

DAVID BARBOUR, CIDA



Chiang Mai University's radio station reaches about 2 million listeners in northern Thailand

Riding the Airwaves

When Professor Chongchit was elected head of the Mass Communication Department of Northern Thailand's Chiang Mai University in

1983, she inherited an elderly radio station, antiquated equipment and a dearth of funds for upgrading or staff training. Determined to modernize her department, this resourceful lady started to fire off proposals around the world. The eventual result was CIDA's first Institutional Linkage Program between Ryerson Polytechnic in Toronto and Chiang Mai University. The subsequent four-year upgrading of the department's program and equipment is now complete, but the ripple effect of this highly successful project continues to touch millions of lives.

"CIDA strengthened the Mass Communication Department so it is now the best in the country," states Professor Chongchit. "Our graduates are highly sought after; they work in every TV and radio station and major newspaper and magazine in Thailand."

Radio is probably the most effective means of mass communication in North Thailand's urban, rural

and nomadic communities. The estimated audience of the University's radio station is over two million. Modernization of the University's radio equipment has allowed Professor Chongchit to develop a networking linkage program which joins hundreds of non-government organizations (NGOs) in North Thailand and enables them to share information on health, AIDS, agriculture, rice banks, buffalo banks and other issues. The Mass Communication Department has also become a media resource centre for the North. Professor Chongchit provides slide programs, pamphlets and posters to NGOs and trains workers in the preparation of newsletters and reports.

Professor Chongchit intends to continue improving her department and using its resources to serve the northern community. She wants to establish the North's first live TV studio at the university. Having managed to acquire most of the necessary equipment, she's now looking for someone to show her how to use it. Given her determination, it probably won't be long before northern Thailand is tuning into a TV station that meets its special interests.

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Singapore Tops the Charts (with Toronto not Far Behind)



Singapore was recently voted the world's most desirable international headquarters

According to the Atlanta-based Industrial Development Research Council, Singapore is the most desirable international headquarters location of the world's major cities. In a 1992 survey of 800 senior level executives of US corporations, 59 cities were ranked according to a wide variety of criteria

including tax and regulatory environment, political stability, availability and cost of skilled labour, access to English-speaking population and telecommunications.

Toronto ranked fifth in the survey with London, New York and Washington taking second through fourth spots respectively.

The Council is the world's leading organization of corporate real estate executives in Fortune 500 firms.

Disappearing Jakarta



Pattern's pen and ink drawings record a disappearing way of life

Canadian artist Ken Pattern goes out into Jakarta's streets early in the morning when the light is still gentle. He walks through the city, his camera recording the old buildings that crouch in the shadows of looming skyscrapers. Pattern is racing against the clock to chronicle a social and architectural heritage before it disappears forever.

Indonesia's economy is booming, and Jakarta's traditional shops and houses are making way for the concrete and glass towers of a modern city. Often, Pattern will revisit an old building to verify a detail, only to find a vacant lot. He translates his photographs, sketches and notes into pen and ink drawings of astonishing delicacy and strength. Each drawing takes about two weeks of intense work. "I never get tired of watching a piece of blank paper evolve into a tiny corner of Jakarta in which I become completely lost. Sometimes I wonder how many hundreds of thousands of strokes go into this little black and white world." Several of these drawings have been reproduced into note cards, and eventually Pattern hopes to publish his collection in a book about Jakarta's disappearing kampungs.

A professional artist for over 20 years, Pattern has exhibited in countries as diverse as Norway, China and the USA, and recently held his sixth exhibition in Indonesia. Besides pen and ink drawings, he also works in other media such as oil painting and stone lithography. His style varies from representational to surrealist, but is always very finely detailed.