



February 2022

PARENT PERSPECTIVES

This edition of Parent Perspectives comes from our newest affiliate, Thailand. Included is a student's perspective of his experiences throughout his five years of participation. Also included is an in-depth look at the traditions and culture of Thailand. Thank you to student, Wich Pitchon, and Affiliate Director, Patavi Nakwijitpong, for your creative submissions! Note: Thailand became an official FPSPI affiliate in June 2020.



A Student's Viewpoint!

Wich Pitchon, Thai student participating in the FPSP from grades 4 - 8 describes his views on his participation as follows:

Five years ago when I was first introduced to FPSP, we participated in learner development activities called "Reducing studying time to gain more knowledge". The school provided plenty of activities for elementary levels. I was a Grade 4 student who enrolled in CmPS club. I particularly felt interested in this club because of its unique quality where we could try doing new things. We did many different activities and most of them allowed us to think outside the box. We had a lot of fun and could not wait to jump at the CmPS activities every week.

In the second and the third year, I still insisted on staying in this club as I was eager to continue my ongoing project from the last year. Our team got together to brainstorm the CmPS project. Our club has got 3-4 project groups each year where the teacher let us voluntarily group together and choose our own topics of interest.

I participated in GIPS team when I was in Grade 6. Our team was invited to join the international competition. I was on the same team with my sister and she was in Grade 4. Up until now, I am still in the CmPS club; however, it has become compulsory for all junior high school levels unlike the elementary levels.

I have reflected on what I did in the past five years; from Grade 4 to Grade 8, and found out what I have benefited from FPSP, CmPS, and GIPS as follows:

(please see the next page)

- Teamwork: In CmPS, we worked together with other ten team members. Although we had some similar and different ideas, we all had the same goal to make our project a success. Thus, we focused on the main goal, trying to understand other people's opinions which could be different from yours, and finding the way to make the project successful.
- Problem-solving skills: FPSP's tasks often presented us with lots of unexpected scenarios. Our mission was to address the problems by thinking broadly and cautiously.
- Comprehension skills from conversation and story: In FPSP, it was necessary to acquire knowledge from a wide range of reading, including exchanging ideas with friends and teachers in order to collect as much of the data as possible. Comprehension has become the skill I gain every year.
- Cause and effect thinking skills: In GIPS, we were required to think about the cause and effect in many aspects according to the given topics. There were 16 aspects of problems to consider. At first, we were trying so hard to come up with some ideas; however, we got less than 10. The teacher gave us the thinking tools such as business and commerce, transportation, law and justice, and environment. Through this approach, I observed that it allowed me to think deeply and critically from all perspectives. It really helped me develop critical thinking skills until today. For CmPS, we were able to better understand the effects of problems that we were keen on solving.
- Thinking outside the box: In GIPS, we always received an unexpected text (the Future Scene). Even though we had studied and researched into that particular topic in great depth, we still had to find ways to solve the problems according to the text. In the text, the scenarios were about the future that allowed us to apply unlimited ideas of technology so we could think beyond the box as long as we had a clear and sensible justification.
- Organizing ideas or stories: When I started joining the CmPS club, the teacher assigned us to watch video clips or news, and to share them with friends. It was my turn to tell the story; unfortunately, on that day I could not convey it to my friends and I was quite upset. I consequently started to practice organizing ideas or stories whenever I had a chance. Now, I have become a better storyteller.



Pictured are Thai students at their first IC with the host Affiliate, Minnesota.

- Self-assurance: In CmPS, we not only had to think critically to solve the problems but also had to give interesting presentations such as building robots and solving the traffic in our school during the morning rush hours. After we had finished doing it, we had to present our project. This was really a big help to us to be more self-assured students.
- Knowing the real problem of the topic of interest: Every year, we chose the most interesting topic to solve the problems which allowed us to research what we were really into. This helped us to know the real causes of problems.
- Leadership and followership: In CmPS club, we were randomly grouped from Grade 4, 5, and 6 to work on projects. The first year that I joined the club, I still had no experience. I was very keen to learn from those experienced members by listening and showing my respect for the group leader. When I was in Grade 6, having an experience for 2 years, I was accepted to be the group coordinator or the group leader. I learned how to assign tasks to each of the group member. When it came to the meetings, we were very open-minded and everyone's voice was heard in order to find an effective way to improve the work. Furthermore, we learned how to work together with respect of everybody's vote.
- Thinking more effectively: FPSP has taught us to realize "how to think" not "what to think". This enabled us to adapt the know-how to our daily life.

All these benefits assure me of being a better person. I am looking forward to joining the FPSP activities in the future.



The Thailand first national flag bearer at the 2015 International Conference!



Thai FPSers at our first IC in 2015 with our great mentor, Ms.Lalitha Nair, Director of FPSP Malaysia.

Introducing Thailand



Thailand: historically known as Siam, officially the Kingdom of **Thailand**. The national flag is named “Thong Tri Roeng”; means the 3 colors flag: red represents nationhood, white represents religion, of which Buddhism is the state religion, blue represents the monarchy which has been the center of Thai people's hearts for more than 750 years. The official language is Thai.

For people with passion for traveling, Thailand offers places of breathtaking natural beauty waiting for you to discover, from the span of towering mountains of the north to the tropical powdery-white sandy beaches of the south. For those who appreciate art, history and culture, Thailand is densely populated with Buddhist temples that are decorated with striking architectural features, ancient statues and old-world paintings. Thailand handicrafts display intricate details that truly reflect the old-world workmanship that has been passed on for many generations. The lifestyles of traditional Thai people in each part of the country are unique and diversified.

Cultural Corner—Thailand

The near coming of the Thai festival is Songkran Festival. Songkran is the traditional Thai New Year festival since the former time. It is a celebration that embraces goodwill, love, compassion, and thankfulness, using water as the means of expression.

The word Songkran derives from Sanskrit meaning to move or step forward. The first day of Songkran takes place when the sun moves from Pisces into Aries, which marks the New Year's Day according to the Brahmin solar system.

The festival of Songkran falls on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of April every year. The first day is known as Maha Songkran or the Grand Songkran. The Thai government has declared Songkran festival as extended public holidays to enable the people to return to their hometown for family reunions, merit-making, and reuniting with others in their community.

The 13th of April is also declared the Day of the Senior or Elderly by the government. The occasion marks the appreciation for the senior population for their years of contribution to the family and country.

The 14th of April is designated as Family Day to celebrate family love and togetherness.



Activities at the Songkran Festival

Scenes from Thailand!



Souvenirs from hill tribes in Northern Thailand.

Street food sold at some flea markets. Check out the insects for the Insect topic!



Temple of the Emerald Buddha in the Grand Palace.





Thai FPS-ers in pandemic celebrated Christmas and congratulated their friends for the 2021 IC Attendance Certificate.



Khon, one of the beautiful performances of Thai cultural heritage.

Thailand, the land of smiles!



Please consider submitting an article or cultural submission about YOUR affiliate!

Submit to: Cyd.rogers@txfjsp.or OR april@fjspxi.org