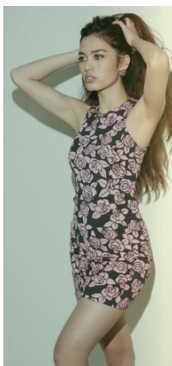




"100 PEOPLE DOING
GREAT THINGS FOR
THAILAND"



The 2024
100 Future
LIST
KOKTAIL

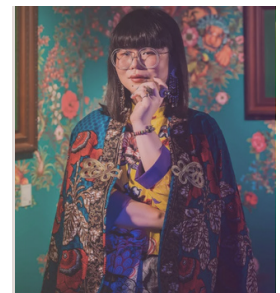
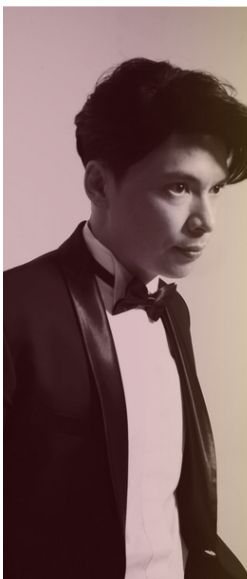
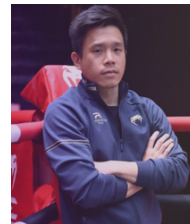


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Publisher's Note

“Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can.” “Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks. That means don't do it just for yourself. You will want to leave the world a little better for your having lived.” These are the words of Hillary Clinton and they could not be more appropriate as a collective recognition of the 100 people we put forward in this Future List 100 e-magazine compilation, for representing what is the very best, across many walks of life, in Thai society in 2024.

Koktail magazine presents its fourth list of good people doing great things in Thailand, the Future List 100. They are presented over the next 260 pages in totality and each week in www.koktailmagazine.com we profile in more detail those that were proposed by their peers and graciously allowed us to present their work and aspirations. They come from every walk of life, some are young and others less so, a few are famous and many are not, all ages and genders are represented and nationality is not a factor. The common denominator is that each is striving to make an impact on others and in our opinion, and their peers that proposed them, the benefits of their work will continue to be seen in the foreseeable future.

Before you begin scrolling let's finish with another quote from a wife of a former US president (successful politicians seem to marry well)

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” Eleanor Roosevelt's quote again embodies the spirit of the people we showcase here and the 300 we have recognised in our previous three Future Lists. Enjoy reading about what makes them tick, spend a little time viewing the videos they put forward to present themselves, and take note that it is people like these that are making Thailand just a little bit better every day.

Nigel Oakins.



ASHWANI AHUJA

MANAGING DIRECTOR INVESTMENT
BANKING DIVISION, PI SECURITIES PLC

“Ashwani orchestrates close collaboration with equity and debt capital market investors. His team actively engages in impactful transactions across global financial markets.”

Few individuals possess a deeper understanding of investment Banking than Ashwani Ahuja.

With a dedicated focus on this financial field for over 30 years, he has garnered extensive experience at various prestigious organizations, and for the past decade has been with Country Group Securities, (now rebranded as Pi Securities). His expertise spans leading corporate finance, direct equity investment, and investment analysis. Ashwani strongly believes that creating value is not just about orchestrating deals; it's about shaping an environment where financial success aligns with strategic vision.

His influence extends beyond borders, with a wealth of experience in privatization, cross-border mergers and acquisitions, equity capital markets, and private equity multi-family office investment management. Ashwani orchestrates close collaboration with equity and debt capital market investors. His team actively engages in impactful transactions across global financial markets. Personally, Ashwani has strategically invested in 25 companies, witnessing 17 of them flourish into global IPO success stories. Despite being highly sought after for his strategic insight, he embodies a unique blend of knowledge and humility.

Colleagues and friends alike are drawn to his genuine approach, and his openness to contributing to the broader financial community.



ARMELLE LE BIHAN

**FOUNDER AND CEO, GREEN BUILDING
CONSULTING&ENGINEERING**

"Aware of the environmental degradation caused by the growing construction industry and the challenges in disrupting conventional construction practices, she established her own practice as a one-person venture."

With a background in environmental engineering, Armelle founded Green Building Consulting and Engineering (GBCE) in 2014. Aware of the environmental degradation caused by the growing construction industry and the challenges in disrupting conventional construction practices, she established her own practice as a one-person venture. This now award-winning company helps clients achieve sustainability through business strategy, design, and operations of building assets, ensuring compliance with international certification standards.

Armelle serves as its sustainability and green building expert, sharing her expertise with governmental, international, and national institutions to accelerate the decarbonization of the industry and achieve net-zero targets for the built environment.

Currently, she is working on a large-scale project in Mongolia involving the development of 10,000 residential units. The project aims to transform highly climate-vulnerable and heavily polluting areas of Ulaanbaatar into low-carbon, climate-resilient, and affordable Eco-Districts. Additionally, Armelle serves as the sustainability consultant for a major infrastructure project in U-Tapao Airport City. She actively advocates for policy reform, participating in events like the Climate Regional Roundtables APAC on Sustainable Buildings organised in preparation for the yearly COP.



**APISARA SIRIWATYOTHIN
PINYAPAT NGAMPINITPOL**

CO-FOUNDERS, SARR.RAI

"They eventually introduced 'alternative gems,' using upcycled bottle glass waste, followed by upcycled and recycled silver jewellery, creating function from waste."

With a joint passion for jewellery and nature conservation, two friends launched Sarr.rai, a sustainable silver jewellery brand focusing on conscious production and design, local craftsmanship, upcycling techniques, and a commitment to the concepts of slow fashion and a 'one earth society.' It was a natural step for them, with Golf holding a degree in Fashion Business, and Jam in Fine and Applied Arts. However, their lack of knowledge in jewellery crafting led to a lot of experimentation. They eventually introduced 'alternative gems,' using upcycled bottle glass waste, followed by upcycled and recycled silver jewellery, creating function from waste. Their debut collection replaced traditional gems with glass marbles complemented by silver crafting, with the help of open-minded silversmiths. As consumption outpaces raw materials, they are now looking towards regenerative materials for the future. Their passion for sustainability extends to advocating and raising awareness about the environment and the plight of local craftsmen. They hope to become a visible and profitable new wave of Thai silver.





APICHAT APHAIWONG

POLICY SPECIALIST, OFFICE OF NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION
SCIENCE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICY COUNCIL (NXPO)

This DPhil graduate from St. John's College, Oxford, joined NXPO after graduation—not only overcoming reverse culture shock but also transitioning from synthetic organic chemistry to policy research. He rotated between divisions to understand the country's overall policy needs and is now responsible for conducting research in technology foresight and international partnership such as with APEC and UN ESCAP.

"A newly discovered skill that he believes will contribute to a more positive future for the world is empathic listening."

In addition to earning a gold medal at the 35th International Chemistry Olympiad in Athens, Greece, in 2003, he takes pride in being part of the team behind Generation initiative, now implemented as GenNX Model by Generation Thailand. This programme offers intensive boot camps for learners aspiring to become software developers. Furthermore, he actively contributes to Thailand's accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) through participation in the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP). A newly discovered skill that he believes will contribute to a more positive future for the world is empathic listening. Steve Jobs serves as one of his role models.



ANOL PAISAL

FOUNDER & MANANOAL PAISALGING DIRECTOR,
EMONE (THAILAND) NE (THAILACO LTD)

"Anol's interest in electricity was sparked by an electric shock that burnt his finger."

Anol founded EmOne, an R&D company in Thailand in 2015, followed by EmOne Estonia in 2021, providing IoT solutions to clients. EmOne was one of the 10 startups selected by the National Innovation Agency (NIA) and Thai Space Consortium's 'Space Economy: Lifting Off' program for its alternative active space debris removal satellites. Anol's interest in electricity was sparked by an electric shock that burnt his finger. With one uncle tinkering with electronic devices and another teaching him basic computer programming, his future seemed set. Star Trek, Star Wars, and his father's books generated images of space in his young mind.

He graduated with double degrees in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Industrial Technology in Electronic and Telecommunication Technology from KMUTNB. Between degrees, he worked at Asia Online on Statistical Machine Translation (SMT), where he learned software house processes and cross-platform computer languages. After earning a master's in Electrical Engineering, he worked in Japan before returning to join the ZEABUS Project, whose passive sonar sector on Autonomous Underwater Vehicle received the 5th world ranking in the ROBOSUB competition. His pride and joy are his two daughters.





ACE WATANASUPARP

CEO AND FOUNDER, SWISH CAPITAL BANK

"Breaking down the barriers by expanding into new markets and capturing unprecedented market share despite the challenges of the global pandemic."

A native New Yorker of Thai and Taiwanese ancestry, Ace is a powerhouse in the finance industry. A graduate of NYU Law School, he became the sixth-highest producer in the US as a loan officer at Citibank in his first year and was headhunted by top financial institutes. Later, he became the president of DE Capital, overseeing multiple states, including New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. At Citizens Bank, he was the Senior Vice President and Director of the Home Mortgage Division, breaking down barriers by expanding into new markets and capturing unprecedented market share despite the challenges of the global pandemic.

His success may have come from a team mentality—he was the first Asian-American to become a 'walk-on' in the University of Connecticut's men's basketball team. He has applied his Asian-American identity to his restaurant ventures—he owns Spot Dessert Bar, Scoop by Spot, Obao Noodles & BBQ, and Gai Chicken and Rice. He is also a partner at Cliffco Mortgage Bankers. His Asian heritage is a challenge he has had to overcome at times to reach the top in business.



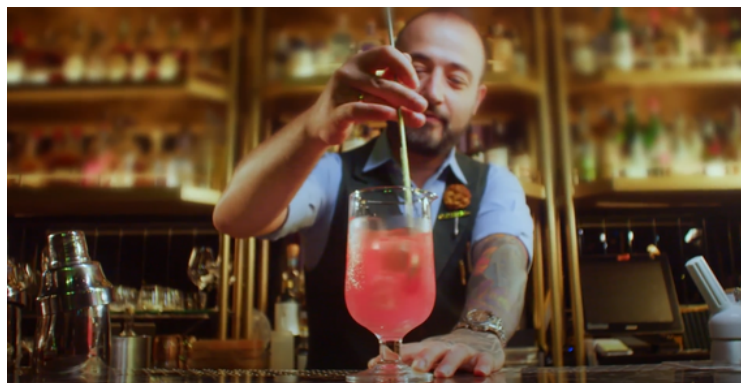
ARNON HOONTRAKUL

BAR DIRECTOR, GOLDEN GATE CUISINE

"He draws inspiration from The Godfather novel, which emphasises that everything has its own way, and one must learn how to work within the system."

This economics graduate found his passion in food entrepreneurship, inspired by his family-owned restaurant in France during his childhood. Beyond managing restaurant and bar businesses—Opium Bar, Anya's Place and Archie Nitro—he has worn many hats, serving as a barista, ice cream maker, gallery owner, and photographer. Creativity is a cornerstone of his work, and Opium Bar was conceptualised using the theme of 'Liquid Surreality,' transporting visitors back in time to the days when the Chinatown venue was a hazy opiumden.

While his restaurants and children are his pride and joy, he looks ahead to creating new restaurants to fill gaps in the market. Considering his staff and the surrounding community as vital factors in moving forward, he ensures staff education and fosters synergy in the community to promote being good global citizens. His role models include his grandfather—an immigrant who arrived in Thailand with nothing and built an empire within his generation. He draws inspiration from The Godfather novel, which emphasises that everything has its own way, and one must learn how to work within the system.





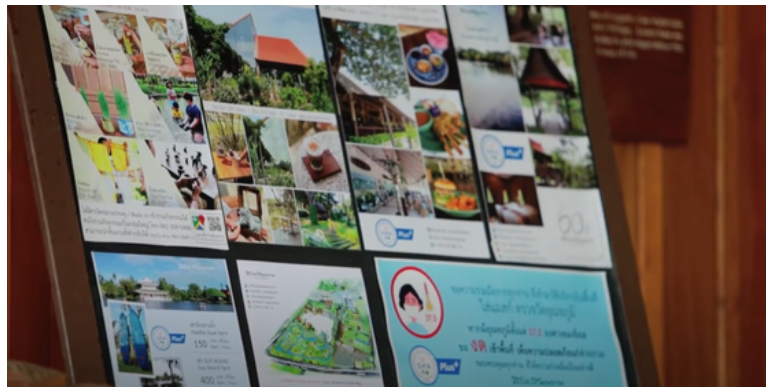
ARRUT NAVARAJ

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
SAMPRAN RIVERSIDE

As third-generation owner of the renowned eco-cultural destination Suan Sampran, Arrut is acclaimed for elevating the property by spearheading an Organic Social Movement known as the Sampran Model. This initiative serves as a sustainable solution addressing issues in tourism, food and agriculture, environment, health, and the economy. Holding a degree in chemical engineering, he garnered experience in investment banking before joining the family business.

"This initiative serves as a sustainable solution addressing issues in tourism, food and agriculture, environment, health, and the economy."

With a vision to procure quality produce directly from farmers for his restaurant outlets, Arrut undertook the challenge of persuading farmers to embrace traditional organic farming. To support them financially during the transition, he secured grants. Gradually, he established a collective comprising nearly 200 farmers, creating a network of buyers from the hospitality industry through the Thai Organic Consumer Association (TOCA) that was founded 4 years ago. Introducing blockchain technology, Arrut streamlined the distribution and authentication of food produced by the collective. In 2015, his brother launched Patom Organic Living, a traceable and sustainable Thai organic brand. The city-based Patom Organic Living Café, a part of this brand, donates 3% of its revenue to the Sookjai Foundation that supports initiatives related to organic farming practices.





AN PROMSAK

CO-FOUNDER, KASETSUK KLANG KRUNG
ORGANIC FARM

An Promsak and her husband, Tee, embarked on a transformative journey from their previous lifestyle, which involved long working hours, various labour-intensive occupations, and a diet of processed food. Recognising the impact on their health, the couple transitioned to organic farming, seeking a path to true happiness through well-being. Despite lacking prior experience in farming, An took on the challenge of converting their land in Bang Khen district into an organic farm. An faced challenges along the way, but through perseverance and learning from trial and error, the organic farm flourished. The abundance of produce not only sustained their own family and friends but also became a source of support for cancer patients.

"The abundance of produce not only sustained their own family and friends but also became a source of support for cancer patients."

An initiated a delivery service for organic vegetables for individuals facing health challenges, especially during the Covid pandemic. Embracing a simple lifestyle connected to nature, An found that it contributed to her peace of mind, fostering contentment and mindfulness. Beyond selling produce, she shares her knowledge with others, offering training courses in organic farming both online and on-site at the farm, using the transformative power of organic farming to support and educate others.





BUNROD ARREEWONG
CO-FOUNDER, POOCAO CHANNEL

“Despite facing bullying for his physical irregularities, he maintains a positive outlook on life, supported by his family and friends.”

Bunrod is a well-known advocate for the disabled LGBTQ+ community through his Poocao YouTube channel and other social media platforms. Cancer treatments since he was only three months old left him with muscle dystrophy, impacting his speech and movements. Despite facing bullying for his physical irregularities, he maintains a positive outlook on life, supported by his family and friends. Striving to lead a normal life, he actively participated in extracurricular activities at university and recently graduated with a master’s degree in Corporate Communication Management from Thammasat University. Bunrod, along with his good friend, launched the Poocao Channel, which now boasts almost 170K subscribers. The duo, often dressed in drag, radiates a joie de vivre that they aim to share with others. Their mission is to create awareness of LGBTQ+ issues and disabilities, emphasizing that gender fluidity and physical disability do not define success in life.





CHAKRAPOL CHANDAVIMOL, PHD
MANAGING DIRECTOR, NANYANG
MARKETING

“He has also introduced Nanyang into Metaverse Thailand, offering footwear for the virtual environment.”

As the third-generation manufacturer of Thailand’s popular Nanyang canvas shoes and flip-flop brand, marketing and branding expert Dr Chakrapol has elevated its status from a mass-produced item—the sneakers being standard issue for school uniforms, and lowly rubber flip-flops—to a trendsetting and fashionable brand that aligns with global events and issues. Daring to take risks, he introduced a series of new limited-edition designs. In response to the issue of marine waste, he created the upcycled Khya [waste] flip-flops made from 5 kgs of marine waste. Within nine days, he sold almost 28K pairs, eliminating 140K kgs of ocean waste.

This sustainable product model relied on waste collected by Trash Heroes, with profits being shared with environmental organisations. Red Sneakers were produced to commemorate the English football team’s victory in the UEFA Champions League in 2019, while the “Bully No More” series helped launch an anti-bullying campaign in schools. He has also introduced Nanyang into Metaverse Thailand, offering footwear for the virtual environment. In 2018, he was presented the Top Outstanding Youth Marketeer of the Year award from Asia Marketing. His other hat is Marketing Director of Seacon Square.





CHEDTHA PUNCREOBUTR PHD

LECTURER, FACULTY OF ENGINEERING,
CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY

Asst Prof Dr Chedtha Puncreobutr is an esteemed figure in Materials Engineering, having earned a PhD from Imperial College London. Recognised for his outstanding achievements, he was honoured with the Study UK Alumni Awards Thailand 2020-2021 for Science and Sustainability. Dr Chedtha's notable contributions extend to the healthcare sector, where he co-founded Meticuly Co Ltd. The company specialises in providing doctors with 3D-printed personalised titanium bone implants, designed based on individual patient CT scans with AI-driven processes. This pioneering effort has significantly transformed the medical landscape in Thailand, offering tailored solutions for enhanced patient care.

Dr Chedtha's dedication to advancing healthcare accessibility is commendable, with his innovative approach benefiting over 10,000 patients annually. His work reflects a harmonious blend of academic excellence and a deep commitment to making healthcare more accessible and equitable for the broader community.

As a leader in Materials Engineering, Dr Chedtha has successfully bridged the gap between academic research and practical healthcare solutions, showcasing the transformative potential of innovative science in improving lives.

"His work reflects a harmonious blend of academic excellence and a deep commitment to making healthcare more accessible and equitable for the broader community."



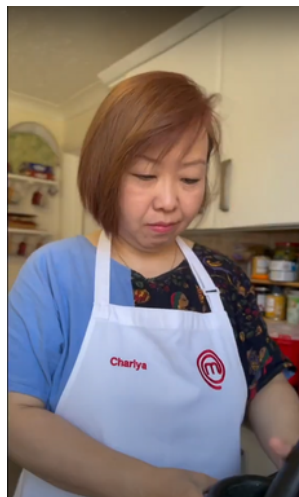
CHARIYA KHATTIYOT

WINNER, MASTERCHEF UK 2023

“Her success comes from her 'tunnel vision'—she gives her all to achieve something she wants.”

Chariya is the first Thai ever to win MasterChef UK. A simple childhood life with her grandfather in Chiang Mai taught her the basics of cooking with fresh ingredients from the backyard. She moved to the UK with her fiancé, working as a district manager for a national coffee shop chain before becoming a Master Coffee Roaster and setting up her own micro coffee roasting company offering specialty hand-roasted coffee and takeaway options.

She joined MasterChef UK hoping to promote northern Thai food. She sees cooking as an art; the image of the dish appears first in her head—from colours to presentation—and rather than following recipes, she creates her own, following that image and having fun in the process. Her success comes from her 'tunnel vision'—she gives her all to achieve something she wants. Having wowed judges with her khao soi kai, she has now opened Khao Soi by Chariya restaurant in the UK. In her free time, she enjoys playing computer games, table tennis, and watching sci-fi and action fantasy films.





CHOLLADA MEKRATRI SIRISANT
FOUNDER, THE VOICE FOUNDATION

“Through her foundation,
she became a 'voice'
for stray, abused,
and wounded animals.”

This former model, actress, and television show host founded The Voice Foundation over 12 years ago in response to the severe flood of 2011, which left animals stranded and in dire need. The natural disaster brought attention to the plight of stray animals in Thailand, prompting her to take action. Through her foundation, she became a 'voice' for stray, abused, and wounded animals. Her efforts include providing shelter, finding homes for them, offering sterilization services, and educating the public on responsible pet ownership. Her marketing degree, earned at the University of London, has served her well in her advocacy work. Beyond her foundation, her Chollada Channel on YouTube reflects her lifestyle, often featuring her husband, Prom Sirisant, as they indulge in their joint passion for traveling. Staying physically and mentally fit, she engages in regular exercise and various mindfulness activities.





**CHRISTOPHER JANWONG
MCKIGGAN, PHD**

CO-FOUNDER, PIANO ACADEMY OF BANGKOK

CEO, CHRIS THE PIANIST CO LTD

“He hopes one day to create a music platform providing education and equipment for those in need.”

After earning a PhD in Classical Piano Performance from Rice University, he toured as a concert pianist in the US before returning to Bangkok to invest in young talent. His coaching has resulted in a large number of his piano students winning top prizes in major international piano competitions at his school Piano Academy of Bangkok. Chris is also the CEO of Chris The Pianist Co Ltd, a production company with a focus on the arts. His latest challenge came in the form of his first feature-length documentary movie. Not only did he have to navigate through the challenges posed by Covid-19 during filming and meet the deadline, but his son was also born prematurely during the same period. The documentary, *Pain of Silence*—for which he directed, produced, composed the music, handled cinematography, and edited—was presented at the Carmarthen Bay Film Festival, a BAFTA qualifying short film festival. The film was awarded best Documentary at the festival and was one of only three chosen to be nominated. Another feature-length movie is in the pipeline. His artistic inspiration is the film *The Seven Samurai* for its timeless artistic perfection. He hopes one day to create a music platform providing education and equipment for those in need.





ML DISPANADDA DISKUL

CEO, MAE FAH LUANG FOUNDATION UNDER
ROYAL PATRONAGE

Following the footsteps of his late father, ML Dispanadda or Duke is a development practitioner and a social entrepreneur, with over 20 years of experience. He oversees the foundation's flagship project, the Doi Tung Development Project and other development programs in Thailand and internationally. He also participates in domestic and international forums promoting the foundation's sustainable development model to the World Economic Forum, United Nations and other regional forums.

"Duke is a devoted father of three children. He is a self-confessed child at heart and a coffee geek"

Duke is a strong advocate for the environment and social impacts. In 2021, he initiated the "Carbon Credit from Community Forests for Sustainability", a project done in partnership with the government, corporates and local communities to address the climate crisis, incentivizing local communities to protect the forests through private sector funding in exchange for nature-based carbon credit. In 2019, he also co-founded and currently is the Chairman of Social Enterprise Thailand (SE Thailand). Duke is part of the Schwab Foundation's Social Entrepreneur and the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader. On a personal side, Duke is a devoted father of three children. He is a self-confessed child at heart and a coffee geek.

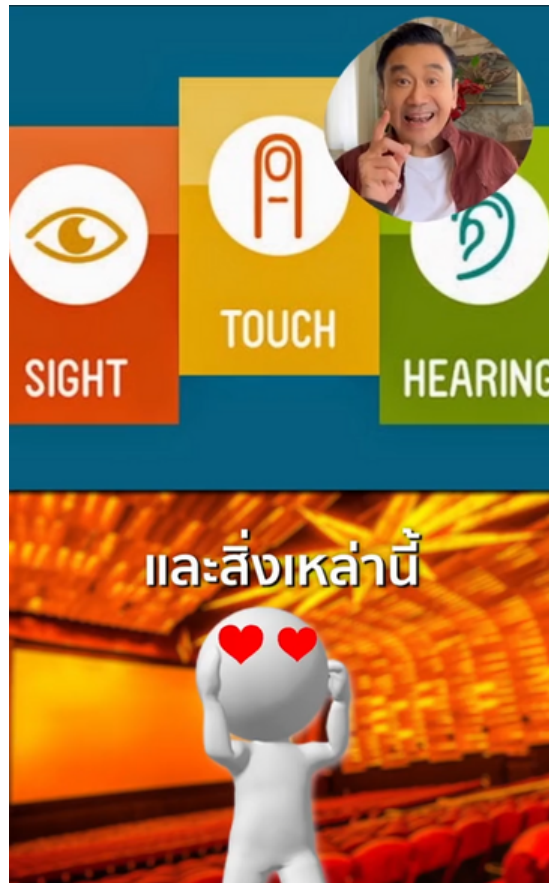


DOLCHAI BOONYARATAVEJ
BRAND STRATEGIST

"His work gains significance in today's rapidly shifting global landscape, where differentiation is challenging for brands."

From an award-winning advertising guru to now being known as "Brandman" Dolchai, he provides branding consultancy for both strategy and identity systems. With degrees in architecture, advertising design, visual and performing arts, he reached the pinnacle of his advertising career as chairman of Dentsu One before venturing out on his own. Dolchai is particularly proud of his role in advancing Thailand's soft power legacy through branding, making it relevant in the modern-day environment.

His work gains significance in today's rapidly shifting global landscape, where differentiation is challenging for brands. Recent branding identity contracts include Thailand Post, ICONSIAM and Bangchak. Beyond his branding expertise, Ike, as he is known, is involved in several successful businesses, including Zantiis Ndol Villas, Baan Ya Hom Zantiis Thai restaurant, Bangkok Treasures cotton products, Zantiis and Sukonta aromatherapy products—designs created by Ike himself, drawing upon various aspects of traditional Thai wisdom. He also imparts his branding knowledge by teaching at Chulalongkorn Business School. Ike's passions encompass gardening, swimming, decorating, and Scottish terriers. Additionally, he is a talented singer and dancer, often taking the stage at charity events.





DHARATH HOONCHAMLONG

CO-FOUNDER, WASTELAND

“He helped co-create a university gastronomy sustainability curriculum.”

Dharath is at the forefront of Zero Waste drinks through Wasteland, known as Thailand's first sustainable bar with the environment in mind, creating cocktails with surplus ingredients or craft sodas that communicate circularity. His passion for environmental concerns in the food industry was sparked when he was studying for a master's in Food Studies at New York University, and augmented when he was the environmental manager at Bo.lan restaurant. At Wasteland, he helps handle strategy, communications, conceptualization, and even R&D. He also consults with environmental agencies such as LO-CARB, an environmental consultancy, and Mycelium Gastronomy Network, a global gastronomy innovation network for which he helped co-create a university gastronomy sustainability curriculum.

He is proud that the tiny bar he co-founded has evolved, even now without a physical entity, serving to explore multidisciplinary concepts, educating suppliers and consumers about the impact of waste on the planet as well as the food system. He is currently working towards a PhD in Social Innovation and Sustainability, and he hopes his dissertation about Food Literacy will help guide the hospitality industry in the future. He is inspired by Björk and Pablo Neruda.



FRANK HERRGOTT

MUSIC COMPOSER AND PRODUCER

“Dealing with humans is the greatest challenge in business, according to Frank, and he overcomes it by drawing insights from the philosophy of Stoicism, which emphasises rationality and self-control.”

Backed by a degree in Musicology, music production, and composition from Berklee College of Music, Frank started his career as an improviser, composer, and arranger in his native France. He collaborated with artists and record labels, including Sony/BMG. For the past decade, he has been teaching and making music in Thailand, working with popular Thai singers like Koh Saxman, Toon Bodyslam, Jennifer Kim, Stamp, Burin Groove Rider, and Boyd Kosiyabong. During the Covid pandemic, Frank found an opportunity to return to his first love—composition.

In 2023, he recorded his 24 preludes in partnership with Yamaha Thailand. Alongside his musical pursuits, Frank owns a French food business, "C'est Si Bon," with plans for expansion in the near future.

Dealing with humans is the greatest challenge in business, according to Frank, and he overcomes it by drawing insights from the philosophy of Stoicism, which emphasises rationality and self-control. Apart from his musical endeavors, Frank is passionate about sports, ice bathing, and painting.





GULPAT KANOKWATANAWAN

FOUNDER, AFTER YOU DESSERT CAFÉ

"BLOOMBERG RECOGNISED IT AS THE
"BEST-PERFORMING RESTAURANT
STOCK WORLDWIDE FOR OPERATORS
WITH MARKET VALUES OF AT LEAST
\$300 MILLION"

From a young girl who found joy in baking, May Gulapat became the head of a vast corporation that spans various dessert and beverage businesses in Thailand and the region. Fresh out of university, she published a series of dessert cookbooks titled "May Made" and, in 2007, opened a dessert café that introduced the now-renowned Shibuya Honey Toast. The café became an instant hit, and today, with 40 branches around town, customers still eagerly wait in line for a table.

This entrepreneurial journey didn't stop with After You. May expanded her business empire to include Mikka café and bakery, Japanese-style shaved ice shop Maygori, and Song Wat Coffee & Roasters. Demonstrating her commitment to supporting community orchards, she opened Luggaw fruit café, sourcing fruit directly from growers and offering cut fruit with dips and designer fruit frappés. In 2016, May joined Food4Good, a company supplying food for foundations like Baan Nokkamin Foundation, the Foundation for Children with Disabilities, and Sahathai Foundation. The same year, May took her company public. In 2019, Bloomberg recognised it as the "best-performing restaurant stock worldwide for operators with market values of at least \$300 million."



JULIEN VIGROUX

CO-FOUNDER, THE MOVEMENT
PLAYGROUND

Julien, a parkour athlete and coach, turned away from the finance industry and his native France to open The Movement Playground, Thailand's first parkour obstacle gym. With 20 years of experience as an original traceur (parkour practitioner), he aimed to encourage Thais to embrace this form of exercise, which involves moving from point to point in the most fluid way possible without equipment.

Parkour typically includes activities like running, climbing, vaulting, jumping, and balancing. Julien is not only dedicated to promoting parkour as a physical activity but also shares this athletic discipline with underprivileged children through the Move 4 Life project in collaboration with Pho3nix Kids. In addition to providing free meals to kids at Klongtoey Youth Centre, he believes that parkour is an excellent life skills exercise that helps develop cognitive abilities such as perception, attention, problem-solving, and creativity—skills that can directly translate to facing life challenges. The outreach program is set to expand throughout Thailand in the coming years, with the ambitious goal of reaching over 100,000 kids.

"He believes that parkour is an excellent life skills exercise that helps develop cognitive abilities such as perception, attention, problem-solving, and creativity—skills that can directly translate to facing life challenges."





JIRAWAT MAHASARN
FOUNDER & CEO, CHAKSARN DESIGN

Born and bred in the northeast of Thailand, Jirawat has always been surrounded by cottage industries for silk and woven mats for everyday use. Aware that mass production was putting the villagers out of business, he wanted to share his love of, and help preserve, his northeastern heritage through Chaksarn.

He brought together local artisans weaving with sedge and added his own contemporary designs to create stylish fashion products that would appeal to the modern market. Chaksarn also exports to several Asian markets, preserving the centuries-old craft while embracing a contemporary edge.

“Working with weavers in six northeastern provinces Chaksarn is able to triple the income for weavers, providing regular orders throughout the year and creating a sustainable enterprise.”

Working with weavers in six northeastern provinces, Chaksarn is able to triple the income for weavers, providing regular orders throughout the year and creating a sustainable enterprise. Passion is what helps him overcome obstacles. Jirawat emphasises fair trade, adopting a win-win strategy for all, sharing benefits and support between the designer and weavers. He is the brand’s own presenter with his uninhibited flair, often photographed against the natural landscape of the region, yet taking the products to a new level that commands attention.





JITTI CHOMPEE

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER
18 MONKEYS DANCE THEATRE

"In recognition of his significant contribution to promoting the performing arts in Thailand, Jitti was awarded the insignia of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French culture minister."

Jitti has combined his talents in both Thai classical dance and contemporary dance, honed at The Ailey School in NYC, to create a new global perspective on dance forms. In 2010, he founded 18 Monkeys Dance Theatre, positioning it as a contemporary dance company that integrates dance, sculpture, and visual arts, fostering an interaction that resonates with modern audiences. His style has been aptly described as 'sculptural and animalistic.' In 2016, Jitti served as Artist in Residence at Kylian Foundation and Korzo Theatre in the Netherlands. In 2022, he published 'Choreography,' a retrospective featuring his choreography and photography.

His most recent work, the contemporary performance 'School Of Ganesh'—which recently toured in France and Colombia—is accompanied by documentary films and a book titled 'Miscellany Of Khon' This book delves into the history, artistry, and beliefs intrinsic to the traditional performative Khon masks, presenting this cultural knowledge to the international modern-day audience in an accessible way. In recognition of his significant contribution to promoting the performing arts in Thailand, Jitti was awarded the insignia of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French culture minister.





JAKKAPONG CHINKRATHOK

CEO & FOUNDER, FIND FOLK

“Notably, they played a crucial role in transforming Bangkrachao into an eco-friendly travel destination.”

To counter the adverse impacts on the tourism industry resulting from infrastructure expansion—leading to the depletion of natural resources, loss of wildlife, and increased noise and air pollution—Jakkapong leveraged his experience in the hospitality and sustainability sectors. He founded a small social enterprise startup named Find Folk, serving as a sustainable tourism consultant and destination management organization. Find Folk identifies the cultural gems of each location, raises awareness among communities about the importance of safeguarding their treasures, and assists them in protecting the environment.

Simultaneously, they invite visitors to enjoy the authentic attractions of these destinations. Notably, they played a crucial role in transforming Bangkrachao into an eco-friendly travel destination. Under the “Go Green” ideology, aiming for a carbon-neutral community, activities include the introduction of dedicated bicycle lanes and kayaks as preferred forms of transport. Find Folk has received numerous accolades, including Best in Show: Impact NOW: Sustainable Enterprise Showcase and Multi-chamber Networking 2022, Runner-up SEED Low Carbon Award 2021, and Finalist in the UNWTO Global Rural Tourism Startup Competition.





JOMTIEN JANSOMRAG

PROGRAMME OFFICER, RAKS THAI
FOUNDATION

"Jomtien founded "Break the Silence TH," a support group for survivors of gender-based violence."

Self-described as a non-binary intersectional-feminist activist, Jomtien is also a social worker, writer, and mental health survivor and advocate, actively opposing gender inequality and challenging stigmas surrounding rape.

Having personally experienced a lack of support from both school and family, Jomtien embarked on the path of activism, attaining double degrees in counseling psychology and art education. With experience from her previous role as a project coordinator for the Thailand Institute of Justice, focusing on domestic violence cases, Jomtien now assists survivors throughout the justice process.

This process is often overwhelming due to gender-biased laws and policies that impact the system, leading to secondary victimization—trauma caused by social reactions, inappropriate language, repeated questioning, and insensitive comments. The challenge is further compounded by Thailand's cultural top-down hierarchy, victim-blaming and the religious concept of karma. In 2019, Jomtien founded "Break the Silence TH," a support group for survivors of gender-based violence. Additionally, she established "Survivors Talk Thailand," the first Thai-language support group on Facebook that offers community and online counseling. Jomtien also organizes in-person meetings offering discussions on Thai law, art therapy, Muay Thai sessions, and trauma communication workshops.



JATENIPAT KETPRADIT
PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER

"His journey began with capturing the Mongolian Eagle Hunters in the Altai Mountains, an experience that led to him being named the Cultural Envoy of Mongolia."

Photographer Jatenipat, known as JKboy, secured the top prize as the International Portrait Photographer of the Year 2022, marking the pinnacle of a remarkable list of accolades.

Over 15 years, he has immersed himself in the lives of 20 of the world's hidden tribes, capturing their images in a cinematic and emotive manner to share with the world. More than just photographs, he unveils their stories, raising awareness about the challenges faced by these minorities and emphasising their role as environmental protectors.

The photography project was top of the bucket list of this IT engineering graduate with a profound passion for history, culture, and legends.

His journey began with capturing the Mongolian Eagle Hunters in the Altai Mountains, an experience that led to him being named the Cultural Envoy of Mongolia. Prior to each expedition, he meticulously researches each tribe, dedicating time to connect with and earn the trust of his subjects before capturing their photographs. JKboy often presents them with Polaroid images as a keepsake, instilling a sense of pride in their heritage. His expeditions not only yield rare and captivating images but also forge enduring friendships and memories.





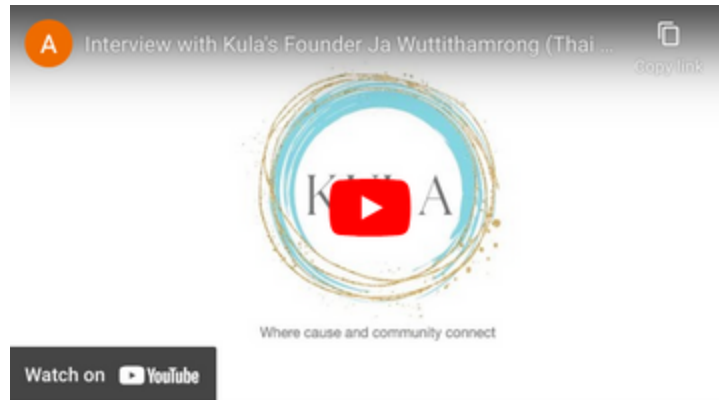
KANOKEWAN WUTTITHAMRONG
FOUNDER, KULA CO LTD

"This initiative provides opportunities for aspiring youth musicians to develop their skills, not only for entertainment but also to help and inspire others."

Kanokewan, or Ja, has had a diverse career spanning journalism, marketing, production, and education. Her journey led her to discover her passion for organising fundraising concerts to support disadvantaged children. While living in Beijing and working in education at Ivy Education Group after transitioning from journalism at CCTV, Ja seized the opportunity to host a fundraising concert for a well-known Dartmouth acapella group.

She replicated the successful concert format with "A Night To Remember" in 2022 and 2023, raising over 3.5 million baht to provide scholarships for hundreds of underprivileged children across Thailand. In addition to her work with Kula, Ja is a co-founder and organiser of the Kinnari Music Festival. This initiative provides opportunities for aspiring youth musicians to develop their skills, not only for entertainment but also to help and inspire others.

The event, titled "A Night to Remember," brought together the international group with local young talents and included a silent auction. Recognising the power of music to connect people and contribute to the community, Ja returned to Thailand and founded Kula, an organising company with transparency as its core value.





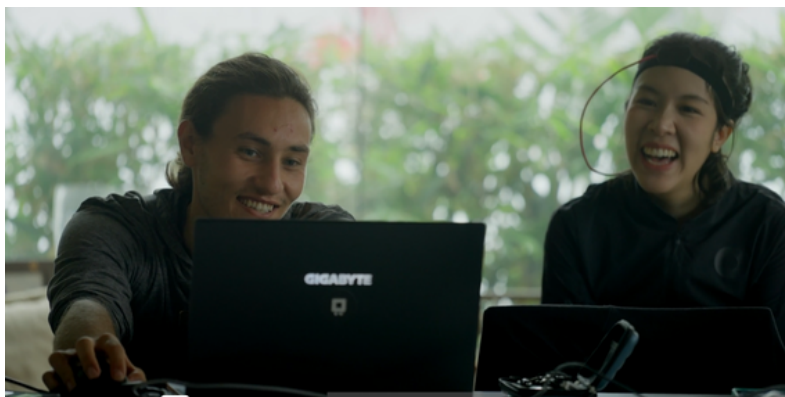
KAWITA VATANAJYANKUR

ARTIST, NOVA CONTEMPORARY

"Kawita's artistic journey, akin to a superpower, emerged from a childhood marked by low self-esteem, influenced by her skinny frame and squeaky voice."

As a performance artist associated with Nova Contemporary, Kawita utilises her body as a medium to explore and reflect on various social issues, including labor, feminism, oppression, and consumerism. Despite employing vivid color palettes reminiscent of the advertising world, her work creates an overall effect that elicits both physical and emotional discomfort for the viewer. Kawita's artistic journey, akin to a superpower, emerged from a childhood marked by low self-esteem, influenced by her skinny frame and squeaky voice.

Having graduated from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in 2011, Kawita has since embarked on a prolific art career that has taken her across the globe, participating in events such as the Bangkok Art Biennales. Her artistic concepts are developed through rigorous research, and she draws inspiration from figures like Marina Abramovic. One of her notable works, "Cyber Labour," created in collaboration with Pat Pataranutaporn, explores the theme of human oppression in a future dominated by artificial intelligence. This theme continues to be explored in her latest work, "New Frontier," which delves into the mutation of cyborgs, alongside a live performance titled "The Machine Ghost in the Human Shell."





KHEMUPSORN SIRISUKHA

FOUNDER, SIRITHAI

“Her brand, Sirithai,
initially established
to support struggling agricultural
villages during the Covid-19
pandemic, expanded its scope.”

Cherry Khemupsorn has utilised her influence as a skilled actress to advocate for environmental conservation, prompted by her firsthand observation of the drought crisis in Nan Province linked to deforestation. This experience led her to launch the "Little Forest" initiative, focused on planting trees, constructing check dams, and preserving local cultures and lifestyles. Her brand, Sirithai, initially established to support struggling agricultural villages during the Covid-19 pandemic, expanded its scope.

While selling organic rice, Cherry identified an opportunity to tap into the market for handmade, made-to-order soaps using fresh rice bran oil. Sirithai emphasises sustainability, fair business practices, and reducing single-use waste, with a commitment to community well-being and development. Cherry's core values—sustainability, community service, and happiness—were amalgamated through these endeavors. She further extended her impact with the creation of the social media platform "Little Big Green," raising awareness about a lifestyle that is "As green as you can." The platform also contributes to creating value for community products.





KOKO TIAMSAI

GLOBAL INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER, EAST-WEST SEED

"Koko is proud that she has emerged as a key opinion leader within the gender movement, particularly advocating for trans women in Thailand."

Koko, a Chevening scholar with an MA in Gender Studies from SOAS, University of London, has chosen to focus on corporate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) within the private sector, which she views as a powerful arena for driving societal and legislative changes, leveraging its speed of transformation and economic influence. In her current role, she not only leads communication efforts but also serves as a trailblazer for the DE&I roadmap, aligning with the company's mission to serve smallholder farmers worldwide. Despite her humble background as a trans individual from Isan, and the primary provider for her family,

Koko is proud that she has emerged as a key opinion leader within the gender movement, particularly advocating for trans women in Thailand. Koko began her career in a global think tank, contributing to policy communication on inequality and education in the Isan region. At foodpanda Thailand, Koko pioneered the introduction of the company's first-ever DE&I program and played a pivotal role in establishing a groundbreaking gender reaffirmation policy in Thailand. The film "Legally Blonde" inspires her for its challenge to stereotypes. Koko enjoys beach volleyball, taekwondo, and jazz to unwind from her impactful work.



KUMPON KITTIPONGPATTANA
PRESIDENT, CONSTRUCTION
LAWYERS SOCIETY

With a dual degree in law and civil engineering, he co-founded the Construction Lawyers Society in 2019. This initiative aims to promote and develop practical knowledge in construction law, contracts, and management. The society provides legal advice, conducts capacity-building activities, and facilitates knowledge sharing through various platforms such as seminars and social media. This individual's unique background, bridging two distinct professions, allows him to contribute to the improvement of construction law in Thailand. By reducing claims and disputes in construction projects, which can have detrimental effects on the Thai economy, he works towards fostering a more robust legal framework.

“By reducing claims and disputes in
construction projects, which can have
detrimental effects on the Thai economy,
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The Construction Lawyers Society has published 21 books, 11 standard contracts, and guidelines related to construction work. In addition to giving lectures and seminars, he offers consultations on dispute management within the construction industry, engaging with the education, private, and government sectors. His future plans involve authoring a book on construction claim and dispute management and advocating for the enactment of the Construction Industry Security of Payment Act in Thailand. Outside of his professional pursuits, he is known for his passion as a dedicated foodie.



KWANJIT AND SURIYA LERTSIRI

ART RESTORERS AND CONSERVATORS

"Suriya, her husband, contributes inventive skills by devising specific tools needed for different restoration projects."

This husband and wife team are among a handful of much sought after art restorers in Thailand. The pair first crossed paths while studying fine arts, with Kwanjit focusing on traditional Thai art. During her studies, she was captivated by the beauty of the art in Wat Suthat but also noticed that the framed paintings were in a state of disrepair. Recognizing that this required the expertise of an art restorer, not just an artist, she found her calling.

Kwanjit passed the exam for a position in the Conservation Science Division of the Department of Fine Arts, where she dedicated almost 30 years of her career. There, she learned that restoring a painting was not solely about applying artistic skills but required scientific knowledge of factors such as the chemical properties of paints and the reactions caused by the environment. Art restoration, she discovered, was a matter of analysis and diagnosis, akin to a doctor treating a patient. Suriya, her husband, contributes inventive skills by devising specific tools needed for different restoration projects.





KAMMAO PERDTANON
PHIN ARTIST, PARADISE BANGKOK
MOLAM INTERNATIONAL BAND

"In 2013, he joined The Paradise Bangkok Molam International Band, whose live shows credentials are off the charts including Worldwide Festival, OFF, Field Day, Glastonbury and Fuji Rock."

Kammao Phiprainn aka Kammao Perdtanon, the renowned Phin player of The Paradise Bangkok Molam International Band, has been dubbed as Thailand's Jimmy Hendrix of Phin. Born in Roi Et province of Isan, from a long lineage of Phin artists, he was taught to play the instrument by his father from the age of 2, and was performing locally by the age of 9. In 1985 he visited Bangkok looking for gigs & recording deals, and released his first solo on cassette tapes in 1986.

This was followed by film appearances, game shows and tours with several molam legends. Among the numerous accolades are Nakkaraj Thongkam, Kom Chad Luek Award, Royal Medal from the Supreme Patriarch, as well as the opportunity to perform for HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. In 2008 he began a new career as an Isan music teacher at Mahidol University. In 2013, he joined The Paradise Bangkok Molam International Band, whose live shows credentials are off the charts including Worldwide Festival, OFF, Field Day, Glastonbury and Fuji Rock. The band's LP albums "21st Century Molam", "Planet Lam" and "Araya Lam" have all been well received.





KANTICHA CHUMMA
MODEL, SEX EDUCATION ACTIVIST

"Through her work, Ticha encourages a more informed and open society, demonstrating the influential role public figures can have in championing educational causes."

Widely recognised as Ticha Kanticha, she first gained attention as the winner of The Face Thailand Season 2. Beyond her successful career in the entertainment industry, Ticha uses her platform to advocate for open discussions on sex education, aiming to transform the conversation in Thailand. Celebrated for her down-to-earth demeanour and approachable presence, Ticha Kanticha is more than just a TV personality and actress; she's a dedicated advocate for sex education.

With a passion for making conversations about sexual health more accessible, she takes to her platform to educate and engage. On her YouTube channel, "I Kan Teacha", Ticha breaks down barriers, offering relatable and informative content. Her approachable style has made her a relatable figure in the entertainment world and a powerful voice for promoting understanding and progressive change in her community. Through her work, Ticha encourages a more informed and open society, demonstrating the influential role public figures can have in championing educational causes.





KANPASSORN SURIYASANGPETCH DDS
FOUNDER, OOCA

Having experienced mental health issues since her youth, exacerbated by stress from medical studies and a male-dominated hierarchy at an army hospital, she faced challenges accessing therapy through conventional channels.

Dr Kanpassorn, a dentist turned tech entrepreneur, has made a significant impact by founding Ooca, Thailand's first mental wellness application, and transforming the landscape of mental health support. Having experienced mental health issues since her youth, exacerbated by stress from medical studies and a male-dominated hierarchy at an army hospital, she faced challenges accessing therapy through conventional channels. In response, she created an application facilitating online video consultations with reputable psychologists or psychiatrists. Ooca's services extend beyond individuals to encompass leading corporations that prioritise their employees' mental health. Recognizing that millions of Thai youngsters and teenagers face mental health risks but lack the financial means for consultation, Dr. Kanpassorn launched the "Wall of Sharing" website. Donations of 470 baht contribute to providing one student with a session of online consultation service. Since its launch in 2017, Dr Kanpassorn's initiatives have earned her the 2017 World Summit Award, recognition in BBC 100 Women 2018, and The People Award Top100 in 2022. Dr Kanpassorn projects that Ooca will become the most impactful mental wellness tech company in ASEAN in 2024 and beyond.





KIM STEPPÉ
CEO, BLUE ELEPHANT GROUP

"He learned the ropes from various roles, starting as a bartender and later becoming a bar manager at a hip hop club."

Dividing his time between Phuket, Bangkok, and Brussels, this entrepreneur manages a thriving Thai food empire. The business includes a Thai restaurant in Brussels, a banqueting enterprise, a cooking school, and a production facility for exporting curries and sauces globally. He learned the ropes from various roles, starting as a bartender and later becoming a bar manager at a hip hop club. His experience includes working as a marketing manager at the Blue Elephant Trade Office, where he created the innovative "Cook for Two" pack featuring all necessary ingredients.

As the sales manager for the ready meals facility in Belgium, he secured major contracts, including airline catering and representing Thailand as the official caterer for the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. He also brought the Miss Belgium pageant to Thailand. With a background as a restaurant manager at the Blue Elephant Governor's Mansion in Phuket, he faced significant challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic but successfully guided the company to recovery, keeping all staff intact. In addition to his business acumen, he is steering the company toward a more circular economy, emphasising sustainable projects with organic products.





KULACHAT KENA
FOUNDER, FARMKITS

“He realised that to ensure a sustainable future for his family and community, he needed to establish a community tourism destination from the ground up.”

When Khon Kaen-born Kulachat returned to his roots, he realised that to ensure a sustainable future for his family and community, he needed to establish a community tourism destination from the ground up. Against the dramatic backdrop of a mountain in Phuphaman district, known for its daily flight of bats, he opened Farmkits as a rustic café. The venue also provided an open co-working space where community youngsters could come to learn new skills including organic farming and computer technology—his area of expertise. Recognising the need for a more comprehensive travel information platform to attract visitors to this remote area, Kulachat, drawing on his profession as a User Interface Designer, created phuphaman.com.

Launched in 2019, the website offers information on travel routes, accommodation, restaurants and cafes, tourist sites, as well as activities and news updates in the area, supplemented by strategically placed QR codes at various locations to assist visitors on their journey. To encourage the community to recognise their own tourism potential to enhance their livelihood, this digital nomad launched the Tech Thaiban website as an open-source platform for technology empowerment within the community.



MANOON THANAWANG
JARUWAN JINASEN

CO-FOUNDERS, COCOA VALLEY RESORT

Manoon made a dramatic shift from his previous job on an oil rig on the eastern seaboard, as well as his excessive lifestyle, to find self-fulfillment in his hometown of Pua, Nan Province. Here, his parents were involved in agriculture. Hoping to make a positive impact on the environment, he identified cocoa as the perfect organic economic crop. Cocoa bore fruit all year round, required no chemicals, and had good export potential. This not only allowed him to survive and thrive but also supported the livelihood of surrounding communities and contributed to reforesting the hills.

After planting several test plots, he identified the ideal strain of cocoa for Pua, registering it as Nan 133. Manoon shared his knowledge with the local community and purchased their produce for processing. Alongside his wife, Jaruan Jinasen, he established Cocoa Valley as both a cocoa plantation and a resort to promote tourism. Eventually, they created a brand of cocoa-based products as well. Through this journey, Manoon discovered that happiness does not come solely from financial gains. Instead, true contentment arises from a lifestyle that benefits not only himself but the entire

“Through this journey, Manoon discovered that happiness does not come solely from financial gains.”



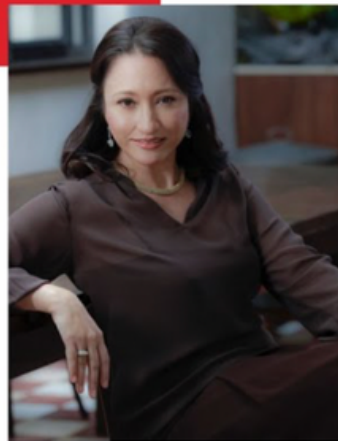
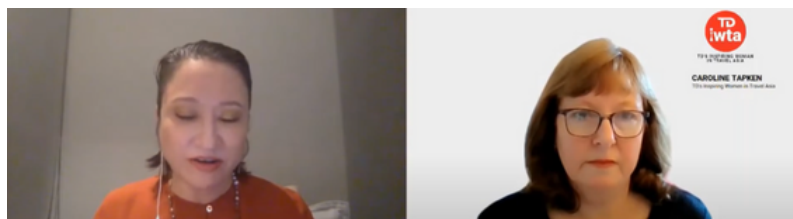


MARISA SUKOSOL NUNBHAKDI

PRESIDENT, THAI HOTELS
ASSOCIATION

"Studying art history
at Columbia University,
she had dreams of a singing and
acting career, though she still
gets to share her powerful Broadway
voice with audiences
at charity concerts."

Marisa, in her own words, is a hotel owner, vocalist, mom, wife, foodie, art/culture/nature lover, and world traveler. She entered the hotel industry by default, being the eldest child of a hotelier. As the Executive Vice President of the family-owned Sukosol Hotels, Marisa oversees the day-to-day operations of the hotel group. She took on the role of President of the Thai Hotels Association (THA) just at the start of the Covid pandemic, which devastated the hotel industry. Prior to this, she chaired the THA Environment Committee, a position for which she was well-suited, given that all her hotels are certified as "Green Hotels." In 2017, she founded the Chao Phraya River Business Community and We Love Chao Phraya Community, and successfully opposed a BMA plan to build a highway along both sides of the Chao Phraya River. Studying art history at Columbia University, she had dreams of a singing and acting career, though she still gets to share her powerful Broadway voice with audiences at charity concerts. Marisa was recently honored with the IWTA Hall of Fame Award in the Travel Daily's Inspiring Women in Travel (Asia) Awards 2023.



'I have faith in the tourism industry in Thailand. It is the country's greatest asset, along with its people and there are exciting years of growth and opportunity ahead.'

Marisa Sukosol Nunbhakdi
President Thai Hotel Association &
Executive Vice President Sukosol
Hotels





MAX SIMPSON
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, STEPS

“Max's notable achievement is opening the first research centre dedicated to neurodiversity in the workplace in Southeast Asia.”

Max, with a background in education in the UK, particularly working with neurodivergent students and those in foster care, identified a need to raise awareness of employment opportunities for the neurodivergent community in Thailand. In response, they founded Steps, a team comprising job coaches, inclusion specialists, and trainees. Steps focuses on running education programmes and model businesses in Bangkok to equip young adults, including those who are neurodivergent, with the skills necessary to access fulfilling careers.

Max's notable achievement is opening the first research centre dedicated to neurodiversity in the workplace in Southeast Asia. This centre aims to share research findings with relevant organisations, inform policy decisions, and optimise the use of government funds to facilitate workplace inclusion. Additionally, the centre has established ongoing disability inclusion readiness partnerships with international hotel groups and multinational corporations. Inspired by their autistic son's unique perspective on the world, which they find incredibly beautiful, Max draws motivation from various sources, including the film *The Reason I Jump: One Boy's Voice from the Silence of Autism* by Naoki Higashida.



NACHALE BOONYAPISOMPARN

PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER, ASTRAEA
LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

Nachale, or Hua, is a trans woman activist dedicated to advancing transgender rights and advocating for issues such as marriage equality, legal gender recognition, and gender-affirming care coverage with the National Health Security Office. Hua holds an MSA degree in Public and Community Health from Trinity Washington University. Her professional journey spans local non-profit organisations to international entities and networks. Hua became the first transgender programme supervisor, and is currently president, at Sisters Foundation, a prominent transgender-led organisation in Thailand.

She is also a founding member and vice president of the Foundation of Transgender Alliance for Human Rights (TGA) and served as the inaugural coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Transgender Network (APTN). Notably, she played a key role in coordinating the development of the Asia Pacific Transgender Health Blueprint in 2014 and 2015. In 2019, Hua took on the role of Transgender and Gender Non-binary Health Advisor at Apicha Community Health Center in New York City, overseeing trans health services for trans and gender non-binary patients. In 2020, she joined the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, where she contributes to implementing bilateral partnerships, including reporting, compliance, and programmatic elements.

"She played a key role in coordinating the development of the Asia Pacific Transgender Health Blueprint in 2014 and 2015".





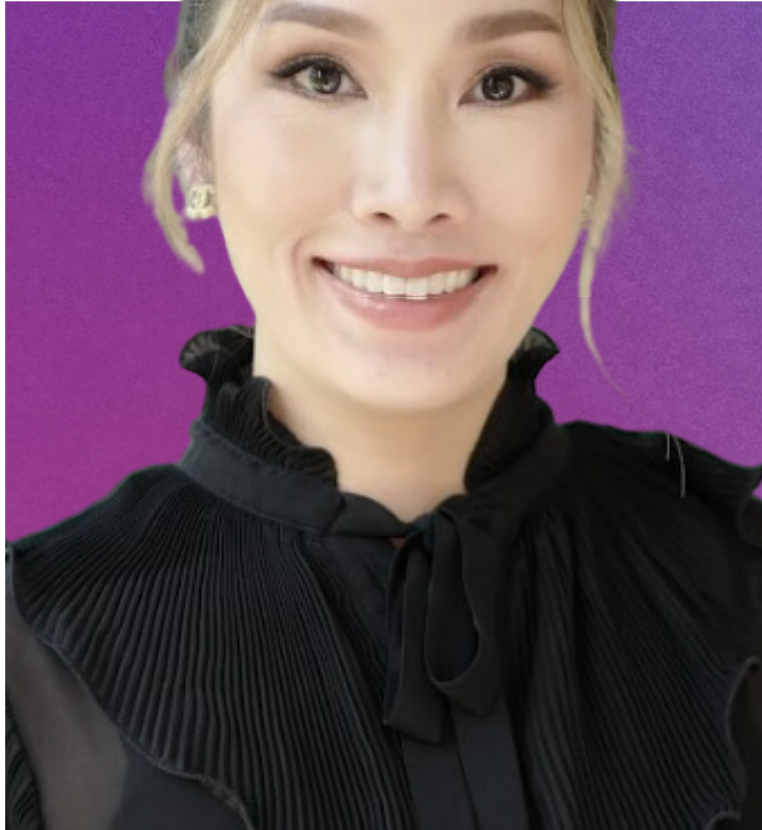
NALUTPORN KRAIRIKSH

FOUNDER, THISABLE.ME

Wheelchair-bound journalist Nalutporn, the founder of ThisAble.me, an online media platform dedicated to disability issues, has been a trailblazer in advocating for inclusivity. Born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Nalutporn, or Nu, encountered firsthand the challenges of inequality during her school years, where the lack of facilities often restricted her participation in various activities. Despite facing obstacles, Nu earned a degree in art from the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University. To gain practical skills, she took an online journalism course, during which time she realised her potential to make a significant impact as a writer.

Subsequently, she joined Prachatai newspaper, focusing on reporting gender and disability disparities. In 2016, Nu launched ThisAble.me, concentrating specifically on disability issues, including sensitive topics such as sex, with the aim of fostering an environment that enables people with disabilities to participate equally in society. Simultaneously, she embarked on a political journey with the goal of changing perspectives toward the disabled at the policy level. Nu's efforts have earned her accolades, including the Human Rights Defenders Award from the National Human Rights Commission in 2018 and recognition from Amnesty International in 2020.

"Nu launched ThisAble.me, concentrating specifically on disability issues, including sensitive topics such as sex, with the aim of fostering an environment that enables people with disabilities to participate equally in society."



NANTHAPORN JANCHALIA
SERIBUTRA PHD
CEO, STARFISH EDUCATION

“Dr Prae's passions include cooking, enjoying great food and wine, and diving. She is also a certified personal trainer and nutrition coach.”

Nanthaporn J Seributra, also known as Dr Prae, is an educator, education technologist, change-maker, and advocate for educational equity through technology. She founded Starfish Education with the goal of providing a comprehensive educational ecosystem, including a school, a professional development institute, an online learning and community platform, and a skill assessment app. Her previous role as an education development executive for Apple Inc in Thailand and Singapore equipped her for this mission. Dr. Prae takes pride in the evolution of Starfish Education—comprising Starfish Academy, Starfish Labz, and Starfish Class—into a nationwide beacon of learning. The initiatives have impacted more than 7.3 million teachers, parents and students.

The next venture on her agenda is the launch of Starfish Learning Hub, an experiential learning ecosystem designed to cultivate future skills which transcends traditional schooling by merging hands-on agricultural practices, innovative design, cultural exploration and social entrepreneurship. For inspiration, she turns to *The Wisdom of Tea: Life Lessons from the Japanese Tea Ceremony* by Noriko Morishita. Dr Prae's passions include cooking, enjoying great food and wine, and diving. She is also a certified personal trainer and nutrition coach.



NICKLAS VON BUEREN

CEO, LOTUS ARTS DE VIVRE

"Drawing upon the talents of the third generation von Buerens, as well as the experience of the founders, Nicki has enhanced the creative and innovative aspects of the objets d'art."

Nicklas—or Nicki—heads the company founded by his parents almost half a decade ago. After graduating from the Business School Lausanne, he joined Siam Commercial Securities during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, providing the perfect learning opportunity to deal with financial extremities. Joining the family business, he played a pivotal role in raising the brand's profile in the international market through innovative sales and marketing strategies, all while preserving the traditional craftsmanship and artisanal supply chain scattered throughout the region. Drawing upon the talents of the third generation von Buerens, as well as the experience of the founders, Nicki has enhanced the creative and innovative aspects of the objets d'art. This transformation aims to appeal to a broader and younger customer base, creating a bridge to lead the brand successfully and sustainably into the future. Embodying the best of both worlds, he is equally at home in Bangkok and Bali, where he spent his youth, or in Europe where he studied. His days off are dedicated to his wife and three children.





NIM NIYOMSIN
INDEPENDENT CURATOR

Nim is a specialist in contemporary art, photography, and public art events, having collaborated with various art institutions in Thailand and overseas. Her professional journey includes working with institutions such as the Artist Pension Trust and Horniman Museum and Gardens in London. During her time in London, she curated exhibitions featuring Thai artists in multiple art spaces. As an independent curator, Nim takes pride in her ability to navigate the art scene with the freedom to promote exhibitions and artists she passionately believes in. She considers herself successful if what she does is making a positive impact on artists and contributing to the growth of the Thai art scene.

"She considers herself successful if what she does is making a positive impact on artists and contributing to the growth of the Thai art scene."

Nim's approach involves constantly questioning the purpose and impact of her projects, ensuring that they align with her standards and values. Nim's mission is to encourage underexposed artists, bridge diverse artists' groups, mediums, and genres, and establish connections between art and non-art sectors to make art more accessible, interesting, and enjoyable for a broader audience. Armed with a double Master's degree in History of Art and Business Administration, Nim hopes to further her postgraduate studies and expand her horizons.



NITIYUT WONGBUDDHA

INVENTOR, KEVALEE INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL BANGKOK

"Miky draws inspiration from role models such as Spider-Man—for his resourcefulness and commitment to helping others—and Nikola Tesla."

Miky, a remarkable teenage inventor and recipient of the Thailand Youth Award 2023, began his journey in innovation at the age of 8. His invention, the "I-See" cap, was designed to assist the blind in avoiding collisions with overhanging signs. Through The Thailand Association of the Blind, Miky is helping to distribute the I-See cap to enhance the safety and mobility of visually impaired individuals. His "Smart Chair for the Elderly and Leg Rehabilitation" won the Public's Choice Award at the Global Student Innovation Challenge (gSIC) during the 16th International Convention on Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology 2023, as well as a Gold Medal at the 5th China (Shanghai) International Invention & Innovation Expo in 2021.

Miky was awarded the Nikola Tesla Prize for his Positive Pressure Cabinet designed to protect healthcare workers from infection risks during patient treatment, and his Smart Solar Cell secured the Nikola Tesla Prize at the 2021 AT&T Inventor's Challenge. Miky draws inspiration from role models such as Spider-Man—for his resourcefulness and commitment to helping others—and Nikola Tesla. Miky is currently working on a new invention to address global warming.



NAPAT JATUSRIPITAK PHD

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
THAILAND FUTURE

“Dr. Napat's first book, “Atadia”—AI data spelled backward—contains fiction and non-fiction stories that explore the inevitable convergence of various forms of information technology.”

As a data technology entrepreneur, Dr Napat has advised on Big Data at True Digital Group and the Stock Exchange of Thailand, while the services of his Siametrics Consulting company have been sought by prestigious entities. As a co-founder of ViaLink, a Deep Tech Supply Chain Commerce startup, he aims to build next-gen cloud-based tech infrastructure for efficient and sustainable logistics. Beyond entrepreneurship, Dr. Napat identifies as an evidence-based public policy advocate. In his role as Managing Director at ThailandFuture, he strives to connect policy stakeholders, decentralize policy-making authorities, and propel Thailand towards a more inclusive, data-driven, and forward-looking future.

With degrees in Applied Economics, International Relations, and International Finance and Economics from Ivy League institutions, his academic background is robust. His time as a research assistant at Harvard Kennedy introduced him to the magic of using big data for public benefit. Dr. Napat's first book, “Atadia”—AI data spelled backward—contains fiction and non-fiction stories that explore the inevitable convergence of various forms of information technology. Despite his professional achievements, his pride and joy are his two daughters.





NAYADA THIPPAYAATSAWAPAKIN

FOUNDER, BEWISE ACADEMY

“Nayada's journey exemplifies resilience, determination, and a commitment to transforming education for the better.”

Nayada, an outstanding figure in the transgender community, established BeWise Academy as a leading tutorial school in Thailand, aiming to address the need for restructuring the country's education system. Despite facing discrimination for her sexuality within her conservative military family, Nayada's resilience shone through. She not only graduated with a master's degree in education from the University of Exeter but also channeled her passion for teaching into creating BeWise Academy. The academy goes beyond conventional tutoring to provide opportunities for students to enter higher education, study abroad, and pursue various vocations.

Nayada recognises the necessity for a shift in the traditional schooling system, moving away from rote learning methods. She advocates for schools to become environments where students can learn how to ask questions and effectively use AI technology as a learning tool. With six branches across the country, BeWise also collaborates with TransTalent Consulting Group and Sasin School of Management to empower transgender individuals to realize their potential as business entrepreneurs. Nayada's journey exemplifies resilience, determination, and a commitment to transforming education for the better.





NAPASSAPORN CHUMNARNSIT DMD

DENTIST, PRACHUAPKHIRIKHAN HOSPITAL

"Overcoming a last-minute switch from a North Face ascent to the South Col route due to the China-Tibet border conflict, she successfully reached the Everest summit."

Dr. Napassaporn, known as Dr. Eem, is known as not only the first Thai woman but also the first woman from Southeast Asia to conquer the seven highest peaks of the seven continents. Her remarkable journey began with Mount Everest (Asia) in 2016, followed by Kilimanjaro (Africa) in 2017, Elbrus (Europe) in 2017, Aconcagua (South America) in 2017, Vinson Massif (Antarctica) in 2018, Puncak Jaya (Oceania) in 2018, and Denali or McKinley (North America) in 2019. The adventure commenced when Dr. Eem was recognized as a potential Everest climber while ascending Kinabalu on Borneo. Despite her petite stature, she demonstrated the strength, pace, tenacity, and quick recovery time required for such a demanding undertaking. Overcoming a last-minute switch from a North Face ascent to the South Col route due to the China-Tibet border conflict, she successfully reached the Everest summit. This success paved the way for the ambitious PTT-sponsored Seven Summits project, which progressed smoothly until Denali when severe weather conditions forced a turnaround. On the second attempt, Dr. Eem was the only climber from the starting group who successfully summited. A vegetarian, Dr. Eem keeps fit through trail running.





ONZA JANYAPRASERT

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, MAGNOLIA QUALITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MQDC)

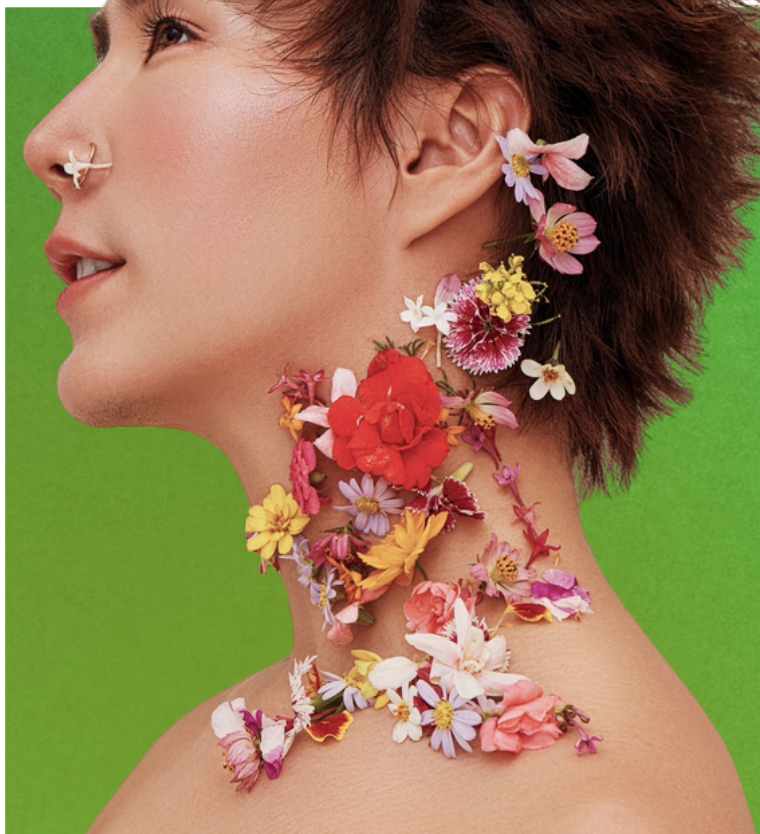
“Despite his young age, he has successfully managed two large-scale real estate development projects, each with a project value exceeding 1 billion USD, supported by a strong team that he built.”

Onza is currently overseeing the development of South Sukhumvit, specifically between Onnut and Bang Na, into an innovation district through Cloud 11—a creative playground aiming to empower Southeast Asia’s creator economy and entertainment industry. He believes that Thailand possesses strong but fragmented creative talents, and he aims to empower them through the creation of Cloud 11 as a robust ecosystem.

A King’s Scholarship awardee, Onza graduated with degrees in Management Science and Civil and Environmental Engineering from Stanford University. Despite his young age, he has successfully managed two large-scale real estate development projects, each with a project value exceeding 1 billion USD, supported by a strong team that he built.

Onza envisions the real estate industry as more than just property; he hopes to create a community of purpose-driven real estate developers that can serve a larger purpose for society. His commitment to social causes is evident in initiatives such as spearheading the 450-bed field hospital sponsored by MQDC and Princ Hospital during the Covid-19 pandemic. Onza unwinds by engaging in long-distance running and sketching buildings.





PATARADANAI SETSUWAN
PSYCHOTHERAPIST,
INFLUENCER, CELEBRITY

4

“Beyond fostering visibility,
Koen is a staunch advocate against bullying,
championing the right to self-expression.”

Pataradanai "Koendanai" Setsuwan (they/them) has emerged as a trailblazer in Thai LGBTQ+ activism, carving a path from their role as a prominent member of the band K-OTIC to a luminary in queer advocacy. As a UK-accredited psychotherapist, Koen employs their social media platform, aptly named "Koendanai," as a powerful platform for LGBTQ+ activism. This digital sanctuary serves as a space for inclusive conversations about gender diversity and sexual orientation, normalising non-binary pronouns within Thailand's evolving cultural landscape. Koen's engaging and educational content contributes to dismantling stereotypes while portraying LGBTQ+ lifestyles as universally relatable.

Beyond fostering visibility, Koen is a staunch advocate against bullying, championing the right to self-expression. As a trainee psychotherapist working towards a doctorate qualification, they brought in a unique blend of academic expertise and personal experience to offer specialised mental health support to the LGBTQ+ community. More recently, Koen has been setting up "Jutpakjai" (a place for the heart to rest) project where they met with others in random locations in Thailand or abroad, offering a listening ear in a safe space so people can come and heal and explore in full confidentiality without judgement.





PAKORN AIEWSAKUN DPHIL

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY, FACULTY OF
SCIENCE, MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

Assoc Prof Dr Pakorn, with a DPhil and postdoctoral training focusing on virus evolution and classification from the University of Oxford, is a leading figure in the field of pathogen evolution, genomics and genomic epidemiology. His innovative research has significantly impacted the analysis and interpretation of genomic data, particularly in the context of viral classification, discovery, and evolution, which is integral in the investigation of disease outbreaks. Dr Pakorn oversees one of the department's research centers, the "Pornchai Matangkasombut Center for Microbial Genomics" (CENMIG), and spearheads several research initiatives that positively impacts the quality of life and environmental sustainability.

Collaborating with the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health, one of his notable ongoing projects is the "Chiang Rai Model," which utilises next-generation sequencing technology and genomic epidemiology to trace tuberculosis outbreaks in Chiang Rai, Thailand, in accordance with the World Health Organization's "End TB Strategy." Dr Pakorn takes pride in his academic endeavors, striving to advance scientific knowledge. Beyond the realm of academia, Dr Pakorn indulges in competitive ballroom dancing. He credits the film "Forrest Gump" for teaching him to live life to the fullest.

"His innovative research has significantly impacted the analysis and interpretation of genomic data, particularly in the context of viral classification, discovery, and evolution, which is integral in the investigation of disease outbreaks."



PANCHANA VATANASATHIEN

PRESIDENT, KHAO YAI TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Panchana Vatanasathien, a law graduate and the current president of the Khao Yai Tourism Association, has made significant contributions to promoting sustainable tourism in Khao Yai. In her role, she collaborates with various stakeholders, including the business sector, hotels, restaurants, and farmers, to foster environmentally friendly tourism practices. Panchana is also the founder of the popular "PenLaos" restaurant, which operates as a community restaurant in Khao Yai. During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, she initiated the "Food for Fighters" programme, providing frontline medical personnel with packaged meals.

The initiative, supported by fundraising efforts and restaurant networks, gained certification from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Her community-centric work aims to protect the environment and empower local communities, creating jobs and improving livelihoods for local farmers. Panchana helped to organise the Khao Yai Car Free Day 2023, which highlighted sustainable transportation options and eco-friendly practices, including walking, cycling, and running in the UNESCO-listed Park, zero-waste meals and stargazing. Her future goal is to create a 3-generation home care system. She draws inspiration from figures such as the Dalai Lama and Hermann Hesse's novel "Siddhartha."

"Her community-centric work aims to protect the environment and empower local communities, creating jobs and improving livelihoods for local farmers."



PARICHA DUANGTAWEE SUB

ADJUNCT FACULTY, CHULALONGKORN
SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED INNOVATION

“A valuable piece of advice that
Paricha has received:
If you are not getting
an answer that makes sense, you're
probably asking
the wrong question.”

Paricha Duangtaweesub teaches design innovation for social justice and sustainability at CSII (Chulalongkorn School of Integrated Innovation), a field he also practices as a business development officer at Forth EMS, a Thai company providing end-to-end electronics manufacturing services, whose operations he is helping to transform to meet global sustainability standards. Paricha has also served as an independent innovation consultant for various organisations including the Thailand Institute of Justice, Stanford University, Harvard Business School, and the UNDP on applying design principles to tackle social issues.

Paricha recognises that effective collaboration within teams and between stakeholders is essential to achieving impactful outcomes at scale. He shares this value through one of his initiatives, Design for Thailand, a student club aimed at creating social change through design. Through partners in the social and non-profit sector, his students are currently working to promote alternative tourism in Northern Thailand, to reduce recidivism rates through skills development programmes, and to map stakeholder relationships in waste management in Bangkok, amongst others. A valuable piece of advice that Paricha has received: If you are not getting an answer that makes sense, you're probably asking the wrong question.





PATIMA TUNGPUCHAYAKUL

CO-FOUNDERS, LABOUR PROTECTION
NETWORKATION

Alongside her husband, Sompong Srakaew, Patima established the Labour Protection Network (LPN) in 2004 with the mission of safeguarding and enhancing the lives of migrant workers in Thailand around the region, focusing on promoting equality and human rights. In 2014, Patima played a crucial role in the rescue of 2,000 captive and stranded fishermen from remote Indonesian islands. The Associated Press coverage of this rescue effort received the prestigious Pulitzer Prize, and the story was featured in the award-winning 2019 documentary film "Ghost Fleet." Patima's impactful work earned her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 2017.

"Understanding the critical importance of timing in her work, Patima recognises that every minute could be a matter of life and death for someone."

She is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of ensuring that the seafood supply chain is free from human trafficking and labour exploitation, emphasising the need for sustainable sourcing in the seafood industry. Understanding the critical importance of timing in her work, Patima recognises that every minute could be a matter of life and death for someone. Looking ahead, Patima hopes to establish a vocational promotion fund for fishermen and their families, and rehabilitation programmes for victims of trafficking and exploitation, coupled with job training initiatives in collaboration with fishermen and employers.





PEERUMAKORN WORASATRTHAPORN
PRESIDENT, KHAO YAI TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

Designer Peerumakorn, or Kai, has gained recognition for her high-end streetwear designs that seamlessly blend chic and rock-and-roll aesthetics, with a significant emphasis on ethnic textiles. Her passion for design dates back to childhood when she sketched clothes for her paper dolls, leading her to enroll in dressmaking courses at the Alliance Française. She also makes a point of using cultural roots in her design as a thematic approach, and supporting society, working with youth and women's groups around the country in tandem with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. Her belief in the power of peace through cultural and religious diversity was acknowledged with the International Cultural Heritage Awards from Sweden's World Peace Awards in 2018. In 2000, Kai was the first Asian designer to receive the prestigious De Fêlé De Mode awards from France, previously granted to renowned figures like Thierry Mugler and Alexander McQueen. Further accolades included the Woman Power Awards in 2022 at the Woman Power Global Event. Her work ranges from fashion to uniform designs for both local and international organisations. Her role models are Jean Paul Gaultier and Vivienne Westwood.

"Her belief in the power of peace through cultural and religious diversity was acknowledged with the International Cultural Heritage Awards from Sweden's World Peace Awards in 2018."



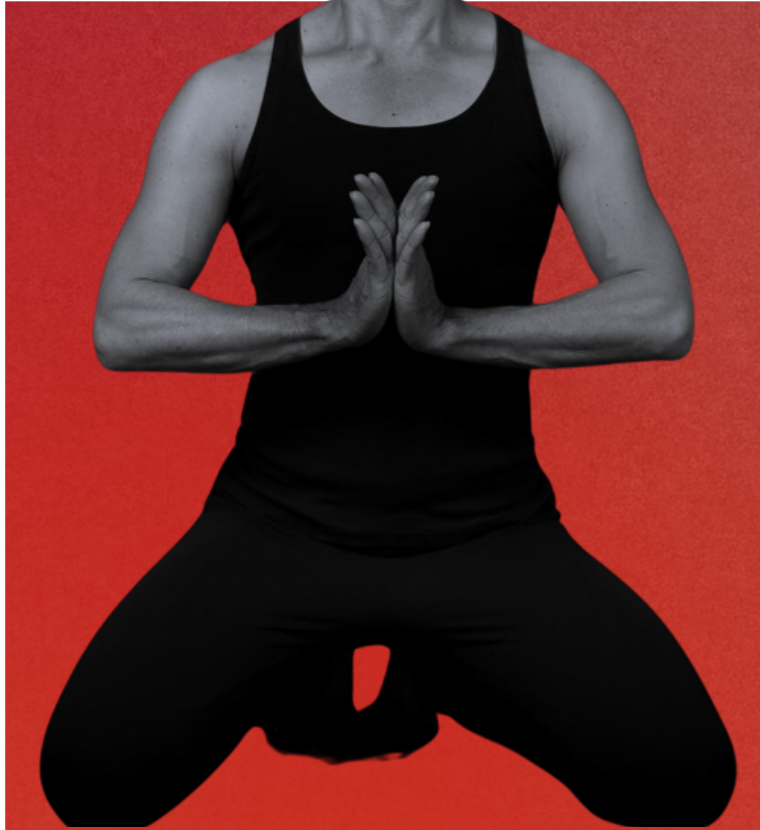


PHANNAPAST TAYCHAMAYTHAKOOL
ARTIST/ILLUSTRATOR

Phannapast rose to international prominence through collaboration with Gucci on the 'Le Marché des Merveilles' collection in 2017. This partnership was established following her Instagram posts showcasing illustrations of animals dressed in Gucci outfits. Her distinct style, characterised by a fantastical and colourful banquet of whimsical Asian folklore, mythological animals, and nature, is a reflection of her inner emotions and aspects of her personality. After graduating in fashion design from Chulalongkorn University, she worked as a creative director for a fashion brand. However, she realised that illustration provided her with more freedom for self-expression.

Phannapast's style, featuring vibrant and feminine outfits, mirrors the aesthetic of her work, breaking down gender barriers. Her Chinese heritage underscores her strong interest in legends and culture, and myths serve as a key to understanding the human psyche, which she explores with abandon in her art. She considers her artwork to be an alternative to a diary, leaving room for questions and interpretation. Additionally, she explores various techniques such as NFTs and lenticular effects.

"She realised that illustration provided her with more freedom for self-expression."



PICHET KLUNCHUN

Founder/Dancer/Choreographer,
Pichet Klunchun Dance Company

Classically trained in Khon masked dance, National Artist Pichet gained international reputation for bringing traditional Thai dance into the 21st century, making it relevant to modern sensibilities. He first gained prominence for his performance at the Asian Games ceremony in Bangkok in 1998 but felt constrained by the rigidity of the old dance school. Consequently, he left government service to chart his own artistic direction. His dance training in the US, facilitated by an Asian Cultural Council fellowship, significantly broadened his horizons. In 2004, he founded the Pichet Klunchun Dance Company, performing both in Thailand and on international stages.

“Over the last 20 years,
he has dedicated himself to
deconstructing the 59 key postures of
Thai classical dance.”

In 2008, he was honoured with the European Cultural Foundation's Princess Margriet Award for his collaborative piece with dancer Jerome Bel titled 'Pichet Klunchun and Myself.' Over the last 20 years, he has dedicated himself to deconstructing the 59 key postures of Thai classical dance. From this exercise, he derived six key elements complete with diagrams and notations, collectively known as “No.60.” This innovative approach offers a new perspective on classical dance knowledge. As a solo artist, his performances have embraced painting and digital art, showcasing his commitment to continuous evolution.





PIRADA TECHAVIJIT PHD

LECTURER, KING MONGKUT'S INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY LADKRABANG INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMY OF AVIATION INDUSTRY

“This initiative aimed to empower young minds to create their own technology and innovations, fostering interest in aerospace engineering.”

Dr Pirada Techavijit's professional journey began as a satellite engineer for the Theos earth observation satellite at GISTDA. Armed with a first degree in computer engineering, she furthered her education through the Theos Operation Training Program (TOTP) scholarship, earning a master's degree in aerospace engineering from Institut Supérieure de l'Aéronautique de l'Espace in France. She gained public attention when she became one of only 23 participants worldwide, and one of four women, selected by AXE Apollo and Space Expedition Corporation (SXC), now XCOR, to join a space camp in Orlando, Florida.

Dr Pirada completed the G-Centrifuge and Astronaut Assault Course in preparation for joining the LYNX MARK II spaceplane crew. Recognizing Thailand's limited personnel and technology in the aerospace field, Dr Pirada, together with her colleague Polkit Sukchalerm, developed a makerspace laboratory model named STEMLab (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) for schools. This initiative aimed to empower young minds to create their own technology and innovations, fostering interest in aerospace engineering. Starting in two schools in 2017, STEMLab has now successfully expanded to over 200 schools across Thailand.



PITCHAKORN RAMABU

HEAD CHEF AND
CO-PARTNER, ADHOC BKK

Even at a young age, Chef Pop has successfully managed both the kitchen and the operations of this top establishment. With local training, she possesses a deep passion for cooking Thai cuisine, inspired by her grandmother. Chef Pop's reputation has flourished as she actively participated in various cooking competitions, including Iron Chef Thailand and Plai Ja Wak Battle. Her aspiration is to elevate Adhoc to award-winning status with international recognition. Aiming to cultivate a deeper appreciation for Thai cuisine, she emphasises the support of Thai producers and committed farmers. Sustainability and the reduction of food waste are integral to her culinary approach, creating a positive impact on Thailand's environment, economy, and food security.

“Her goal is to inspire younger chefs with a sense of focus, honesty, and culinary expertise, ensuring the preservation and promotion of Thai cuisine and traditions.”

Chef Pop draws inspiration from Duangporn Songvisava of Bo.Lan, Esben Holmboe Bang of Maemo, and Poul Andrias Ziska of Koks. Her goal is to inspire younger chefs with a sense of focus, honesty, and culinary expertise, ensuring the preservation and promotion of Thai cuisine and traditions. Chef Pop has been recognised as the "Ambassador of Thai Cuisine Authenticity," while Adhoc was honoured as one of the 30 Best Restaurants in Thailand's Favourite Restaurants 2023-24 by Koktail.





**PLENGRHAMBHAI AND
PYNBHAIROH SNIDVONGS KRUESOPON**

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR,
CARE FOR CORAL

“Both Pleng and Pyn are recognised with the Gold Ocean Conservationist medal, awarded by the Ministry of Environment.”

Pleng, a sophomore at Stanford University, is studying Pre-Law and is a dedicated advocate for human rights and environmental justice. She is the founder and director of Care for Coral—the largest youth-led reef restoration initiative in Thailand—which received the Most Outstanding Youth Organization Award, issued by HM King Rama X. Notably, her efforts played a pivotal role in changing policies, lifting the nationwide moratorium on coral conservation. Pleng is also a finalist for the Women of the Future Awards in Southeast Asia and received the Excellence of Leadership Award from the Thai government. Her sister, Pyn, a junior at the International School of Bangkok, serves as the president and co-founder of Care for Coral.

Pyn is a UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Youth Champion and has received prestigious national accolades, including the Most Outstanding Youth Award, and the Youth Excellence Award. Her nationwide "Sign for Help" campaign positioned her as a prominent activist figure. Pyn's advocacy extends to gender empowerment through her organisation EmpowHER Youth, creating a more inclusive society. Both Pleng and Pyn are recognised with the Gold Ocean Conservationist medal, awarded by the Ministry of Environment.





PONGCHARN RUSSELL

MANAGING PARTNER,
MIA RESTAURANT

Phuket-born Chef Top spent his formative years on the Isle of Wight, UK, and honed his skills at various Michelin-starred restaurants in London and Singapore, with such mentors as Alexis Gauthier, Jun Tanaka, Pierre Gagnaire, and Jason Atherton. Overcoming the challenges of repetitive kitchen tasks, Chef Top made rapid progress. Fueled by a deep respect for French cuisine, he returned to his roots and opened Mia in Bangkok, a modern European fine dining restaurant. Here, he explores diverse flavour combinations, pushes technical boundaries, emphasises local produce, and elevates his creations to new heights.

Supported by the loyalty of his Thai chef team, he aspires to train a new generation of homegrown chefs, especially those who may lack access to private culinary schools, enabling them to excel on the international stage while achieving financial self-sufficiency. Chef Top's culinary heroes include Fernando Adrià, Heston Blumenthal, and René Redzepi of Noma. Chef Top was named in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia. Additionally, Mia Restaurant earned a place among the top 30 Best Restaurants in Thailand by Thailand's Favourite Restaurants 2023-24 by Koktail, followed in close succession by a Michelin star.

"Here, he explores diverse flavour combinations, pushes technical boundaries, emphasises local produce, and elevates his creations to new heights."



POONPERM VARDHANABINDU, PHD
SUSTAINABILITY PRODUCT
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, BUREAU VERITAS

"His success in bridging academia and the business world stems from a unique journey from linguistics to greenhouse gas management."

Holding a PhD in environmental science, Dr Poonperm, is not only an educator in Climate Change and Sustainable Development but also a dedicated professional at Bureau Veritas. His expertise encompasses Climate Action Strategizing, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance), and Sustainable Finance. In his capacity, Dr Poonperm focuses on imparting his academic knowledge and enhancing the capabilities of companies in Thailand and in Southeast Asia.

His success in bridging academia and the business world stems from a unique journey from linguistics to greenhouse gas management. Dr Poonperm excels in convincing top-level management of the criticality of GHG management and sustainability through clear, evidence-based arguments that emphasise benefits, risks, and the implications of inaction. Through his YouTube and social media channels, he demystifies complex topics such as CBAM, Sustainable Finance, The Climate Action, and Carbon Pricing. His objective is to make these subjects more accessible and actionable for a diverse audience. Dr Poonperm aspires to foster a collective sense of responsibility towards creating a sustainable future, not only for Thailand and the world but, importantly, for the future of his two daughters.





PRADIT PRASARTTHONG

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
ANATTA THEATRE TROUPE

"The troupe is dedicated to telling the stories of overlooked or forgotten individuals, or the "little" people, in history, literature, and legends, hoping to stimulate positive change."

In 2012, Pradit founded Anatta Theatre Troupe as a platform for experimental works in various formats that offer a new perspective on everyday life, particularly the inequalities present in Thai society, and encourage discussions. The troupe is dedicated to telling the stories of overlooked or forgotten individuals, or the "little" people, in history, literature, and legends, hoping to stimulate positive change. Here, Pradit serves not only as a performer but also as a scriptwriter and director. Prior to this, Pradit dedicated over two decades to the Makhampom Theatre Group.

He co-founded the Bangkok Theatre Festival in 2002, which introduced Thai folk theatre arts in a modern context, applying traditional Thai theatre forms to address contemporary issues. He also established the "Small Theatre Society," a network encompassing all facets of the theatre community that aims to facilitate sustainable growth within Thai contemporary theatre. Like Don Quixote, Pradit perceives his legacy as that of "a man who is honest with his dreams and never gives up hope." He was recognized as a Silpathorn Artist in 2004 and received the title of National Artist (Contemporary Drama) in 2023.





PRANITAN PHORNPRAPHA

FOUNDER, WONDERFRUIT

Pranitan “Pete” Phornprapha is the third generation of the Phornprapha family, a vast business family conglomerate. He spent a lot of his youth abroad, and was influenced on how culture plays a role in shifting his world view. As a young man, he was exposed to environmental awareness and action by his father's Think Earth project, and advocacy for bringing people closer to nature is something he is very passionate about. He currently is the President and CEO of Bangkok Motor Works, a holding company from the family's Siam Motors Group and is an entrepreneur involved in several businesses that align to his interests. He is probably best-known for founding ‘Wonderfruit’ – the art and culture festival designed to cultivate ideas for mind and nature. Wonderfruit is spearheading culture as a catalyst for growth through highly creative, meticulous and impactful concepts and experiences that deepen people's relationships with themselves and the world around them.

“He is probably best-known for founding ‘Wonderfruit’ – the art and culture festival designed to cultivate ideas for mind and nature.”



PRAPART PINTOBTANG PHD

RICE ACTIVIST

“He also brought back traditional rice strains to replace the mass produced but low-price strains subsidised by the government that resulted in a huge surplus of rice grain stored uselessly in warehouses.”

A retired lecturer at Chulalongkorn’s Faculty of Political Science, Assoc Prof Dr Prapart is better known as an advocate for restructuring the rice production system in Thailand, a mainstay of the local economy. Born into a rice farming family in Nakhon Pathom, he has seen firsthand the issues faced by farmers such as debt, rights to farm land or the domination of big corporations on rice sales and prices. Often farmers just worked the fields with no title deeds of their own, and through his efforts, farm land in Khlong Yong was finally issued under a community title deed just over a decade ago. Finally in charge of their own destiny, farmers were encouraged by Dr Prapart to embrace organic rice farming, eventually setting up a social enterprise in 2011. He also brought back traditional rice strains to replace the mass produced but low-price strains subsidised by the government that resulted in a huge surplus of rice grain stored uselessly in warehouses. He has also headed the People’s Movement for a Just Society (P-Move), advocating for decentralisation and rights of local communities to manage their own natural materials.



PREECHA KARUN

FOUNDER, DEK THEVADA
PUPPET TROUPE

A Fine Arts graduate from the northeastern province of Maha Sarakham, with a background in theatre, mime, and puppetry, Khru Siang felt that puppets could help develop the potential of children in the remote village of Na Dun. The goal was to make art and culture an integral part of everyday life instead of a distant and seemingly useless concept. Using local materials like sticky rice baskets to create puppets and supported by traditional mor lam music, as well as familiar stories from legend, festivals, or religion as the basis for the performances, he engaged the local children through participatory efforts.

Performances took place in an old donated garage, which they all renovated using palm thatch, cow dung, and clay. Starting as an after-school activity, the troupe now performs around the country and even at international festivals. Preecha is proud that he has created a fun learning process that leads to self-discovery, igniting a sense of pride in the traditional cultural heritage. The children have gained confidence, and many have set up their own school puppet groups or have become community leaders who give back to the local society.

“Using local materials like sticky rice baskets to create puppets and supported by traditional mor lam music, as well as familiar stories from legend, festivals, or religion as the basis for the performances, he engaged the local children through participatory efforts.”





PREM PRUKTAYANON
CEO, GREEN2GET CO LTD

A computer engineering graduate, Prem launched Green2get, a digital platform for the circular economy, which enables all stakeholders—producers, consumers, and recyclers—to contribute to addressing waste problems. By scanning the QR code on a product, the application provides guidelines on how that product should be disposed of. Growing up in a family that runs a junk shop business, he was exposed from a young age to the concept of recycling, which he practiced even when no one else showed any interest.

"Prem launched Green2get, a digital platform for the circular economy, which enables all stakeholders—producers, consumers, and recyclers—to contribute to addressing waste problems."

Since then, he has been able to inspire and motivate others through his work and his Facebook page "Uncle Tricycle and the Lost Garbage," featuring a cover photo with a quote from President Obama: "We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change, and the last generation that can do something about it." The page offers simple explanations on waste management for easy implementation. He takes pride in being the founder of this circular economy platform, which represents a small step toward addressing the climate crisis and the future of the world.





PURISA HENGTRAKULSIN

CEO AND DESIGNER,
PURISA GLITZY

This young designer is currently an IGCSE student at Denla British School. Inspired by Coco Chanel's biography, which she found at a book fair, Minnie launched her own fashion brand, Purisa Glitzy, eight years ago when she was only 7 years old, using investments from her own savings received during Chinese New Year. Since then, she has created over 13 collections and was even invited to deliver a TED Talk in 2020. Recognized as Thailand's youngest fashion designer and the world's youngest owner of a clothing brand, her creations are showcased at fashion shows and pop-up stores in high-end shopping centres. Being a true Gen Z, she utilises social media platforms to promote her brand and engage with customers. The Covid-19 pandemic posed challenges for her business, but it turned out to be a lesson in crisis management that she successfully navigated. Beyond her expertise in fashion design, her angelic voice captivated judges and audiences alike in The Golden Singer 2023 competition. She aspires to inspire younger generations to follow their hearts and pursue what they love doing.

"Minnie launched her own fashion brand,
Purisa Glitzy, eight years ago when
she was only 7 years old, using investments from
her own savings received during Chinese New Year."





PARKORN KOSIYABONG

CHEF/OWNER,
THE GOAT & LAAD PHUKET

"To enhance sustainability practices, he places a focus on minimising food waste, and implements initiatives like replanting ingredients for zero waste."

Chef Tan has earned recognition for creating a curated culinary experience that weaves together local Thai ingredients with contemporary storytelling. He is the creative force behind the concept and execution of two restaurants. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Chef Tan successfully opened a restaurant in Phuket, realising his dream of having an establishment at the heart of the seafood industry. During this period, he navigated the difficulties faced by the restaurant business, ensuring that all his kitchen staff remained fully employed. He also opened The Goat (Greatest of All Time), offering an "Off-Beat Asian" tasting menu in an artistically eclectic setting, using locally sourced and sustainable ingredients.

Chef Tan actively contributes to raising awareness about local farmers and lesser-known ingredients, educates consumers about seasonal produce, and fosters appreciation for the suppliers within the intricate supply ecosystem. To enhance sustainability practices, he places a focus on minimising food waste, and implements initiatives like replanting ingredients for zero waste. In recognition of his innovative approach, Chef Tan received the "Breaking Culinary Boundaries" award from Thailand's Favourite Restaurants 23/24 by Koktail.



PAPATSARAPORN RIENTHONG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NUMAOY
RAIMAIJON CO LTD

Papatsaraporn, a second-generation member of a Ratchaburi family of sugar cane growers, recognised the need for a more sustainable income beyond the annual sugar cane harvest. The family diversified by producing pressed sugar cane juice, cultivating a different strain of sugar cane throughout the year to generate additional income. Taking the family enterprise to new heights, Papatsaraporn initiated a project to create Thailand's first pasteurized sugar cane juice under the brand Raimaijon.

"With this success, Papatsaraporn was able to ensure farmers received double the income for their crops, significantly enhancing their livelihoods."

The key to the project's success lay in professional branding, a distinctive logo, and an award-winning packaging design—stackable bottles resembling nodes of sugar cane. These elements catapulted the product into the global market. With this success, Papatsaraporn was able to ensure farmers received double the income for their crops, significantly enhancing their livelihoods. The income distribution at the grassroots level was so impactful that farmers established their own community enterprise to supply sugar cane to Raimaijon's factory. Raimaijon stands out as the only sugar cane juice brand that offers sugar cane slurpee franchising opportunities, showcasing the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of Papatsaraporn in revolutionising the sugar cane industry and creating sustainable opportunities for farmers.





RAYA CHANTARAMUNGKORN

CO-FOUNDER AND CMO, HONESTDOCS

Raya Ten Chantaramungkorn, as the Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer at HonestDocs, has made a significant impact in the digital healthcare sector through her adept marketing skills and entrepreneurial acumen. With a background that includes serving as the Regional Marketing Director at aCommerce, and as a Business Developer at MOXY ASIA, Raya brings a wealth of experience to her role. Her educational journey includes degrees from Imperial College London and Chulalongkorn University. Since co-founding HonestDocs in 2017, Raya has played a pivotal role in shaping the company into Thailand's leading healthcare marketplace, initially focusing on health and beauty services. Her strategic vision has been evident in the company's expansion, highlighted by the launch of HDcare in 2022. This innovative service connects patients with surgeons and optimises operating room utilisation, showcasing HonestDocs' commitment to advancing healthcare solutions. Under Raya's leadership, HonestDocs earned a spot in the prestigious 2023 Google for Startups Accelerator program, a testament to the company's forward-thinking approach and Raya's effective leadership. Her strategic direction and in-depth understanding of the digital landscape continue to drive HonestDocs towards new heights in reshaping healthcare services in Thailand.

"Raya has played a pivotal role in shaping the company into Thailand's leading healthcare marketplace, initially focusing on health and beauty services."

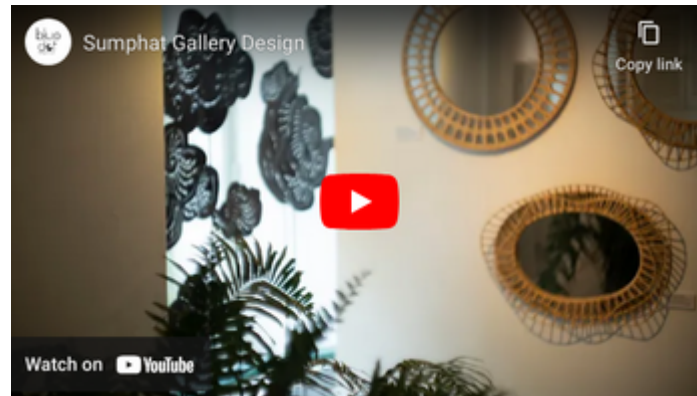


RUSH PLEANSUK
ARCHITECT & DESIGNER,
SUMPCHAT GALLERY

“Rush injects new vitality into traditional crafts, introducing a fresh aesthetic that resonates with modern lifestyles. Collaborating with local communities and artisans, he feels a sense of responsibility to preserve their traditional crafts and provide sustainable livelihoods.”

Rush Pleansuk is an architect who has found a distinctive niche in combining art and design in a perfect equilibrium to create beauty and address cultural issues. Seeking to broaden his perspectives on aesthetics, he pursued further studies at l'École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et de Paysage de Bordeaux. His philosophy centres around the belief that excellent products necessitate not only design, materials, techniques, process, textures, and forms but also a meaningful connection with the user. At Sumphat Gallery, Rush's creations represent a harmonious blend of traditional craftsmanship and industrial production, drawing inspiration from culture and heritage to define the purpose of each item.

Each of his design products encapsulates historical and cultural elements alongside functionality. Rush injects new vitality into traditional crafts, introducing a fresh aesthetic that resonates with modern lifestyles. Collaborating with local communities and artisans, he feels a sense of responsibility to preserve their traditional crafts and provide sustainable livelihoods. His collaborative efforts with various international brands have garnered recognition, and in 2019, he was honoured with the title of Designer of the Year (Product Design) by the Department of International Trade Promotion.





SANYA MAKARIN

DIRECTOR,
THAI BAN UNIVERSITY

Better known as Khru Soryor, he is a firm believer in holistic education. With 15 years of experience as a government school teacher, he understands the challenges of the profession, which is impeded by politics and policies, as well as localised social issues of each community. Khru Soryor launched Thai Ban University as a learning space for local youth, aiming to connect learning with nature, the environment, and the community.

"Khru Soryor launched Thai Ban University as a learning space for local youth, aiming to connect learning with nature, the environment, and the community."

His goal is to provide students with necessary survival skills and help them recognise their potential, leading to self-change. As the director, he initiates projects and collaborates with others in the process. Khru Soryor also serves as the president of the Association of Taisikkha which promotes holistic education for freedom within and outside the system, addressing issues related to rights, the environment, life skills, and learning for inner growth. Khru Soryor is proud of having been a speaker for the Komol Keemthong Foundation in 2021, which aims to uphold education ideologies. He is now looking to expand his learning space to embrace spiritual learning. He also uses art as a daily tool to energise, inspire, and increase mindfulness.





SHONE PUIPIA

FOUNDER/DESIGNER,
SHONE PUIPIA FASHION BRAND

It's a case of the acorn not falling far from the tree. Shone, the son of prominent artists Chatchai Puipia and Pinaree Sanpitak, honed his creative skills at The Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp, Belgium, where he studied fashion design. Transforming 2D patterns into 3D clothing was akin to a form of sculpture for him. His eponymous fashion brand highlights precise tailoring and innovative materials, sometimes even recycled scraps.

"His eponymous fashion brand highlights precise tailoring and innovative materials, sometimes even recycled scraps. Colour, especially red, is a significant element in his work, emitting sensual energy for visual effects."

Colour, especially red, is a significant element in his work, emitting a sensual energy for visual effects. Shone draws inspiration from the works of Dries Van Noten, Wes Anderson, David Hockney, and Georgia O'Keeffe. He sees his work as "wearable art"—something that is timeless and of value, reflecting one's identity and personality rather than a disposable item. His atelier, SOI SA:M, is accessed "by appointment" only. His latest collection, "Hands" (2023), marked the fifth anniversary of the brand, and was his testament to the most important tool for arts and crafts.





SIRIKAN CHAROENSIRI

DEPUTY DIRECTOR ATTORNEY/ HEAD OF
INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY, THAI LAWYERS
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (TLHR)

"June became the first Thai lawyer to face sedition charges under the military junta, illustrating the extent of her confrontation with oppressive forces."

Sirikan "June" Charoensiri is the founder of Thai Lawyers for Human Rights and a formidable advocate for human rights in Thailand. Her unwavering commitment to justice and human rights has earned her international recognition, including the prestigious International Women of Courage Award in 2018. June's legal expertise and advocacy skills have been prominently displayed in her representation of fourteen student activists from the New Democracy Movement (NDM). This challenging role has brought her into direct conflict with Thai authorities, demonstrating her courage in the face of adversity.

Notably, June became the first Thai lawyer to face sedition charges under the military junta, illustrating the extent of her confrontation with oppressive forces. Despite facing harassment, threats, and legal challenges, June's dedication to defending democracy in Thailand remains steadfast. Her efforts, alongside those of TLHR, were acknowledged with the Justice for Democracy Defenders Award from the Clooney Foundation for Justice. June's tenacious advocacy and her commitment to human rights, even under duress, have established her as a pivotal figure in Thailand's ongoing struggle for justice and democracy.





SIRIPORN SUKCHUSRI

MANAGER OF ANGOON
GARDEN PROJECT, THE MIRROR
FOUNDATION

"As the manager of Angoon Garden, she works to provide a safe space for the community to enjoy nature in the heart of Bangkok."

Sofea has always been interested in voluntary work and social activities. As the manager of Angoon Garden, she works to provide a safe space for the community to enjoy nature in the heart of Bangkok. The park offers recreational playsets, toys, as well as weekly workshops and shows for children and families, with an emphasis on encouraging self-expression, creativity, imagination, and laughter. In her line of work, Sofea has found that family issues are at the heart of social issues. This is a society where adults often judge children's preferences and do not allow children to make their own choices. They do not understand the need to ask questions. So the park offers a safe space where children can learn, question, and follow up on their interests through guided activities supplemented by technology and innovation. It follows the concept of the Mirror Foundation, which primarily addresses human rights issues and community empowerment. Sofea is inspired by the passion and energy of her boss, social activist Sombat Boonngamanong. She also has a passion for stage lighting and hopes to one day produce her own shows.





SOMCHAI KWANGTONGPANICH

BUSINESS OWNER,
KONGKASEM (1959) CO LTD

As the third-generation business owner of a rope wholesaler in Chinatown, Somchai grew up amidst the district's distinct and colorful history, culture, food, and architecture. However, the anti-Chinese sentiment in the first half of the 20th century, fueled by the growth of Communism, led to a rejection of his own heritage. Being close to his mother, he found himself involved in preparing traditional offerings for ancestor worship—a complex process involving numerous elements. This experience sparked his curiosity, leading him to question the logic behind these traditions. Additionally, he became intrigued by the origins of his own home in an area known as Wat Ko, and old maps indicated that the area was indeed surrounded by canals. Somchai listened to elders recounting their stories, talked to other locals, and researched maps, photos, and documents at the National Archives. Through this, he built up a wealth of knowledge about Chinatown's community history, which he now shares with others as a local expert and guide. He believes that by recognising the origins and values of our principles and traditions, we can understand our heritage and move forward into the future.

"Somchai built up a wealth of knowledge about Chinatown's community history, which he now shares with others as a local expert and guide."





SUTEESAK PAKDEETEVA DFA
CHOREOGRAPHER, MUANGTHAI
RACHADALAI THEATRE

Suteesak, or Dr Joe, is a prominent figure in the fields of dance, choreography, and teaching. Widely recognized as a judge on popular televised singing competitions in Thailand, he also oversees all choreography for musical productions at Muangthai Rachadalai Theatre. With a teaching career that spanned over 30 years at St John's School, he served as a choir master, contributing to the school's achievement of the first gold medal for Thailand at Choir Olympic 2006. One of Joe's proudest accomplishments is creating new choreography for the Thai ballet, Manohra, set to music composed by King Rama IX. The inspiration for this work came from the words of HM Queen Sirikit: "The King is water, and I am the forests who always pay respect to water."

"With a teaching career that spanned over 30 years at St John's School, he served as a choir master, contributing to the school's achievement of the first gold medal for Thailand at Choir Olympic 2006."

His DFA thesis production, a reimagined female perspective of the literary epic Phra Abhaimanee, garnered significant attention and acclaim. In addition to his contributions to the arts, Joe is an international dog show judge, reflecting his love for dogs. He finds inspiration in Maria from his favorite movie, *The Sound of Music*, and believes that a good teacher must listen, understand, help, and fulfill. Joe has plans to produce more of his original performances of music and dance in the future.





SUTHATHIP SAPRUEANCHAI

CONTENT CREATOR,
ABUSULU SAOAKHA

Hailing from the hilly terrain of Ban Khun Saruay village in Chiang Rai Province, Suthathip, or Music, has used her social media platforms to create awareness of the Akha way of life, bringing hill tribe ethnicity to the modern generation. Using her Akha name, Abusulu, she takes her followers into the heart of the Akha community where man and nature are mutually beneficial. She is equally at ease in traditional Akha garb or in trendy urban fashions, showing pride in her ethnic heritage. She has also launched her own brand of coffee beans, Abusulu Coffee, made from her family's organic produce.

Her niche for creating awareness was already apparent when her traffic safety campaign won the Popular Vote in the Campus Challenge 2019 while studying communications at Chiang Mai Rajabhat University. But instead of finding a job in the city, she returned to her roots, finding her happiness in its simplicity, and sharing it with others. Her initiatives have made her a community leader, working with local elders to take community development into their own hands.

"Music has used her social media platforms to create awareness of the Akha way of life, bringing hill tribe ethnicity to the modern generation."





SAHIB ANANDSONGIT
CEO, SEEKSTER

"Sahib collaborates with various stakeholders to address the unique challenges faced by platform entrepreneurs in Asia, contributing significantly to human capital development and regional cooperation."

Sahib Anandsongvit, in his role as the CEO of Seekster, has established himself as a prominent entrepreneur and a dedicated advocate for Web3 technologies. His expertise in non-fungible tokens (NFTs) has positioned him as a crucial consultant in the digital assets landscape, and his robust business acumen has contributed to his success in the digital realm. Sahib's commitment to Web3 technologies extends beyond his role at Seekster. As an active investor and builder within the decentralised ecosystem, he is at the forefront of pioneering innovative projects in this space. His dedication to the responsible evolution of online platforms is evident through his role as a member of the Advisory Council of the Partnership for Online Platforms & Sustainable Development (POPS) since 2018. In this capacity, Sahib collaborates with various stakeholders to address the unique challenges faced by platform entrepreneurs in Asia, contributing significantly to human capital development and regional cooperation. With his multifaceted expertise and visionary leadership, Sahib plays a key role in driving innovation, investment, and sustainable growth within the Web3 space.

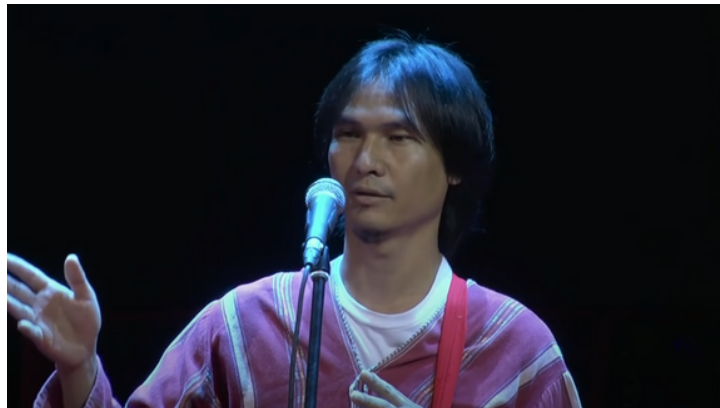


SUWICHAN PHATTHANAPHRAIWAN PHD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN GEO-CULTURAL
MANAGEMENT, SRINAKHARINWIROT UNIVERSITY

“He has achieved international recognition for promoting Sgaw Karen culture through the traditional Tenaku harp, which serves as a powerful tool to challenge social prejudices, advocate for nonviolence, and address cultural and ideological biases on various platforms.”

Assistant Professor Dr Suwichan, a co-founder of the Ethnic Wisdom Foundation in Chiang Mai, is a pioneering advocate for cultural preservation and education. As a member of the indigenous Pgaz k’Nyou (Karen) community, he is the first individual from his community to earn a PhD and professorship in Thailand. Currently teaching geo-cultural management at Bodhivijjalaya College, Srinakharinwirot University, Dr. Suwichan, or Khru Chi, also founded the Karen Ecomuseum in Tak, and helped integrate Karen culture into the curriculum of a school in Mae Chaem. He has achieved international recognition for promoting Sgaw Karen culture through the traditional Tenaku harp, which serves as a powerful tool to challenge social prejudices, advocate for nonviolence, and address cultural and ideological biases on various platforms. Honoured with the Ostana Prize in 2021 for his use of the mother tongue in songs and music, Khru Chi has also played a crucial role in the 2010 cabinet resolution aimed at restoring the Karen way of life. His future plans include writing a book on developing special cultural zones for ethnic communities and creating a curriculum for communicators to reduce ethnic bias.





SOMPORN CHUAI-AREE PHD

LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE, FACULTY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PRINCE OF
SONGKLA UNIVERSITY

"Beyond being a visionary, he is recognised as a proactive individual, particularly in the application of alternative energy, with a specific focus on solar cells—an area of personal interest."

Asst Prof Dr Somporn earned a PhD in Applied Mathematics from Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg and has since been a dedicated educator at his alma mater, Prince of Songkla University. Beyond being a visionary, he is recognised as a proactive individual, particularly in the application of alternative energy, with a specific focus on solar cells—an area of personal interest. His solar-powered home was followed by electric-powered automobiles equipped with solar panels on car roofs, showcasing his commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

His Solar Man in the Southernmost Border project aims to popularise the use of solar cells and alternative energy at the community level, and establishing a network of local trainers to disseminate knowledge and foster sustainable energy security within communities. Dr Somporn also provides knowledge-based information to local communities, employing computer-generated models to illustrate how development projects might impact communities and the environment. This approach empowers local residents to make informed decisions, ensuring that the future of their environment is shaped by their choices rather than corporate interests. Dr. Somporn is also a co-founder of Pattani Bay Watch (PBWatch), an organisation dedicated to natural disaster prevention and mitigation.



TEERAWAT UKRIS

VIOLINIST, RONGNGENG
POETRY GARDEN

"Art was the one to take rongngeng to a wider audience, making it more contemporary by incorporating jazz and blues to attract interest, even performing for vow redemptions to survive."

Teerawat or Art, a musician from Krabi, is passionate about the traditional rongngeng music of the sea gypsies, which dates back to the maritime silk route. Since the violin is a key instrument in this type of music (a modern interpretation of the rebab), his skill makes him a natural fit for the preservation of this dying folk music. Art follows in the footsteps of his poet father, who was integral in putting Andaman rongngeng on the cultural map and establishing the Rongngeng Poetry Garden to keep the tradition alive and cultivate young musicians. Art was the one to take rongngeng to a wider audience, making it more contemporary by incorporating jazz and blues to attract interest, even performing for vow redemptions to survive. Despite the lack of experts and music specialists in this field, he is proud that he has helped rongngeng gain popularity on a wider scale and promoted this aspect of the traditional southern folk lifestyle. He has plans to continue creating a space and organizing music events for those interested in rongngeng music. He is also an avid Star Wars fan, drawing inspiration from the quotes in the films.



THAINCHAI PISITWUTTINAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND
CO-FOUNDER OF GLOBAL SPORT
VENTURES CO LTD

Thainchai has revolutionised the sport of Muay Thai, bringing it into the modern era through Global Sports Ventures (GSV). In 2022, GSV partnered with Rajadamnern Stadium to rebrand the venue as a world-class entertainment venue. Its flagship programme, Rajadamnern World Series (RWS), has become the fastest-growing Muay Thai program in the country and is broadcasted to over 200 countries and territories worldwide on the sports app DAZN. Thainchai began his professional career as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company.

When the sports industry was severely affected by the Covid pandemic, Thainchai formed a group to revitalise and rebrand Muay Thai, achieving remarkable success within a year. He has played a key role in building a strong and sustainable foundation and ecosystem for the sport, benefiting fighters and trainers alike. His plans include making RWS a global combat sports series and establishing Muay Thai as a "soft power" for Thailand on the world stage, revitalising this centuries-old form of martial arts and propelling it into the next era.

“Thainchai formed a group to revitalise and rebrand Muay Thai, achieving remarkable success within a year.”





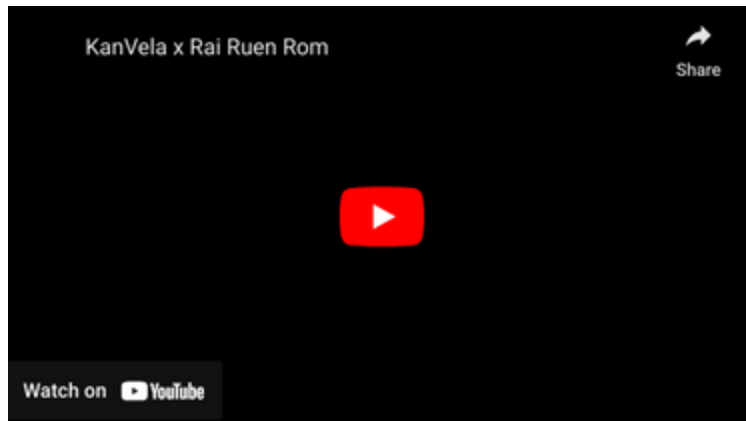
THANA KUNARAKSVONG

FOUNDER, KANVELA CRAFT
CHOCOLATE

"Thana takes pride in creating a premium Thai chocolate that supports local farming communities committed to sustainable orchard management."

Thana embarked on his professional journey as a financial advisor but experienced career burnout, prompting him to explore alternative paths. Driven by his interest in agriculture, he consulted with orchard owners in Chiang Mai and eventually chose to venture into cacao farming due to its minimal chemical requirements and to support farmers. Despite his initial lack of knowledge, Thana conducted extensive research and, through trial and error, succeeded in cultivating high-quality cocoa beans. This accomplishment fueled his aspiration to launch his own chocolate brand.

KanVela Chocolate, his brainchild, features signature chocolates with unexpected Thai flavors such as Guava with Salt and Chilli Bon Bon and Bon Bon Pandan Custard. KanVela chocolate has not only been served on Thailand's national airline but has also garnered recognition through various awards. The accolades include a bronze in the International Chocolate Award (Asia Pacific) 2020, a bronze and a silver, along with the International Rising Star Award from the Academy of Chocolate Award 2021. Thana takes pride in creating a premium Thai chocolate that supports local farming communities committed to sustainable orchard management.





THANAWAT MANEENAWA

FOUNDER, TAM:DA DESIGN

"His colourful demon "Siam Yak", crafted from household plastic utensils, dominated the Ecotopia event at Pavilion Bukit Jalil in Malaysia."

Thanawat, or Pae, is simultaneously an artist, inventor, and designer whose whimsical creations are upcycled from used or discarded items. During his childhood, he would ingeniously craft his own toys from various household items. Later on, he extended this skill by fixing broken items, breathing new life into discarded materials. This passion for inventing evolved further in his career as an advertising and event creative designer. His enthusiasm for inventing led him to establish TAM:DA, where his home/workshop serves as the space to turn visions into reality. Embracing the circular economy concept, his previous creations include the deceptively simple "PET Bottle T-shirt" and "Canoe - Can DO" made from garbage bin, exhibited at the Earth Manual Project Exhibition by Design for Disasters in 2013, related to the 2011 Japan tsunami. Other notable creations include the "Christmas balls poodle lamp" and, more recently, his colourful demon "Siam Yak," crafted from household plastic utensils, that dominated the Ecotopia event at Pavilion Bukit Jalil in Malaysia. Additionally, his installations serve as advocates for environmental issues, such as the Nose exhibit—noses attached to vacuum cleaners—for the Thailand Clean Air Network.





THARIT TANGSONGSIRISAK

CHEF/OWNER,
FAT LAMB BANGKOK

“Chef Yakup has successfully elevated Halal food in Thailand to the high end of the culinary landscape, showcasing the diversity and excellence of Halal cuisine.”

Chef Yakup's restaurant, Fat Lamb, earned the title of Best Halal Restaurant of the Year in Thailand's Favourite Restaurants 2023/24 by Koktail. His culinary prowess was first recognised when he emerged victorious in The Iron Chef Thailand competition in 2019. Additionally, Chef Yakup was appointed the First Lambassador of Australian lamb in Thailand, showcasing his expertise and influence in the culinary world. Proud of his journey since graduating in culinary arts from Kendall College in Chicago, Chef Yakup has successfully elevated Halal food in Thailand to the high end of the culinary landscape, showcasing the diversity and excellence of Halal cuisine. Beyond his culinary achievements, Chef Yakup is actively involved in charitable endeavors. As a member of Chef Cares, a charity group, he contributes to providing a better future for young and underprivileged children. Inspired by mentors like Chef Ian Kittichai and Chef Carrie Nahabedian of NAHA in New York, Chef Yakup is already planning a new establishment to further enrich Bangkok's culinary scene. His passions extend beyond the kitchen, including collecting Japanese knives made by top blacksmiths, travelling, and a love for cats.

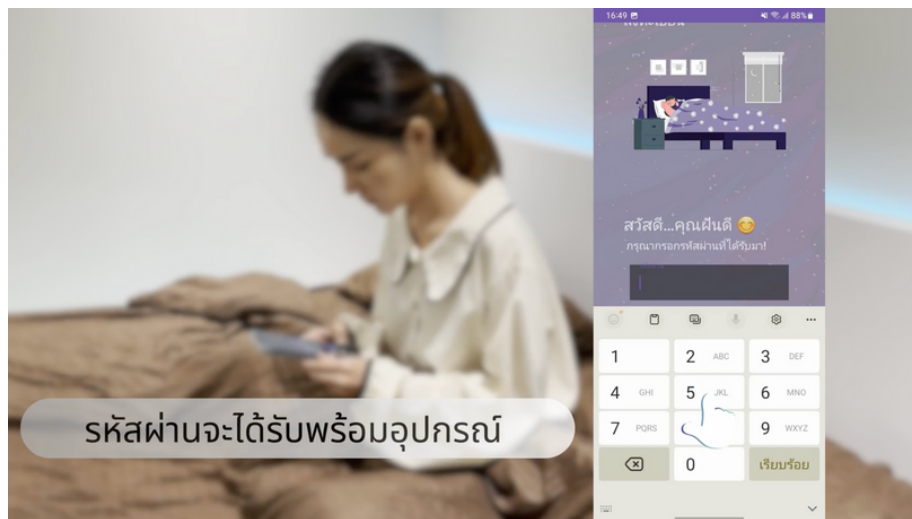


THEERAWIT WILAI PRASITPORN, PHD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER ENGINEERING, SCHOOL OF
INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IST), VIDYASIRIMEDHI
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (VISTEC)

Dr Theerawit, a scientist specialising in medical AI and a passionate advocate for deeptech startups, founded Interfaces (AI in Health Research Team at Vistec) and SensAI (AI-Driven Anomaly Sensing for Better Health). His dedication to advancing health AI, particularly during the early stages when funding was limited, showcases his commitment to pioneering research in this vital field. Dr Theerawit's leadership in establishing a research team has contributed to advancing health AI research internationally. His efforts have played a crucial role in building remote health monitoring systems, benefitting over 30,000 people during the Covid-19 pandemic. This earned him a 2022 IEEE R10 Humanitarian Technology Activities Outstanding Volunteer Award nomination. Dr Theerawit serves as a supervisor for postgraduate students at Vistec, guiding research and development efforts. He is actively involved in establishing a university spinoff company that will create awareness of Thailand's potential as a hub for research and development, contributing to the sustainable growth of the Thai economy and industry. Dr Theerawit remains active in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), further solidifying his impact on advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.

"Dr Theerawit's leadership in establishing a research team has contributed to advancing health AI research internationally."





THITIPORN CHANAWANGSA PHD

DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION, DESIGN, AND RESEARCH
MANAGEMENT, PEAKCHAN CO LTD

"Her award-winning hemp collections stand as 3D art forms inspired by the Zen concept of stones and water ripples, and are exported globally."

Thitiporn Chanawangsa, an artist, designer, speaker, lecturer, and entrepreneur, has made a significant impact with Peakchan, her brand of handcrafted home décor items that blend innovation with natural materials, showcasing her artistic flair while ensuring commercial success. During her studies in Applied Arts at Silpakorn University, Thitiporn embarked on a journey around the country to discover underused raw materials for her creative endeavors. Hemp from the south, traditionally used for rice sacks, caught her attention.

Her award-winning hemp collections stand as 3D art forms inspired by the Zen concept of stones and water ripples, and are exported globally. Thitiporn's passion extends beyond her artistic pursuits to empowering communities by infusing their craftsmanship with innovation, modern design, and business strategy. Through her consultancy work, she collaborates with private enterprises as well as government organisations, contributing to community development and cultural capital to foster a "creative economy." Thitiporn was awarded the OKMD Thai Creative Awards and the Designer of the Year 2009 award in the field of Textile & Fabric Design. She is inspired by abstract artist Piet Mondrian whose simple and precise work embodies a global spirit.



TUNCHANOK CHUTUMSTID MD

CHIEF RESIDENT, REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT
OF KING CHULALONGKORN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Dr Tunchanok provides patient care in both outpatient and inpatient settings, conducts research, and teaches medical students. Additionally, she volunteers at events organised by The Royal College of Physicians of Thailand—a habit she formed during her medical school years when she initiated several health promotion projects, such as the “Teddy Bear Hospital” and “Growing Together.” These initiatives aimed to aid patients and inspire the volunteer spirit among fellow medical students. “Growing Together” involved a year-long commitment where medical students were paired with children at the Thai Red Cross Children's Home to foster their development and provide them with care and affection, while enhancing medical students' engagement in working with children.

These initiatives earned her recognition with the Thailand Excellent Medical Student Award from the Somdet Phra Mahitalathibet Adunyadetwikrom Phra Borommaratchachanok Foundation, presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Dr Tunchanok interned at the Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute which cared for Thailand's initial Covid-19 cases. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD degree in clinical sciences. She has also embarked on a journey training for a marathon, hoping to inspire others to prioritise their health.

“These initiatives earned her recognition with the Thailand Excellent Medical Student Award from the Somdet Phra Mahitalathibet Adunyadetwikrom Phra Borommaratchachanok Foundation, presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.”



TEERACHAI SUPPAMETEEKULWAT

FOUNDER AND DESIGN DIRECTOR,
QUALY DESIGN

"As a designer with a family-owned plastics factory, Teerachai began questioning the environmental impact of his business and took a bold step towards embracing sustainability."

Teerachai, or Jai, established Qualy Design nearly two decades ago, positioning it as a 100% Thai-designed product brand dedicated to respecting the planet and enhancing people's lives. As a designer with a family-owned plastics factory, Teerachai began questioning the environmental impact of his business and took a bold step towards embracing sustainability. Qualy Design actively incorporates circular economy principles, recycling or upcycling discarded materials with creative design. While the products aim to bring joy through their creative and functional designs, the core focus remains on sustainability.

The entire life cycle of each product reflects a commitment to responsible resource use, reduced energy consumption, and minimised pollution based on the circular economy model. Qualy's product range spans home items, everyday essentials, lamps, containers, and more. Notable creations include the popular whale fridge magnet crafted from recycled fishing nets and "Phra Sati" Buddha amulets made from marine waste. The key to building a sustainable business, according to Teerachai, is shifting the perspective from solely responding to market demand to utilising industrial waste materials as a starting point, in collaboration with partners in the fields of innovation, technology, and environment.



UKRIT SORNPROHM

MANAGER / RESEARCHER, CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY
COORDINATION SECTION 3 (RULE OF LAW SUPPORT
PROGRAMME) THAILAND INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE (TIJ)

“Ukrit's vision focuses on facilitating accountability in the justice system and transformative victim-and-offender dialogues while involving the active role of communities.”

Ukrit Sornprohm, a leading advocate for the rule of law and criminal justice specialising in Restorative Justice (RJ) and alternative measures, spearheads research and programme implementation at the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) driving victim-centeredness, policy shifts in drug law, and societal harmony. Ukrit's vision focuses on facilitating accountability in the justice system and transformative victim-and-offender dialogues while involving the active role of communities. He advances practical criminal justice application in various contexts, evidenced by innovative legislation frameworks for drug-related crime and collaborative RJ programmes with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and national agencies e.g. the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General. Steadfast in his pursuit despite structural and socio-cultural challenges, Ukrit views them as stepping stones towards a better justice system. His dedication has yielded positive outcomes contributing to a more just, peaceful, and harmonious society. Beyond TIJ, he co-founded the Construction Lawyers Society providing legal advice and capacity building on construction laws and contracts for Thai professionals. He also lectures on criminal justice, construction laws, and legal reasoning at leading universities including Thammasat University and Chulalongkorn University.



VIROJ CHIMMEE

ARCHITECT & OWNER,
BAAN RAI I ARUN FARMSTAY

"Viroj firmly believes that "People with an envious lifestyle are not those with large bank accounts, but those with the freedom to do what they love most."

After completing his education at Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi, he initially worked in an architectural firm. However, the stress and competition of urban life prompted him to reevaluate his priorities. Born in Ranong, he yearned to return to his roots in the countryside, construct a comfortable home for himself and his aging parents, and embrace a simple, sustainable lifestyle. With minimal savings, he embarked on the journey of restoring his old house, utilising natural materials like bamboo and rattan, cultivating the surrounding farmland, and gradually expanding it into what is now the immensely popular Baan Rai I Arun Farmstay.

This project, encompassing a restaurant, café, souvenir shop, and organic farm, has become a collaborative endeavor for his entire family. The award-winning farmstay features cottages with evocative names such as Baan Mok (House of Mist), La-ong Dao (Stardust), Rim Tharn (Streamside), and Treehouse. While he continues his career as an architect, he firmly believes that "People with an envious lifestyle are not those with large bank accounts, but those with the freedom to do what they love most."





WANNAKANOK POHITAEDA OH

PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOR PEACE
IN SOUTHERNMOST PROVINCES OF THAILAND (LUUK RIEANG)

Wannakanok, or Chompoo, founded Luuk Rieang in 2002 to campaign for change re drug use, reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS. The Yala-based group shifted its focus after the fatal violence in the south in 2004. Recognizing that the traumatized children of victims could potentially become 'time bombs' of vengeance, the group worked with them to provide physical and mental remedies for prevention, protection, as well as child and youth development. Chompoo had to overcome her own fear of continuing her activism after losing her own family members in the unrest.

"Many of the children under her care are now responsible adults making a positive impact on society."

Additionally, she faced the religious and cultural stigma in the south against LGBTQ+ members. She takes pride in providing children and women with access to education, accommodation, and livelihoods. Furthermore, she has created a safe space for LGBTQ+ members over the past 21 years. Many of the children under her care are now responsible adults making a positive impact on society—a new generation poised to develop and lead the south. To unwind, she leads Muslim women's groups in personality and makeup workshops, which have gained popularity.





WANNAPONG YODMUANG

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY MANAGER,
APTN - ASIA PACIFIC TRANSGENDER NETWORK

“Following academic pursuits, Nhuun joined APTN and has since been actively involved in breaking down barriers faced by the transgender community across Asia and the Pacific.”

Wannapong “Nhuun” Yodmuang is a distinguished Thai transgender activist and feminist who has dedicated their efforts to shaping regional and international gender justice related law, public policies, and multilateral decision-making spaces. Nhuun's advocacy primarily focuses on advancing transgender human rights. Nhuun holds a master's degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, where they were a Chevening scholar. Following academic pursuits, Nhuun joined APTN and has since been actively involved in breaking down barriers faced by the transgender community across Asia and the Pacific, particularly in the realm of human rights and feminism through legal research projects, trans leadership building programmes, and advocacy in several United Nations' multilateral spaces, resulting in a notable impact on the global and regional stages. In 2023, these platforms included the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) hosted by UN ESCAP where they called out for economic and social justice for marginalized communities. They also co-organised the ‘United Nations Trans Advocacy Week,’ convening trans and gender-diverse people from across the globe in preparation for gender justice-related discussions and meetings at the UN Human Rights Council.



WARANGKHANA PHANWANICH DVM
FOUNDER, WHEELCHAIR OF PETS

"Her journey has involved a transition from veterinary science to biomedical engineering, where she focuses on creating innovative technologies for pets, including wheelchairs for disabled animals."

Dr Warangkhan Phanwanich, currently serving as the Hospital Director at iVET Animal Hospital, is a graduate of Kasetsart University's veterinary programme. She has made significant contributions to the well-being of animals, particularly through her groundbreaking work with Wheelchair of Pets. As the pioneering founder of Wheelchair of Pets, Dr Warangkhan leads an advocacy group dedicated to enhancing the lives of disabled dogs. Her journey has involved a transition from veterinary science to biomedical engineering, where she focuses on creating innovative technologies for pets, including wheelchairs for disabled animals. Despite initial budget constraints, the support from the Prof Dr Chak Pichaironarongsongkram Foundation played a crucial role in enabling the initiative to thrive. Wheelchair of Pets has distributed over 1,500 wheelchairs, organised wheelchair exercise sessions for dogs, and facilitated monthly camps to train volunteers for assisting cats with disabilities. Dr Warangkhan's leadership has helped Wheelchair of Pets grow into a robust network of over 100 active members, including volunteers and mentors. The initiative's "RUN FOR WHEEL" events are vital for fundraising, ensuring the continuous production of wheelchairs and the sustainability of their impactful work.





WIN VAREEKASEM

CEO & CO-FOUNDER, BEAM

Win co-founded Beam in 2019, a company that pioneered a One-Click Checkout solution for Southeast Asia, making e-commerce four times faster on average. Under his leadership, Beam successfully raised a total of \$5.2 million in funding, with support from investors like Sequoia Capital's Surge. Within 18 months of launch, Beam crossed the \$3 million revenue mark and secured partnerships with a thousand merchants. Win's journey to entrepreneurship began after graduating as Student President from Harrow School and studying Aerospace Engineering in the UK. Following his studies, Win was an aerodynamics researcher with Airbus UK. After returning to Thailand, Win joined Roland Berger, where he became the firm's Senior Consultant at the age of 26. He played a pivotal role in leading a joint-venture deal with WeWork and establishing a partnership with Google to set up the first Google Academy in Asia.

"He played a pivotal role in leading a joint-venture deal with WeWork and establishing a partnership with Google to set up the first Google Academy in Asia."



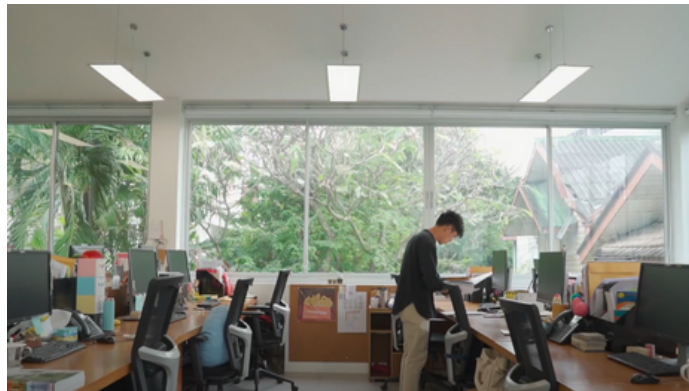


YOSSAPON BOONSOM

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, SHMA CO LTD

Yossapon Boonsom is a Thai landscape architect and the director at Shma Company Ltd. with a vision to contribute to societal and environmental improvement through the implementation of green infrastructures, fostering a sustainable and inclusive future for communities. On a broader scale of the public agenda, Yossapon is also the co-founder of Friends of the River (FOR), established as a non-profit organization with the aim of being a creative force that stimulates social awareness and participation in the creative development of the Chaophraya River. The principle is to encourage a sustainable relationship between the city, community, and the river through a public participation process. Additionally, Yossapon is the co-founder of the we!park group, which develops vacant lots and spaces into green public spaces using participatory methods. we!park collaborates with partners such as the Thai Association of Landscape Architects, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and Community Act Network. Lastly, Yossapon serves as the editor-in-chief of we!park platform, a media outlet covering urban design, public space, environment, and well-being. The belief behind we!park platform is “that a little crack can hack the city”.

“Yossapon is the co-founder of the we!park group, which develops vacant lots and spaces into green public spaces using participatory methods. we!park collaborates with partners such as the Thai Association of Landscape Architects, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and Community Act Network.”





YUPA PETCHARIT RATTANAJAN

MANAGING DIRECTOR, PAYAI CREATION CO LTD

"In 1991, she founded Payai Creation, a video production house dedicated to creating documentaries and TV programmes that aim to raise awareness and improve the lives of disadvantaged people, particularly children."

This former TV journalist and news anchor developed a strong social conscience while studying Communication Art at Chulalongkorn University followed by the New York Institute of Technology under the Fulbright Scholarship. In 1991, she founded Payai Creation, a video production house dedicated to creating documentaries and TV programmes that aim to raise awareness and improve the lives of disadvantaged people, particularly children. Yupa takes pride in the international recognition received by her documentaries, including the recent success of Duck Academy. She has been honoured with the Catholic Media Award for Excellence in 2023 for Payai Creation. Notably, her Good Kids, Great Heart series has provided education opportunities to over 800 less fortunate children, contributing to lifting them and their families out of poverty. In 2010, Payai Creation was recognised as one of Thailand's Social Enterprise 50 (SE 50) by the Thai Social Enterprise Office. Yupa has faced challenges due to changes in media platforms and economic downturns over the past decade. However, she remains resilient, adapting to change through trial and error. Currently, she is focused on creating an online platform that amplifies the voices of the less fortunate.



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