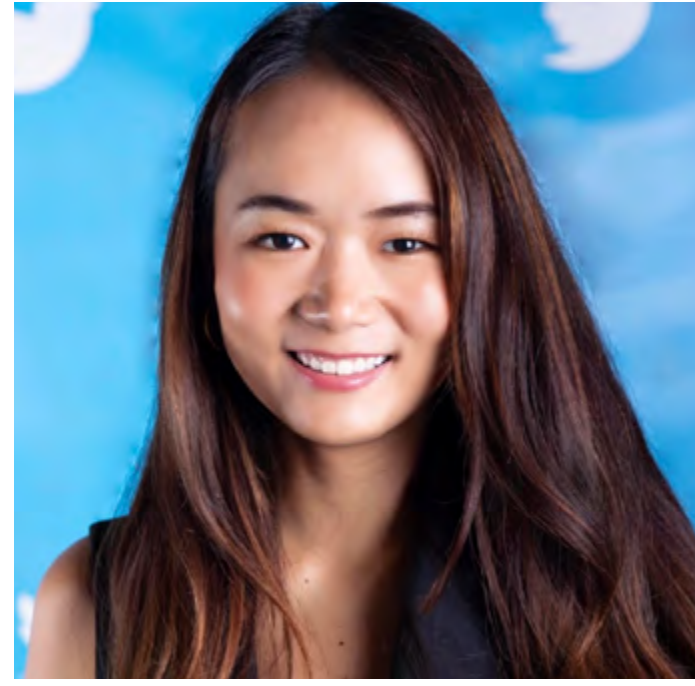
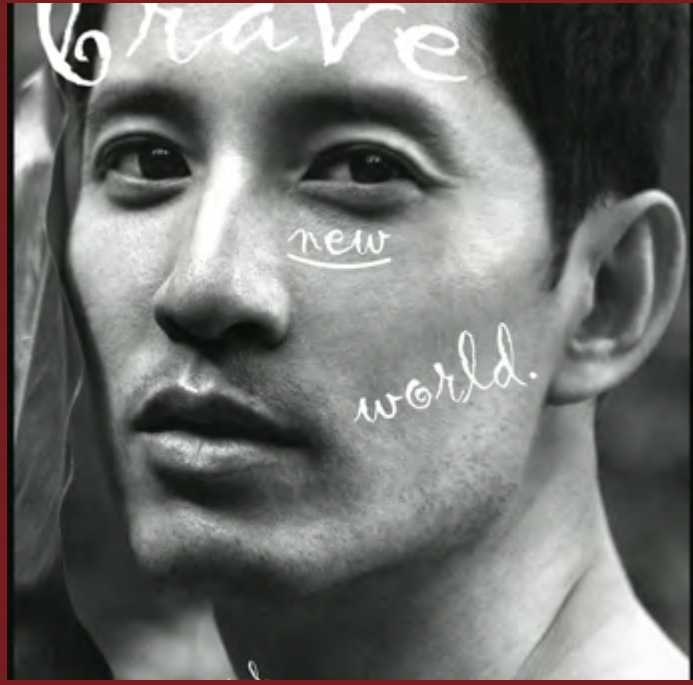


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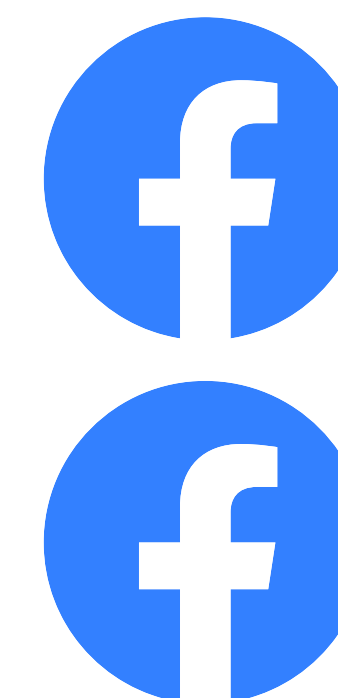


The new C-Class.

editor's note

Abhisiree Charanjavanaphet

FOUNDER AND CO-OWNER, BAANRAK KINDERGARTEN



Abhisiree is a Waldorf teacher trainer, a holistic education philosophy where learning happens in a natural way, where play time, arts and craft activities help to develop the soul. The Waldorf system helps children learn and develop by encouraging their sensory interactions with natural elements, and teachers are more like earth mothers. Her Baanrak Kindergarten has been recognised by the Office of the Education Council as a model Waldorf kindergarten. Learning does not only happen in a classroom, so she took over a 17 rai plot of land in Nong Chok district and transformed it into an organic farm

called Duangtawan Baansuan. Here, she grows chemical-free Hom Patum rice, vegetables, and raises chicken for eggs, following the concept “eat what you grow, and grow what you eat”. This has become another knowledge centre, not only for her young pupils, but for visitors to have a hands-on learning experience of the entire cycle of down-to-earth housekeeping, gardening and cooking. Her love of nature was instilled since childhood, accompanying her geologist father on expeditions into forests around the country, and she feels the need to share this experience with others in her own way.

Achariyar “Sai” and Araya “Kruad” Rojanapirom

OWNERS AND FOUNDERS, KALM VILLAGE IN CHIANG MAI

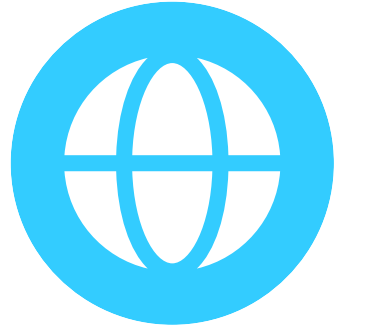


Siblings Achariyar “Sai” and Araya “Kruad” Rojanapirom are the owners and founders of Kalm Village, an arts, crafts, and culture centre located in the heart of Chiang Mai old city. The pair strongly believe that art can educate, engage, inspire, and empower people. Built with local materials and upcycled golden teak wood, the village comprises eight buildings, each with different programs designed to bring art into contemporary lifestyles. Community engagement is at the heart of their project, but also a celebration of those who came before us,

and those who will come after us. Discovering and furthering valuable local knowledge, wisdom and beauty through means of architecture, objects, food, archives, workshops, dynamic exhibitions, residency programmes, happenings and conversations. Kalm Village creates an inclusive environment for people to expand their relationship to art, to creativity, and ultimately to each other. Both are led by the Buddhist philosophies of keeping your mind at peace, and the impermanence of life. They hint at an exciting international collaboration in the near future.

Alex Face (Patcharapon Tangruen)

STREET ARTIST

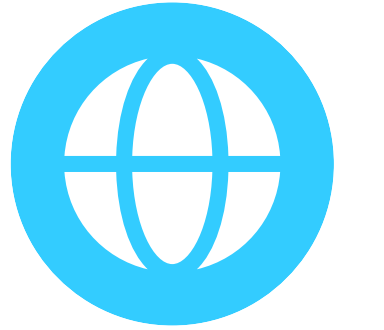


Patcharapon Tangruen, better known by his artistic alter-ego Alex Face, is a prolific graffiti artist whose work you may have caught around Bangkok's city scape and prominent international street art festivals. His work gained recognition in 2009, after his daughter was born and he began expressing concerns about the world she would grow up in. This evolved into his iconic three-eyed child character in a rabbit suit. Named after his daughter, Mardi, it became the perfect medium to express the artist's societal commentary which he is known for today. His biggest challenge in the past year has been putting up four exhibitions

in four different countries for which he had to produce hyper-realistic paintings in a tiny amount of time, as well as his 20-year retrospective in Bangkok. Aware that Thais are not typically gallery and museum goers, he is happy to be able to bring art to the people, and would like to travel around Southeast Asia creating murals and landscapes to stimulate discussions in communities. Claude Monet and David Hockney are among his favourite artists. Apart from human rights, his passion also includes cleaning and riding his bicycle.

Alexander Lamont

CREATIVE DIRECTOR, ALEXANDER LAMONT

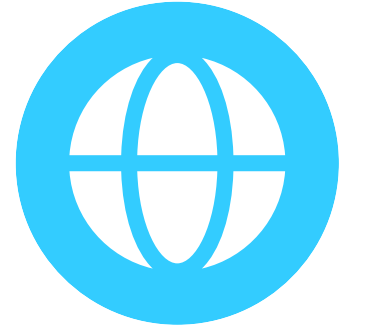


Bringing European craft skills and a unique reverence for contemporary design and materiality, Alexander Lamont has built a luxury lifestyle brand in Thailand with a showroom in London. Studying Thai language and anthropology in London, he went on to refine his hands and eyes through periods as a photographic assistant and later as an antique dealer in Hong Kong. These experiences helped crystallise his vision in Thailand 23 years ago, to create objects of artistry with the kind of surfaces, forms and natural materials that “call out to be touched”. Lamont sees the artistic and technical

challenge of his role as creative director as all about keeping the brand constantly relevant and fresh to the emerging designers and clients who create the trends of tomorrow. Future plans involve constant exploration of design and production techniques and if possible, the creation of a craft school that builds on the strong artistic foundations of Thailand. His 2023 collection will preview in Paris in January and launch in Milan in April, truly bringing Thai skills to an international audience. His passion for his work is only exceeded by his pride and joy in his family.

Alongkot Chukaew PhD

**DIRECTOR, THAI ELEPHANT RESEARCH
AND CONSERVATION FUND (TERF)**



Elephant researcher turned educator, Dr Alongkot's goal is to create awareness in society that everyone can participate in protecting elephants and allowing them to live with nature as they deserve. His aim is to create a "human fence" to protect elephants in the wild. Having conducted research on Thai elephants for years, he decided to use his knowledge for awareness and advocacy on animal welfare and environmental concerns, conducting workshops and camps for school children at his forest base in Khao Yai, as well as in remote villages

upcountry. And as a musician, he reaches out to the marginalised, the blind and autistic, using both elephants or music as a tool to connect and educate. He also launched the country's first mobile elephant ambulance unit to give sick elephants immediate access to medical treatment. His interest in the environment extends to marine conservation, and as a dive instructor, he holds regular educational workshops and dives for youngsters through his Wildlife Guardians Programme under the Environmental and Social Foundation (ESF).

Amnart Reansoi

CEO & FOUNDER, TAN-KHUN REGENERATIVE FARM

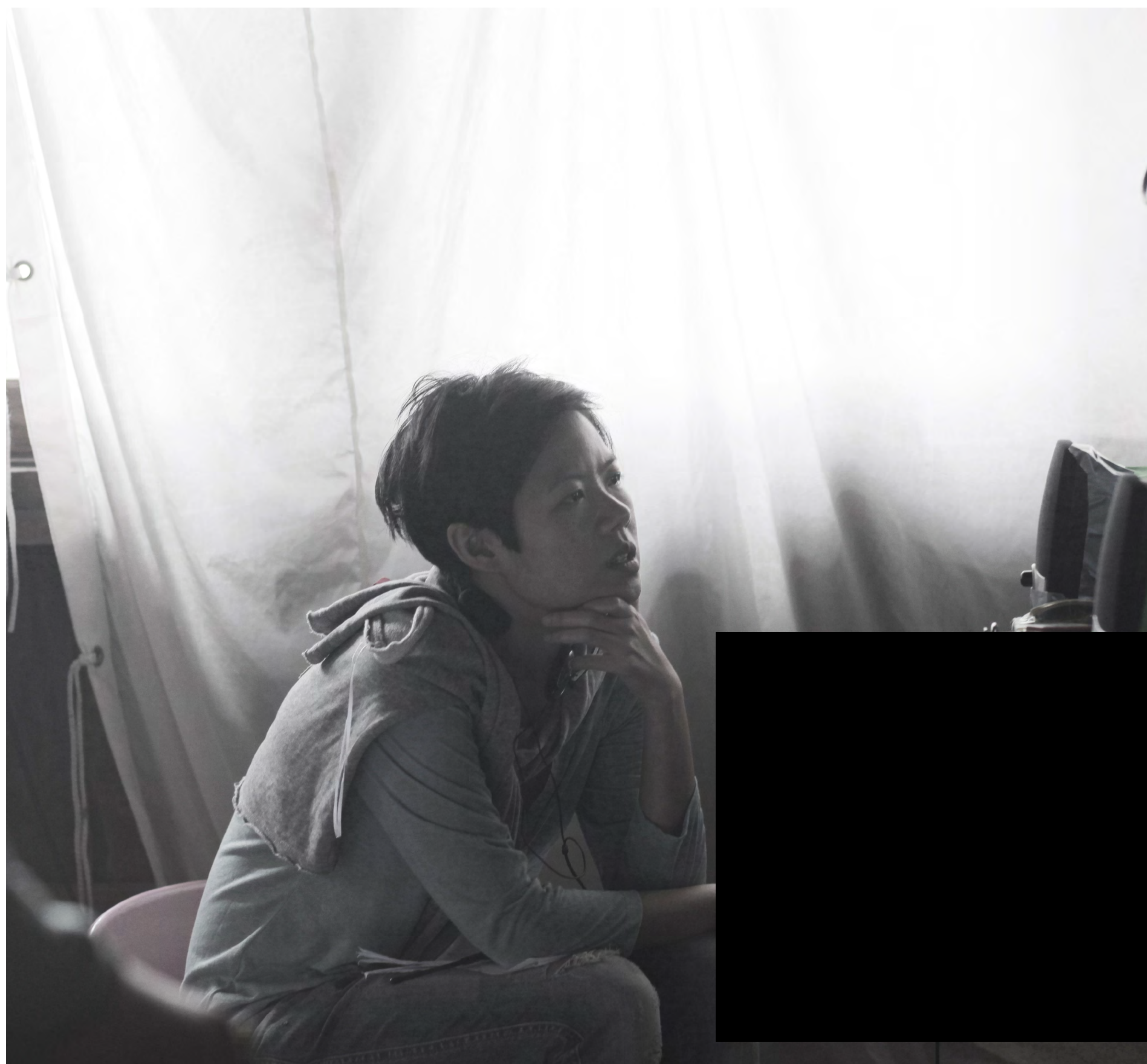


Residing in Nakhon Pathom, Amnart Reansoi is the CEO and founder of the regenerative organic chicken farm, Tan-khun Organic Farm. This business model trains farmers from the network how to set up an organic chicken farm, the inspection process and connecting with local markets from Bangkok to other provinces across Thailand. Amnart's challenges have recently been the pandemic which has adversely affected businesses, and changing business practices to focus more on the consumer. He prides himself

in respecting the legacy of Thai farmers that can be passed on from generation to generation. He is enthusiastic to learn about the agriculturist's way of life from different regions and believes that it is possible to uplift local farmers, by providing them with a stable stream of income while being attentive to the environment. He hopes that one day, the Tan-Khun organic farm model will be replicated all over the country, as a model of food production that is fair and sustainable. Outside of farming, music and travel are his passions.

Anocha “Mai” Suwichakornpong

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
NEW YORK CITY

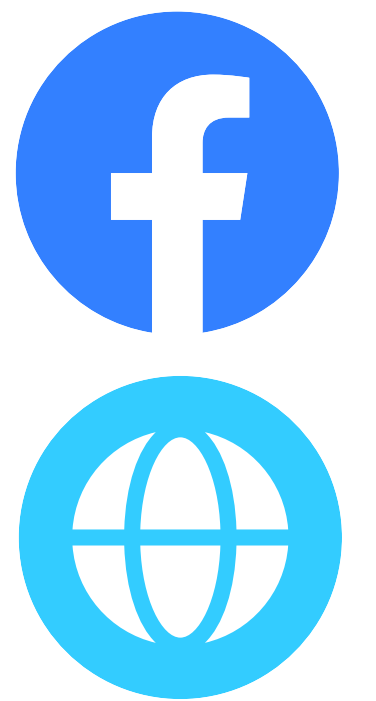


Anocha teaches a graduate school programme, but her alter ego is as an award-winning, experimental film director and producer. She founded the independent film production company, ‘Electric Eel Films’, as well as Purin Pictures, a film fund that supports under-represented Southeast Asian filmmakers. Her work *Graceland* (2006) became the first Thai short film to be selected at the Cannes Film Festival. Taking joint pride of place is her second feature film, *By The Time It Gets Dark* (Dao Khanong), 2017, with her 2-year-old daughter. In 2017 she was the first woman to win the Best Director award from the Thailand National Film

Association, followed by the 2019 Prince Claus award for “for pioneering a mode of intellectual feminist filmmaking, courageously and convincingly challenging hegemonic practices and established conventions, both in filmmaking and in society”. In 2020, she was a recipient of the Silpathorn Award. She is working on the script of her next feature film, with plans for her first documentary. The novel that impacted her since her teens was *Pheesart* (Ghosts) by Seni Saowaphong since it shed light on class division and social inequality in Thailand, issues that she is equally passionate about.

Apinan Poshyananda, PhD

**CEO AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
BANGKOK ART BIENNALE**



After receiving his Master's degree in Fine Arts from Edinburgh University, and a PhD in History of Art from Cornell University New York, Dr Apinan began teaching at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University, moving into administration as Director-General, Office of Contemporary Art and Culture, then Permanent Secretary and Acting Minister, Ministry of Culture. He is an award-winning artist in his own right, earning three medals from the National Exhibition of Art. On the international stage, he was a committee member of the Asian Cultural Council, Solomon Guggenheim Museum, New York; Board of National Gallery, Singapore, amongst

others. He has been integral as the “missing link” between the Thai art world and conservative government agencies, admittedly by pushing the boundaries little by little. Curating such exhibitions as Montien Boonma: Temple of the Mind (2003-4) in the US and Australia, Thai Transience (2013) in Singapore, and Thai Eye (2015) at Saatchi Gallery, London, proved that he has been able to bring contemporary Thai art into the context of heritage. He has organised three editions of the Bangkok Art Biennale, with indications that three more are on the table, as well as a few book projects. Presently, he is the chairman of ThaiBev's Art and Culture Committee.

April Srivikorn

COUNTRY MANAGER, GOOGLE CLOUD THAILAND



US-born April was a fast-track student who enrolled in college at 14, graduating from Stanford with an undergraduate degree in Economics, followed by an MBA. In her first job as management consultant at McKinsey & Company, she became an emerging market expert, then project manager, before moving on to a Chief Strategy Officer position at Central Pattana Plc. Seeing the critical role that technology played in the organisation's transformation roadmap led her to Google, where she now leads Google Cloud as Country Manager for Thailand. She believes

her strengths that have taken her so far in her career are as an emerging market expert, a quick problem solver, and her resilience with a can-do mindset. At Google, she focusses on building digital skills through certificate courses and training for young tech professionals to learn from the experts at Google, as well as helping SMEs build their digital footprints. Outside of work, family and adventure travel are her passions—she recently did a family trek to Everest Base Camp with her 9-year-old daughter.

Bhanbhassa “Ning” Dhubthien, PhD

CHAIR, MA/ PHD PROGRAM IN DEPARTMENT OF DRAMATIC ARTS,
FACULTY OF ARTS, CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY



Assoc Prof Dr Bhanbhassa grew up with a vivid imagination, always enjoying the escapism and freedom that theatre offered. Theatre allowed her to be anything other than her true introverted self. An interest in directing led her to The Actors Studio Drama School, New York, where she had to prove herself as a young, female, Asian director. Graduating as the only Asian student in her class, she was made Thailand's only life member of The Actors Studio alongside the likes of Al Pacino, Julia Roberts and Jack Nicholson. She directed works off Broadway, at the New York Fringe festival, in Sydney, Sweden

and Greece before returning to Thailand to help set the acting curriculum for Thai universities. Her online performing arts classes allow for greater accessibility to the public. To expand her knowledge of the local artistic heritage, she conducted research on the Thai nang yai shadow puppet tradition, gradually expanding to research papers like Ramakian: our roots - right now. In 2007, she founded the Life Theatre company. She received the International Association of Theatre Critics (IATC) Thailand Awards 2013 (Best Direction of a Play/Performance/Musical) and also the Kukrit Award (Performing Arts) in 2020.

Bo H. Holmgreen

**FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SCHOLARS OF SUSTENANCE FOUNDATION**

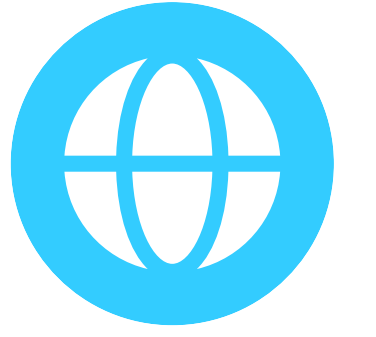


Founder and executive director of Scholars of Sustenance Foundation (SOS), Bo H. Holmgreen is redefining how food is distributed by running a food rescue foundation with the goal to tackle the food deficit issue and put good nutrition into the hands of those who need it. Established in 2016, SOS became the first food rescue foundation in Thailand and has been unstoppably and successfully running food rescue operations ever since. Their food rescue impact includes over 20 million meals served to communities,

almost 5 million kilogrammes of food rescued, and providing support to over one thousand communities. Apart from focussing on the enormous food waste from hotels and food stores, reprocessing it and safely distributing it to poor villages, SOS is also creating Circular Economies by avoiding food waste ending up in landfills emitting methane gases. With this environmental focus, SOS is certainly killing two birds with one stone, for a good cause.

Boaz Zippor

ARTIST, MUSICIAN, PHOTOGRAPHER, POET



Born in Israel and educated in Italy and New York in the field of industrial design and visual communications, Boaz Zippor has been living in Thailand for the past 20 years. The veteran of the design, advertising and branding industry, and also professional photography—he has exhibited his mixed-media art worldwide—has now turned his back on corporate life. He now uses his passion to support social projects, first in Israel and now in Thailand, especially in the field of education for under-privileged children. He not only writes books, articles and poetry, he is a self-confessed autodidact musician and

multi-instrumentalist, using his home-based recording studio and music production company to release six albums of experimental music in various styles. He holds regular art exhibitions and musical soirées to raise funds for his favourite charity, the Gift of Happiness Foundation. In store for the next two years are “a couple of books that need publishing (including a non-fiction book on the ‘language of creation’), a couple of exhibitions that need to be organized, a couple of concerts to play and some pizzas that need to be eaten—not necessarily in that order”.

Botlakorn “Naitai” Chandruang

MUSIC DIRECTOR & MUSIC TEACHER, KUMUT CHANDRUANG
FOUNDATION / MORADOKMAI THEATER COMMUNITY



Botlakorn, or Naitai, is the son of National Artist Janaprakal Chandruang, from whom he inherited his artistic passions for theatre and music. He grew up within his father's Moradokmai Theatre Community and Homeschool which educates through theatre, music and traditional values and Buddhist philosophies. He was trained to be an actor and Thai classical musician, travelled around the world with the theatre group, then attended Silpakorn University's Faculty of Music where he explored jazz music. He had a challenging year, working on his "Thai Derm in Seasons" project where he selected seven songs from his childhood by

Luang Pradit Phairoh (Sorn Silpabanleng), his great grandfather, and converted the melodies into jazz renditions, matched to Thailand's three seasons; and led the group's young musicians on a two month tour in Europe. The "Thai Derm in Seasons" project was recently presented in a successful concert putting him at the forefront of Thailand's young composers and musicians. It also launched his mission to use jazz music creation to entice his own generation to discover the beauty of traditional Thai music, a mission for which he hopes to be remembered one day.

Chalee Kader

**EXECUTIVE CHEF & OWNER,
100 MAHAETH | WANA YOOK | FRAN'S**



Thai-Indian chef and restaurateur Chalee Kader has been known for a number of successful culinary ventures in Bangkok over the years, and his latest project to capture the heart of foodies and critics, is 100 Mahaseth, a Michelin Bib Gourmand establishment. A shrine to the fiery flavours of Thailand's northeastern Isaan region, 100 Mahaseth is also a vehicle through which Kader showcases his vision of sustainability in F&B. Focusing on waste reduction, Chalee's nose-to-tail menu makes sure no part of an animal goes

unused, in line with traditional but often forgotten Thai dining practices. Although challenged by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the hospitality industry, Chalee remains steadfast in his dedication to his craft, his staff, and his ongoing mission to push Thai cuisine to new heights in a sustainable manner. His latest ventures—Wana Yook fine dining restaurant and Fran's Brunch & Greens, Mickey's Diner, not to mention Holy Moly English pies—are at the top of Bangkok foodies' check-in list.

Chitsanupong “Best” Nithiwana

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, YOUNG PRIDE CLUB



Founder and executive director of Young Pride Club, Chitsanupong “Best” Nithiwana is a human rights defender for the rights of transgender and LGBTIQ+ persons and gender equality. Absolutely dedicated to her career path, she started out as a public information assistant consultant at the UN headquarters. She also supported the digital campaign of Youth Peace Security to gain the meaningful participation of women and youth in peace processes worldwide. In 2018, she became the first transgender participant in the US Exchange programme, YSEALI Academic Fellows. An outspoken advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, she now runs her own firm, Young

Pride Club, which is a safe learning community for young people interested in gender equality and LGBTQ+ community. Established in 2018, the community provides on the ground activities and online content to develop leadership and participation for gender equality advocacy. Young Pride Club was also a main organizer of the Chiang Mai Pride 2019-2020 and collaborated with 50 NGOs in Thailand. In 2021, it reached 40,000 followers, developed 50 young leaders, and worked with international grants. In 2022, Best also became an APCOM Hero Award Honouree (Community Hero) under the theme “Unity & Diversity ” in recognition of her inspiring work.

Chokchai Netngamsawang

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Chokchai Netngamsawang is a well-seasoned public prosecutor who is focussed on working with nonprofit organisations, deal negotiation, event management, international relations and market research. He is a graduate from Thammasat University with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) specialising in environmental law. As a student, his interest in working for the public good manifested when he joined an AIESEC

exchange programme to China, where he taught English to students in a migrant school, and provided HIV/AIDS information to college students and pupils in a migrant school. Prior to his present position, he was working at PTT PCL's land acquisition department. Working in the legal service industry, Chokchai is known to have a record for supporting the public good.

Chokwan “Kitty” Chopaka

FOUNDER, CHOPAKA

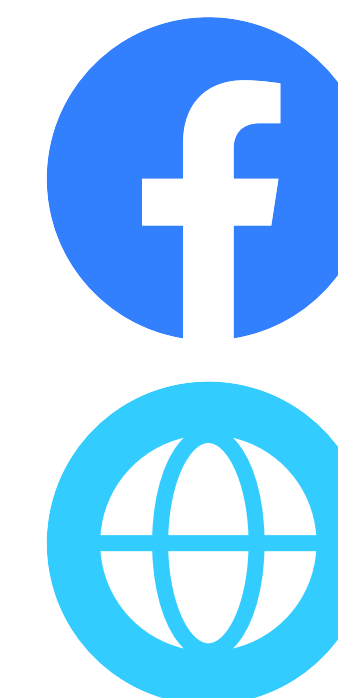


Chokwan, or Kitty, grew up in Australia in a very liberal family. After graduating with a law degree, she soon managed a law firm, but burned out quickly. She spent a few years soul-searching, then her mother helped convince her to tackle the issues around cannabis. After exploring possibilities of starting a business in the US and finding it wasn't feasible, she did get to work with an advocacy group on the humanitarian side, which led her to set up Elevated Estate as a cannabis-focused startup incubator in Thailand. This organisation aimed to play a supporting role

in helping to build the cannabis/hemp industry in the kingdom, but was not sustainable due to lack of funding, constant changes of regulations and Covid, and now concentrates on her brand, Chopaka, that sells cannabis buds and gummies. She continues to advocate for cannabis in terms of business, policy, human rights and social justice, or simply responsible and safe use. She views that cannabis has enormous economic value and various beneficial uses, and wants to call upon governments to adopt more progressive views about the plant and its powers.

Chonlathan “Ice” Supphaiboonlerd

**PROGRAMME MANAGER,
HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION REGIONAL OFFICE**



After graduating with an LL M degree from Leiden University, the Netherlands, Chonlathan worked with Asylum Access Thailand, UNHCR and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) before joining Hanns Seidel Foundation which receives funding from the German government to promote peace, democracy and development. Focussing on Thailand and Myanmar, Chonlathan works to strengthen the rule of law, the respect for human rights and sustainable development by cooperating with parliaments and other state agencies. As a lawyer, he is able to offer his expertise in constitutional law, public international law and international human rights law. He is

proud of having played a part in legislation to ensure that Thailand complies to international human rights standards. He is planning a visit for Thai MPs to the German Federal Parliament to enable exchanges between the Thai and German counterparts and to promote public participation in these matters. He hopes one day that the needs and aspirations of all groups of people will be properly heard through democratic processes in Thailand. In his free time, he enjoys sports, and is a furniture and interior design enthusiast. His role model is Prof Dr Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights.

Chotika “Toon” Kamwongpin

FRONT-MAN ARTIST, STOONDIO BAND



Toon quit her job as an art director and graphic designer in an advertising agency to indulge in her passion for music. She picked up the guitar while she was still in school and started writing songs for fun, sharing them with friends on social media. By the time she was in university, she was producing her own music, and she soon became known through Fat Radio, with invites for gigs. Her musical inspirations include church and gospel music and R&B. Her songs are mostly about her impressions of city life, but acknowledges that

her background in creative design allows her to decode issues and emotions that make their way into her lyrics. Through her concern for society, she has collaborated with various organisations such as the Mirror Foundation and the Peaceful Death Project to highlight sensitive issues including LGBTQ+ rights, women rights, human trafficking and death. She is proud that Stoondio and the music she has written continues to thrive and reach a wide audience. She also hopes to create an alternative space for indie musicians such as herself.

Chudaree “Chef Tam” Debhakam

CHEF-OWNER, BAAN TEPA

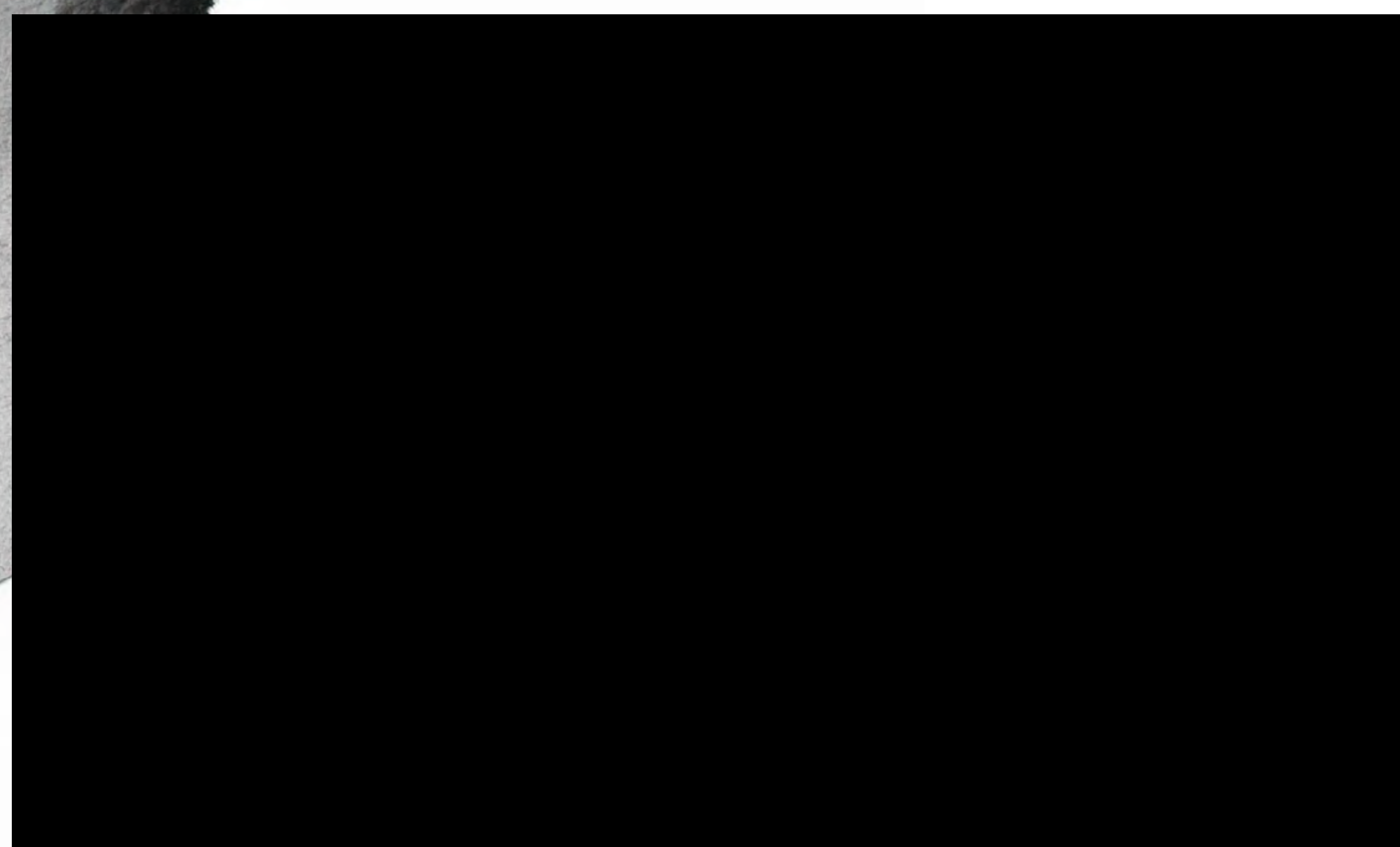
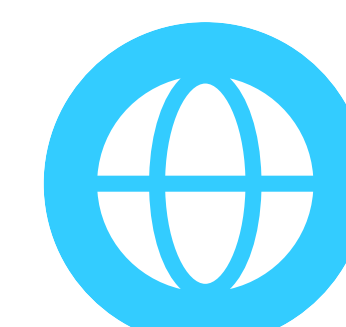


Chudaree Debhakam’s culinary training at prestigious institutions in the UK and US may have given her the edge to win the first season of Top Chef Thailand in 2017, as the competition’s youngest chef, but that was only the beginning of her illustrious career. Still shy of 30, “Chef Tam” has opened Baan Tapa, an award-winning intimate produce-driven dining experience on the grounds of her family home. Baan Tapa consists of a communal dining table that seats 12, an open

kitchen, and a garden where ingredients that will be used in the dinner are cultivated. Chef Tam’s vision for the project was to give diners a view of exactly where their food comes from and how it is prepared and to connect them through this story. As for her creations, Chef Tam describes her style as “Thai food but from a modern perspective”. Her aim is to show both Thai and international diners the endless possibilities for Thai cuisine and its ingredients.

Cyrus James Khan

**FREELANCE DIGITAL ARTIST, 3D GENERALIST,
AND GAME DEVELOPER**

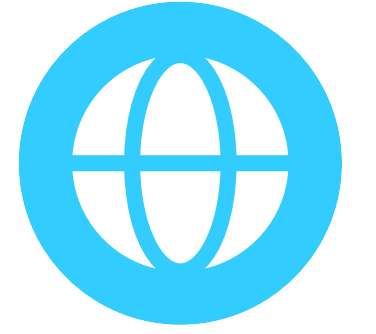


With a Swiss-Persian background, Cyrus is a self-taught IT, 3D art and design geek—he created robots and cities with cardboard at the age of 6, made stop-motion animations at 8, and picked up his first 3D software at 10. Today he creates new tools, art, and intellectual properties, and offers digital art, VR/AR interactive experience and video game development services. His superpower is being able to visualise anything his mind can ponder. He is most proud of presenting his digital art and blockchain technology explorations at TEDx Chiang Mai, of being a featured artist at Times Square as part of NFT.NYC Diversity of

NFT Arts, of collaborating on a VR Art Installation with Kawita Vatanajyankur and the Central Group, and of creating and releasing his own web3-based video game, PodzWorld. He has recently been building an artist collective for future collaboration, and is also hoping to establish a local XR production facility. He is motivated by technological advancement which provides possibilities to create stories, worlds, even an entire universe, a concept fueled as a child by the spectacle and escapism realised by art and technology in films like Star Wars, Blade Runner and The Matrix .

Dej Kewkacha

CHEF AND OWNER, KYO ROLL EN GROUP & KYO BAR

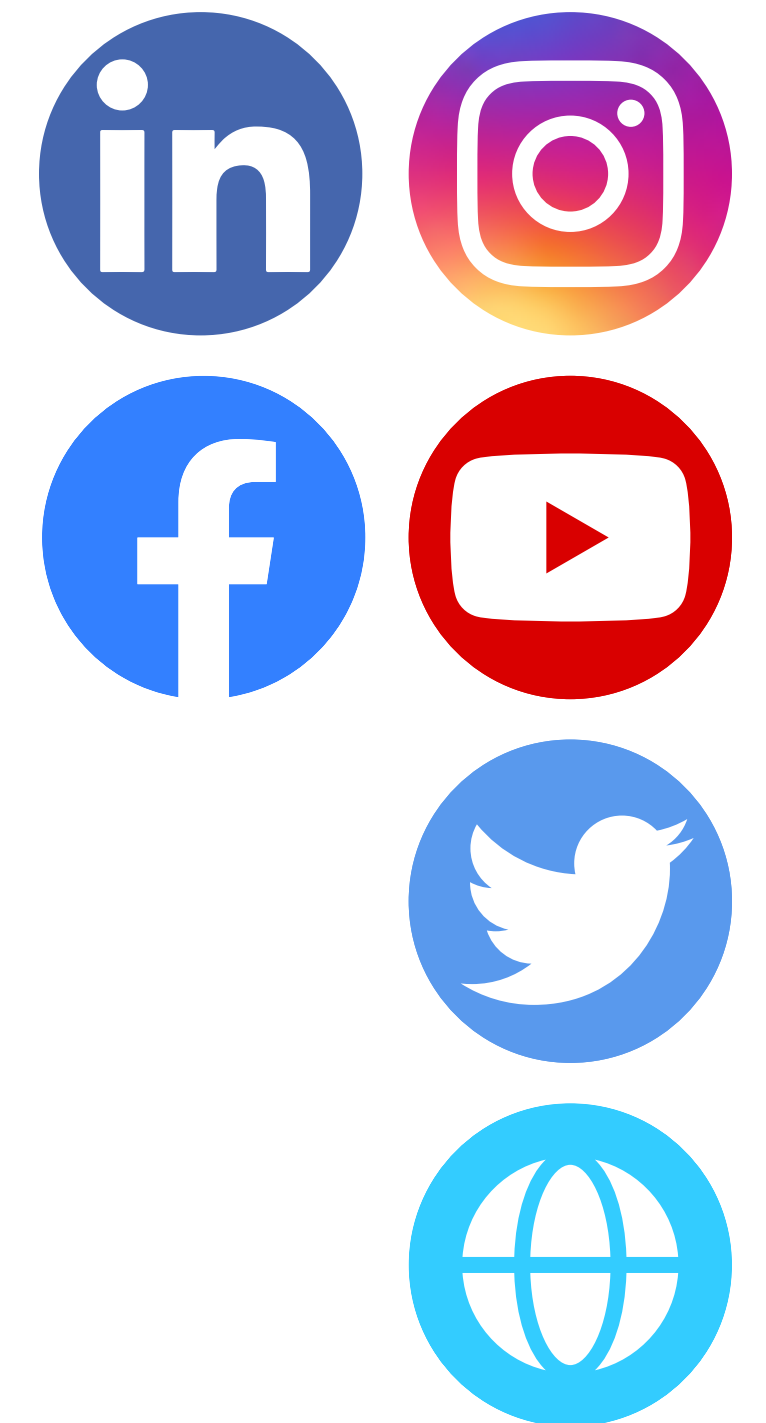


Chasing sweet dreams with his brothers at the age of 22 by setting up Kacha Brothers, Thai-born chef Dej Kewkacha is the owner of the popular Kyo Bar. It became Thailand's first and only dessert bar serving an 'omakase' menu of just desserts that constantly evolve with the seasons, just like in a traditional Kaiseki meal, using the very best of Japanese and Thai ingredients such as 100% organic Thai Cacao, combined with contemporary pastry techniques. He oversees the whole supply chain, and also all the menu items served at his stores. With his talented pastry skills, he now

operates over 50 food & beverage outlets under seven leading brands including the flagship Kyo Roll En, which is a unique lifestyle dessert cafe offering the very best of contemporary Japanese desserts. Apart from his pastry expertise, Dej also speaks fluent Japanese, which he taught himself, and has embarked on a journey visiting prestigious kitchens around the world—from Michelin two-star Ta Vie restaurant in Hong Kong to the Spanish 'God of Pastry' Paco Torreblanca in Alicante.

Friso Cornelis Poldervaart

CO-FOUNDER, BANGKOK COMMUNITY HELP FOUNDATION



This Dutch entrepreneur and philanthropist co-founded Bangkok Community Help Foundation during the height of the Covid pandemic. While providing much-needed food packages to the Klongtoey community, he observed issues such as garbage sites infested by rats, dilapidated houses, lack of food and basic sanitation facilities. With his team of volunteers, he has since helped over 1 million people with food deliveries as well as community development—re-housing, renovation, educational programs and construction projects to improve the communities in Klong Toey and beyond. His long-term plans include tackling homelessness, education and inequality. In his

free time he likes working out and playing tennis. He is a Hong Kong cinephile—he graduated as a cinematographer—and founded the creative film/video production agency Digital Distinct. He finds Jackie Chan a source of inspiration for his incredible persistence, craftsmanship and making it big against all odds. Prior to Covid, Friso launched the popular “Dinner in the Sky Thailand”, a restaurant hoisted by a crane 50 meters up in the air. He hopes to inspire others to pass on the act of kindness and to follow their dreams, to be a voice for the marginalised, and leave a legacy of long-term change.

Gridthiya “Jeab” Gaweewong

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, JIM THOMPSON ART CENTER



Gridthiya is one of Thailand’s most prominent art curators. She once taught English at a refugee camp in Phanat Nikhom, before pursuing her interest in the art field, graduating with a master’s in art administration from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1996 she co-founded Project 304, an alternative space for contemporary art, with the late Montien Boonma and Kamol Phaosavasdi. On the international scene, she curated Underconstruction, Tokyo (2000 - 2002), Politics of Fun at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2005), and Unreal Asia at the Oberhausen International Short Film Festival

(2010), among others. She is a co-founder and instructor of The Alternative Art School, an online platform offering live classes with the world’s best artists and curators, allowing for networking and building up of the global art community. At the new Jim Thompson Art Centre, she aims to create programmes that are more diverse, multidisciplinary and relevant to the current context. For the art scene in Thailand, she hopes to see better developed and visionary cultural policies, a wider engagement with the public, and a less nationalistic focus.

Issara “Idd” Choopakdee

FOUNDER, KORKOK



Born in Chantaburi, famous for its reed mats, Issara, or Idd, saw his mother weaving reed since he was a child. But when he realised that the younger generation showed little interest in carrying on the tradition, he decided to step in. A communications graduate, he had been a radio show host for a decade, before embarking on a journey to revive reed mats for the modern market. He learned the basics, from cutting the reeds, drying, dyeing, and weaving, each of which are normally handled by different people. Realising

how it was such a labour-intensive process that earned very little money, he decided to add value in terms of design and colour trends, and created Korkok as a brand of reed mat bags that could compete not only in Thailand, but also in international markets. The latest Korkok collection, named “Chan Krachang” is a series of drawstring bags woven with a mixture of reed and jute in trendy coloured stripes. His brand now provides a source of stable income for local weavers, helping to preserve a centuries old tradition.

Kaewtrakan “Nymm” Junlabon

ARTIST, ENTREPRENEUR



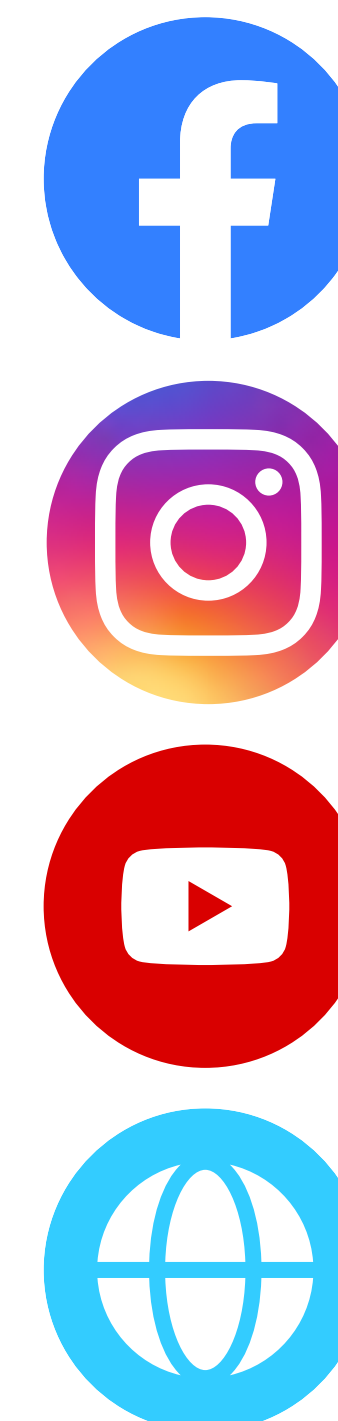
Kaewtrakan “Nymm” Junlabon is the artist behind the alias “The Rubber PARAdoxii”. Alluding to the bedrock of her work, the para rubber trees tie Kaewtrakan’s Nakhon Sri Thammarat heritage and her artistic expression together in this unusual name.

Her installations, mixed media and performance art often explore existential questions, with a desire to exist in the paradoxical realm between traditional and contemporary arts. Her art was put on a backburner for several years as she raised a

family, but as an art teacher at her See-Din Nature and Creative Space, she eventually made the effort to let her creative juices flow once again. Her submitted work to the Ministry of Culture’s Teachers to the US scholarship programme picked up the thread from her student thesis using rubber as a material, and when combined with her maturity through motherhood, earned her a place among the 10 nationwide artists recognised. Now, back in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Kaewtrakan is using art to shed light on social issues, giving her all to support her hometown community.

Kanchana “Chompoo” Shnatepaporn

FOUNDER & CEO, BWILD ISAN



Starting at the family fabric store business in Khon Kaen, Kanchana learned artisanal sewing techniques, and eventually opened a small dressmaking and wedding gown shop called “By Heart”. When Covid put many locals out of work, forcing them to return home from their city jobs, she drew upon their strengths—design, ceramics, computer, weaving—and created BWILD ISAN, creating a community where skilled, new generation designers and craftsmen in different fields come together to create work inspired by the Isaan way of life. Her role is to determine the organisation’s directions to make the most out of

the team, and that the gain is not just for financial benefits. Despite the challenges of launching a new brand during a pandemic, her “Kai Baan” chicken handbag immediately became an iconic fashion product, and her collections “Wild in the City” and subsequent “Ant Colony”—which moved more towards couture—both won several awards. Her brand’s ultimate goal is to support all local artisans working in their hometowns in the north-east of Thailand and help generate long-term incomes for her team and the local community, and eventually start from sharing the profits to Isaan school children in remote areas.

Kanongnij Sribuaiam, PhD

CO-FOUNDER, THAILAND CLEAN AIR NETWORK

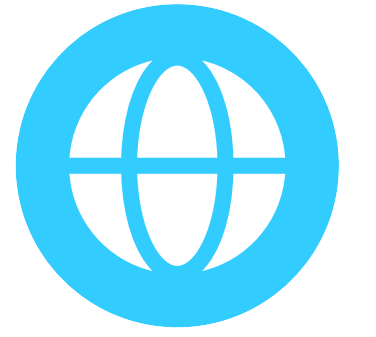


Photo from BlueSky

When it comes to Thailand's rules and regulations on clean air, Dr Kanongnij, or Ajarn Noi as she is known, should be considered one of the most influential voices to be found. A law graduate with degrees from Harvard, US, and the University of Nantes, France, she is currently an associate professor at the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, while simultaneously advocating and educating citizens on the right to access clean air. As a result of the PM2.5 issue a few years back, she founded the Thailand Clean Air Network comprising doctors, economists, lawyers, scientists, and social activists to advocate for

policy change, with the belief that the current generation must not abrogate its responsibility to look out for the needs of future generations. Systematic change can make for slow progress, hence Ajarn Noi accepts the simplest advice given which is to be patient. She continuously searches for creative methods to support her ecological vision such as working with the media, civil society and labour unions to put appropriate pressure on the pundits and politicians who need to hear her message. While dedicating herself to these crucial causes, Ajarn Noi nonetheless makes time for the happiness she finds in singing and painting.

Kawintra “Mai” Wongsawasdi

ARTIST LIAISON



As a film and arts enthusiast, Kawintra “Mai” Wongsawasdi reached into her passion, procuring an education in Film and Television from London College of Communication, University of the Arts London, and is pursuing an MBA from Sasin School of Management. She has worked as an independent art curator and art consultant for multiple galleries and art projects, and is now, as an artist liaison at 333 Gallery, she is helping with art exhibitions by represented as well as independent artists. One of the perks of her work is being able to hang out with artists at

their studios, observing the creative processes. Sometimes she curates and also advises art buyers and collectors. Her idea of giving back to the community is to make art accessible to everyone, while her personal goals include curating a show outside Thailand and starting her own podcast, and opening her own small art consultant business. She is proud of being able to create a balance between her mental health, family, social life and love life, but if things get rough, she resorts to meditation, mindful activities and good food.

Kittiporn “Tangmo” Rodvanich

FREELANCE ACTOR AND COMEDIAN



Tangmo is a Thai actress who has been able to break into the US entertainment industry, doing stand-up comedy and even a stint on NCIS Los Angeles. She is most proud of being the first Master of Fine Arts acting student from Thailand at University of California San Diego, the only overseas student in a class of eight, and on a full ride scholarship at that. Before reaching this stage, she did everything from being a wedding organiser, making props, waiting tables and working as a kitchen helper. The last few years have been an emotional roller coaster for her,

with her divorce, the challenges of breaking into the LA entertainment industry, and her father's illness and subsequent passing. But to her credit, she cried her heart out, then turned her love and heartache into a stand-up comedy sketch based on her father. She is proud that she is able to make people laugh and inspire them to be proud of themselves and be mentally strong. She is inspired by Eugene O'Neill's plays that touch on the deep tragedy of human life, and hopes one day to see new blood in Thai politics, equality in marriage and freedom of speech.

Kittipot Autthavichien

CEO, CREATIVE TONE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

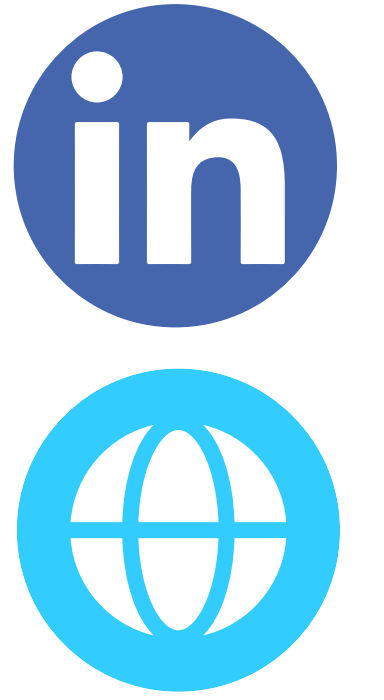


Kittipot is creative director for his company that produces quality and reliable content and design for social change, a demanding role in a world that is bombarded by misleading social media content. A former journalist—he was editor-in-chief of Be Magazine and Creative Living Magazine—he has always been a voice for the underprivileged, and he hopes to be able to encourage others—government organisations, private corporations, individuals and future generations—to show real

concern for the environment and social impact. When in doubt, he always asks himself questions that address life. His favourite film is “Seabiscuit: An American Legend” that shows the underdog fighting to prove himself. Empathy for others and taking action are his driving forces in life, powered by lots of coffee. He looks forward to the day that Thailand can successfully overcome issues of corruption, take affirmative climate action, and build sustainable cities and communities.

Kompit “Pete” Panasupon

MANAGING EDITOR, MAC EDUCATION | CO-FOUNDER,
PANA COFFEE



Second-generation textbook publisher, Kompit Panasupon is the managing editor of MAC Education, an education solution provider centred on developing high-quality educational materials for Thai students, which now includes digital products as well as print. Alongside managing MAC Education, “Pete” runs his own organic coffee business, PANA Coffee, which grows its arabica beans in the hills of Chiang Dao and processes them at his state-of-the-art

facility. PANA Coffee was born out of Pete’s long-time obsession with coffee and has received various recognitions for its beans over the years, including Top Ten Best Coffee in Thailand in 2015 and more recently 3rd place in the Thailand Coffee Excellence 2021 awards. When Pete’s not attending education conferences or checking up on his coffee crops, he is busy being a passionate home cook, saxophonist, rescue diver, and parent to six cats.

Kongwuth “Chef Kong” Chaiwongkhajon

CHEF AND OWNER, LOCUS NATIVE FOOD LAB

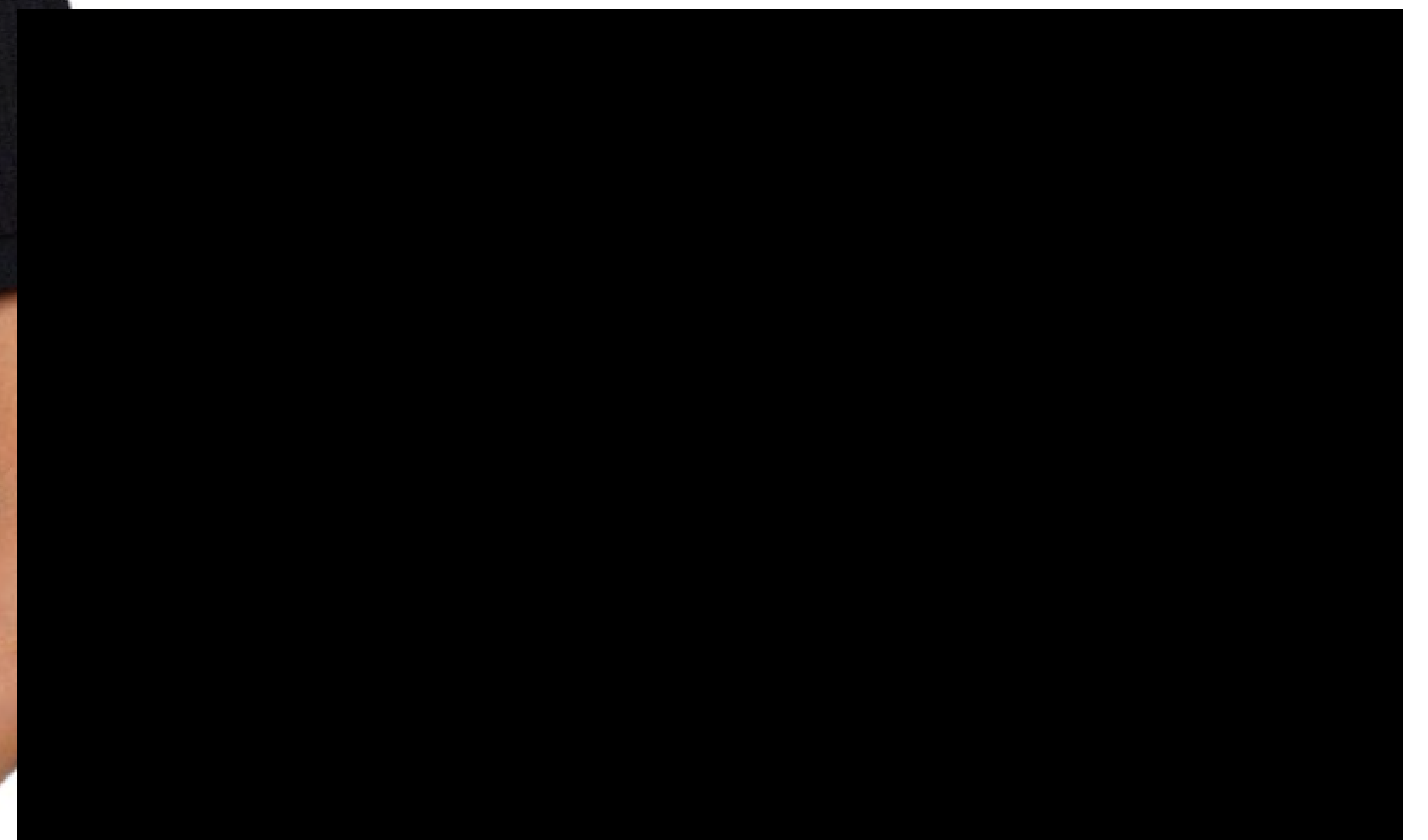
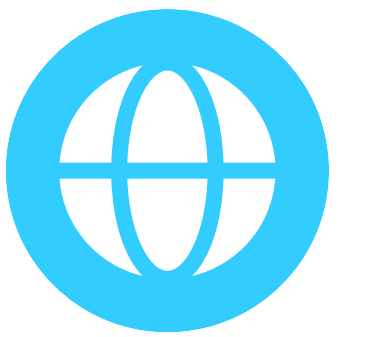


Chef Kongwuth “Kong” Chaiwongkachon graduated with a Grand Diploma from Le Cordon Bleu Dusit and is already a notable name in the Thai culinary scene. He first stepped into the world of cuisine by working as a chef at Fire & Dine Asiatique where he helped craft an array of fusion dishes. He then became the head chef of Japanese restaurant Ren at Dhara Dhevi Chiang Mai gaining success at Thailand’s Iron Chef competition. Because of a strong interest in northern Thai cuisine, he took on his biggest challenge by opening his own restaurant, Locus

Native Food Lab, aiming to help preserve the region’s culinary traditions. A unique strategy, the restaurant changes menus monthly and serves a 10-course dinner by reservation only, to no more than 20 seats per night. The talented chef has also been invited to speak at TEDx Chiang Mai on the subject of the local Lanna culinary scene. He certainly has a long journey ahead of him as he plans to continue raising awareness of local ingredients along with developing the fame of the restaurant.

Krungthep “Paul” Direkmahamongkol

FOUNDER & DESIGNER, PAUL DIREK FASHION BRAND

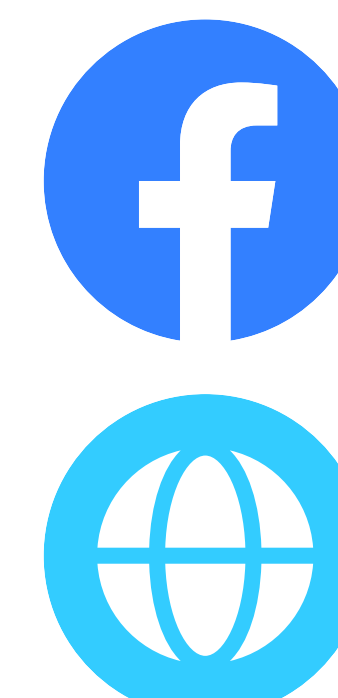


With feet firmly planted in both Asia (Thailand) and Europe (Germany), Paul has the best of both worlds. His Spring/Summer 2023 collection was recently showcased at MQ Vienna Fashion Week, which was a far cry from his former job as hotel front desk assistant manager. He is now featured in the likes of the New York Times, The Korea Times, Die Presse of Austria and Sawasdee Magazine, and was chosen by South Korea to represent the Thai fashion industry in Seoul, Busan and Daegu. His “The Future of Fashion” collection—focussing on sustainability and circular economy—brings fashion back to nature with the use of hand-woven hemp, using the wax-resist technique to create patterns, and includes accessories such as hand-woven reed bags. He hopes to make sustainable fashion more popular and widespread.

Health is also a priority, not only for himself—he plans to improve his own work-life balance—but he also hopes for equal access to a good healthcare system in Thailand. Antoni Gaudi and La Sagrada Familia Cathedral in Barcelona, Spain, never cease to inspire him.

Kwanchai Chaiplum (Dr) and Jaroensi Chaiplum (Dr)

OWNER, PATTAYA ANIMAL HOSPITAL
CO-FOUNDERS, ANIMAL ARMY FOUNDATION

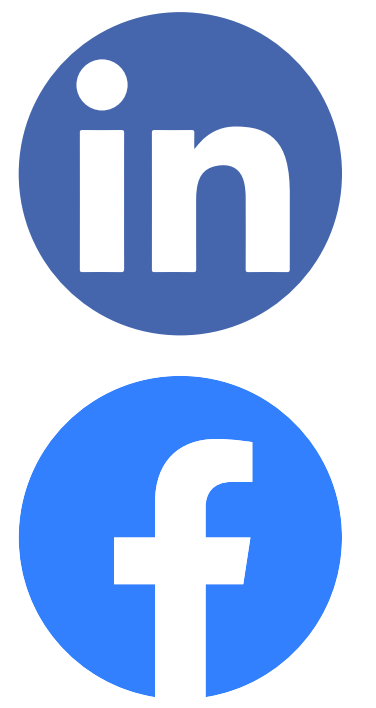


Based in Pattaya, Dr Kwanchai and Dr Jaroensi Chaiplum are both veterinary surgeons, and co-founders of Animal Army Foundation focussing on providing lifesaving medical care, and population control, for homeless street animals. They have recently been concentrating on mass sterilisation and vaccination in Pattaya's rabies red zones, a fight that has been made more difficult as a result of a shortage of rabies vaccines. Fondly known as the Dogfather, Dr Kwanchai specialises in complicated surgeries, cancer (TVT) and trauma cases, while his wife, Dr Jaroensi, specialises in organs and disease. Hit and run cases and

abandoned animals are basic daily occurrences, but the vets have to deal with unfortunate animals that have been shot, poisoned, strangled with rope and slashed with knives. They also offer compassionate end-of-life options that are such sensitive issues in Thai Buddhist culture. When they are not working with animals, they can often be seen cycling for health. Fully sterilised and vaccinated street animals, economic sustainability, lower unemployment rates and a lower use of chemical insecticide are at the top of their wish lists.

Laorsri Sanoamuang PhD

**DIRECTOR, APPLIED TAXONOMIC RESEARCH CENTER (ATRC),
KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY**

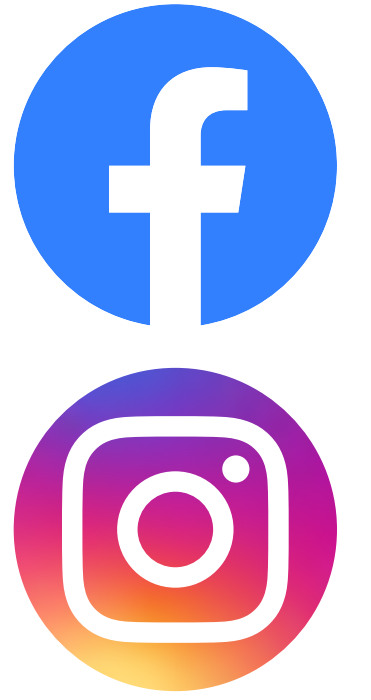


Professor Laorsri is a renowned biologist in Thailand. After earning her first degrees in biology and marine science in Thailand, she gained a PhD in zoology from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, followed by a certificate course in freshwater zooplankton at the State University of Ghent, Belgium. During her career, she has contributed research aiding the understanding of the zooplankton freshwater diversity, discovering and naming more than 70 new species of freshwater zooplankton from Thailand and the lower Mekong River Basin. As the first to discover the secrets of fairy shrimp reproductive biology, Prof Laorsri is credited as the

key figure in unlocking the success of Thailand's aquaculture. In 2000, the professor underscored her success with the discovery of an entirely new species of rare fairy shrimp which was named *Streptocephalus sirindhornae* in honour of HRH Princess Sirindhorn. In 2001, she was named "Outstanding Female Executive for Dedicated Contributions in the Field of Freshwater Biology" by the American Biographical Institute. She has been awarded the best alumni awards from Khon Kaen and Chulalongkorn universities and the senior scientist award from the Science Society of Thailand in the Royal Patronage of the Year 2017.

Lupt Utama

COSTUME DESIGNER



This London-based costume designer has been working in the film industry for 24 years, and received an Emmy nomination in 2009 for the BBC/HBO production “House of Saddam”. He was the first Thai to win a Victoria and Albert Museum scholarship and undertake a master’s degree course in History of Design at the Royal College of Art. The pandemic changed the way the film industry works especially for costume designers who have to be in direct contact with the cast. To stay updated, he visits museums and checks out fashion blogs and magazines to keep up with current fashion trends, but credits the book

Hollywood Costume by Deborah Nadoolman Landis as his biggest source of inspiration. His real-life role model is Jenny Beavan, the 2022 Best Costume Designer Oscar winner (Cruella). Having worked twice with her he hopes to emulate her knowledge in period costuming, and the importance of teamwork, as he moves into a leadership role. With his knowledge of the history of Western fashion through his doctoral research which he shares through lectures, he hopes to be known as a fashion historian as well as costume designer.

Maria Poonlertlarp

MODEL, ACTRESS, SINGER, ADVOCATE



The multilingual and multi-faceted Maria Poonlertlarp was a successful model who caught the public eye by winning the Miss Universe Thailand title in 2017, and reaching the finals in the Miss Universe Pageant in the US. During the competition she cited an interest in combating issues of gender inequality and teenage pregnancy. Since being crowned, her focus has shifted towards environmental concerns and animal rights; with projects like WildAid and Yora Thailand under her belt. She co-founded SOS Earth in 2019 to create awareness on environment issues, and implement social media campaigns such as the Trash Me challenge, or clearing waste

from Khlong Lad Prao in conjunction with the EU, and to create awareness around Thailand's latest Clean Air Act. She uses her widely followed Instagram account as a platform to advocate for various issues close to her heart, including LGBTQ+ rights, animal protection, cross cultural understanding, plant-based leather, chicken factory farming. Although not quite a vegan yet, she tries to cut out all animal products when possible. In addition, Maria volunteers to teach English at Duang Prateep Foundation, a non-profit organisation for the education of Thai students in urban poor areas

Matas Danielevicius

CEO, GAORAI

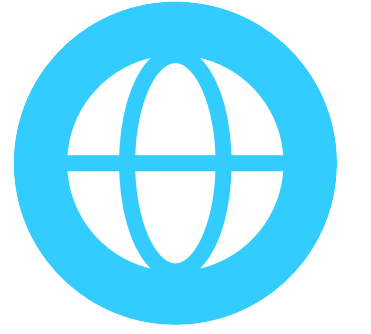


Truly multi-dimensional, Matas is an entrepreneur as well as a theatre and film actor. Passionate about innovation and the whole creative process, he has been working on several acceleration and incubation programmes and is co-founder of two startup companies. Gaorai is an agri-tech platform that helps improve land productivity by utilising the latest UAV, Robotics, Data and farm management tools. Despite the pandemic he has been able to build a successful team for Gaorai, co-produced a feature film and also a couple of theatre productions, and together with KX Knowledge Exchange, he helped to manage a Techbite incubation programme which

raised almost 40 million baht for early stage entrepreneurs. Despite not having worked in the agriculture field before, he realised that the war in Ukraine, climate change, the growing population, rapid urbanisation and disrupted food supply chains are urgent challenges to agriculture that could be overcome by new technology, education and entrepreneurship. He is testing subscription farming, where he takes care of farm crops with the latest tech and data until harvest time. His vision for the future is full remote farming. He relaxes by reading, running, playing tennis, Muay Thai, listening to classic rock or watching anything featuring Matthew McConaughey.

Michael Andreassen

DIRECTOR, ICARE THAILAND FOUNDATION

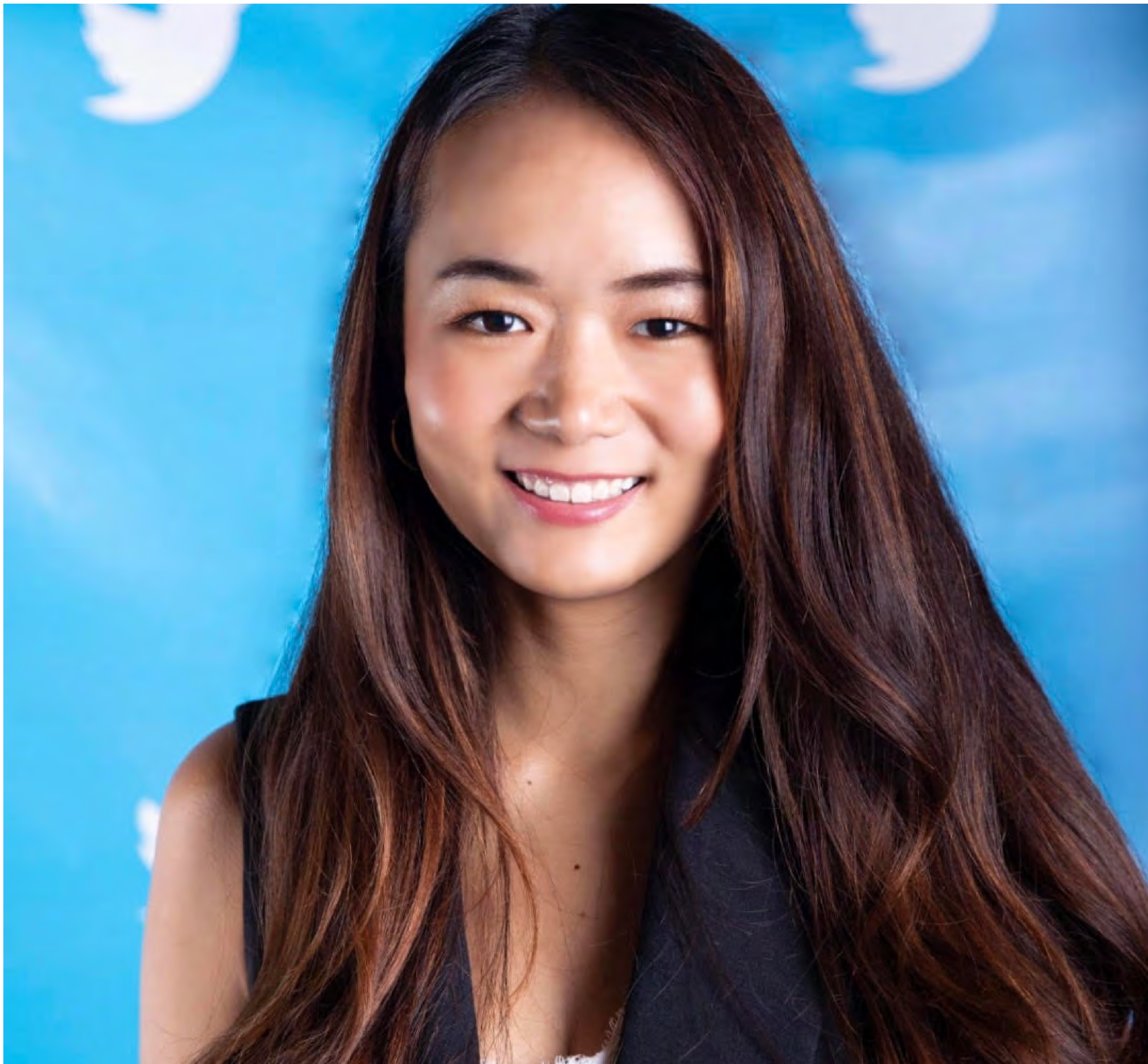


Philanthropist and charity expert, Michael Andreassen is the director of iCare Thailand Foundation, a charitable organisation that is committed and passionate to long-lasting and meaningful community development by executing projects that help the underprivileged and empower the youth. The focus is to enable equal access to education as a means to revolutionise the lives of individuals and their whole communities. Michael strongly believes that education is the only thing that has the power to provide transformation not only to the

individual but to the lives of their families and whole communities to break that cycle of poverty. The foundation is driven by the belief that every life has value and everyone has the capability to reach out to those in need by making a positive contribution to society. A few of their many projects include educational and youth development programs, disaster relief, hospital visitation and music therapy, programs for the disabled, and assistance to orphanages and other needy institutions. The work they do is supported by companies and organisations through partnership.

Monrawee “Lynn” Ampolpittayanant

**HEAD OF PUBLIC POLICY, GOVERNMENT
& PHILANTHROPY, SOUTHEAST ASIA, TWITTER**

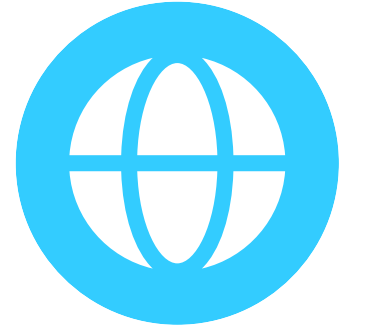


As a Thai-American qualified lawyer who speaks five languages—Thai, English, French, Mandarin and Spanish—Monrawee has recently been concentrating on critical laws and policy issues at the intersection of business, technology, and human rights. She acts as Twitter’s primary ambassador to government policymakers, regulators, and civil society groups on public policy issues. Helping to showcase the use of Twitter for civic purposes, and provide guidance, resources, and to support Twitter’s corporate philanthropy missions in such areas as freedom of expression, internet safety, and crisis response. She is passionate about social impact, technology,

innovation, human rights, labour relations, environmental justice, law reform, and breaking employment barriers for women and minorities. Her desire to strengthen communities led her to launch Twitter #ThereIsHelp notification service that provides timely support on such issues as mental health and suicide prevention, vaccination, child sexual exploitation, COVID-19, gender-based violence, disaster response, LGBTQI and HIV. As a result, she was recognised by APCOM as a HERO Award 2021 honoree for Community Ally. To relax, she hits the gym for sessions in Thai boxing, spinning or pilates.

Monthatip Sooksopa

OWNER AND CEO, DHEPSIRI CREATIVE SPACE



Born into a family of artists—her father is the National Artist (Literature), writer/poet/artist Dhepsiri Sooksopa and her uncle is traditional performing artist Prateep Sooksopa—she has worked in the art world for as long as she can remember. Her home was always a welcome space for artists of different genres, creating awareness that a creative space is one that provides opportunities and inspiration for artistic creation, as well as understanding and interaction with the community. Over 20 years ago she founded The Wandering Moon & Endless Journey performing arts group of which she is still the

artistic director and master of shadow theatre. Her passion for shadow and puppetry took her through life lessons and experience working with many non profit organisations both in Thailand and abroad. To keep alive the artistic works of her father who is suffering from amnesia, she founded the Dhepsiri Creative Space in Chiang Mai as a base for artistic and creative programmes for the healing of modern society. Known as Baan Kru Thep for over 50 years, Dhepsiri Creative Space is now a new art space that is still run as a house in which hidden stories are presented through the eyes of artists.

Muanfun “Dream” Sirikorn-Kunawong

GENERAL MANAGER AND PARTNER, BANGKOK ART AUCTION

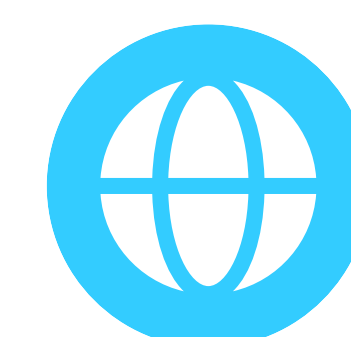


Muanfun’s job is to oversee the operation of auction and private sales, to foster relationships with both buyers and sellers, and lead provenance research on artists and art pieces. Previously, she ran IMAGINIA, a creative playground on art, music, literature and strategic play for children aged 1-12. She feels it’s never too early to pique the interest of kids about the beauty of arts. Her challenge is to be able to gather auction-worthy pieces from consignors, which requires trust and strategy. Next on the agenda is to facilitate auctions of art pieces with a wider range of

art styles across a wider range of Thai artists through intensive art research in the form of video catalogue—a new step for the art auction industry in Thailand. She hopes to energise the Thai art market and create a Thai artist database for an international audience. Her role model is Susan Sollins, founder of Art21, the only US television series and website to focus exclusively on contemporary visual art and artists. It certainly helps that her father is Sermkhun Kunawong, noted photographer, businessman and art collector.

Nada Chaiyajit

**HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN ADVISOR,
MANUSHYA FOUNDATION**



Nada has worked as a transgender rights activist since 2006. Her experience and expertise in the human rights field include LGBTI rights, gender equality, business and human rights, sexual health, and media advocacy, at national and international levels. She was recently recognised with the Hero Awards 2022 (Social Justice). Despite appearances of being a haven for the LGBTQ+ community, Thailand still has a long way to go, the most challenging obstacle toward gender equality and ending sexual harassment is Thailand's patriarchal society. She has used her past experience of discrimination, suffered at different times throughout her life, to empower herself. While still a university student, Nada—

who calls herself “an intersex transwoman” successfully won a case on uniform justice, opening the doors for chosen gender identification and expression in education institutes. She received the Chevening Scholarship in 2019 to study international human rights law in the UK. Nada was recently charged with a criminal defamation SLAPP suit when providing pro-bono service to a young transgender woman who had been sexually harassed by high-ranking official/businessman. She is also on her way towards a PhD scholarship. Marvel Studio's Avengers is an instant pick-me-up, reminding her that solidarity helps win battles.

Napol “Chef Joe” Jantraget

EXECUTIVE CHEF, PLUS 66 GROUP

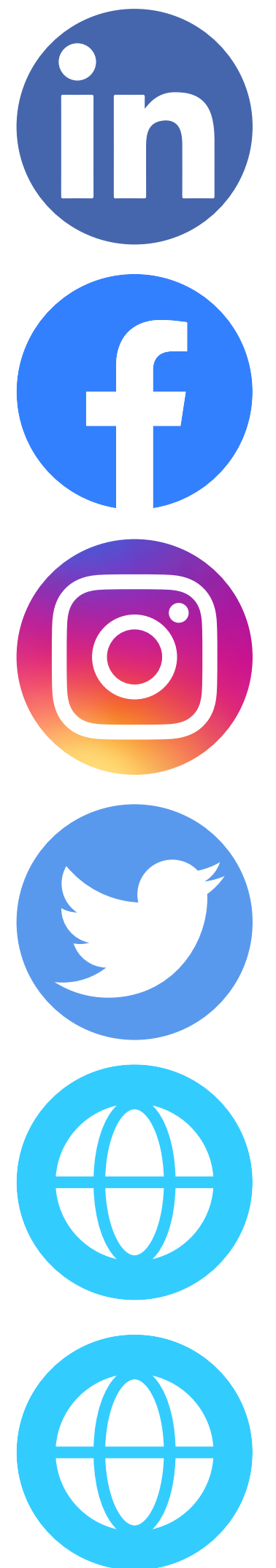


Former head chef and co-founder of Michelin-starred contemporary restaurant 80/20, “Joe” Napol Jantraget, along with his pastry chef wife Saki, has since opened Samlor under Plus 66 restaurant group. Samlor is the latest expression of chef Joe’s unfaltering passion for local Thai ingredients and sustainable cuisine. Since 80/20, Joe has been on a mission to show diners that easily-sourced Thai ingredients can create just as much value on the plate as premium imported

ones; all it takes is creativity and knowledge about how to bring out and combine flavours. One of the ways Joe has honed his skills is by spending time with his suppliers, such as the local fishermen, and engaging with them. With Samlor, Joe elevates Thai street food with seasonal ingredients and modern flair, and he hopes to impart his philosophy on sustainable cuisine to the next generation of Thai chefs.

Narisa Chakrabongse, MR

CEO, RIVER BOOKS AND CHAKRABONGSE VILLAS



The environmental, history and culture are at the heart of everything that MR Narisa touches, from River Books that publishes Thai and Southeast Asian art and culture, history and literary gems, to her own Chakrabongse Villas, a boutique hotel and fine dining venue within the riverside compound built by her grandfather, Prince Chakrabongse, in 1908. She also founded the Green World Foundation that creates awareness on the Thai environment through various forms of media and activities, and she is proud that this passion is shared equally by her sons who are just as socially aware. She is now hoping to

organise another mini BangkokEdge art festival, to flood proof her garden, and to talk about climate change and the injustice of the war in Ukraine—her grandmother was born in that now war-torn country. Her own contribution to fighting climate change is to be aware of her consumption—she has stopped eating beef, promotes solar energy, uses less plastic, drives an electric Mini and takes public transport as much as possible, and stays away from cheap fashion. She is inspired by the Dalai Lama, Greta Thunberg and Sir David Attenborough.

Natapot Warrit

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY,
FACULTY OF SCIENCE, CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY**



His IG profile states that he heads the “largest nursery in Samyan area” with a variety of lizards, cactusses, ocean fish, spiders and coral. But when you are recognised with the “Outstanding Mid-career Researcher 2022 (Bio-Sciences)” award by Chulalongkorn University, that’s probably understandable. He mentors his students to recognise their true passion and potential in real life, to be empathetic, synergistic and to think outside of the box, which he feels is his greatest achievement—apart from winning a cactus contest. He recently organised an international conference

for Chulalongkorn University in collaboration with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, a challenge which he overcame by being optimistic and realistic about the goals. His happy place is in the lab with his students, or chasing bees and spiders. As a bee specialist, he is currently building up a database of bee pollinators in Thailand, to be linked eventually to the DNA barcoding of every bee species in Thailand in the Bee and Spider Research Unit (BSRU). He also hopes to finish and publish his book on Bees of Thailand.

Nattanon Dungsunenarn

CO-FOUNDER, SPACETH.CO

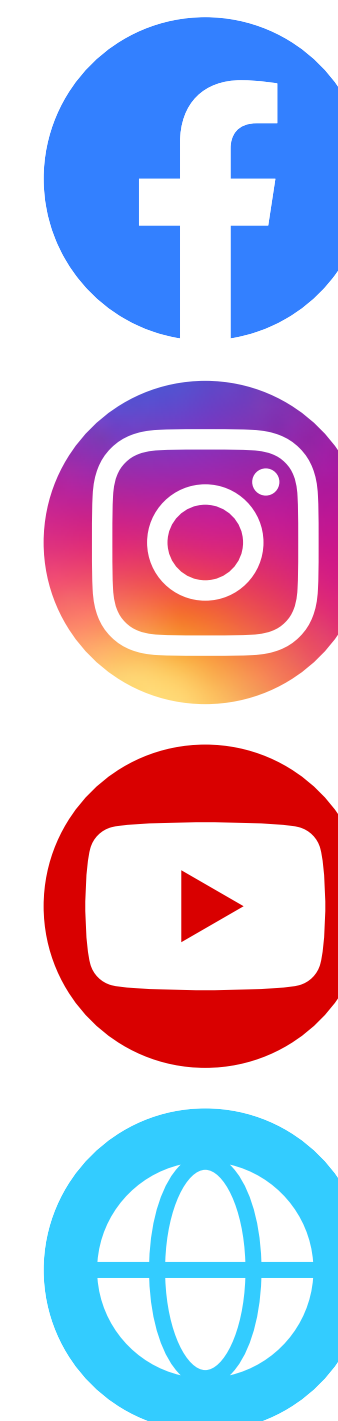


From a group of enterprising young high school students who founded a space media channel in 2017 and won the “Best New Blog Award” that same year, Nattanon realised that his mission in life was to become a space activist and bring space closer to the Thai people. He and his colleagues have now gained over 500,000 followers over their social platforms. By applying the concept of “Space Democratisation” he embeds science, philosophy, culture, design, and the arts into

every chapter of his content and reflects them in activities such as workshops, keynotes, and events that have led him to work closely with many international space organisations. Carl Sagan is his inspiration—whose novel, *Contact*, shows the best approach to see ourselves and the universe. He hopes to share with others that science is the best tool we have to overcome the ignorance of humanity and that he will one day leave a positive footprint in the universe.

Nattapon “DJ Maft Sai” Siangsukon

FOUNDER, ZUDRANGMA RECORDS/STUDIO LAM/PARADISE
BANGKOK MOLAM INTERNATIONAL BAND

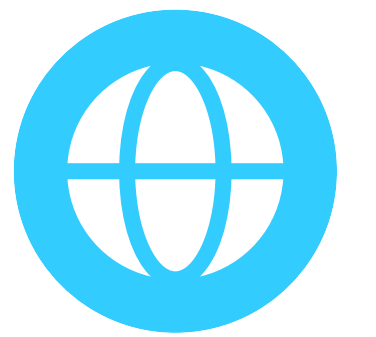


Nattapon Siangsukon, better known as DJ Maft Sai, is best known for reviving traditional molam northeastern music and putting it on the world music stage. As a record collector and DJ, his musicology spans everything from luk thing and molam to reggae, West African, Ethiopian and Far Eastern music, and he has performed at gigs from around Asia and Europe. His Paradise Bangkok Molam International Band combines vintage molam music with funky rhythm sections that has enchanted crowds as far afield as Glastonbury. His Zudrangma record label, and a record store which opened in 2007, specialises in funky molam-

infused music which feature at his live “Paradise Bangkok” and “Isan Dancehall” showcases, while Studio Lam helps to promote non-mainstream artists. As an artist and business owner, he was badly impacted by Covid, but the UK-educated musician put his efforts into personal and online music projects as well as meditation and family. Within the next year, he will release The Paradise Bangkok Molam International Band’s 3rd album, as well as new bands on his Zudrangma Records Label. He is also looking forward to going back on the international tour circuit as a DJ.

Natthineethiti “Nikki” Phinyapincha

FOUNDER, TRANSTALENTS CONSULTING GROUP



As a transgender entrepreneur and equal rights advocate for inclusive business, Nikki is working towards an inclusive workplace with LGBTQ+ economic empowerment for socio-economic change. This is done through strategic consultation, innovative training and workshops, impact-focused collaboration as well as transgender professional leadership advocacy to help businesses in their sustainable workforce development efforts. This mission of creating change for the transgender community and busting stereotypes required her to leave her comfort zone and public relations career, and in 2022 she formed TransTalents Consulting Group.

She is proud of having pioneered advocacy on transgender professional leadership across the regions, and in the same year she was one of 16 participants selected by the US government to join the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) under the economic empowerment theme. She and her business alliances are also forming Thailand's first National LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce to foster economic empowerment and inclusive economic growth for the LGBTQ+ business community. She enjoys travelling and basketball, a game that is not only physically challenging, but also offers opportunities for strategic thinking, decision making and friendship.

Navarerk “Boat” Kaewphakdee

CORPORATE BANKING ASSOCIATE, BANK OF AMERICA

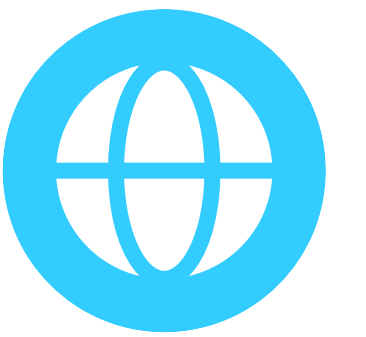


Navarerk’s job is to deliver the bank’s entire platform such as treasury management, trade finance, funding, investments and foreign exchange to large corporates and multinational companies in Thailand, and help them identify the right solutions. A scholarship student at Brigham Young University, Hawaii, he graduated Summa Cum Laude at the age of twenty. He is proud of being co-chair of the bank’s LGBTQ+ Pride Chapter and the co-chair of the Young Professionals Committee at the American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), promoting diversity and inclusion. Practising

mindfulness has helped him overcome burnout and social media pressures as he seeks to overachieve. He also teaches his team to leverage all the new tools available to increase efficiency, so they can use the extra time to pursue their passions. He enjoys connecting people with others, reading—Four Thousand Weeks by Oliver Burkeman is his favourite book—playing golf and volunteering. Climate change, sustainable living, and access to education are some of his favourite causes. Navarerk was named Young Professional (Individual) of the Year at the BCCT King Power Thailand International Business Awards 2022.

Navinda “Lordfai” Pachimsawat

CREATIVE DIRECTOR, BANGKOK DANCE ACADEMY

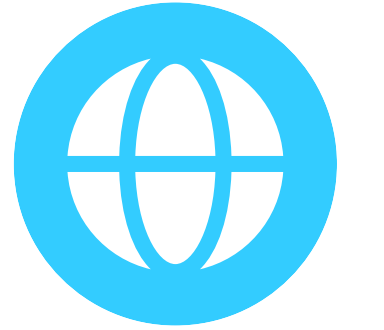


Dance and movement artist and choreographer Navinda grew up in a ballet studio—her mother founded Bangkok Dance Academy—taking her first ballet class at the age of four, and became the first Thai dancer to win the Aggregate Cup in the 11th Asia Pacific Dance Competition, just one of many. She attended the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, The University of Melbourne. Navinda shifted away from classical ballet, inspired by the possibilities and freedom to create and choreograph in the style of contemporary dance. She was selected as one of 67 dancers—the youngest and the only Thai—from around the world to join the DanceWEB

exchange programme, part of the ImPulsTanz Vienna International Dance Festival in Austria. Lordfai has performed and created original works in several countries in the Asia-Pacific region, winning several awards for “Outstanding Choreography”. She also wants to create a healthy and sustainable dance community in Thailand for the long term. She now concentrates on teaching students that dance is not only an artistic discipline but also a form of self-development and expression, an awareness and improvised reaction towards surrounding space, emotion, time, and not just a series of choreographed steps and movements.

Nawacharee “Bo” Piyamongkol

FILMMAKER



Born and raised in Bangkok, “Bo” Nawacharee Piyamongkol now splits her time between her hometown and Los Angeles, working as a filmmaker. Her works are characterised by their personal insights into socio-political topics, as well as the presence of themes of identity, relationships, and intimacy. Using a creative medium paired with a unique style of storytelling,

Bo eases viewers into confronting difficult or socially taboo topics. Her interpretive dance film Bangkok2.5 about Bangkok’s ongoing air pollution problem won the Best Performance Award at the Los Angeles Experimental Dance and Music Festival last year. Bo hopes that her works will continue to stimulate conversations that may have not otherwise taken place.

Nikorn Saetang

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/WRITER/ACTOR/DIRECTOR,
THEATRE 8X8



Recognised with the Silpathorn Award, Nikorn is known for tackling social issues and ethical dilemmas through interactive theatre experiences. His Theatre8x8 focuses on contemporary or universal themes that connect to the audience's daily life. Graduating from Thammasat University and the International School of Theatre Jacques Lecoq in Paris, he ran a small theatre space in Samyan area as a struggling artist, but is now proud to say that his original scripts have been translated into Japanese, and he has directed a few stage performances in Tokyo. Recently he rose to the challenge of transforming a Thai work

to an outdoor stage with Korean artists at the International Environmental Theatre Festival 2022 in South Korea. He has been focussing on the art of silence, and now hopes to explore masked theatre as well as contemporary dance based on classical Thai dance movement. His collection of plays is what he hopes future generations will remember him by. When he's not doing theatre, he's aquascaping or playing with his pet cat, dog and corn snake. One day he hopes people in power will realise that art is a necessity of life, not an extravagance.

Nussara Tiengkate

WEAVER



Nussara Tiengkate is a textile historian and expert as well as designer, who has been working with communities in Mae Chaem for over 30 years. With so much passion for the art of weaving and the people she worked with, she decided to settle down in the region and has spent over two decades learning traditional Lanna weaving styles. Because Nussara became deeply inspired by the extraordinary skills passed on from one generation to another, she was motivated to combine her knowledge of design into creating modern weaving patterns. She has revived and conserved

local weaving and led several development weaving-related projects to help locals sustain their lives while finding ways to integrate their work into modern perspectives. With experience, she found that textiles and other intellectual work can impact people emotionally, economically, educationally, and environmentally. She also believes that working with the new generation will give her a vision of how she should develop her work in the future. Today, she often organises workshops and exhibitions to educate people on weaving.

Nutthachon “Teirra” Kamolvattanavith

JOURNALIST; CO-FOUNDER, THIRD KULTURE PRODUCTIONS

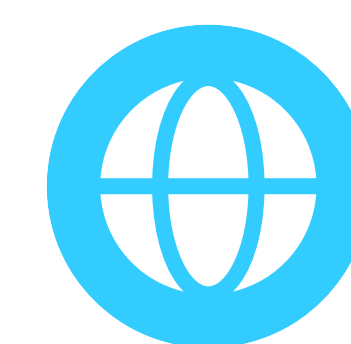


A strong believer of truth being stranger than fiction, Nutthachon “Teirra” Kamolvattanavith is passionate about telling impactful, bizarre, and relevant true stories. From investigating a world-renowned Tantric cult to following Thailand’s marijuana decriminalisation, she reports on topics ranging from human rights and social justice to politics, culture and crime. She is especially interested in shedding light on the unseen, and giving voice to those who are often ignored. In 2019, Teirra’s video report on Thailand’s plastic pollution crisis for Coconuts TV was named the Best Single News Story in the country by the Asian Academy Creative Awards. Other recent

works include her documentary “Rising Star of Thai Politics Hit with Sex Abuse Scandal” for Vice World News, “An Estate Agent for Spirits” for the BBC World Service’s Heart and Soul Programme, “Making Thailand a Highland” for Vice Asia and the Thailand episodes of the series “HER: Women in Asia” for Deutsche Welle. After competing on Netflix’s The Apprentice: ONE Championship Edition in 2021, she fulfilled a life-long goal of starting her own creative agency and production company, Third Kulture Productions, which provides end-to-end video and audio solutions for such clients as UNESCO, BBC Storyworks, and BMW Financial Services.

Nutthida “Eve” Palasak

FOUNDER, FOUNDISAN/ZAO/ZAO LARB



Graduating with a degree in fashion promotion from the UK, Nutthida, or Eve, used to travel to Paris or Tokyo to keep updated with the fashion scene. That was until family obligations required her to move back to Ubon Ratchathani. Selling harvesters to local agribusinesses left her uninspired, as did a successful soy milk store that she opened as a case study for her students at Ubon Ratchathani University. Only when she was invited to help select local handicrafts for exhibiting overseas did she discover the amazing world of Isaan textiles. During a trip around the northeast to train weavers, she found a piece of

fabric with a love message “forever waiting” woven into it by a woman whose lover never returned, and Eve realised she had found what she had been waiting for. She created Foundisan as a non-profit organisation that promotes local crafts re-interpreted as quality products for modern international markets. Her products—mats, wall hangings and shawls—are interwoven with love messages in the local Isaan dialect. She also focussed on Isaan cuisine, opening Zao in Ubon, then in Bangkok, offering authentic Isaan fare using local ingredients. Her latest restaurant is Zao Larb in Bangkok.

Oliver “Olli” Gottschall, PhD

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (COO) AND HEAD OF FOOD BUSINESS, BETAGRO PCL

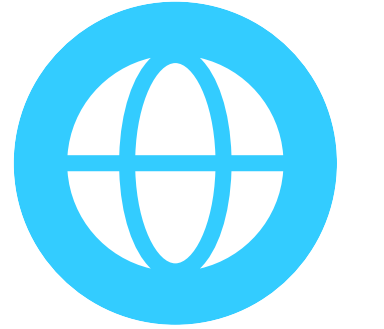


Dr Oliver, or Ajarn Olli as he is known, produces fresh, chilled and frozen food products, including plant-based meats for one of Thailand’s leading integrated food businesses. He also teaches at Chulalongkorn University and Sasin School of Management. Arriving in Thailand in 2002 with no knowledge of the language, he embarked on a master’s degree course in Economics at Chulalongkorn University, and in 2019, after a painstaking multi-year process, he was granted Thai citizenship of which he is extremely proud. He is working on expanding his food business activities, providing greater and healthier food choices at affordable prices. He is passionate

about education and financial literacy which he addresses through his YouTube channel covering business, strategy, finance, investing and soon personal finances, an upcoming book on business strategy, and the Teach for Thailand Foundation. To help groom Thailand’s future leaders, he launched McKinsey’s “Consulting Fellowship Program” (CFP) in 2008 to identify 15 outstanding young talents per year and help guide them into their future leadership roles. For Thailand to develop, the issues of education, personal finance and debt, social and economic equality, and corruption need to be addressed. And he really would love to have more time to play saxophone.

Pakpoum “Bobby” Mahasith

CEO, ECOLOTECH

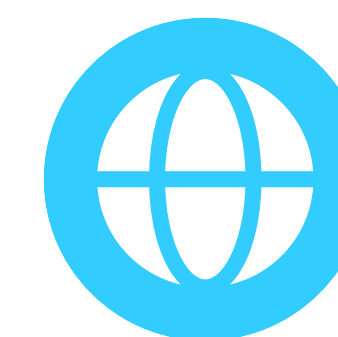


Pakpoum “Bobby” Mahasith worked in Paris in the fashion and cosmetics industry for almost 20 years. Family obligations drew him back to Thailand, and after realising the extent of pollution created by the industries of his past, he felt a sense of responsibility to help conserve the environment. Bobby’s company, Ecolotech, specialises in “The Save Earth Technology”, inventing products and business models to help consumers and business owners seamlessly switch to eco-friendly alternatives. Among these is a system that supplies organic drinking water directly produced from air, using AI technology to monitor the quality. Another project involves an

innovative form of public transportation. Although his work has been noticed by many businesses overseas, he knows that in the real world, global warming startups take a back seat to those in money-related fields such as crypto-currencies. His drastic call to hack the old systems by creating technology to disrupt greenwashing has earned him the moniker “The Eco Warrior”. It is therefore a great source of pride for him that his image is now hanging in the hall of honour at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Versailles as one of many around the world who are working to save our planet.

Patompon Wongtrakoongate, PhD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

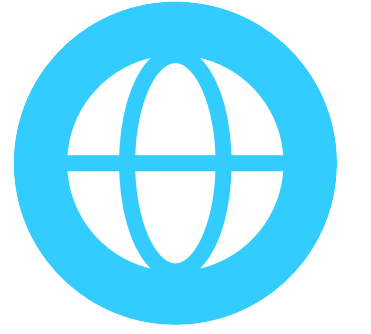


Based on his experience in RNA biology, Assoc Prof Dr Patompon's laboratory is the first research group in Thailand to develop an in-house mRNA vaccine prototype for Covid-19 using a novel circular platform of ribonucleic acid (circular mRNA). His platform led to the success in developing the mRNA vaccine prototype within only two months after he rationally engineered a viral antigen, the SARS-CoV-2 spike. His laboratory has also developed molecular toolbox for Covid-19 research, and provided them to Thai scientific communities free of charge to accelerate the field. In 2021, he and his colleagues founded the first Thailand's start-up for mRNA therapeutics,

Bio-Adventure, aiming at translating his innovation to clinics. His next hurdle is to seek investors and angel funds to set up a local biopharma facility for mRNA medicines in Thailand. He hopes that one day his biomedical research and inventions will transform current medicines toward novel therapeutics. His dream legacy would be to invent novel therapeutics based on mRNA medicines for future pandemics, genetic diseases, regenerative medicine, and cancers. Though his life revolves around his scientific community, he enjoys nothing more than a nice meal with his parents and friends, music, films and running.

Peangdao “Yoi” Jariyapun

CO FOUNDER, MANAGER, THAI THEATRE FOUNDATION

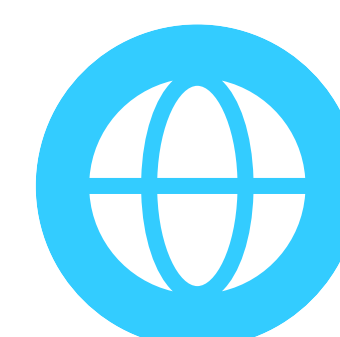


Actress, art manager and art advocate Peangdao, or Yoi, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in dramatic arts from the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. For Peangdao, theatre has always been her passion and a central part of her life, but now she wears multiple hats as an actress, stage manager and also producer. With a strong belief that the arts are a vehicle for society and personal change, Peangdao co-founded the Thai Theatre Foundation to strengthen the contemporary art community, helping it to operate effectively and equitably under the principles of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. She is also a

key member of BIPAM (Bangkok International Performing Arts Meeting) team—Southeast Asia's performing arts gathering and exchange platform and gateway into the various contexts of Southeast Asia's diverse and thriving performing arts scene. During the Covid pandemic, she petitioned the government to find short and long-term solutions to support creative professionals in the theatre industry who lost their income as a result of the lockdown. Despite her heavy workload for art management and regular appearances on various TV series, she always finds her way back to the stage, her first love.

Philip Cornwel-Smith

WRITER



*Clip from Thailand
Foundation's Expat
Orientation Program
(next on 14-15 Feb 2023)*

Photo from Cedric Arnold"

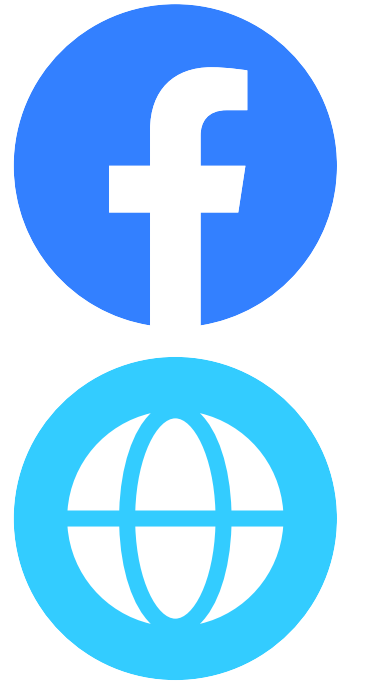


This long-time Bangkok resident made his name as the founding editor of Bangkok's first city listings magazine Metro in the 90s, but really hit the headlines when he published his book *Very Thai* in 2005 on the country's popular culture that quickly became an iconic go-to book for Thais and foreigners alike, and is even referenced in universities. This was followed by *Very Bangkok*, which took years to write, but hit the market at the same time as the pandemic thereby losing potential exposure, but has recently gained traction at Ubud Writers Festival. It was also the

subject of the Bangkok Pavilion at the urbanism biennale Countless Cities in Sicily. He is now working on a new book on Thailand and also updating *Very Thai* to cover the massive changes over the past decade, while also trying to achieve a healthier work-life balance. Despite his ability to see the quirky elements in popular culture that Thais take for granted, and reference them with the perfect balance of humour and sensitivity, he is admittedly plotting a campaign to stop the slapstick sound effects that infest Thai media, his self-confessed *bête noire*.

Piriya Vachajitpan

CEO & CO-FOUNDER, ART AUCTION CENTRE

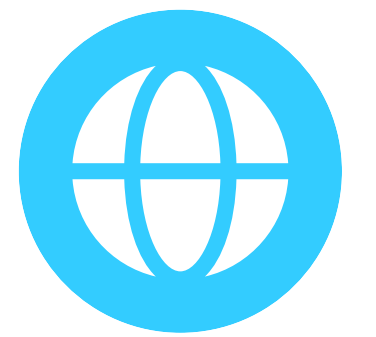


Piriya's role in the world of art began as a collector—of fossils and antiques, no less. Since childhood, his parents would take him to visit museums, and gift him with fossils, starting his collection. After graduating in marketing, he gained experience at various companies, taking up any challenges that were thrown at him as opportunities to learn and grow. During his stint as managing director of the Chao Phraya Tourist Boat Company he merged his love for art with tourism by featuring the iconic 3-eyed kid by street artist Alex Face on his boats, making them instantly recognisable. He also co-founded Thai Art Collectors Association and more recently

River City Bangkok's Art Auction Centre, which sources quality artworks for domestic and international collectors. Meanwhile, his collection has grown from fossils to rare pieces ranging from the mid 19th century Thai artist Khrua In Khong, Galileo Chini, Misiem Yipinsoi, Thawan Duchanee, Tang Chang and Chakrabhand Posayakrit to contemporary names such as Natee Utarit, Gongkan, Molly and NFT artists, many of which he sourced from other private collectors. His collection of over 500 pieces now fills his 7-storey home space, and he aspires to create a proper museum for public viewing one day.

Piyaporn “Opal” Kitjikhun

CEO/HEAD OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT, SENNA LABS

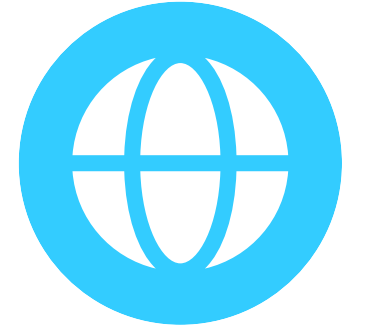


As a law graduate, and one of the youngest female Thai Tech leaders, she has proven herself as a CEO of a company that has successfully launched many digital products for numerous clients ranging from startups to large enterprises. She believes that the key to good leadership is to help others achieve good performance with a kind heart. She is also a consultant at UNCTAD, a part time lecturer at Mahidol University, and a mentor at Bascii, Chulalongkorn University. Balancing four jobs and family life as mother of two children as well as an active social life, her

secret is to concentrate on the love and joy in life that extends to those around her. Her aim is to be able to help other people have a better quality of life by using technology, but she also hopes to increase awareness and knowledge on user experience (UX), and build a great digital product. An outdoor girl at heart, she is an avid golfer and sailor, and an aspiring artist. She would love to see more green space in the country, and more collaboration between the private sector and the government.

Prao Vikitsreth

OWNER AND CREATIVE DESIGNER, PEACHES ACTIVEWEAR



Fresh out of King's College, London, Prao embarked on building a fashion business without any prior experience. Being stuck at home during Covid, she longed for stylish but comfortable clothing, and Peaches Activewear was the result—high quality, versatile athletic and athleisure clothing for women of all sizes. Doing business alone was a personal challenge, making decisions and mistakes, and overcoming the isolation, pressure and wavering of self-confidence. The Monocle Book of Entrepreneurs was a constant reference for her during this time. She is proud of being confident enough to make connections and

expand to London, with a pop-up event as well as collaborations with other brands there. She is aware of the stigma in Thailand regarding age, education, looks, family or financial background and ethnicity, and feels that stepping out of her comfort zone has set an example for others. Young people also have a strong diet and body shape mentality, so her campaigns with plus sizes help others to confidently embrace their body types. She also hopes mental health and eating disorders will become more openly discussed, and that she will be able to help young children achieve their dreams and full potential.

Prin Polsuk & Mint Jarukittikun

CHEF AND OWNERS, SAMRUB SAMRUB THAI



Chef Prin has made a name for himself as someone who has researched the complexity of Thai food through rare cookbooks, such as that of Thanpuying Plian Phasakornwong who wrote Thailand's first cookbook in the mid 19th century. He grew up in Lampang, helping his grandmother in the kitchen which still triggers happy sensorial memories. A degree in engineering eluded him, as he found more excitement following Anthony Bourdain's culinary adventures. He gained experience at Mandarin Oriental's Sala Rim Naam Thai restaurant, then was mentored by Chef David

Thompson of Nahm in London and Bangkok, and He began to make a name for himself through a series of pop-ups before opening Samrub Samrub Thai in 2017 as a private kitchen serving progressive Thai food. He is assisted by his wife, Thanyaporn "Mint" Jarukittikun, who handles the front of house, menu selections, products and suppliers. Since then, the restaurant has been recognised among Asia's 50 Best Restaurants (an awards business based in the UK). The couple recently introduced their latest venture—VILAS, a Thai fine dining restaurant with world ingredients.

Prinya Kovitchindachai

DIRECTOR, PRINSIRI



Prinya is managing director at PrinVentures, a residential real estate developer that focuses on townhouses, single houses and low rise condominiums. The company was affected by the pandemic, the stagnant economy and high inflation over the past year, but he has learned to better navigate these issues through adaptability and cash conservation. Previously, he worked at Kasikorn Bank as a project finance lending analyst for early solar farm projects in Thailand, giving him an insight into alternative energy sources. As a result he has introduced the concept “Oxygen

Community” and “Green Consciousness” that comprises “Green Technology, Green Materials and Green Design” into his housing projects. He would like to guide Prinsiri and its subsidiaries towards a sustainable growth trajectory, as a profitable company that produces as much positive social and environmental impact as economic impact. His mother inspires him with her mantra to never give up, while “Twins in Tree” by photographer Rodney Smith teaches him that life is a journey of things to look forward to and experiences to look back and reflect upon.

Puntip “Cher” Attakanwong

CHEF AND OWNER, MAD BEEF

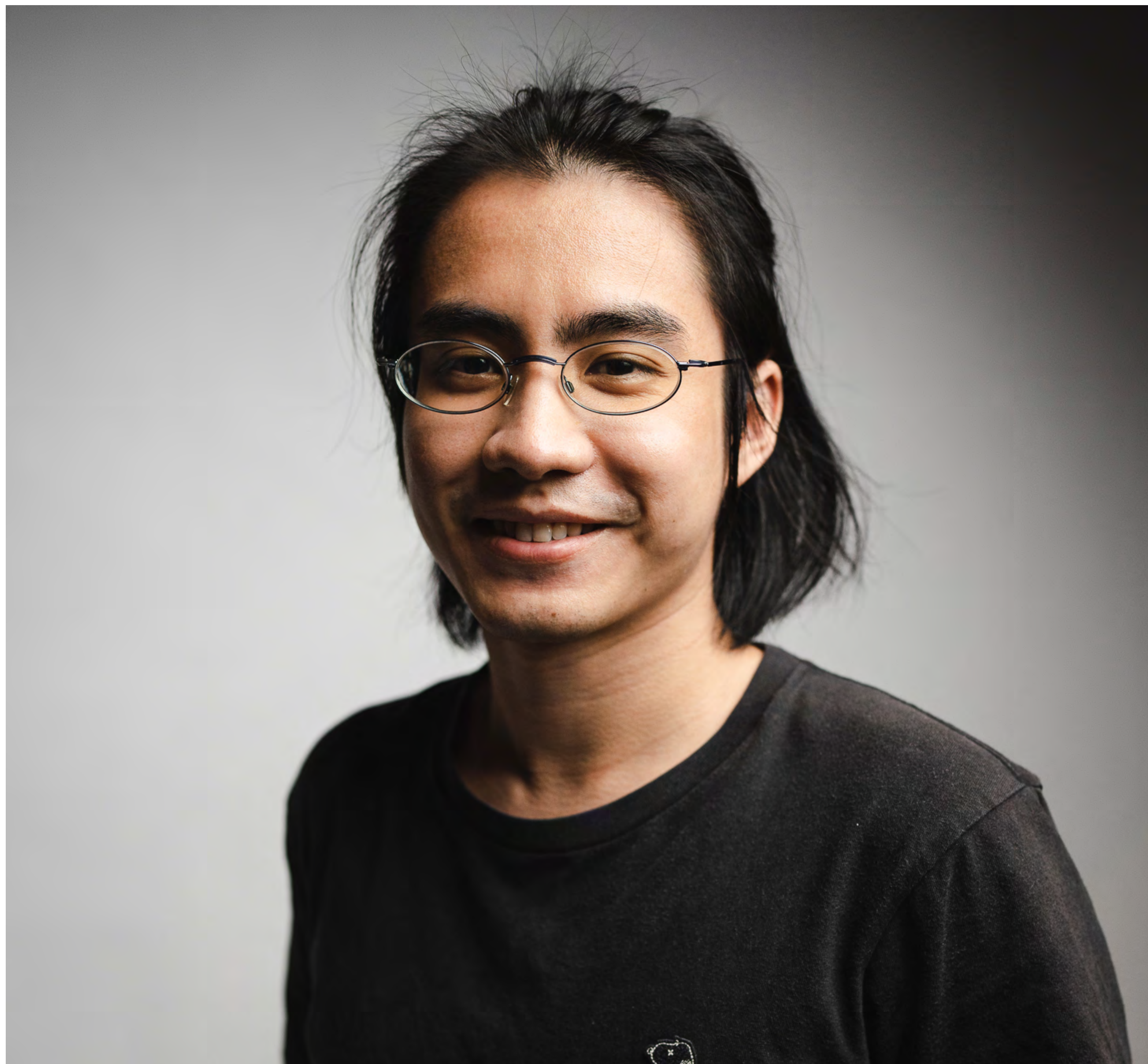


Chef and owner of Mad Beef, Cher Attakanwong promotes sustainable consumption of beef through her chef's table. Tucked inside her sister's—Porntip “Mook” Attakanwong—contemporary art space ATT19 gallery on Charoenkrung, the restaurant boasts striking carved wood columns over the bar with a wall of greenery. Just like the name suggests, every dish served includes beef. Other than the nose-to-tail concept, Mad Beef strongly focusses on the texture of the meat in each

dish, as well as allowing diners during the meal to experience all parts of the cow along with detailed explanations of what is being eaten. With plenty of culinary experience, Chef Cher has previously worked in restaurants in Australia and implements many Western cooking techniques into her dishes. At the same time, diners can also feel the chef's passion for Asian cuisine, such as infusing Japanese-style recipes into her cooking craft.

Rachata “Tong” Siriyakul

ARTIST



Rachata graduated from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, then furthered his artistic studies at The School of John Angel, Florence, Italy. He was fortunate enough to train under the close supervision of Norwegian artist Odd Nerdrum, considered to be one of the greatest living classical figurative painters. That was the turning point in his artistic métier, when he adopted the Venetian Renaissance principle while being able to achieve true freedom in painting. One of his key techniques is grounding, using calcium as a key ingredient to provide a strong support and a solid surface, “like a wall that can be rolled up”.

From there, he has the flexibility to be as free as he wishes on the canvas. He spends a lot of time on each painting to refine it, creating textures and subtle lighting. He often bases his female portraits on his own image, so they are seen as masculine and primitive. Rachata’s work was featured in the first Bangkok Art Biennale in 2018. For his solo exhibition “The Opposite Route to Celestial Light” at Number 1 Gallery in 2022, he wrote his own fairy tales—Three Sisters and Black Priest—and referenced the fiction of Shogun and The Three Kingdoms—to help create the imagery to reflect those in his imagination.

Rawinan “Winnie” Asawakanjanakit

DANCE ARTIST, COMPANY WAYNE MCGREGOR



This London-based dancer studied at Joffrey Ballet School and The Ailey School, New York City. She previously worked as a freelance contemporary dancer in New York City and also participated in many commercial campaigns for fashion, runway, magazines, live events, and music videos. Currently with Company Wayne McGregor, Winnie rehearses and performs in the UK and overseas. She is excited and eager to learn from the company, to grow and challenge herself with the creative process as the company

develops new works. She is proud to have proven that a Thai dancer can reach the international stage despite the odds, and was deeply moved when young dancers asked for her autograph after a recent performance in Singapore. First Movement of Brahms's Cello Sonata in E Minor—to which she performed in Venice—is her go-to piece of music to focus the mind. The issues she is most passionate about are mental health and ending violence against women

Rena Janamnuaysook

**PROGRAM MANAGER, INSTITUTE OF HIV RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION**



An advocate for the rights of transgender people, Rena Janamnuaysoo is a transgender woman who works as the Program Manager (Implementation Science) for Transgender Health at the Institute of HIV Research and Innovation (IHRI) in Bangkok. She also established the Tangerine Community Health Clinic as the first transgender-led health clinic in the region, and now a model for other countries in the region. IHRI provides advanced clinical and implementation research on HIV and other health-related issues, strengthens the capacity of community health workers and health care providers, while fostering partnership with other health sector entities. Rena provides technical guidance for the development and

implementation of HIV and AIDS research and programs for the transgender population, ensuring they advance the work of IHRI in serving vulnerable populations. Moreover, she also co-founded the Thai Transgender Alliance, the first transgender-led network promoting the rights of transgender people in Thailand. Her greatest challenge in achieving transgender-inclusive policy change is combatting the negative attitude and stigma associated with transgender identity. She previously worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Richie Kul

VEGAN INFLUENCER

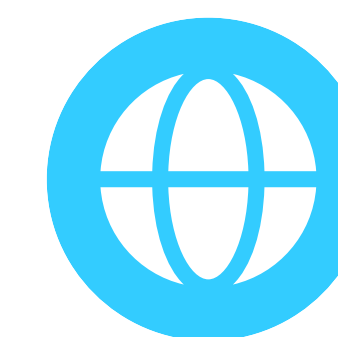


A graduate of Stanford University, Thai-American Richie Kul worked in finance for several years before discovering his passion for animal activism and the vegan lifestyle. Moving to Europe and Asia thereafter, he has become a successful actor and model who uses his global platform to spread awareness for the many benefits of cruelty-free living whilst simultaneously shattering the myths

surrounding meat and masculinity. You can catch Richie in the next season of *Eating Plants*, an international series promoting the plant-based offerings of popular tourist destinations around the world, as well as the upcoming Thai series *Destiny Seeker*. In the meantime, you'll probably spot him exploring vegan eateries in Bangkok with his inseparable four-legged dog-ter, Lily.

Ronnakorn “Ronnie” Vaiyavuth, PhD

HEAD OF INNOVATION PROJECT
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
CHULALONGKORN SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED INNOVATION

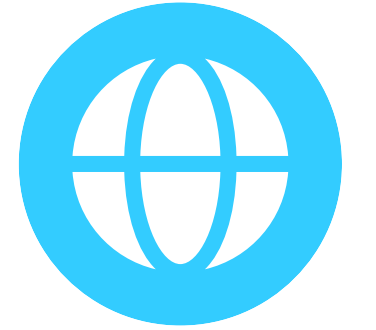


Innovation is the name of the game for Dr Ronnakorn, having spearheaded this field at CU Innovation Hub, the Institute for Knowledge and Innovation South-East Asia, at ERM, and at the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Department of Mines and Energy, Queensland before joining the flagship programme at Chulalongkorn University called “School of Integrated Innovation (ScII)”. A self-confessed academic who doesn’t enjoy academia, he is happy to help incubate Innovation in young students, and embed all the required

competencies and skills they will need in the future as global citizens wishing to create an impact. The most important step is to change attitudes, so young people realise that innovation starts with mindset, not technology. The best piece of advice he has received is “Shit Happens”, since it happens all the time. When it transpires, he distracts himself with American sports, soccer and cooking. He would like to see Thais change the way they encounter problems, and some form of compromise between the old and the new.

Roonglit “Mac” Chareonsupkul

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT, DATA WOW CO LTD



Data Wow is a company that specialises in data solutions and is leading the way for AI Development. As director of technology and head of development, Roonglit provides companies from start-ups to prominent enterprises with tailor-made solutions. He also looks after the software development projects, ensuring the customers receive the best products. Prior to this, he honed his tech skills as CTO in charge of e-commerce and integration at Srichand United Dispensary. His biggest challenge was scaling up the company from start-up to growth stage. When usual practices did not work due to a larger team, he

introduced new best practices to help everyone see the big picture, working with partners in both Thailand and Japan, to achieve a successful transformation. His next goal is to increase the company to 10 times its size within the next few years. In his free time, he volunteers for Saturday School Foundation, a non-profit programme that aims to create accessible learning opportunities for Thai children. He is also running his own online show with “Mission to the Moon, Tech Monday”, to shed the spotlight on tech people and encourage them to re-skill in line with developing ecosystems.

Rossanee Nurfarida (Rossanee Kaesaman)

POET & FREELANCE EDUCATOR



Born in Hat Yai Thailand, Rossanee Nurfarida graduated in media studies and cultural communication from Chulalongkorn University. She embarked on a career as a journalist, but she is happiest when writing poetry, and prefers to call herself a storyteller. Her first poem, *Far Away From our Own Homes*, was shortlisted for the 2016 South East Asian Write Award. Her poetry expresses a modern woman's perspective composed in free verse touching mainly upon how religion can divide the Thai state, its communities, and lovers. This storyteller has also created a video version of one of her poems,

Lost in Homeland. The poem paints a picture of an individual, alone and drifting aimlessly at sea, commenting on southern Thailand's Muslim minority being an ethnic group stranded in the country of their birth. *Lost in Homeland* was a 2017 official selection at the Juteback Poetry Film Festival, the Bangkok Underground Film Festival, and the CYCLOP International Poetry Film Contest, but her greatest source of pride was being the only Thai representative chosen by the Japan Foundation Thailand to participate in the Exchange with Southeast Asian Muslim Youth Program 2018 in Japan.

Ruangrin “Mafuang” Aksharanugraha

PSYCHOTHERAPIST, BEAUTIFUL MADNESS BY MAFUANG



Ruangrin “Mafuang” Aksharanugraha’s first job was as a writer at a lifestyle magazine interviewing many interesting people. She quickly realised that she enjoyed studying people and their characters which led her to embark on the next chapter of her life as a psychology Master’s student. She continued her studies in the US at Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology for Marriage and Family Therapy and Counseling. Today, Mafuang is a successful psychotherapist who runs her own content blog ‘Beautiful Madness by Mafuang’, where she mostly talks about the idea of psychology in a fun

and approachable way for Thai people, as well as relationships which contribute to who we are today. Aside from her blog, she hosts a podcast called Life Cry Sis on The Matter platform together with writer Waritha “Baitoey” Saejia, created as a safe space for those who are dealing with life issues. Having described herself as an “emotional sponge”, she has high levels of empathy and wants to encourage people to seek help when they’re in need. She believes that you don’t have to be “mad” to seek help and it’s okay to see a therapist.

Santitarn Sathirathai, PhD

**GROUP CHIEF ECONOMIST AND MANAGING DIRECTOR,
SEA GROUP**



This economist with a doctorate degree in Public Policy from Harvard University has worked at Credit Suisse, the Ministry of Finance, and the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation. At Sea—a leading global consumer internet company and the parent company of Garena, Shopee and SeaMoney—Dr Santitarn leads Sea’s engagement with policymakers and thought leaders around the region. He was a speaker at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, and the first Southeast Asian representative at the WEF’s Community of Chief Economists. He was also the only Asian economist

to have won the best economic forecaster award by Consensus Economics for three consecutive years. His latest award-winning book, *The Great Remake*, has been used in the crafting of Thailand’s economic strategy. He helped draft Thailand’s SME Development Plan as well as policies to promote local startup ecosystem. For the future, he hopes that Sea can help bridge the digital skill gap and empower the underserved in Thailand. The Japanese animation, *Spirited Away*, is a constant reminder for him that “Who we are” is shaped by the journey we take and the choices we make.

Saranarat Kanjanavanit, PhD

CO-FOUNDER & OWNER, NUNIENOI WETLAND & FARM



This ecologist, environmental advocate and recipient of the National Geographic Thailand Explorer Award 2019, is now firmly entrenched at Nunienoi Wetland and Farm in Chiang Mai which practises rewilding food production, biodiversity conservation and organic agriculture. Prior to this, Dr Oy was the president of the Green World Foundation where she pioneered citizen sciences in Thailand. In the past year she launched her new book “Homo Gaia” that questions the place of humans as members of the planetary community. Her wetlands were recently devastated by a plague of rose-eating beetles as a result of the

extreme weather, but her team of farmers and ecologists helped identify the best solutions, resulting in her crops recovering faster than other farms in the area. She firmly believes that people and nature can heal and recover together if given a chance. She is planning hands-on courses related to her book that cover intraspecies communication—as reflected in her favourite documentary “My Octopus Teacher”—to empower people with their own nature conservation actions. She also hopes one day to set up a rewilded agricultural land trust that also serves as an inspirational nature connection centre.

Sarila “Bo” Chattakulchai

FOUNDER, MELT DISTRICT AND NOSH NOSH PROJECT

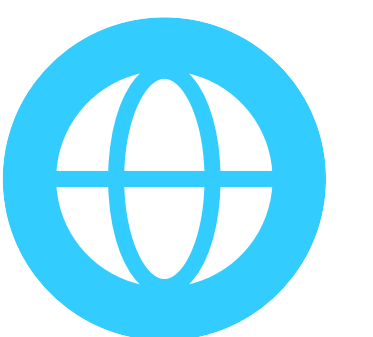


Her previous life as an event organiser made her realise that she created so much waste, so she closed her company and started new projects that would be more meaningful for society and future generations. Melt District is a plastic recycling studio, and Nosh Nosh Project is a food and culture curating enlargement project, and the Hill Tribe Education Foundation raises funds to encourage hill tribe kids to study in university. Some of her challenges included convincing farmers to trust in her Nosh Nosh Project, and the limited information on plastic recycling. She had to research and experiment, but after eight months,

she was able to produce the desired melt sheet. Now she hopes to bring the prices down to make recycling solutions more affordable to a wider group. She is proud, in recent times, of having reduced at least 100 kg of plastic waste everyday, turning it into new material, and of having built four water retention ponds for Hin Lad Nai village in Chiang Rai, which were funded by the educative dining experiences she hosted. When she's not working on her projects, she is probably out running marathons or watching Wes Anderson films.

Sarinee Achavanuntakul

CO-FOUNDER, SAL FOREST

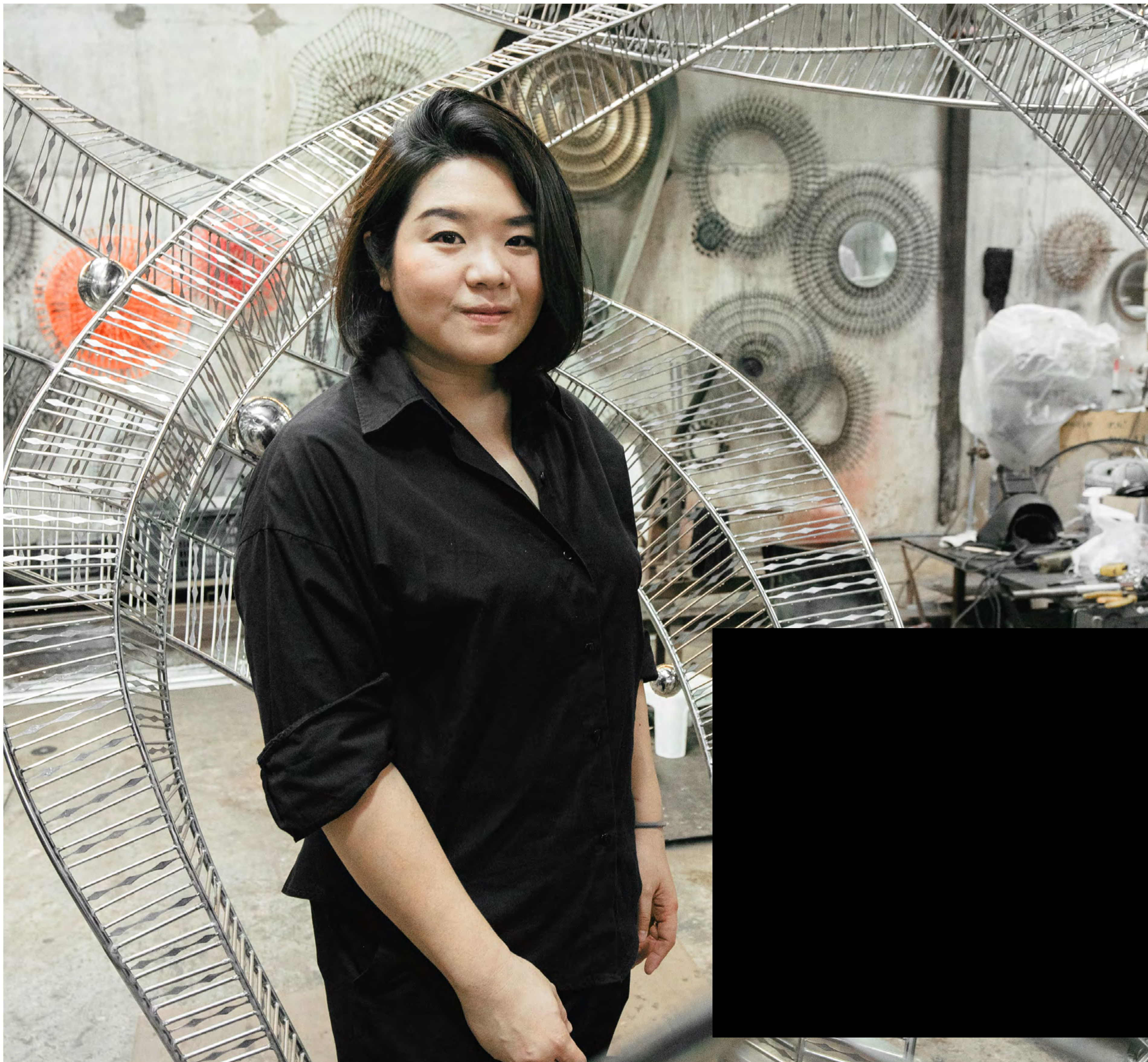
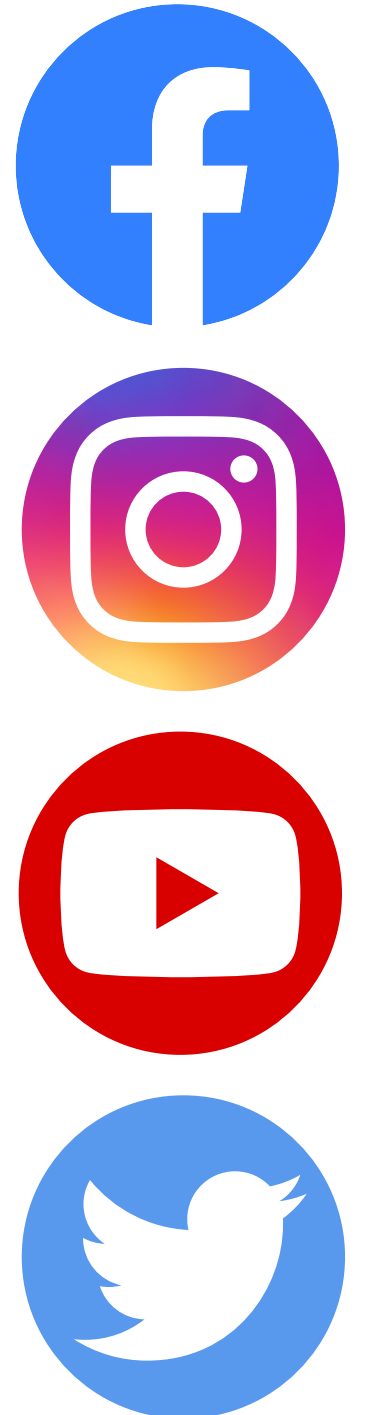


Sarinee is a prolific writer, translator, researcher who “builds bridges with words”, and is a sustainable business advocate. An economics graduate from Harvard, she earned a master’s in business administration from New York University, and worked in investment banking for almost a decade—her last position being executive director of Hunter Advisory Ltd—before committing herself to being a writer and researcher. Her alter ego is “Fringer”, the name of her blog, which developed into several columns and books on the topic of sustainable development, sustainable business and social finance. She also co-founded the Thai Netizen Network under the Foundation for Internet and Civic Culture that advocates for digital rights

and civil liberties, Open Worlds Publishing, Salt Publishing and ThaiPublica online investigative news agency, amongst others. In 2013, she co-founded Sal Forest, Thailand’s first “sustainable business accelerator” which aims to jumpstart and sustain a public discourse on sustainable business via events, print and online media, as well as conducting research on important sustainability issues in Thailand and social impact assessment. This goal is to help transition Thailand’s business environment towards authentic responsible development. Her leisure time is devoted to boardgames, books, food and travel, not necessarily in that order.

Saruta “Pin” Kiatparkpoom

MANAGER DIRECTOR & DESIGNER, PIN METAL ART CO LTD

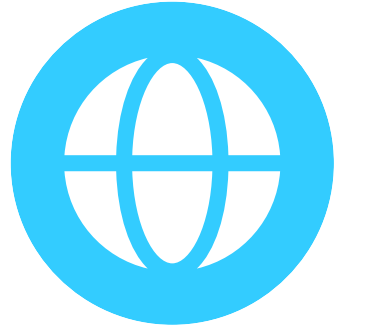


Saruta, or Pin, set up a company to transform worthless steel debris in everyday life into art objects and home decorative items. Growing up within a family that owned a steel company, the sound of metalwork was part of her everyday environment. But after graduating in fine and applied arts, she imagined that there could be more to the metal scraps around her. From metal art objects, she began to incorporate the pieces into spaces, and soon her chandeliers—like those that decorate ICONSIAM—became sought after. She is proud of winning Designer of the year 2021

(Product Design), not only for herself as designer, but for helping to improve the skills of her workers and their career opportunities. More recently, she collaborated with Nespresso and Wonderfruit to reuse coffee capsules and scrap metal to create an installation for the Nespresso store in Siam Paragon. In the works are a new studio cum training centre for young people to get to know more about metal art, design and craftsmanship. She feels proud of creating resource-efficient art and design for the future of this world, and of sharing her knowledge for sustainability.

Sawanee “Eiang” Utoomma

AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS



Sawanee became a household name for playing the title role in the award-winning 2021 Thai-Korean horror film “The Medium” for which she won Best Supporting Actress at the 30th Suphannahong National Film Awards. The film was selected, but not nominated, as the Thai entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards. She is much more than an actress, having earned success as theatre director, producer and playwright as well. She discovered her passion for acting as a young high school pupil in her hometown of Ubon Ratchathani, doing a comedy skit which brought the house down. Since then, she would do everything behind the scenes, walk-on or

supporting roles, or even contemporary dance, in order to be part of the performance. She feels that acting is a key to learning about ourselves, our society, and the cause and effect of our actions. Despite her success with “The Medium”, she looks back to her theatre performances “17 May My Valentine” and “Ja Wan Nai Nai” (No Matter When) for the Bangkok Theatre Festival 2008 which was recognised as an Outstanding Play (Social Network Advocacy). For these solo performances, she not only acted, but wrote the script based on her own life experiences of the Black May protests, directed and produced. She is a sought-after acting coach, and holds well-attended acting workshops.

Sawangjit “Seung” Sae-ngow, PhD

SWIM COACH/ PE TEACHER,
BRIGHTON COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BANGKOK

Lifestyle

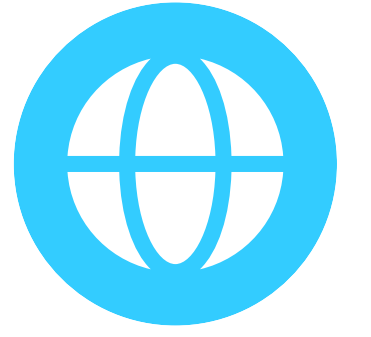


This swim coach is most proud of being a finisher—the first Thai team and first Thai woman too—of UTMB-PTL 2022 (Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc/Petite Trotte à Léon), one of the toughest trail races in the world, with a distance of 302 kms across the Alps in France, Italy and Switzerland within the Mont-Blanc massif, and 27,649 m of ascent. It took her 6.5 days (max time allowed 152 hours 30 min), with no way-markers at all. Her next challenge will be to tackle an ultra triathlon, which should be

a cinch considering her track record. Her other favourite outdoor activities include rock climbing, cycling, kayaking, scuba diving and paragliding. She hopes to be known as the female ultra trail runner who inspired women in running. She got her spiritual and physical strength from her mother who also taught her to be honest and supportive to others. Music helps her relax and manage her stress, boosts her motivation and gets her going again.

Sinsamut “Sinh” Srisaenpang

FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, SRISANGDAO RICE

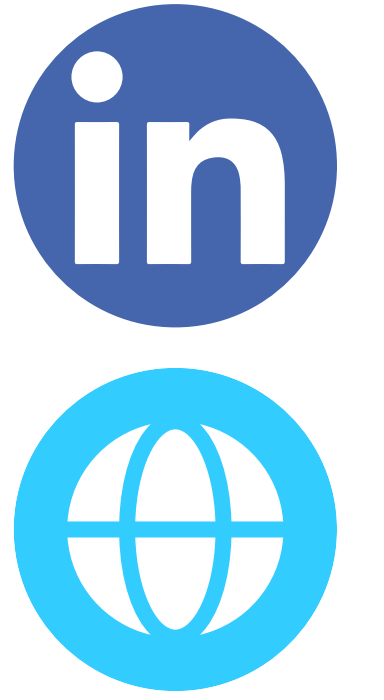


This Roi Et native turned his back on direct sales and music, and put his effort into his childhood dream of creating a rice mill and learning everything he could about rice farming. He was able to gradually convince the entire farming community in his area to use the dibbling method of rice planting (dropping seeds in holes and waiting for rain) which reduced costs, improved yields and created self-sufficiency. He also promoted the Thung Kula Rong Hai hom mali rice, becoming the first brand to export this rice to Europe. His rice packaging also won awards

for sustainable design. He is most proud that his group of farmers was recently selected to welcome HRH Princess Sirindhorn on World Soil Day. He hopes to increase the export of his Srisangdao rice and continue to empower farmers in Thailand. Outside of work, he is passionate about music—playing drums in the school orchestra taught him a lot about discipline, sensory perception and teamwork—meditation, snowboarding and triathlons. He would also like to see a network of high-speed trains around the country.

Siradej “Champ” Donavanik

MANAGING DIRECTOR, ASAI GROUP



Siradej is the third-generation member of the Dusit Thani group—his grandmother was Thanpuying Chanut Piya-oui—and he introduced Asai as the hip younger sibling of the Dusit Thani, just as the iconic mother ship was being torn down to be replaced by a bigger and bolder reincarnation. Like many of his generation, he is a passionate advocate for all things sustainable, which he puts into action as head of Dusit International's Sustainability Committee to ensure the company's operations are as green as possible. After graduating in economic and political development in the UK followed by Sasin's MBA programme, he

worked in securities and banking before joining “the firm”. But he saw the need for a smaller, more affordable hotel with emphasis on an “immersive experience” that is community-based, with culture and sustainably at the heart, just like Wonderfruit which he also co-founded. Asai Bangkok Chinatown became the flagship of this new hotel group created to fill that gap. Siradej also serves as the hotel group's head of culture, focussing on innovation, creativity, diversity, and empowerment. He can often be seen riding his Vespa to work, and when he's not in the boardroom, he might be training for his next triathlon.

Sombat “Buakaw” Banchamek

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF RING SPORT,
KICKBOXING ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND



Muay Thai champion Sombat “Buakaw” Banchamek is considered one of the most well decorated Thai kick boxing stars the country has ever produced. His proudest achievements are winning the K-1 World MAX Champions twice (2004 and 2006) and leading the national kickboxing team to take home 12 medals at the 31st SEA Games (Vietnam 2021). Working on his craft since he was eight years old, he is wielding his passion and discipline as a technical director of ring sport at the Kickboxing Association of Thailand, training the national team for international competitions, especially the next SEA

Games event in Cambodia 2023. He continues to take part in fight events, promoting Muaythai to the world and proving to all that success comes from discipline and passion. One day he hopes to be recognised globally as a Muay Thai fighter, and that his Banchamek Gym and Buakaw Village in Chiang Mai will become an international Muay Thai Academy. With his concern for marginalised children with little or no access to education, he plans to offer scholarships to children, letting them learn both Muay Thai and how to live a sufficiency led lifestyle. He enjoys northeastern music and cooking his Surin hometown recipes.

Somboon “Joe” Lertsuwannaroj

CEO, ALTERNVIM

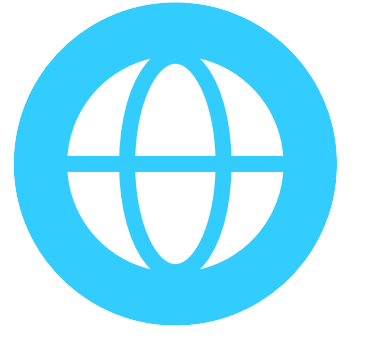


AlterVim is a new renewable energy company under the CP Group banner. As CEO, he is responsible for the company's growth strategy with the aspiration to be one of the leading renewable players in Thailand and Southeast Asia. Rooftop solar projects, infrastructure and services are his current focus, using future energy technologies and business models such as EV chargers. He has been in the clean energy industry for over 15 years, having conducted the greenfield development and investment of over 1,000MW capacity of solar, wind, floating solar, rooftop solar, biomass fuel all around the Asia-

Pacific region. He is proud of revamping the solar business in Thailand from outright “sale” to a “one-stop service”, a challenge that required getting the government units on board. His latest challenge is becoming a new father. Though not yet 40, he feels under pressure to impact the next generation with his projects, including retail solar business that allow households to access clean energy at affordable prices, and to create an energy infrastructure and ecosystem to support sustainable development and quality of life. Chinese novels and history are his sources of inspiration.

Sorawut Kittibanthorn

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY DESIGNER/ARCHITECT

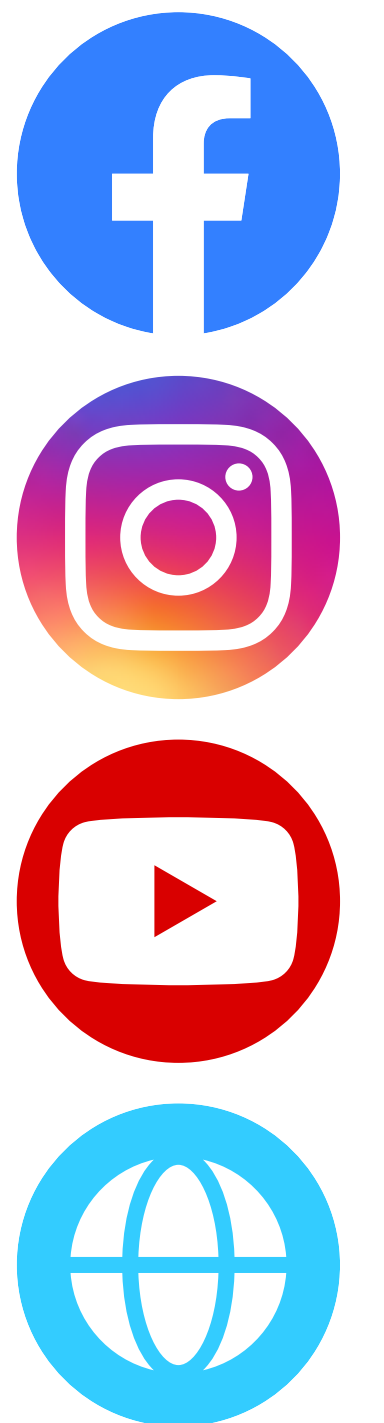


Sorawut is at once an architect, food researcher and innovator. Armed with a master's degree in material futures from Central Saint Martins in the UK, he worked on new materials with emphasis on sustainability and the circular economy. For his final project titled "A Lighter Delicacy", he innovated the idea of turning waste chicken feathers from the poultry industry—two million tonnes of chicken feathers are discarded every year—into an alternative and lean source of protein. Chicken feathers are made of 90% keratin, the kind of protein that forms our nails and hair, as well as nutritious amino acids. He found ways

of transforming this protein component into an extract that can be turned into a protein-rich source of edible food like nuggets which he insists have a "melt in your mouth" texture. Sorawut feels chicken feathers have the potential of becoming an alternative food substitute that can reduce poverty and food insecurity. It is also an attempt to promote zero-waste solutions, reducing global waste and promoting sustainability. The only challenge now is to change people's attitude towards consuming "waste" and to see it as a circular economy benefit.

Stéphanie Loup & Alexandre des Arts

CO-FOUNDERS, PIMALI ASSOCIATION AND PIMALI HOSPITALITY TRAINING CENTER, NONGKHAI

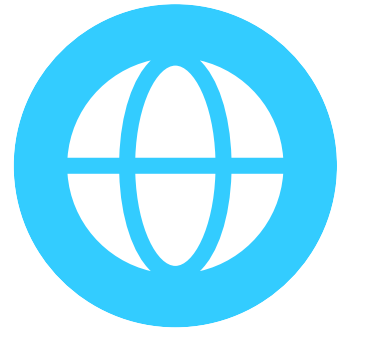


Founded in 2013 by Stéphanie Loup and her husband Alexandre des Arts, Pimali Foundation is a hospitality training center that offers underprivileged and orphaned young Thais the chance of a professional future in hospitality, to become financially independent and have a better future. The initiative was set in motion by Stéphanie's experience during a stay in an orphanage in North-East Thailand, which made her realise the difficulties encountered by disadvantaged youths in finding a decent job after completing their education. With her background

in management in a 5-star hotel in Switzerland, hospitality training was the obvious direction to go. Through a practical learning experience for the underprivileged youth and orphans through a 6-11 month training at Pimali, followed by a 3-6 month internship at its partner hotel, Pimali is helping to fight the exploitation of disadvantaged youth with the aim of reducing poverty in the north-east of Thailand. Their goal is to one day become a small sustainable resort–Pimali Resort–which promotes the local Isan way of life, and where every baht spent is a donation to the foundation.

Sukamal Mondal

AREA GENERAL MANAGER, AMARI WATERGATE BANGKOK

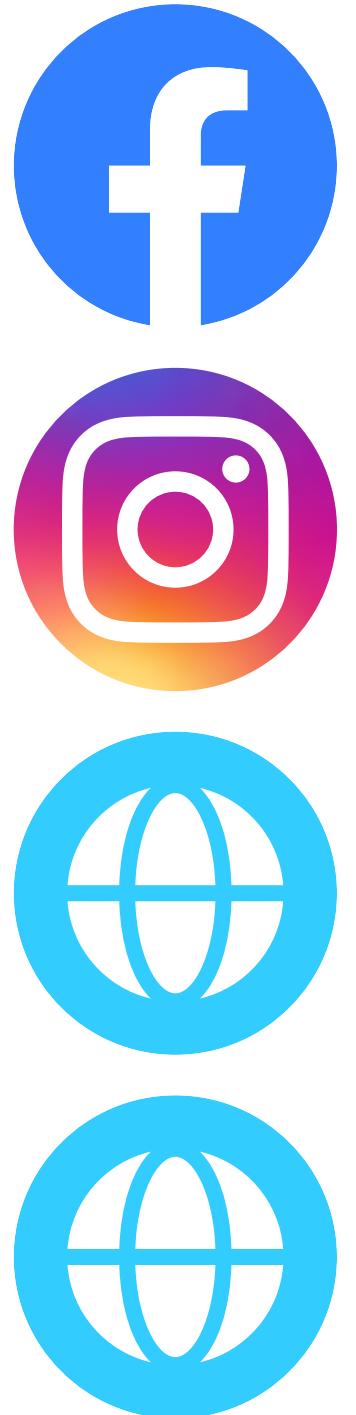


Coming from a traditional Indian family, Sukamal grew up severely conscious of food waste, an awareness that stayed with him as he embarked on his journey into the hospitality industry. He started at a young age as a bartender in China, working his way up to become a restaurant services manager. In 2006, he joined ONYX Hospitality Group where he was appointed as the residence manager of Shama Century Park in Shanghai, and at the age of 32, he was appointed as the general manager of Shama Sukhumvit Bangkok. The pandemic helped him tune in to the plight of organic vegetable farmers, a cause

which he was able to serve in his next position as area general manager of Amari Watergate. Here, he has built a young and dynamic team, and with the same passion, they launched the hotel's Sustainably Conscious campaign covering all key areas of the hotel, sourcing organic ingredients—partly from the hotel's rooftop organic herb and vegetable garden—seriously minimising food waste, and supporting hospitality training for the disadvantaged, partnering with like-minded organisations. His off-work hours are spent working out and exploring the city, often accompanied by his mother.

Teerapoj Teeropas

CO-FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR, KITT.TA.KHON



Bangkok-based designer Teerapoj Teeropas founded Kitt.Ta.Khon in 2019, specialising in rattan furniture crafted by Thai artisans. He mixes traditional and new-found weaving and wrapping techniques to create contemporary textures using a design language that blends Thai, African, Chinese, Moroccan cultures while combining ethnic colour palettes with refined and paired back modern sensibilities. He is also co-founder of Issaraphap Design that creates exhibitions, product designs and books, and is on

the committee of Design and Object Association (DandO). Previously he was part of the Social and Cultural Innovation lab of KMUTT which focussed on research and study of culture and development of the Karen tribe in Ratchaburi. He was awarded the IF design award from Germany for best furniture designs. Future plans include an art exhibition in 2023 and collaborations with artists for a more conceptual line of products. Teerapoj's goal is to create a sustainable ecosystem for artisans, the supply chain and the consumer.

Thanaboon “Ace” Somboon

**FOUNDER & CEO,
GREENERY. / CREATIVEMOVE / CREATIVE CITIZEN**

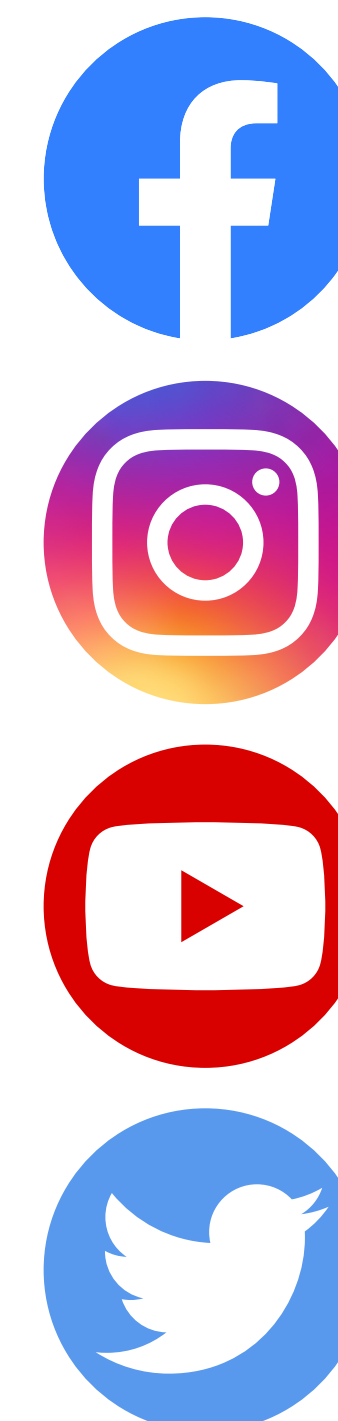


Earning degrees in both computer science from Thammasat, and fashion and advertising photography from San Francisco’s Academy of Art University gave Thanaboon a combination of skills that have made him successful in the design industry, in advertising, community management, digital marketing and creative consultation. After volunteering to help flood relief efforts, he turned his back on a successful career as a fashion photographer to concentrate on creating social impact initiatives. He launched CreativeMOVE in 2009 as a social innovation agency to create social impact through creativity, art and design. In 2012, he launched Creative Citizen, a network

of changemakers comprising creative and design professionals and artists. Then in 2017, after working late and checking into a convenience store to find something to eat, he saw the scale of “fast food” available on the shelves compared to the farmer’s market from his student days in San Francisco. As a result, he launched Greenery, as a sustainable lifestyle platform for consumers, providing correct information for healthy consumption and a healthy planet under the concept “eat good, live green”. This is soon to be scaled up as a social enterprise, and with his penchant for creative innovation, we can be sure to expect more.

Thanchanok “Micky” Jongyotying

CHIEF NEWS EDITOR, TNN16



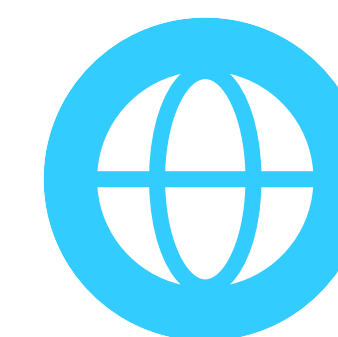
As editor in chief, Thanchanok supervises the content on international affairs, both on TV and the online platform. She also hosts the daily prime-time TV programme, “TNN World Today”. News has always been her vocation, advancing from a TV reporter and radio host, to editor and chief editor overseeing the whole newsroom. She is keen to provide Thai people with facts of what’s going on around the world in a world of information overload and unconfirmed stories, and is most proud

that after only a few years, her team has earned TNN an award for Thailand’s Best International News Channel. To her, team building is all about nurturing, supporting and bringing out the best in each person. To help relax after a stressful day, she turns to music, and it’s most convenient having a life partner who is a professional pianist. She looks forward to the day when Thai people have better rights and better welfare in all forms.

Thitid “Chef Ton” Tassanakajohn

CHEF/OWNER, LE DU/BAAN/NUSARA/MAYRAI

Food



Chef Ton is a self-confessed foodie who grew up with delicious home cooking. After a false start studying economics and working briefly in banking, Chef Ton applied to The Culinary Institute of America, New York, then worked at top establishments including Eleven Madison Park, The Modern in New York, and Jean Georges. With the experience under his belt, he returned to Thailand and in 2013, he opened Le Du (stylised from the Thai word “ruedu” which means seasons), named for its emphasis on seasonal and local ingredients sourced from sustainable suppliers around the country. He is also known for

highlighting the reduction of food waste. Within a few years, Le Du was awarded a Michelin star. This was followed by the more casual Baan offering his family recipes (now with a branch in Taipei), Nusara offering “colourful Thai cuisine”, Samut in Phuket, Thepnakorn beef noodles and Samyan in the Philippines. Both Le Du and Nusara are featured in Asia’s 50 Best Restaurants, while Baan and Samut are both in the Michelin Guide. Chef Ton is also a Certified Sommelier (CS) from the Court of Master Sommeliers, which may account for his Mayrai wine bar, hidden behind his Baan restaurant.

Thosaphol Suppametheekulwat

CEO, CIRPLAS TECH CO LTD



Thosaphol develops marketing and action strategies and networks for Cirplas Tech which collects plastic waste from fishermen, single use plastics from companies, coffee shops and restaurants in Bangkok to convert into reusable plastic pellets. As a result, less plastic waste goes to landfill and companies have better options of using PCR (Post Consumer Recycled) materials. He launched Cirplas Tech with his own funds after realising that his previous brand, Qualy Design—gift products from plastic waste sold worldwide—would be better supplied if he could develop his

own recycled raw materials. Waste collection was affected by the pandemic and required a shift in routine, and now he hopes to collect more than 100 tonnes of plastic waste a month to prove that 99% of plastic waste can be managed. He is proud of helping to advocate and inspire on the issue of plastic waste in Thailand. His favourite people are his father—for his honesty, diligence and open-mindedness, Sir Alex Ferguson—for knowing his work inside out yet always finding room for improvement—and his wife and baby daughter.

Tom Potisit

MANAGING DIRECTOR, BANGKOK CREATIVE STUDIO



Tom Potisit has made a name as a professional who stimulates conversations on relevant social and environmental issues through both his fashion and artistic photography. Tom's Bangkok Creative Studio supports outstanding Thai talents for international markets, while his HOP Hub Of Photography is a community that empowers Thai photographers to grow professionally, while bringing their work to a wider audience. In his role as a board member of the Royal Photographic Society of Thailand, he is responsible for international relations, with a mission to create

more international exposure for Thai photography, using photography as a real tool to both bridge and build international relationships among countries, groups and individuals around the world. In addition, he was recently appointed as the official liaison officer of the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP). His work has touched upon various global issues from minority rights, endangered marine animals, organ donation and environmental issues. He has also appeared as a TEDx Speaker on the topic— Changing the World One Image at a Time.

Varavudh Suteethorn, PhD

**DIRECTOR, PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION CENTRE, MAHASARAKHAM UNIVERSITY**



Not many people can say that they have a dinosaur species named after them, but Dr Varavudh is one of the select few that can. As the current director of the Paleontological Research and Education Centre, Mahasarakham University, Dr Varavudh is best known for his contributions to the discovery of multiple fossil taxa and dig sites in Khorat Plateau in an ongoing joint Thai-French project there since 1980. His geological mapping of these areas led to the discovery of various fossil sites where the majority of Thailand's palaeontological discoveries have been made. In

1986, Siamosaurus suteethorni—a large dinosaur species with a head like a crocodile—was named in honour of his work. In 2006 Suteethorn was given the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Skinner Award which honours outstanding and sustained contributions to scientific knowledge through the making of important collections of fossil vertebrates, and those who train or teach others in this field. Along with gaining a 2018 explorer award from National Geographic Thailand, it is not surprising why Dr Varavudh is dubbed the “Indiana Jones of Thailand”.

Vichada “Dao” Sitakalin

DESIGN DIRECTOR, RAYAVADEE / TAMARIND VILLAGE /
RAYA HERITAGE



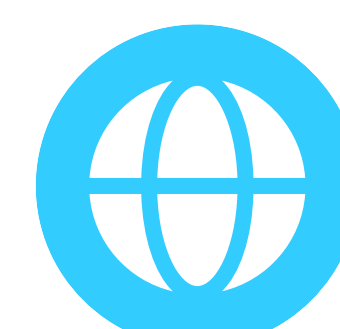
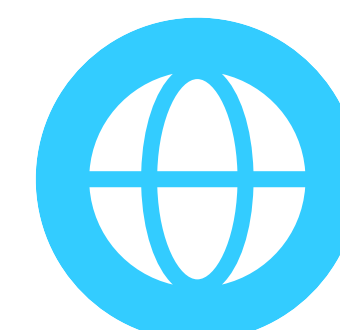
Vichada does not only lend her expertise and taste to three luxury resorts, she is also design consultant for several other exclusive projects. She studied interior architecture at Rhode Island School of Design, USA, and worked as an interior designer in the US before returning to Thailand where she was appointed design director for The Premier Group's luxury resorts including Rayavadee (Krabi), Tamarind Village and Raya Heritage in Chiang Mai. She has curated several rooms at the Jim Thompson Home Furnishing showroom over the years, with 11 more rooms in the works this year under

different concepts that showcase the vibrancy and variety of the silk fabrics. She is also working on the renovation and product design for Jim Thompson's home furnishing department. For her design philosophy, Vichada has an eclectic taste; she enjoys mixing elements of nature, rich textures, vibrant colours, contemporary and vintage that create a sense of unpredictability. She is committed to the appreciation of cultural heritage, local craftsmanship, sustainability and living harmoniously with nature, all of which can be seen in her Raya Curated Collection of clothing, accessories and home décor items.

Viracha “Pear” Poolvaraluk

FOUNDER, VIRA

Vira



Long needed in women’s healthcare in Thailand, Viracha “Pear” Poolvaraluk is the founder of Vira, a pioneering holistic platform for women’s health. What she found hard to accept was how unfairly women suffer from a lack of information about their bodies and how society has normalized this situation. Her experience at San Francisco-based fertility startup Kegg led Pear to learn the fertility awareness method (FAM) and train to become a doula. As a women’s health advocate and public health researcher, she started Vira with a goal of closing the gap between Thai women and acceptance of their bodies. Since she felt

there wasn’t enough being done in Thailand regarding women’s health matters, her brand aims to help women have access to life-changing products, evidence-based education, and honest conversations about their bodies, without being judged. She hopes to promote comprehensive sex education in youth programmes and schools, so children can grow up feeling more in control of their bodies and happier in their relationships. She is passionate about reproductive justice and empowering small communities and youth in her chosen field.

Weerawat “Chef Num” Triyasenawat

CHEF AND OWNER, SAMUAY & SONS

Food



Udon Thani natives, Chef Num and his brother, Chef Joe, are fully immersed in their northeastern culinary heritage. They source the best organic ingredients from as close to home as possible, highlighting the medicinal values of traditional Thai food, and seasonal herbs and vegetables throughout the year. Chef Num is even known to go into forests to forage for such delicacies as ant eggs—Thailand’s caviar—himself. This traditional wisdom was acquired by training with indigenous peoples in Isaan, from whom he also learned the importance of coexisting with nature in a sustainable manner. Drawing upon his

gastronomical experience working in top kitchens such as Commonwealth and Atelier Crenn in San Francisco, Bo.lan by Chef Bo and Chef Dylan and Nahm by Chef David Thompson, he creates seasonal, contemporary Thai a la carte and tasting menus. Traditional dishes are given a twist, such as replacing vinegar in dips with kombucha with enzymes that help the digestive process. Not only does Chef Num visit markets to source ingredients, he works closely with local farmers, encouraging them to grow quality, organic and sustainable produce, and providing them with a stable income.



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**is published quarterly as part of KOKTAIL website
by MediaMagination Co Ltd**

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