

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT THE AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI AWARDS

A celebration of two countries who share a close bond is the best way to describe the recent Australian Alumni Awards in Thailand, where we saw an impressive list of finalists compete for the five Alumni Awards.

In its fifth year, the Australian Alumni Awards recognise the significant achievements of Alumni members who have graduated from any Australian University or other Australian institute of higher learning, and whose endeavours reflect the best of Australian education.

This year's awards, held on Thursday 22 June at the SO Sofitel Bangkok Hotel, was another fine example of the high caliber of people coming through the Australian education system, and created a difficult job for the judging panel, which included Ms. Octavia Borthwick, Deputy Head of Mission from the Australian Embassy in Bangkok; M.L. Laksasubha Kridakon, Vice President of both AustCham Thailand and the Australian Alumni Association; and the 2016 Young Alumni Award recipient Khun Kawita Vatanajyankur.

The following are the winners for 2017;

**Australian Embassy Bangkok 'Alumni of the Year Award':**

His Excellency Dr. Pichet Durongkaverroj; Minister of the Digital Economy and Society for the Royal Thai Government; Alumni from University of New South Wales;

**Blackmores 'Alumni Leadership Award':**

Dr. Phudit Tejavivaddhana; Acting Director of College of Health Systems Management and Assistant President for Comprehensive Operations, Naresuan University; Alumni from University of New England

**dwp 'Alumni Entrepreneurial Award':**

Mr. Harprem Doowa; Managing Director and Co-Founder of Frank.co.th; Alumni from Monash University

**AustCham 'Alumni Community Engagement Award':**

Ms. Sirivimol Kitaphanich; Owner of Rai Ruen Rom Organic Farm, Chiang Mai; Alumni from University of Melbourne

**AustCham 'Young Alumni Award':**

Mr. Phantabat Santimakorn; Director of Bangkok Ventures Co., Ltd; Alumni from RMIT University

Congratulations to all winners and finalists!

Each of the recipients spoke eloquently about the importance of their Australian education experience. The Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Paul Robilliard, and special guest speaker Dr. Linchong Chorrojprasert, Dean of the Graduate School of English at Assumption University also spoke.

Overall, the true success of the night was seen in the coming together of the Australian Alumni and the networks that have been formed. The Australian Alumni share a common bond, which was best described by 2017 Alumni of the Year, Dr. Pichet Durongkaverroj, who said “I am a product of Australia.” He went on to explain “Australian education and the Australian experience has made me what I am today.”

To ensure the growth of the Thai-Australian community, the Australian Embassy Bangkok, Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce, and Australian Alumni Association, have formed a collaborative committee to create networking and business opportunities for Australian Alumni in Thailand.

For alumni registration, please visit <http://www.australialumni.com/registernow>

