacity of community members in creating social enterprises, and in this way leveraging the innate entrepreneurial talent of Thais. A successful and well-documented example from the Ministry's previous work is the One Tambon One Product (OTOP) program that has helped link local entrepreneurs to market mechanisms and helped build competencies through benchmarking product standards, safe packaging, and marketing support for a wide range of Thai products.

GIP scholars will work with the CDD program through the Thaipat Foundation, who with their experience in community mobilization, have a key implementing role in the emerging program. Given that the program is in its initial stage, this will be an opportunity to fundamentally impact the formulation and design of this high-priority initiative.

RP: Dr. Pipat Yodprudtikan

APYE - Asia-Pacific Youth Exchange, UN-ESCAP Regional office: Bangkok hosts the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and serves as the regional secretariat of the UN. The UN Development Programme co-hosts the APYE as part of its efforts to boost social innovation among young people in the region through cross-exposure and peer-learning opportunities carried out as an annual portfolio of activities involving youth delegates from all countries of the region. The APYE Secretariat organizes idea competitions and mentoring sessions with experts, for aspiring grassroots change-makers and social entrepreneurs and also creates opportunities for investors and promoters to engage young people with ideas in developing proofs of concept, building commercial prototypes, or scaling up.

GIP scholars will be assigned to the APYE secretariat and become part of the visualizing, planning and implementation of a particular event, or assess key aspects of a particular element of the program to recommend further optimization. The opportunity to work within the UN compound will provide personal insights into the functioning of the UN.

RP: Ms. Linka Lin

TSEO - Thai Social Enterprise Office, Office of the Prime Minister: TSEO is a government agency with the mandate to marshal resources for promoting a national culture of self-reliance through an integrated program of activities. These comprise partnerships and network-creation, promoting innovation leadership, capacity-development of emerging entrepreneurs in approaches and skills necessary for sustainable enterprises, and financial as well as non-financial incentives for emerging entrepreneurs. Funded by taxes applied on the tobacco industry channeled through the national health promotion foundation, TSEO is cited as an example of the ethical dilemmas governments face when trying to balance revenues from profitable enterprises known to cause health risks by governments by investing them in initiatives that promote human health and social wellbeing.

GIP scholars will be assigned either directly with TSEO's office in Bangkok or one of its partner organizations to study the policy and governance aspects of the TSEO model, its successes or lessons in reaching stated objectives, and informed opinions from partners such as the Stock Exchange of Thailand, about its impact.

RP: Mr. Nuttaphong Jaruwannaphong

VDF -Thailand Village Fund, Ministry of Finance: VDF is recognized as the world's second largest micro-credit program, with 79,000 villages in Thailand provided access to project or enterprise micro-financing by commercial banks through a community-driven process of engagement and approval. VDF currently administers over 5 billion U.S. Dollars in revolving funds, with plans for further expansion. Funds are primarily directed at development of entrepreneurial ventures that have revenue potential over the long term. Examples of these initiatives range from cooperative agriculture to community tourism, or fee-for-service community amenities. The VDF is designed in a way that the technical appraisal of projects is conducted by VDF offices and local representatives independent of the financial risk assessments conducted by the bank

disbursing the loans, as an attempt to eliminate possible political patronage or conflicts of interest.

GIP scholars will work primarily with the VDF national office in Bangkok, but also with identified community-based VDF units, to get an in-depth exposure to the design and operations of the VDF program, and its impact on its target constituencies. The desired outcome of the internship would be recommendations that can inform improvements in policy and practice.

Contact: Mr. Supamit Cholpraserd

YCA will make its best effort to match GIP candidates with their preference placement, but will defer to the host organization for the final decision.

GIP program faculty subject to confirmation

- Dr. Mokbul Ahmad, Rural Development
- Dr. Alessandro Calvani, Development Policy
- Dr. David Gallipeau, Social Innovation
- Dr. Tanatat Puttisawan, Development Finance
- Dr. Faiz Shah, Enterprise-led Development
- Prof. Jon Shaw, Politics of Development
- Prof. C. Viswanathan, Urban Environment
- Dr. Pipat Yodprudtikan, ASEAN integration
- Dr. Willi Zimmerman, Public Policy

Program Cost

The GIP Program is designed as a win-win-win collaboration between the intern, the host organization and YCA, intended to contribute social impact, organizational development, and professional and personal development of the intern.

YCA charges \$2000 plus a one-off registration fee of \$500 per intern for the entire 8-week program, to cover the administrative costs of running the GIP, and to enable GIP candidates to receive AIT certification following completion of the program.

Special dispensations are made for interns from developing countries.

All travel and subsistence costs are borne by interns or their home institutions. YCA can book on-campus accommodation, subject to availability, or suggest off-campus options. Bangkok downtown is an hour away on affordable public transport. Furnished single accommodation ranges from USD 250-350 a month, and a round-trip on public transport is typically USD 3. Meals average USD 5 each. Other living costs amount to approximately USD 12-15 per weekday.

Interns often consider USD 1,200-1500 per month to be sufficient.

AIT issues letters of admission to selected GIP candidates in support of education "ED" visas, if requested. Fees vary by country of origin. It is not recommended to join the internship on a tourist visa.

Contacts

For further enquiries regarding the program, please contact the GIP Manager Mr. Callum Mackenzie or the YCA Director, Dr Faiz Shah.



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