# THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY Newsletter Vol. 9 No. 4 October - December 2006



## Congratulations!!!

Asst. Prof. Dr. Kaewta Rohitratana and Ajarn Suntichai Kotcharin, BBA Committee, have recently received Associate Professor and Assistant Professor position, respectively.



Dr. James Edward Rubesch, Dr. Aurathai Lertwannawit and Dr. Tanachote Boonvorachote have recently their Doctoral of Business Administration-English Programs, DPM (Marketing), JDBA respectively, at Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Thammasat University.

Miss Sirimas Amatayakul; BBA alumni#8, received the Fulbright Scholarship for studying in Master degree at Northwestern University, USA Moreover, Miss Thiratee Vongruamlarp; BBA alumni#8 and Miss Kanyachat Suebjaklap; BBA alumni#10 have recently received the Fulbright Scholarship.

### Hello....

This issue is full of pictures and news of BBA activities that we had during the past three months...Graduation Ceremony, TUBC & PTT Group International Case Competition and much more....

Last month until the beginning of October, most of you have to work hard and do well in the mid-term exams. Hope all of you have a good grade.

....Editors...

## Welcome

BBA International Program would like to welcome Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kritsadarat Wattanasuwan as a new BBA Committee member.

Kritsadarat Wattanasuwan is presently Associate Professor of Marketing at the Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand. She has taught a variety of marketing courses at Thammasat Business School since 1985 at the undergraduate, M.B.A., Executive M.B.A. and Ph.D. levels. Her teaching specialities include Consumer Behaviour, Interpretive Research Methods and Brand Management.

Associate Professor Wattanasuwan has a considerable teaching experience in various international programmes. She has also been an adjunct or visiting scholar at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration (Wu-Wien), Austria.

Associate Professor Wattanasuwan has published a number of marketing case studies for Marketing Association of Thailand as well as research papers in both national and international publications, including Thammasat Review, International Journal of Advertising and Advances in Consumer Research. Academically her research focuses on symbolic consumption, particularly on how consumers employ everyday consumption symbolically to create or re-create their identities. She also looks at how consumers exercise certain consumption



activities to immortalise themselves or their beloved. Recently she has planned to write a book on consumer behaviour.

Associate Professor Wattanasuwan holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Consumer Behaviour from the University of Oxford in England, a Master of Science in Environmental Change and Management from the University of Oxford in England, a Master of Business Administration from Eastern Michigan in the U.S.A., and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Thammasat University in Thailand.







Graduation Ceremony

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn presided over the Graduation Ceremony, which was held on Thursday 10th August 2006.

There were 81 BBA graduates; 35 graduates are accounting major, 16 graduates are finance major and 30 graduates are marketing major.

It was such a joyful and happy moment for the graduates and their families and friends. Parents and teachers are so proud. Their delightful and beaming faces are unforgettable. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all graduates. Best wishes and good luck on your journey! CHEERS ....

Surely, both the new student and parents could broaden their perspective and get the clearer picture of what we are doing and what we will do in the future in order to make every BBA students become the successful and valuable human resource in the business world.





"As a result of the graduation, we have compiled top students for each major. Here are their suggestions of "How to be number one""



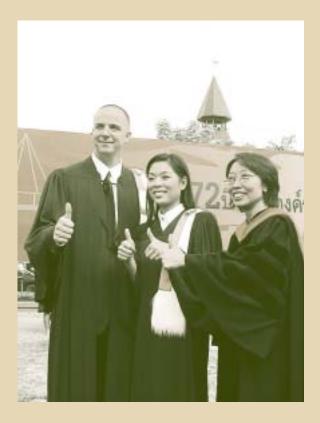
My goal has always been "Enjoy everything I am doing". I believe if you have a positive perspective towards the task assigned, you can accomplish it easily. There are overwhelming numbers of academic and non-academic activities you can participate during your BBA life. Enjoy them! All you have to do is to be responsible for the part you play and play it well. Manage your time properly. You will find that BBA life is not totally about studying. It is also about fun!







Number one...? quite hard to accept that because I don't really think I am. So, it would be better to share with you my experience about "How to make the university life easier & happier." Time management is the key. No one can spend 24 hours just for studying or reading books which is not really good idea. It is better to balance among education, activity and socialization. Study hard when you're in class but also take a break if you feel bad. Most people believe I read a lot or far ahead the exam period. Frankly speaking, I like listening more than reading. That explains why I normally paid attention to what Ajarns said and tried to understand the material in class. Once you understand it, the knowledge will be deeply embedded in you. In brief, listen in class, synthesize the information by thinking, ask if you have questions, relax after class and skim through your notes before exam. Remember, don't be too shy to ask if you don't know, in fact, someone may say thank you when you're asking. Finally, Ajarns and friends can help you a lot. Without their support, I wouldn't reach this point.



Do you need good grades in university?

It is inarguable that grades are important. Good grades can help you to continue on into graduate schools, get the jobs you want, and so much more. Here are some tips and tricks that we would like to pass on to all my BBA roon nongs.

We learnt that paying attention in class is the best and easiest thing you can do. It shortens the time you have to spend to revise for exams. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Your ajarns are more than happy to help you with any problems you may have. We never left a class with a question mark on my face. We also came to realize that collaboration is vital. We liked to study and shared notes with our friends. We were able to ask each other questions and formulate problems that we thought would be important. Explaining and discussing something to a friend helped me clarify and reinforce my own learning. Don't be stingy and keep everything to yourself!

That being said, remember that grades are important, but they are not everything. Getting the most out of your 4 years at BBA is all about balancing your academic and social lives. Have fun but also be responsible!

## Activities



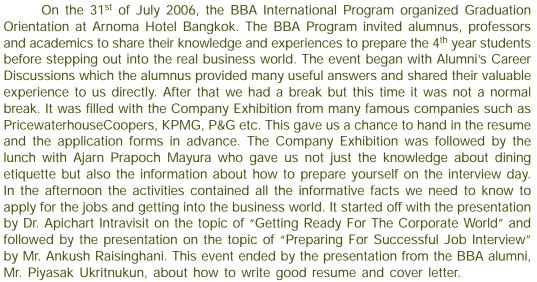


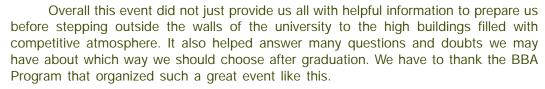






#### **Graduation Orientation**









## BBA on Tour in Thailand

The BBA International Program joined in the Educational Fair, which was held by the Ministry of University Affairs. We visited the up-country students, counselors and parents at Suranaree University of Technology, Nakornrashasima during July 20-21 and Ubon Rajathanee University, Ubon Rajathanee during August 18-19.

For the roadshow in Bangkok, the BBA International Program joined in the Education Fair which was held by the Ministry of University Affairs at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center during July 27-30 and Blue-Planet Media & Education Company during June 29 - August 9.



## TUBC & PTT Group International Case Competition



















TUBC & PTT Group International Case Competition was a very successful event. It was held from August 15 to 19, 2006. Through out the whole event, participants mingled and got to know new people from around the globe on trips and during events prepared by the TUBC committee. Participants, who arrived early on August 15, attended a dinner cruise on the Chao Pra Ya River, while the other 4 teams that arrived later met everyone on the trip to Ayudhaya and at the Opening Ceremony on August 16.

The following day, when the event officially began, teams pick up their cases according to their time slots they had drawn during the Opening Ceremony dinner. Teams then, had exactly 40 hours to read, analyze, and find a recommendation for the issues they have identified. Although there were a few problems through the 40 hours, the TUBC successfully dealt with them and solved everything as best as they could.

Overall, every team did very well; giving the judges a hard time to chose which teams from each division should advance to the final round. The four teams that advanced to the final round were Assumption University, Thammasat University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong and The University of Texas at Austin, USA.

These four teams then presented their ideas in front of different a panel of judges and the general public who attended the event. In the end,

Texas University won the judges' hearts, taking first place, with our Thammasat University team following in second place and Chinese University of Hong Kong and Assumption University in third and fourth place, respectively.

TUBC committee would like to congratulate all four teams for advancing into the final, and especially our four Thammasat participants Mr. Chananun Panchasarp, Miss Pantharee Sukumpeeranont, Miss Pantira Chotchaisathit, and Mr. Tanwa Chinnapha for receiving the second place, and doing a wonderful job representing our university and making Ajarn James Paul Fitzpatrick, their advisor, very proud of them.

Lastly, we would like to thank you PTT Group for its financial support, all the judges for sparing their time out of their busy schedule to attend out event on August 19, Amari Watergate Hotel for providing us with a place to hold our event and all the TUBC committee members that gave a helping hand in preparing and organizing the event through out the four long days. Without them, the TUBC & PTT Group International Case Competition wouldn't have been possible. Thank you all.



## Samsung Marketing Contest 2006





During the past summer break of 2006, Thai Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd organized its first Samsung Marketing Contest that allows junior and senior university students from universities around Thailand to prove their talents in the challenging marketing field. As of the first round, there were over a hundred teams excitedly registered for the campaign as they realized the opportunity to experience the real challenges face by marketing people in consumer electronic goods industry.

Samsung new MP3, YPT 55, was assigned as the main theme of this first round. Students were asked to create an innovative MP3 promotional campaign that must be really practical in the real situation. All the presentations were scanned by Samsung officers in order to search for around 50 best presentations that qualified for getting into the second round, which these teams have to further make the actual presentations. Only the best twelve teams, that include altogether five teams from BBA program, were selected into the final round. For the final task, each team had to strategically perform the evaluation of current marketing practices of certain Samsung strategic product categories, which are mobile phone, printer, refrigerator, washing machine and lastly LCD, within a given period of three weeks. Although this fierce competition involved many intelligent students, only three excellent teams were given the awards as the recognition of an outstanding performance in marketing communication planning. Among these awards, the second and the third winning awards went to team Imagine and Pre-Size from BBA Program of Thammasat University, respectively. The teams consist of the following fourth year students:



Imagine: Mr. Bundit Praditsukthavorn

Miss Issariya Woraphiphat Miss Natcha Wongpaitoonpiya Miss Punthip Anunta-annop Miss Yonkamol Arunrugtichai Pre-Size: Miss Jennifer Uy

Miss Orrawan Montien

Miss Poungtip Thampanichwong

Miss Verisa Vichayawong

# y Miss Ruksawaan Yanyongkasemsuk BBA#

## Exchange Program

## **Partner University**

On Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Thammasat University welcomed Prof. Dr. Michael Frenkel, Rector of WHU. He had a meeting with Dean Gasinee Witoonchart, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kulpatra Sirodom, Curriculum Chairman of IMBA Program & Director of BBA International Program. After the meeting, he had lunch with the Vice Rector for International Affairs Pimpan Vessakosol and Assistant to the Rector for International Affairs Oraya Sutabutr at Supatra River House. In the afternoon, Asst. Prof. Dr. Kangwan Yodwisitsak took him to visit Thammasat University, Rangsit Campus. Then, he had the dinner with Dean Gasinee Witoonchart, Prof. Dr. Robert T. Green, Vice President of BBA International Program, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kulpatra Sirodom and Mrs. Narisa Klieothong, BBA Exchange Coordinator. There was



a good opportunity for the Dean and Prof. Dr. Michael Frenkel to sign a memorandum for an exchange program between WHU and Thammasat University which Prof. Dr. Robert T. Green and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kulpatra Sirodom were as witnessers.

## BBA#13 Outgoing Exchange students Farewell Party



Participating in the exchange program is certainly one of the goals of many BBA students here. This year, forty students from BBA#13 got selected to be the outgoing exchange students to prominent partner universities around the world. In order to make them ready for the new experiences and to say good bye, the farewell party was held on Wednesday 28th June 2006. The party was nice and small and it was held at Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel. The evening



began by the welcoming speech from Asst. Prof. Jittaporn Sriboonjit, Assistant Dean for International Affairs. Right after that, we have another warm welcome from Associate Prof. Gasinee Witoonchart, the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy. Also, we had exchange coordinators from UNC (Mr. Mark Scullion & Ms. Erin Benavides) as our honorable guests. While we were having a divine dinner, Dr. Prinya Thaewanarumitkul, Vice Rector for Student Affairs, talked to us about Thammasat University. Dr. Prinya emphasized that we all should be proud to be representatives of Thammasat of as well as gave us some suggestions about how to be Thammasat's good ambassadors.

The evening was really enjoyable and we all know we have to be good ambassadors bringing students from around the world to experience our beautiful culture and the University that we are so proud of. Good luck to all outgoing exchange students!!

#### **Orientation for International Students**

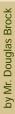


On August 9, the Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Thammasat University held the Orientation for International Students Fall 2006. The program started with a welcoming and greeting by Asst. Prof. Jittaporn Sriboonjit; Assistant Dean for Foreign Affairs. After that she informed undergraduate and graduate exchange students about Life on Campus. Furthermore, she took the exchange students to Thammasat University Tha Prachan Campus Tour.

On August 3, the International Affairs of Thammasat University held the International Student Orientation. There were about 100 international students (BBA, BE and Thai Studies exchange students) to join this event. First, welcome speech by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pimpan Vessakosol; Vice Rector for International Affairs. After that, the International Affairs invited Mr. Matthew Ference; 2<sup>nd</sup> Counsel, Visa Department, US Embassy, to share his experience when he was as a foreign student. Next, Mr. Edward Geerson; International Student Advisor, informed students about visas, procedures-regulations-expectations at Thammasat and Thai Culture. Moreover, Thai studies staff talked to them about Campus facilities and services.



## UNC Study Tour







My UNC study abroad trip to Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand, though brief, was packed with information about both a culture that I had very limited knowledge of and of a growing business environment that in some ways was familiar but in most foreign to Americans. During our time in country we visited many ancient and modern palaces and historical sites. It was amazing to see the level of detail that was put into these obviously very special works of art. Though America has many large cities, none even compare to the sheer density, vast culture, and extremely different pace of life that Bangkok offers. The night markets are definitely a place of interest and a great place to polish up on your negotiation skills as well. On the days we were not touring the city we toured various established firms, factories, and growing companies and

met many of their respective executives and senior management. This was a first for most of us, if not all of us, having the opportunity to ask one-on-one questions with a major CEO or analyst and get honest feedback. We learned of business techniques as well as personal advice on how to deal with success and especially the failure that usually precludes it. We even had the opportunity to give our honest first hand opinion of a growing company that needed some young "consultants'" advice on everything from layout, customer service, menu items, down to the logo and company mascot. Though we were paid with food, it was an eye opening and enjoyable experience for all of us. The faculty at Thammasat University also was on hand for several informal lectures and discussions. We learned of the history of Thailand and other parts of Asia and how these ties still affect business in the region today. We learned that many of the problems that Thailand is dealing with are very similar to most countries' problems in this Global business environment that we live in. I cannot conclude this paper without also mentioning that none of this would have been possible without Narisa (Pam) Klieothong who took care of everything under the sun so that we could have the most enjoyable trip possible. Without her we truly, would have been lost.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity!,

#### UNC Study Tour



Finally June 24<sup>th</sup> arrived. I had anticipated the trip to Bangkok for months and I was so excited when the plane lifted off at the Raleigh Durham International Airport. After flying for a day, we finally arrived at the Bangkok International Airport and were greeted by the sweetest person–Pam. Every minute in Thailand was precious and Pam saw to it that all of our days abroad were organized and productive.

There were two parts of the summer study abroad program–lectures and company visits. The lectures on the Thai Culture, managing a business in Thailand, and the Thai economy were enhanced with visits to the Thailand Stock Exchange, Citigroup, Unilever, Sharp Electronics, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), McDonalds Thailand, and Chester's. It was so much easier to understand the Thai business world by being on site and meeting the people. All of the visits were so good that it would be



hard to pick a favorite. As the result of my trip, I am now very interested in a career in international business focusing on Southeast Asia.

In addition to spending time in the class-

room and visiting businesses, we toured the Grand Palace and Ayudhaya, spent three days in Hua Hin at Dusit Resort, and saw a Thai Dramatic Performance. Each location and event was special as I had my picture taken with a Thai guard outside the Grand Palace, rode an elephant in Ayudhaya, saw a beautiful beach, and enjoyed an excellent show.

Just being in Thailand and experiencing Thai life was exhilarating. One of my friends and I took a wild ride zooming through Bangkok in a tuk tuk. We also rode on the BTS and on the underground subway. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, I turned 21 and we celebrated my birthday on top of the Banyan Tree Hotel. I enjoyed watching my friend, Jeremy, negotiate with the merchants to help me buy souvenirs for my family at the night market and the weekend market. I even grew accustomed to the daily rainstorms. It was heartbreaking to leave Bangkok after spending two of the best weeks of my life experiencing a totally different culture. Hopefully, I will have the opportunity to return to Bangkok to study and work.

From the time I arrived at the airport-a place that I'd never really planned on seeing until the conception of this program-I knew I was in a truly remarkable and dynamic place. Not only was I greeted with hospitality beyond measure, immediately I was struck by the energy and innovation of Thailand. (Of course, the heat and humidity struck me too!) From the first day,

the program was planned perfectly down to the very last detail: company visits, tours, elephant rides, speakers, shows, transportation, shopping, and best of all-meals. In the classrooms, the faculty did great job in immersing us into the context of business in Thailand, giving us a deeper understanding of the businesses that we visited as well as facilitating a greater awareness of our international connectedness. From the classroom, we were able to take our new knowledge with us as we visited companies and commerce hubs around the citya direct application of learning that I found especially valuable.

Besides the lectures, company visits, and cultural field trips, and of course our trip to Hua Hin, I really



enjoyed getting to know some of the BBA students. All were incredibly welcoming and

inspiring, and hopefully the brief connections made will transcend the 11-hour difference to develop into a greater understanding of the world from which both sides can benefit. Many thanks to all who made our experience such an educating and memorable one. Now I just need to figure two things: 1) how I can get back over there really soon, and 2) where I can get can authentic Thai cuisine in the meantime...



by Miss Victoria Beasley GLIMPSE Thailand Summer 2006: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kenan Flagler Undergraduate Business-Class of 2008

#### **UNC** Study Tour

This past summer, I spent two life-changing weeks in Thailand as a part of the UNC Chapel Hill summer study program, GLIMPSE. UNC Chapel Hill partnered with Thammasat University to create a dynamic, educational, and inspiring program. The program was excellently run and coordinated by Narisa Klieothong. Over these two weeks, my classmates and I studied many aspects of international business. We also learned about, and eventually grew very fond of, the Thai people and their culture.





Academically, I was completely immersed into the Thai world of business. We attended several lectures at Thammasat University, given by both professors and prominent businesspeople. On the first day we learned about Thai foreign policy and the Thai economy. We also heard lectures by Andrew Stotz, of Citibank, and James E. Rubesch, a successful entrepreneur. They, both being from the United States, lectured about their experiences as foreigners, and about how they became successful in a country like Thailand. Our final lecture was given by Dr. Pavida Pananond. Several Thammasat students also attended this lecture. We were given the opportunity to reflect on our time in Thailand, and to discuss business, economic, political, and social issues with Dr. Pananond and the Thammasat students. Throughout the two weeks, we also visited numerous companies, including Citibank, Unilever, Chester's Grill, and Thai Nam Plastic Public Co., Ltd. We also went to Sharp Electronics and McThai, two businesses that did not originate in Thailand, but that have opened and become successful in Thailand. The Thai Stock Exchange and the National Science and Technology Park were two other places we visited. On our last few days, we stayed at the beautiful, five-star Dusit Resort in Hua Hin, and learned how the Thai people operate in the hotel industry. Each company and lecturer was incredibly hospitable and kind. The companies and places we visited were also all very different, an





important element of the trip that allowed me to learn about the many diverse aspects of Thai business.

While we learned a significant amount about business, we

were also able to experience Thai culture. We toured the Grand Palace, the Royal Palace at Bang Pa-In, and the teakwood mansion, Vimanmek. I found the Thai government very interesting and greatly admired the Thai people's adoration of their King. The food was delicious; a few of my favorite foods were Thai iced tea, coconut custard, fried morning glories, and all the fresh fruit! One of my most memorable experiences was the performance of the Traditional Thai arts, Siam Niramit. Several nights we ate dinner with some students from Thammasat. I was inspired by their intelligence and by their kind, gentle, vibrant spirits. I think Thailand is a beautiful country with a fascinating culture. Yet the one thing that left the most lasting impression on me is the Thai people. They are friendly, easy going and always smiling.

I would like to thank Thammasat University, and especially Khun Narisa, for being so kind and for giving my classmates and me such an incredible opportunity to visit Thailand. I hope that one day I will be able to return to Thailand, which will forever be a country close to my heart.







which offered an amazing pool area one could only dream of. Next on the agenda we had a big gorgeous evening dinner at one large table. Once again the food was incredible! The buffet consisted of both Western and Thai food, salad bar, fruits and desserts. There were no limits to the gastronomic pleasures of this exotic buffet that once again left us with a full stomach. After dinner we had the evening off to do as we pleased. Most, if not all of us, decided to take a night out which let us to an Irish/Thai pub in Hua Hin. This gave us a

chance to meet and talk with each other under different and maybe a bit more informal circumstances. We are not going to go into any details on the bar experience, but it is probably not too much to say that we had a great time.

After a long night the second and last day started very early, but to make up for it we had an amazing

Get together: Fall's Exchange Students going to Hua Hin













It was the 17<sup>th</sup> of August and the clock had just passed 08.00 a.m., when approximately 30 new BBA & graduate exchange students from all over the world and their teachers left Bangkok and Thammasat University (TU) on a luxurious two-day field trip to Dusit Resort, Hua Hin. Before the arrival to wonderful Hua Hin we had a 3-hour bus trip ahead of us, which gave everybody the opportunity of saying hello to each other and thereby break the ice between the different cultures.

When we arrived at the resort we had a couple of hours to get settled, which included a delicious lunch buffet that had everything you could wish for. On a more than full stomach we went outside to do some activities that the staff at the resort had planned for us. At first the activities seemed a bit silly, but they came out to be very good teambuilding exercises and best of all we had a lot of fun. We got divided into three groups, mixing the nations, which again gave us the chance to mingle and talk across the cultures and thereby get each other to know even better, because of the different situations we were put in. After the activities we all retreated and enjoyed the facilities of the Dusit Resort,

breakfast buffet to wake up to. After breakfast we did some exciting culture activities which included fruit carving, a cooking class and batik painting. The cooking class and batik painting were amazing to learn, but both of those activities got beaten by the fruit carving, which was a real nice learning experience that a lot of us will practise in front of our friends in the future. Then after this insightful morning we got more delicious food for lunch before checking out. We had to check out around 11.30 a.m., because we were going to the Kings former summer palace called the Marukhathaiyawan Palace, which is located just 40 minutes from Hua Hin. After the visit it was time to head home towards TU.

We will certainly recommend the future exchange students of BBA to join this fabulous field trip. Not just because of the luxurious surroundings and the amazing food, but because of the great opportunity of meeting new people.

Thank you TU. for a great introduction field trip.

## Important Dates

#### 1st semester (August 7 - December 16, 2006)

Mid-Term Examination

Last Day of Withdraw with "W"

King Chulalongkorn's Day\*

Last day of Classes

H.M. The King's Birthday\*

Final Examination

Constitution Day\*

Substitution for Constitution Day\*

Note: \* Holiday

2<sup>nd</sup> semester (January 10<sup>th</sup> - May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

Advanced Registration

Payment for Registration

September 25 - October 1, 2006

October 20, 2006

October 23, 2006

December 3, 2006

December 5, 2005

December 6-17, 2006

December 10, 2006

December 11, 2006

November 27 - December 1, 2006

November 27 - December 1, 2006

### BBA International Program

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ชำระค่าฝากส่งเป็นรายเดือน ใบอนุญาตที่ 55/2529 ปทฝ.หน้าพระลาน

