

JUNE 2015

The Scandinavian

# Bulletin



Skandinavisk Samfund Siam  
Scandinavian Society Siam





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## Chairman's Message

Lars Andersson  
Chairman  
Scandinavian Society Siam



### Dear Members of Scandinavian Society Siam,

The Scandinavian summer is here – even if weather reports from friends in our motherlands are not so cheerful. In Thailand the hot season is in its prime and, at least from my 8 years in Thailand, this is the hottest May I have experienced. Please let the rains begin! For SSS a new year has just begun with a “new” board, and we are welcoming Filip Karlsson who is taking over after Christina Hammarlund as member secretary. The rest of the board is staying on, even if we are moving around a few responsibilities. I also really want to take this opportunity to thank Christina for her hard work over the years. As you all know, SSS is a member driven organization and we exist for our members. Everyone involved is doing this without compensation. Arranging events means a lot of work, and all members are welcome to contribute by helping organizing our events or e.g. by creating interesting content for the Bulletin. If you have ideas for a new member section please let us know. Over the more than 90 years our association have existed there have been many sections that are now dormant but that could be revived by someone with the drive. I’m sure there must be something more than golfers out there?

Thanks to all of you that shared your opinions in the member survey sent out earlier this year. Thanks for your encouraging words and constructive criticism. We’ll do our best to implement your ideas. One of them is to arrange more frequent spontaneous meetups – like the after work events and Balut evening we had last year. We’ll also arrange some events in Pattaya and Hua Hin. Please also let us know if you have specific ideas!

As the oldest in the bunch, SSS will also try to take the lead in making the different Scandinavian organization work together and to help promote each other’s events. We’ve already helped promoting the Swedish National Day party and if any other Scandinavian organization has an event they believe can be of interest for the Scandinavian Community please let us know.

Happy Summer and I hope to see you all at the crayfish party!

Lars Andersson

# Lars Andersson elected new Chairman

By Thordur Adalsteinsson

Lars Andersson was elected new Chairman of the Scandinavian Society Siam at the 96th Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23 April 2015 at Rembrandt Hotel, Bangkok. Lars Andersson is succeeding Christer Holmvall, who requested to step down.

The 96th Annual General Meeting of the Scandinavian Society Siam was attended by 24 members who after the meeting joined a nice dinner in the restaurant downstairs.

The meeting started with Chairman Christer Holmvall welcoming everybody and suggesting the election of Gregers Moller as Chairman of the Annual General Meeting, which was approved.

Gregers Moller concluded that the meeting was lawfully called, but as 24 members did not constitute a quorum, any decisions taken at the meeting would have to be confirmed at an extraordinary General Meeting no later than Wednesday 6 May 2015 – two weeks after the current meeting – to decide any outcome from current meeting.

The meeting then continued with approval of the minutes from last year's Annual General Meeting and approval of the Society's activities during the last year. The main report on the activities was delivered by Christer Holmvall, while Christina Hammarlund assisted with a report on the 288 memberships and their nationality.

Treasurer Claus Gundersen then presented the audited accounts which were approved by simple majority without much discussion. The two small proposed changes in the Articles of Association was also presented by Claus Gundersen. He explained the first one was merely updating the address since the office of the lawfirm Wissen & Company had moved, and the other change just gave the board permission to change bank from Standard Chartered to any other reputable bank.

Both changes to the Articles of Association were approved by over two thirds of the members at the General Meeting but the proposals would be presented again the upcoming extraordinary General Meeting to be final.

As no other proposals had been received, the members went into election of Chairman of the Board. Christer Holmvall explained that he wanted to retire. He had among others moved to Hua Hin and pending back and forth was not practical.

As his replacement, he proposed the election of Lars Andersson – currently supplement board member - as the new Chairman, and Lars Andersson was elected new Chairman.

Next followed the election of Board members and two substitutes to the Board, where the following board was elected:

Knut Hauslo – Vice Chairman

Claus Gundersen – Treasurer

Wichien Harnpraween – Director

Dharmaporn Alexandersen – Director

Savija Pannark Korslund – Substitute

Thordur Adalsteinsson – Substitute

Under "Proposals for activities for the coming year" it was proposed that the board should arrange a Crayfish Party, a Garden Party, support a Golf Tournament in the Golf Section and other social events. The proposals were noted by the incoming Board of Directors.



**Lars Andersson**

As a backpacker in the early 90s I fell in love with this part of the world and already then I decided that I one day should come back and settle more permanently. After finishing my university studies, which ended up with a law degree with focus on business law and intellectual property, I stayed in the academic world but moved to Chalmers University of Technology where I spent 10 years working with spin-offs and education within the field of entrepreneurship and intellectual capital management – something that I long-term want to do in Thailand too. I moved to Bangkok 8 years ago but I still work with Chalmers. In Thailand I spend most of my time with Capaciton Ltd and Jopro Asia Pty Ltd, pushing for safer, cleaner and more energy efficient usage of traction batteries. To fill up my days I work with some other local start-ups, a couple of Thai universities and I am a board member in the Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce. As chairman of SSS my goal is to promote a collaborative Scandinavian community.

It was also proposed that the incoming Board of Directors should present a proposal for changes to the current Articles of Association for the members to vote on the Annual General Meeting to be held in 2016. The purpose of the revision should be to simplify the Articles of Association.

No other matters were proposed.

Gregers Moller declared the Annual General Meeting for closed and the members proceeded to the free dinner downstairs.

Two weeks later, the EGM then confirmed the proceedings from the AGM including the proposed changes to the Articles of Association.



### Christer Holmvall

I moved to Thailand in September of 2008. The original plan was to stay 6 months but it has soon been 6 years since my arrival. I already came to Thailand the first time in 1998 and loved the country, people and of course the food.

I was born in Sweden but have moved several times across borders. I spent my youth in Canada where my father was General Consul and Trade Commissioner for the Swedish Consulate and Swedish Trade Council. I then moved back to Sweden for 4 years to work and study and again went back to Canada for 18 months before moving back to Sweden again for a few years. I moved to Belgium in 1997 where I worked for a US company, then France for 2 years and back to Belgium for another 5 years before coming to Bangkok.

I was responsible for "activities" in Sweden for my company there and also a part of the Swedish Association in Belgium. I have also been active in the golf section of SSS for the past 12 months.

Workwise, I have worked now in the environmental industry - working for companies that make oil and chemical spill control and clean up products for the past 20 years. Both companies are USA based - and my role is to develop the markets in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and Australasia.

In Sweden I lived in Stockholm and Söderhamn, before moving to Toronto. Have since lived in Antwerp, Paris area, Brussels and now Bangkok This is my first year on the SSS board and it is an honor to work with this organization. We will as a team make this a fun year with as many activities as possible.



### Claus W. Gundersen

I came to Bangkok to retire at the beginning of 2011 after having worked in Africa, America and Asia for 35 years.

My career began at the East Asiatic Company in Copenhagen, where I started as an apprentice at the age of 17. After completion of my apprenticeship and military service, the company sent me to Ghana, and thereafter to Virginia in the USA, and then back to West Africa, this time Nigeria.

After having worked overseas for the East Asiatic Company for 13 years, I spent a few years in Denmark, and then moved abroad again, this time as a consultant for a tree planting project on the outskirts of the Sahara desert. After seven years' attempts to halt the desertification process, I spent some time in the Sudan and Uganda before moving to Cambodia.

I came to Cambodia on a contract for two years, but ended up spending eleven years there, working for various projects supporting the government in its efforts to develop the sectors of agriculture and rural development. While in Cambodia, I also worked for a few years for the delegation of the European Union.

After Cambodia, I moved to Vietnam, where I spent five years at a project aimed at assisting the Ministry of Education with its nationwide management reform efforts. During my time in Cambodia and Vietnam I made frequent visits to Bangkok and got to know and like the city, so when my last contract in Vietnam ended, I decided to retire here.

Shortly after arriving in Bangkok in 2011, I was invited to join the board of Scandinavian Society Siam. This turned out to be a good opportunity to get to know a large number of Scandinavians living in Thailand and it has resulted in many new friendships.

While in Bangkok, I go bicycling every morning to keep fit, but I also do some consultancy work in between, mostly in Cambodia, and I spend a couple of months every summer in my summerhouse in Denmark.



### Knut Hauslo

Board member

My first visit to Thailand was in 1987, on a job related trip, coming from Japan on the way back to Europe and Norway. Only a short stopover for a couple of days in Bangkok. I found the city with the river Chao Phraya, the klongs, temples, and people very exotic. And the food arøy, arøy!

At that time I had no idea about what would later be my possibly "last return" to Thailand, that took place beginning of June 2000. Since then I have been here. ABB Offshore Systems in Norway, as my employer, had placed a contract for building of a number of offshore topside modules (for converting a tanker into an FPSO) with their sister company in Thailand. I came here as site manager on the project that lasted for 6 months. However, the project turned out to be a big success. So new projects were awarded, and I was asked to stay on, partly site manager, partly project manager.

End of 2004 my employment was taken over by the Thai Company. ABB had at that time sold out their Oil & Gas upstream business. And Vetco Aibel was now the name of my employer. Later it changed to only Aibel Ltd, a subsidiary of Aibel AS in Norway.

With Aibel I was working as Business Development & Bidding Manager. The biggest module fabricated during my time with Aibel was a single unit of about 4000 ton weight. At that time the biggest single unit ever shipped out of Thailand. Only beaten by a 6000 ton unit that Aibel sent to Statoil and Norway last year.

I retired in 2009, however, my wife Anne-Marie is still working, at the Norwegian Embassy. And we have no plans about a return to Norway.

My educational background is within engineering and economic from Karlsruhe in Germany. After my studies I worked at the Technical University in Karlsruhe. And I spent around 12 years in Germany, where I also met my wife, and we have been together for more than 43 years by now.



### **Savija Pannark Korslund**

Vice Chairwoman and Event Manager

When I was 14 years old, in 1994, I moved to Denmark with my mother and my sister. Arriving to a new country and trying to adjust to Denmark and Danish culture was not easy, as everything was new and the language felt absolutely 'impossible'. But I managed to achieve my Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and later on worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers (pwc).

In 2006 my husband got the chance to work at UNODC in Bangkok and I came along. Shortly after moving to Bangkok (thanks to Gregers Møller) the Danish Embassy approached me with a job offer which I accepted, after which I served the Danes and their families in and around Thailand for 4 ½ years. For one year (2010-2011) I decided to return to Denmark - because of serious illness in my family - and during that time was working at the Danish Immigration Service in Copenhagen.

The year in Copenhagen seemed to fly by fast and when a new exciting opportunity presented itself to me, I jumped at the chance and returned to Thailand once again in July 2011, taking on the challenge of heading the Danish-Thai Chamber of Commerce as Executive Director. Once again, I was surrounded by (mostly) Danes. My professional career among Danes continued when I, in June 2013, accepted a position with Kvik Asia Co., Ltd.

I have always been closely connected to, and felt at home in, the Scandinavian community in Bangkok which seems to continue to be a good match for the future, as I was elected as one of the SSS Board Members last month. Besides being on the Board of SSS, I am also a committee member of TDC (Thai Danish Club) which is an active group of people who either have lived or worked in Denmark - mostly, the members are Thais.

With my Thai and Danish background, I believe I can contribute a lot to SSS and I will do my best to serve our members as long as I am part of the Board.



### **Thordur Adalsteinsson**

Media Editor

I came to Thailand for the first time 8 years ago to work and to start up a company with some friends. My background is that after my economics studies in Iceland I travelled to Copenhagen to study Media and Graphic Design. Soon after graduation I started working for MTG Interactive which was the Media House owned by Investment AB Kinnevik Group in Copenhagen. This was early days for the Internet in 1995 where I would be designing and programming websites for the likes of Nordic Films, TV1000 and TV3.

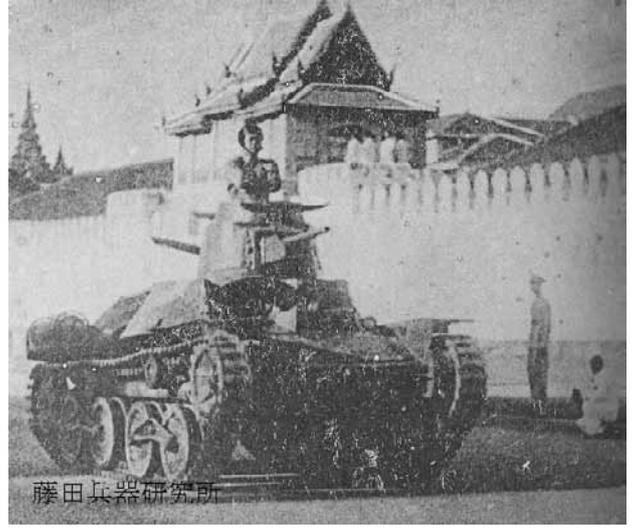
I was then appointed Web Production manager of Icon Medialab and set to managed a production unit of 25 people. In 2002 when the Dot Com burst came our company was closed and I went back to Iceland to work in TV commercial production for the Media House 365 Midill.

Where I would be designing and Video editing TV commercials. It was then in 2007 that I decided to join up with old friends and start up a online ad agency in Asia. Thailand became the logical choose and Area Digital co ltd was founded in Thailand 2007. Our idea was to move the web production to Asia where the cost would be minimal to service clients in Scandinavia. Our focus is to offer Web development and Graphic design for online marketing and branding. Then in 2011 Area Digital owner ship was restructured and I became the Managing Director of Area Digital Co Ltd which is now a Online Media Ad Agency in Bangkok. I hope to help SSS with their overall media presence.



### **Filip Karlsson**

My name is Filip Karlsson and I'm 39 years old and i come from the north of Sweden. I live here in Bangkok with my wife Marlyn and my two kids Zach and Phil. In 2007 I moved abroad to the Middle East (Dubai) where I stayed for 7 years. In 2014 we moved to our head office to Thailand, Bangkok where I work for Pecunia Asset Management in finance helping expats plan their financial future. In my spare time I like to spend with my family, friends and I also try to play golf once in a while. I really look forward working with SSS planning events and trying to get as many Scandinavians together. For all the golfers here I really recommend also joining the SSS golf section where it's monthly tournaments with great fun and dinners.



# The Danes during Japanese occupation years

In mid-August 1945 Imperial Japan surrendered and World War II ended. On Tuesday 25 August 2015, Scandinavian Society invites members to a special evening at Admirals' Pub & Restaurant looking back at the role of the Danes who managed to stay "free" during the occupation.

By Gregers Moller

After the Japanese occupation of Thailand on 2 December 1941, the British and Dutch residents were rounded up immediately. The Danes in Thailand were, however, considered allies of the Germans and were allowed to remain free and continue their business.

Heritage Section of the Scandinavian Society Siam would like to invite members to an evening on Tuesday 25 August at Admiral's Pub and Restaurant in Bangkok, where we will go through various records of how the Danes in Thailand handled their difficult position. Some engaged themselves in dangerous activities helping the prisoners of war who were dying in the thousands building the railway to Burma up in Kanchanaburi. Others were less active but still constantly in danger of being arrested and interrogated by the cruel Japanese military police.

The novel, "Allieret med Fjenden" by Ancher Norballe describes his own childhood in Bangkok during the Japanese occupation and how the family survived. Although it is fiction, it gives a good impression of how living conditions were in Thailand at the time and what went on in the Danish colony, which is despotic father hated.

Among other things he recalls the gap between the liberation of Denmark on 5 May 1945 - and the liberation of Thailand in mid-August 1945. During these months, the Japanese became increasingly aware that the Danes were not the allies of the German nazies and demanded that they should be interned. The Thai authorities who were told to do it, said yes - but did not do it. Pushed again, they managed to drag out the whole affair until the surrender of the Empire of



Japan was announced by Imperial Japan on August 15 1945. Still, it was not formally in place before September 2, 1945.

Another key document is a report by Christian Frederik Schiøpffe about the Danes in Thailand and how they were involved in the underground work and the relief work in the first year after the war ended. Schiøpffe came to Malaya with the help of Aage Westenholz where he worked with the plantations until his company went bankrupt during the crisis in the 1930's. Schiøpffe moved to Bangkok without any money but became manager (later owner) of Hotel Europe in Suriwong Road where the Danes came together. After the war he was involved with organising the assistance for the POW and the interned allied civilians. Schiøpffe was Chairman of for Dansk Samfund Siam 1938-39 og the librarian of the Society 1931-46. He returned to Denmark in 1946 where he worked at

Hærens Arkiv under the Rigsarkivet. He wrote a substantial manuscript about Danes in foreign service during the war, but it has since been lost.

Finally we will read parts of the trilogy "Malaya" by Emanuel Kjar. The Japanese put him to work with the plantations in the south of Malaysia and he was close to the people in Danish colony in Singapore who just like in Thailand remained "free" throughout the war. Kjar kept a diary during the entire war and his observations are therefore not coloured by hindsight but simply day to day observations of the cruelty of the Japanese occupation force and the sufferings of the population.



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Scandinavian Golf Thailand

# Golf REPORT

By Christian Stenhammer

Since the last issue of the Bulletin there has of course been golf played, two SSS tournaments has been played to be exact. The participating players has been sweating liters on the golf course during the hot season despite the heat we have seen some great scores and the spirit of all golfers has, as always, been on top.

One of the highlights of the year was SAAB/SEB event held on beautiful Black Mountain on 21st March. This year we were 100+ golfers participating, the event was perfectly arranged by all involved. The golf day started with lunch in the clubhouse to the tones of C-M Carlsson playing the piano. C-M is a golfer despite trying to convince him for two years to join the golf tournament he will not. Maybe it's a good omen as if he was just half as good at golf as he is playing the piano no one else would stand a chance of winning. The tournament is shotgun format so shortly





before the start all golfers head to the buggy parking and from there it's a scene of itself to watch all buggies drive out to the golf course at the same time and the packed buggy parking becomes empty in minutes. SAAB/SEB event consists of two parts, one is the regular individual stableford event, the other is a team event where the two best scores from each team of four counts.

Following the golf all players got to enjoy a great buffet dinner prepared by Mårten and his team at Black Mountain, again to the tones of C-M Carlsson. Good food, good music and good company - a great way to end a great day!

In the A group it was a home victory, Black Mountains Patrik Erlandsson playing of handicap 5 won with 39 points, anyone who has tried golf understands this is a great score. Second place was tight, three players

had 37 points where Bjarne Kjersner took the second spot due to the lowest handicap of the three, Bjarne played of handicap 8. In third place came Thomas Terpager playing of handicap 12 and unlucky fourth was Petcharat Jiambutr, handicap 14.

Over to the B group, the scores were not as high as in the A group but still great efforts. There were two players with 34 points and, again, due to a lower handicap Arnstein Rustberggard, playing of handicap 18, nailed the first place ahead of Magnus Hagman who played of handicap 20. In third place was Krister Holmvall with 33 points.

The team event was won by Kristian Wensell, Patrik Erlandsson, Leo Alexandersen and Per Thuresson with 89 points. As you can see Patrik was also a member of the winning team so he took the double, there is no doubt who was the golfer of the day.

We would like to express our appreciation to SAAB, SEB and Black Mountain for arranging this special day that we hope will continue for many years to come.

Second event since the last golf update was Blufox / Oakwood event on 2nd May at Lakewood Country Club. The course was short and no to challenging and this clearly showed in the results with very good scores and high points in the stableford event, 17 players played on their handicap or better. The golf was followed by delicious dinner, drinks and prize ceremony at Admirals Pub at Oakwood Residence Sukhumvit soi 24.

Over to the scores. Winner of the A group with an incredible 44 points was Petcharat Jiambutr, playing of handicap 16, so this made up for her unlucky fourth place from

*Continued on page 10*



# Golf Report

Continued from page 10

Black Mountain. Second place in A group was another lady, Namfon Plengsunthie with 43 points also playing of handicap 16. In third place with 42 points was Jan Hammarlund playing of handicap 11. We also have to mention that in fourth place was Filip Karlsson also with 42 point but with a higher playing handicap than Jan. The only two ladies in the A group claimed the top two spots - well done.

In group B John Andersson won, also with an equally incredible 44 points, playing of handicap 18, second was Kenneth Hovmoller with 41 points and in third place came Henrik Langer with 39 points. C group was won by Helena Ahola with 26 points. As you can see there were some incredible scores, it must be hard for Filip with 42 points but not even finish top three.

Thank you Erik at Blufox and Bjorn at Oakwood for arranging this great day and for your continuous support.

With two tournaments left of the season the MVP race is still open, currently Kenneth

Hovmoller is leading with 48 points, followed by John Andersson on 40 points. Petcharat's good scores over the last two tournaments has taken her to third place in the MVP race. Many points left to play for so it's still anyone's game.

On top of the putting competition is Petcharat with an average of 28.8 putts, close behind in second place is Juha Saarinen with an average of 29.2 putts and in third is the golf captain himself, Kristian Wensell, with an average of 29.6 putts. Thailand, Finland and Norway on top of the putting competition, seems like the Swedes needs to do some putting training.



## Scandinavian Society Siam

### Upcoming Events

- 23 August** Zabai Golf Sherwin Cup  
Course : Kiartee Thane
- 25 August** The Danes during the Japanese  
occupation 1941-1945
- 13 September** Zabai Golf Wissen Cup  
Course : Thana City
- 26 September** Cray Fish Party
- 15 November** Zabai Golf Kvik Cup  
Course : Bangkok Golf Course
- December** Christmas – Church

More info : [www.sss.or.th](http://www.sss.or.th)  
and [www.zabaigolf.com](http://www.zabaigolf.com)

## Thai-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce

### Upcoming Events

- 04 June 2015** Visit to Samitivej Hospital & Breakfast  
Talk "Technological Innovations in  
Healthcare"
- 04 June 2015** NYP Networking on 4 June 2015 at  
18:30-21:00hrs at Mikkeller Bangkok.
- 11 June 2015** Annual Summer Party on 11th June  
2015, 18:30 - 22:00hrs at Red Sky  
Rooftop bar, Centara Hotel.

More info : [www.norcham.com](http://www.norcham.com)

## Danish-Thai Chamber of Commerce

### Upcoming Events

- 03 June 2015** DTCC Breakfast Seminar: Building  
**7:00 am - 9:30 am** High Impact Corporate DNA  
across cultures Sheraton Grande  
Sukhumvit Hotel, Bangkok
- 04 June 2015** Nordic Young Professional  
**6:30 pm - 9:00 pm** Networking @ Mikkeller Bangkok  
Mikkeller Bangkok, Bangkok
- 20 August 2015** DTCC "Networking"  
**6:30 pm - 9:00 pm** Networking Night  
Ocean@Bangkok, Bangkok

More info : [www.dancham.or.th](http://www.dancham.or.th)

## Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce

### Upcoming Events

- Thursday,** Monthly Networking at the  
**04 June 2015** Huntsman's  
**18:00**
- Saturday,** NATIONAL DAY DINNER PARTY  
**06 June 2015**  
**18:30**
- Tuesday,** Exclusive dinner series With  
**09 June 2015** H.E. DR. Wisaanu Krea-Ngam,  
**18:30** Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

More info : [www.swecham.com](http://www.swecham.com)



Scandinavian Society Siam would like to announce that for the upcoming year SSS will, together with other Scandinavian organizations in Thailand, focus on a more collaborative environment and SSS will help promote events that have a Scandinavian nature or help connect Thailand and Scandinavia.

If you have event in mind that you would like to share with SSS members or even setup just send information about the event to our email : [event@sss.co.th](mailto:event@sss.co.th)

SSS Board



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## APPLY NOW FOR KIS IB DIPLOMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Ririka's KIS scholarship gave recognition for her outstanding academic performance. She scored 42 on her IB Diploma in May and is now attending the University of Tokyo on a full scholarship.

Earn, class of 2014 was already at KIS when he received his KIS Scholarship. He scored a perfect 45 on his IB Diploma and is now studying Physics at Imperial College London.

Beam received early admission to Medical School at Tulane University in the United States and was granted 100,000 US\$ scholarship there.

Our scholarship students (both existing KIS students and new students) on average scored 39 points on their IB Diploma, well above the global average of 29 points.

These are just a few examples of the achievements of our scholarship students. Apply now if you would like to be considered for the One Million Baht IB Diploma scholarship or another academic scholarship at KIS. For more information or to apply go to [www.kis.ac.th](http://www.kis.ac.th) or email [admissions@kis.ac.th](mailto:admissions@kis.ac.th)

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