Thailand is the first in the world to offer Ph.D. eLearning Methodology

As of the end of 2007, it is still the only such Ph.D. in the world. There have been applicants from 30 countries. Graduates of eLearning degrees at ABAC have the same rights and privileges as graduates of classroom learning.

Elearning is the education for anyone, anywhere, and anytime. The College of Internet Distance Education of Assumption University is the center of eLearning from over the world.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn said that if you are looking for information, you can ask Prof. Goo (www.google.com).

If you ask Prof. Goo for “Ph.D. eLearning Methodology”, you would get 7 entries on the first page concerning the Ph.D. degree at the College of Internet Distance Education of Assumption University.

Prof. Srisakdi Charmonman revealed that there have been applicants from 30 countries, including USA, Canada, England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. The applicants said they found information from Google. As a matter of fact, if you want your web to appear on the first page of a search in Google, you can pay Google about 2 million Bath. However, for “Ph.D. eLearning Methodology”, ABAC did not pay anything to Google. The entries about ABAC on the first page of Google happen because ABAC is the first and the only institution offering such degree program in the world.

In addition to the Ph.D. program, Prof. Srisakdi Charmonman stated that the College of Internet Distance Education also offer MS (Management) and MS (ICT). There are over 300 students in MS (Management) and 100 students in MS (ICT). Many students are air hostesses.

Prof. Srisakdi Charmonman said he interviewed those students who said they study at the airports, such as in Hong Kong, London and New York. When they have a few hours at the airports, they log into the Internet connecting to ABAC to view the lectures, answer questions in the web board, do assignments, chat with the instructors or classmates thru webcam, and etc. Some have requested examinations abroad and ABAC arranged them at the Thai embassies with proctors physically there.

Some people have asked the Civil Service Commission (CSC) of Thailand whether or not elearning degree is accepted. Some members of the CSC were not up-to-date and said that it would not be accepted. As matter of fact, Prof. Srisakdi Charmonman wrote the first draft of the decree to legalize eLearning in Thailand. The decree was published in the Royal Gazette, Vol.122, No.120 Ng, October 26, 2005, Pages 8-11. That decree allows universities in Thailand to offer eLearning degree programs and so the graduates of eLearning degree have the same rights and privileges as the graduates of classroom learning. The transcript does not mention that it is eLearning, i.e. the transcript for eLearning degree is the same as the transcript for classroom degree.

It was reported that 90% of large universities in the US are offering eLearning. By the year 2020, more than 50% of students will take eLearning and less than 50% classroom learning. Elearning makes it more convenient than classroom learning. For examples, students can study while working full time, can attend the lectures anytime they wish, do not have to drive to classes, and can communicate with instructors and classmates 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

ABAC has also joined with the Office of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion (OSMEP) to offer a program of Certificate in Small and Medium Enterprises Management with 12 courses. Over 2 million members of OSMEP may take the courses free of charge. Only a few months after it was started, more than 1,000 students have registered, bringing the total number of eLearning students at ABAC to over 1,500.